

their teaching. It is true, they had the old Testament scriptures, and Jesus told them: "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life; and they are they which testify of me."—as much as to tell the people that while they pinned their faith to the dead letter of the ancient word, that very word spoke of him who brought the living word, and who was the way, the truth, and the life. The Church in that day did not have to depend upon the written word; for they had among them men ordained by the Lord Jesus Christ, who Himself was ordained of God, and who gave them the same authority that He had. "As my Father sent me, even so send I you." He said to them. These men thus authorized declared to the people the word of the Lord for them—not the word that was given hundreds or thousands of years before, but the word of the Lord to them, the instructions which they needed, the teachings that were necessary under the circumstances in which they were placed; the word of the Lord to guide them; not that which Noah taught, or Moses, or any of the old Prophets, a few of whose words we have here in the Bible. They had the living word of God.

They also had the same spirit in their souls as the Apostles had; for we read that when the Apostles preached, the Gospel they told the people that if they would believe and obey it, they should receive the same spirit as they had—the Holy Ghost, which reveals the mind and will of God; the Spirit of truth, which guides into all truth; which takes of the things of the Father and of the Son and shows them unto men; which brings things past to our remembrance and shows things to come. That Holy Spirit was promised by the Savior to all who would receive His word. The Apostles went out in His name, as He commanded them, and preached this to the world. Here was the word that they proclaimed to the people who were assembled on the day of Pentecost, when the gift of the Holy Ghost was poured out upon the Apostles, and they spoke with tongues, inasmuch that the people from all nations round about heard in their own tongue the wonderful word of God. When they heard the word that Peter proclaimed, testifying that Jesus, whom

the Jews had crucified, was the Son of God, they called out, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" They belonged to the nation that had crucified the Messiah. They had put to death the Christ. They had thrust out of the world that bright and shining light that God had kindled here to guide mankind in the way to eternal glory. Hence they were pricked in their hearts, and cried out, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" I will quote you the words that Peter used upon that occasion:

"Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized, every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."

"For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call."—Acts, 2: 38, 39.

Here was the word that these Apostles proclaimed wherever they went. Take up the book of the Acts of the Apostles and read it. Wherever they went they all proclaimed the same Gospel. There was no difference between Paul, who preached particularly to the Gentiles, and Peter, who preached especially to the Jews. They had the same Gospel. They were inspired by the same Spirit, endowed with similar authority. They did not go out to declare their own notions, but the word that God gave to them; and the promise that they made to every one was, "Repent, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."

THE ORDINANCE OF BAPTISM.

We read that the people in many places received their testimony; they repented of their sins, they believed that Jesus of Nazareth, whom the Jews crucified, was really the Messiah, the Son of God, and so they were baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. What for? For the remission of sins. Not as an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace, as taught in modern times, but for the remission of sins. It was a very simple, but very beautiful ordinance that the Apostles administered to those peo-

ple. John the Baptist administered it to Jesus Christ Himself. Jesus commanded others to be baptized, and sent out His Apostles, saying to them, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you." Just mark that; for that was their mission. It was not to go out and preach their views and opinions in regard to secular matters, the affairs of nations, political struggles, the ideas of the times in which they lived, the development of science and art, and the like. No; it was "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations." Teach what? "To observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you." They did not go out to ventilate their opinions; they went out with a message. They went forth as ambassadors of the Prince of Peace, the Lord of glory, and they taught all nations that would listen to them. Whenever the people received their word, they baptized them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. How did they baptize them? Did they make the sign of the cross upon their foreheads? Did they pour a little water upon their heads? Did they sprinkle a little water in the faces of their children? Oh, no; they baptized them in the same way that Jesus was baptized. Read the third chapter of Matthew. It says:

"Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him."

"But John forbade Him, saying, I have need to be baptized of Thee, and comest Thou to me?"

"And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now; for thus it becometh us to fulfill all righteousness. Then he suffered Him."

"And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water; and lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him; and a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."—Verses 13-17.

My dear Christian friends, remember that Christ "left us an example; that we should follow in His steps." His Apostles baptized in the same way. Read the 8th chapter of the Acts of the Apostles, how Philip baptized a convert as he was on a journey:

"And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water; and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?"

"And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."

"And he commanded the chariot to stand still; and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him."

"And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip."—Verses 36-39.

This is what the Apostle means in his epistle to the Romans, where he says: "Therefore we are buried with him by baptism unto death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."—Rom., 6: 4.

They were BURIED with him in baptism. There is no sign of a burial in sprinkling, no sign of a burial in making a mark on the forehead with water; but when the repentant believer is taken down into the water, as Christ was, and as the eunuch was, then he is buried in the liquid grave, he comes dead to the world, and he is raised up from that grave in the likeness of the resurrection of Christ; and henceforth he is to be a new creature in Christ Jesus, having been regenerated, or, to use the words of Jesus, "born of the water."

Jesus told Nicodemus, as we read in the 3rd chapter of John, 5th verse:

"Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born of water and of the spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."

It is the sign of adoption; it is the rule of regeneration; it is the way by which men were initiated into Christ's Church. Aliens before, by the new birth they are made citi-

zens of God's kingdom. This is the sign of their regeneration and of their adoption into the family of Christ; figuratively speaking, the sign of their naturalization. The Apostles did this by commandment of the Lord, and repentant people were born of the water, were baptized in the name of the Lord, and raised up to newness of life.

GIFT OF THE HOLY GHOST.

What followed baptism? We read that after the people were baptized in this way the Apostles laid their hands upon them, and they received the Holy Ghost—the same Spirit that was in the prophets wrote and spoke. They received the Comforter, which is to guide into all truth, which is an ever-present and abiding witness, the testimony of Jesus, the spirit of prophecy.

That was Christianity in its early period. That was the doctrine that the Apostles preached and practiced. The New Testament abounds with it. All the epistles relate to it. The Acts of the Apostles describe it. There was no other form of baptism, for as the Apostle Paul taught to the Corinthians and Ephesians:

"For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one spirit."—1 Cor., 12, 13.

"There is one body and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling."

"One Lord, one faith, one baptism."—Eph., 4, 4, 5.

The people that received this word all entered into the same covenant; they were baptized with the same baptism; they all received the same spirit, and therefore they were united. When they came together in their public meetings, as we read in the epistle to the Corinthians, one had a tongue, another a prophesy, another related a dream given by divine power, another a vision, some had the discerning of spirits, some had the gift of healing, some had one gift and some had another, but as he says, "It was all by the same Spirit, and the body was knitted compactly together. The Apostle Paul likened the

Church as it then existed to the human body. There is not anything more beautiful than the human form divine in its perfection, and the Apostle likened the Church to this, Christ as the head and all the rest as members of the body. He says:

"Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular."

"And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healing, helps, governments, diversities of tongues."—1 Corinthians, 12: 27, 28.

PERFECTION OF THE CHURCH.

He goes on to show that the body could not do without any of its parts, and that even the smallest part and that which was esteemed the most uncomely was just as necessary as the other parts. "The eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee; nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you." They were all necessary, and when they were all in their place, then the Church, so far as its organization was concerned, was perfect. Though the individuals comprising it were imperfect, it was a perfect body, because it came from a perfect Being. That is the kind of a church they had in the days of the Apostles. All through the New Testament you can read of the Apostles, having the power of God in them, standing at the head of the Church, and giving the word of the Lord; not merely reading things out of an old book, however good it might be, but giving the word of the Lord then, and the Holy Spirit in the hearts of the people bearing witness to the truth of that which the Apostles preached. They were all bound together by one Spirit. They were all baptized into one body. No matter how many branches of the Church there might be in various nations, it was one Church—the Church of Christ. Christ was with it, and His Spirit was in it, and it was a live Church. Therefore, it was all joined together, like a man's body when it is perfect; when the spirit that is in it animates and vitalizes the whole system. So it was in that Church.

CONDITIONS IN CHRISTENDOM.

But how it is today? Let us look into what is known as the Christian world. Are the people who are called Christians today baptized by one Spirit into one body? Have they one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one hope of their calling? Where are their Apostles and Prophets? Where are their inspired men? Where are their gifts of healing, helps, governments, diversities of tongues? I do not want to say anything against any of my brothers and sisters who are called Christians, or who are called and sisters, and many of them are endeavoring to do the best they can. Some of the preachers in Christendom, and in heathendom also, are doing the best they can with the light they have. They are their Father, and He understands their hearts and knows their desires and what they are aiming at. All these nations and kingdoms, and tribes, and tongues are His children, and He has a plan prepared in relation to them. But where is the Christian Church today as it existed in the times of the Apostles? Look at the division, the schism, that there has been among these different divisions of Christendom. Look at the diversity of ideas and opinions and ordinances. Look at the absence of the gifts that were enjoyed by the early Christian church. Look at the absence of that divine revealing Spirit which guides into all truth and knits the hearts of men together. Why, here are Christian nations arming against each other, going out to war upon the land and upon the sea and smiting each other "hip and thigh," their artillery belching forth and sweeping their brothers and sisters from the face of the earth—Christian brothers and sisters, if you please! The world is in a pretty bad state; and to talk about our living in the midst of Gospel blaze and so much light that we do not need any more from the Lord, looks very absurd to me. It may not to you, but that is the way it appears to me, and I am taking the liberty, this afternoon, afforded me in this great country of

(Continued on Page Twelve.)

HAPPINESS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Is a great boon. This year the immense Dry Goods Department of Z. C. M. I. is again the leader among mercantile establishments in the West in bringing it to the public, old and young. You may realize the fact by attending the

Grand Christmas Display AT Z. C. M. I. Dry Goods Department, Commencing Monday, Dec. 10th.

The scene will be a perfect wonderland for beauty. The elaborate and tasteful arrangement of our magnificent stock of goods is a picturesque and entrancing view, beyond description. Its effect in loveliness is enhanced by the vast number of multi-colored electric lights made to do service in the most artistic way.

THE EXHIBITION WILL BE A JOY TO ALL. PARENTS SHOULD NOT FAIL TO BRING THEIR CHILDREN. IT IS FREE OF COST TO YOU, AND A GREAT PROFIT IN DELIGHT TO THE LITTLE ONES. COME EVERYBODY.

Everything You Want for Holiday Gifts.

This Holiday Display will remain open till Christmas. From now on to that date you can buy EVERYTHING YOU WANT FOR HOLIDAY GIFTS from our immense stock, which is the most complete ever aggregated here, in all lines. We name here just a few of the departments. Come and see these and the others, and the Beautiful and Novel Window and Interior Decorations.

Dress Goods.

We have the most magnificent stock of Dress Goods in the West, and invite the Ladies to call and examine, and compare prices. These are the choicest Holiday Goods ever shown in the State. Whether you want BLACK DRESS SILKS of any description, TAFFETAS in black and colors, INDIA SILKS, or any or all kinds of black and colored DRESS GOODS for Ladies and Children, the place of places to buy this season is at Z. C. M. I. We have the NOVELTY WAISTINGS in all the new styles, and everything else that goes to make up the neatest and most stylish wearing apparel.

Ladies' Lace Ties.

A superb lot at bargain figures. LADIES' LACE COLLARS AND BOLEROS. LADIES' AND GENTS' PURSES, CARD CASES AND POCKET BOOKS. LADIES' CHATELAIN BAGS. HAND BAGS, SILK BAGS, MUSIC ROLLS, and a vast assortment of other desirable articles, all at very low prices.

Beautiful Umbrellas,

Are reasonable gifts for Lady or Gentleman. The best assortment in the city is at Z. C. M. I.

NOTIONS.

This department contains the most extensive and richest variety ever shown in the State, and comprises thousands of useful and beautiful holiday gifts. Here are a few items by way of suggestion:

Kid Gloves.

The most serviceable glove in town at the price \$1.00

A fine Real Kid glove pique sewn, with newest Paris Point embroidery, as good as can be had elsewhere at \$1.75, we are selling at \$1.35

Our own "Bon Marche" pique sewn and fully guaranteed, regular price \$1.75, we are selling at \$1.50

Our own "Grenoble" overseam, as good value as can be had elsewhere at \$1.75, we sell at \$1.50

The "Monitor," for which we are sole agents, needs no introduction or laudation here. Every lady knows it to be the best wearing, best fitting, and most satisfactory glove that can be obtained. Our price for these gloves is now only \$2.00

Golf Gloves.

We have an elegant line of these for Ladies and Children, and offer them at very low figures.

Wool and Silk Mittens.

for Ladies and Children, at popular prices.

Vassar Combs,

The latest Hair Ornaments, at lowest figures.

Ribbons.

We have a perfectly lovely stock of perfectly lovely goods in Satin Taffetas, Liberte Satins, Mousseline Taffetas, Satin, Gros Grain and all other Fancy Ribbons.

Ladies' Handkerchiefs.

We have a splendid line of Ladies' Plain Hemstitched Linen Handkerchiefs which we are selling at—12 1-2c, 16 2-3c, 25c, 35c and 50c.

Our extensive assortment of Ladies' Plain Shear Linen Handkerchiefs, Hemstitched, is going at—25c, 35c, 50c, 65c and \$1.00.

Ladies' Exquisitely Embroidered and Hemstitched Linen Handkerchiefs are selling at—16 2-3c, 35c and 60c.

We have a grand assortment of Ladies' fine Embroidered Handkerchiefs at—10c, 15c, 25c, 35c, 50c, 60c, 75c, \$1.00, \$1.25, \$1.50, \$1.75, \$2.00, \$2.25, \$2.50 and \$3.00.

An equally good line of Ladies' Lace Edged Fancy Handkerchiefs at—15c, 25c, 35c, 50c, 75c, \$1.00, \$1.25, \$1.50, \$1.75 and \$2.00.

We invite special attention to a pretty lot of Ladies' Hemstitched Linen Handkerchiefs, with Embroidered Initials, which through particularly good buying we are able to sell at—16 2-3c and 35c.

Jewelry.

The prettiest, rarest and richest presents in the city in the line of Jewelry are in our stock this season. We have everything but fancy prices. Our prices are plain, the lowest possible figure at which articles of such good quality can be sold. Here are a few of the articles we have in our extensive list:

OPERA GLASSES.
LADIES' AND GENTS' WATCHES, OF GOLD OR SILVER.
LADIES' LONG NECK CHAINS.
LADIES' AND CHILDREN'S BRACELETS.
ENGRAVED, PLAIN AND SET RINGS.
LADIES' BREST PINS.
LADIES' STICK PINS.
LADIES' FANCY BELT PINS.
GENTS' WATCH CHAINS, SINGLE AND DOUBLE.
DIAMOND RINGS.
FANCY SILVER GOODS.
EBONY MIRRORS.
BRUSHES, ETC.

And a thousand and one other beautiful presents.

Underwear.

This department is replete with choice goods that are just the thing for Christmas Presents. There are:

LADIES' SILK SKIRTS, black and colored.
LADIES' FANCY TEA APRONS.
BEAUTIFUL EMBROIDERED APRONS.
FANCY SILK HOSE SUPPORTERS.
SILK HOSE, black and colored.
ICE WOOL FASCINATORS.

A beautiful line in all colors, at prices to suit every purchaser.

Infant's Goods.

The most complete in the State, including: BEAUTIFUL KNIT WOOL SACQUES. FANCY KNIT WOOL BOOTEES, all colors and sizes.
WHITE and COLORED SILK BONNETS.
WHITE and COLORED WOOL BONNETS.
And everything else in the way of lovely apparel for the lovely little tots.

Z. C. M. I.

T. G. WEBBER, SUPT.

The foregoing are only a few of the items in our great display, but they aid in making a picture worth your while to visit, and to bring the children to. A careful inspection will convince you beyond doubt that the

VERY BEST HOLIDAY GOODS IN THE CITY

This season, and the most reasonable prices to patrons, are at Z. C. M. I.