

*The Lord says*

us with our "little strength" in the  
path wh. He can command.

Love to all

fr. affe bro. in Christ

Geo. Rymer.

for any save the Lord Himself, either to discern or determine, charging their own brethren with being guilty of holding heresies which they distinctly denied, goodwill, brotherly love, time, energy, unity, and usefulness were sacrificed beyond all language to detail, or power to estimate.

It is in deep sorrow that we write of these melancholy facts. Assured of the thorough Scripturalness of the leading principles, order, and practice of the Brethren as held in those early days, we now respectfully ask, Has not the time arrived when reconciliation amongst the divided host should become an accomplished fact? Could any more desirable result be indicated or consummated? To perpetuate the unseemly strife is injurious in the highest degree to the Church of Christ; and now that the leaders, who, rightly or wrongly, caused the strife, are removed, should not a policy of mutual conciliation everywhere prevail?

We are not insensible to the widespread influence of the teaching represented by such writers as "J. N. D.," "B. W. N.," and "C. H. M." The principles of interpretation advocated, their clear spiritual perception, their suggestive analysis of "the deep things of God," their calm and intelligent defence of the great doctrines of the Reformation, and their vigorous testimony concerning the premillennial advent of our Lord, has given them a position for true and discriminating exposition which is recognised and firmly believed by a very large portion of the spiritually-minded students of the Word of God in this and other lands. What is commonly known as the literature of the Brethren is familiar everywhere. Intelligent men and women by thousands in all parts of the world are not only associated with the Brethren, but they maintain a reality of worship and testimony at once powerful, resolute, and blessed. "Building themselves up upon their most holy faith," there is a fibre about the Christian life of the Brethren that can and does stand the strain of trial in the Army, Navy, the Civil Service, and the uncivil world. We venture to say that amongst the English in India to-day may be found large numbers of the Brethren who are Christians indeed, yea, "burning and shining lights" in the kingdom of our Lord. Any one

acquainted with the men of God in England who, as pastors and evangelists, stand opposed to the Rationalism and Socinianism of certain professedly Christian journals, know how valuable and welcome are the varied publications, papers, and tracts that have been so intelligently written and industriously circulated by the Brethren. Few libraries but readily, if in some cases quietly, appropriate the productions of the well-known writers whose initials we have mentioned, as well as other names which we need not further enumerate. Hundreds of clergymen and Nonconformist ministers turn from the nothingarianism of many writers whom the Press is wont to praise, and they instinctively turn to the rich and varied and spiritual utterances of these masters in Israel. The higher truths preached by the Brethren thirty years ago were practically unknown, and certainly not preached, and to them mainly has the great honour accrued of making known to the Church "the manifold wisdom of God." Of these Brethren it may in truth be said: "By honour and dishonour, by evil report and good report, as unknown and yet well known;" for of these Brethren, as of the Church of Christ in Rome (Acts xxviii. 22), it may be said that they have the honour of being everywhere spoken against.

John Darby's "Synopsis" is becoming a standard work of reference, and will take its place amongst the productions of the highest and best exegesis. His life has been one of abundant labour and abounding success. He has heard the welcome "Come up higher" from the Lord, whose honour was so dear to him, and whose service consumed the great energy of mind and body that he possessed. Now that he is gone, may we not anticipate a closer union amongst those who are left behind? We await with anxious and hopeful interest an answer in the affirmative. Difficulties of considerable magnitude in regard to the union desired gathered about this distinguished man's history, and we have altogether mis-read the teaching of his finished personal work if it may not lead to a consummation that is devoutly desired by vast numbers who recognise and hold fast the teaching of the Word of God in regard to the unity of the body of Christ around His leadership who is Head and Lord of all.