

**TRUTHS FOR THE
TIMES. NO. I. ON THE
INTERMEDIATE STATE**

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Truths for the Times. No. I. On the Intermediate State by John Conyngham M 'Causland

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The Intermediate State.

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TRUTHS FOR THE TIMES.

No. I.

ON THE INTERMEDIATE STATE.

BY

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RECTOR OF CLONMORE.

"The dead know not any thing."—ECCLES. ix. 5.



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PREFACE.

THE design of the series of Essays, of which this forms the first, is to contribute, if possible, towards the removal of impediments to the comprehension of the Word of God, entailed by the admission of erroneous notions, on subjects on which the plain teaching of that Word has been supplanted by the "traditions of men." The Scriptures, when permitted to speak for themselves, will ever be found to furnish the easiest and simplest solutions of almost all the difficulties by which the study of them is otherwise necessarily beset. And it is trusted that the object of these essays may be attained, in the elucidation, in some measure, of the truth, by means of the suggestion of more Scriptural views of their several subjects, than generally prevail. It is an old device of the enemy of all truth, to represent the subjects in question as being of no importance, and therefore to be safely neglected. But, for what have ~~they~~ been

revealed? Has God made known to us, in His Word, any thing which He did not intend for our use? If "all Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable," as the Apostle tells Timothy, then we may rest assured, that *no* portion of it can be unimportant, or with safety neglected. It has all been revealed to our faith, and we are responsible for the reception of it. But, besides its being our bounden duty to receive whatever God has been pleased to reveal in His Word, the neglect of any portion of it, which *we* may think (no matter from what cause) unimportant, will assuredly carry with it, even now, its own punishment, in the difficulties which its omission cannot but create in the understanding of such parts of it as we *do* consider deserving our attention. For, the whole of Scripture is one—the connected expression of the mind of God, so far as it has pleased Him to make it known to man—and has been likened to a chain, to the constitution of which *each* link is indispensable, as otherwise its continuity would be broken, and it would no longer be a chain at all, but *two* chains. So it is, indeed, in this case. If we omit, from any cause, or on any ground, what *we* may deem even an infinitesimally small link, from the great chain of revealed truth, we are sure to suffer the just judicial penalty of our presumption, in the increased obscurity with which we thus invest the portions of the Word which we desire to understand,

thinking them more important. As there are no little sins, so there are no little truths.

Believing the recognition of the doctrines which from the respective subjects of the Series of Essays here commenced, to be of indispensable necessity to the due knowledge of the whole revealed truth of God, which cannot otherwise, he conceives, be fully understood—the writer commends to His blessing whatever they may contain in accordance with His will, and prays that He may render them the means of promoting the object for which they have been undertaken, in the removal of, at least, some of the existing obstacles to the understanding of the Word. With regard to the execution of his part, he would adopt the language of another and say, “If he have done well, and as is fitting the subject, it is that which he desired; but if slenderly and meanly, it is that which he could attain to.”

He has only to add here, that the present Essay shall, “if the Lord will,” be followed by others on the subjects annexed—viz., “The First Resurrection,”—“The Pre-millennial Personal Advent and Reign of the Redeemer,”—“The Kingdom of God,”—“The Signs of the Times,”—“Our Whereabouts in the Present Dispensation,” &c.,—all of which subjects will be found, when Scripturally entertained, most important as exponents of the Word of God. The fact that the present Dispensation is fast approaching its predicted termina-

tion—that it has all but run out—and that the recognition of these several subjects, in their Scriptural import, would tend to the explanation of much that interests the believer to know, and for the attainment of the knowledge of which so little time is now left—suggested the Title adopted for the Series—“Truths for the Times.”

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