

Andrew Miller
on the

"The Testimony of Brethren."

"No intelligent unprejudiced Christian, who has examined the testimony of Brethren, could for a moment, we think question its source. It is most surely of God, by His Holy Spirit. Fruits prove this. Separation from the world, holiness of life, occupation with the truth in service to Christ, and the expectation of His return from Heaven have characterised them. When we say this, we do not mean that they are in themselves better than other Christians; they have to mourn over infirmities, failures, and short-comings, and judge themselves for many things that are unlike Christ; but we speak of what has constituted and characterised their mission and testimony. It has been perfectly distinct and widely apart from every section of Christians throughout Christendom since the days of the Apostles we find no such movement in the history of the Church. We have no doubt that the whole thing is of God, however much His chosen instruments may have failed in carrying out His mind. The recovery of long-lost truths, so deeply precious both personally & ecclesiastically, manifestly prove this. If then, this be the source and character of the testimony, it becomes a very solemn matter to reduce and oppose its messengers. Is it not fighting against God Himself, and depreciating a restored Christianity. . . .

But the Brethren have not been satisfied merely to live, enjoy and teach the truth; they have boldly testified against the prevailing evils of their time. Who has raised so distinct and scriptural a protest against Rationalism, Ritualism, Romanism, infidelity & the worldliness of the whole professing church? Let the many public lectures which Brethren have given on these subjects, and the pamphlets which they have published bear witness. W. Reid, in his 'Literature and Mission of the so-called Plymouth Brethren' says:—"It is written by divine inspiration—'When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him.' (Isa. 59.19) Of late years the enemy has been coming in like a flood, and where is there anything in these lands that can be called the lifting up of a standard against him, except it be the intensely spiritual movement, and thoroughly biblical writings of the Brethren? For, drawing only from the holy scriptures have they not displayed a banner because of the truth against every great evil that has come in for the past forty years? Are the not the present-day standard-bearers of recovered Christianity?" But while the elder Brethren are thus engaged in detecting and exposing the inroads of the enemy, and "establishing the souls of the disciples," many of the younger Brethren are happily engaged in writing for the unconverted and for the "sheep and lambs of the flock." They send out from their publishers in London eleven monthly magazines, embracing various lines of divine truth. Several of them have a circulation of 40,000 and 50,000 monthly, which shows how far beyond the limits of Brethren they are read, notwithstanding the bad name which has been given to Brethren by the various denominations, and the strong opposition raised against them, they have been marvellously blessed of God in spreading the pure truth far and wide. And our hearts do most unfeignedly praise Him for raising up a testimony to His beloved Son in almost every part of the world where Christianity has been introduced. In the United States there are 91 meetings of Brethren, in Canada 101 meetings, in Holland 39, in Germany 139, in France 146, in Switzerland 72, in the United Kingdom about

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