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Rev. E. McLEOD, } That God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ—PETER. { Editor and Proprietor

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Speech of the Hon. Charles Fisher.

BEFORE THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY—ON MR. TIBBITT'S MOTION.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL said that the Provincial Secretary had referred to the observation he made the other day, as to the character of the resolution, and attempted to prove from the motion made by him in 1854, that it was of necessity a vote of no confidence. What he, the Att'y. Gen. said, was, that the character of the resolution moved, or its adoption or rejection was of no importance to the country. What the country required was a thorough discussion of the subject. He had no desire to vote upon any specific proposition, but he would not shrink from giving such a vote as his own self-respect demanded irrespective of party. It certainly was not usual to discuss a vote of no confidence in committee. If the Government preferred making it a vote of no confidence they could do so, though a vote of censure did not of necessity imply that. Two years since when the present Postmaster General moved a vote of censure upon the question of despatches, the Government treated it as a vote of no confidence. If the present resolution had been moved in the early part of the session and passed, and the Government would not accept it as a vote of no confidence, it would have required another resolution and address to the Governor to have its effect, and upon the motion to address the Governor the whole fight might be made. In 1854 his motion, though somewhat similar in terms to the present, was directly addressed to the Governor, being in amendment to the answer to the speech made at the opening of the session, and covering the whole period of four years administration, and was brought forward expressly as a motion of no confidence and so debated. The whole of the land question had been greatly magnified; there was really nothing in it.—It was a stupendous bubble, and had been got up for political and party purposes. The Government had invested it with a degree of importance in their controversy with him.—Had they acted like men and not cowards, the whole would have blown over, as it was at best a piece of political clap trap. The Provincial Secretary had argued the question as if there were some wrong in a member of the Government or of the Legislature, purchasing Crown Lands; nothing was more delusive, and no such idea should be permitted to go to the country. There was no law, nor rule, nor principle, established to prevent members of the Government nor of the Legislature buying land, and when men become members of Government, they surely did not lose their rights of citizenship. The public mind should be thoroughly disabused on this point;—once establish that as a rule, and they would proscribe the whole mercantile and lumbering classes; the best business men, and those most acquainted with the trade and commerce of the Province, would be excluded from the councils of the country. If the Committee recommended anything of the kind, he did not agree with them. Mr. Cunard, when a member of the Government at one time held 1110 miles of timber land, and Mr. Rankin about 666, making 1774 miles in the whole. The real speculations was at the annual sales of the timber land. The use of fictitious names so much talked of had existed for twenty-five years, through various administrations. He, the Attorney General, never knew its existence in any degree until late in 1859, and had no idea of the extent of the system until the recent investigations. He had never given the business of the Crown Land Office, nor the regulations, much attention, and knew very little about them.—With regard to Mr. Inches, he did not agree that he had given his evidence fairly, as he had endeavored to magnify one class of men and detract from another, and really appeared to have charge of the committee, and more like an accuser than a witness, and he colored many things during the time he was present.—He (the Attorney General) had not read the evidence or paid any attention to it after he gave his own testimony. He had intended to explain some matters, and answer some other statement; but as judgment had been passed upon him, he concluded to give himself no more trouble about it, believing that so far as the country was concerned, it would make very little difference. He had differed from the Government as to the mode of dealing with Mr. Inches, and nothing had occurred to change his mind. His opinion was that he should not have been suspended, pending the investigation, and he assigned the reason at the time that the result of the enquiry would determine whether he should be retained or discharged, and it would throw the responsibility from the government upon committee. There was a remark of Mr. Inches he would refer to. He had excused himself for his extensive purchases, by assigning as a reason that members of the government had been concerned in similar speculations. It appeared from the Report of the Committee that the bulk of his purchases had been made from land obtained in the names of other parties in the years 1853 and 1854, before he (the Att'y Gen.) and his late Colleagues had any Executive existence. This is the result of his own testimony. This whole complaint of land jobbing and speculations was very extraordinary to him. There had really been no unusual speculation during the last four years, but suppose there had, the money had gone into the Revenue, and the Country had received the benefit of it. Selling the land was more beneficial to the Revenue than retaining it. The lowest price of a mile of land sold would produce an annual interest in perpetuity of £4 10s. whilst the same land held by the Crown, at the furthest, would only bring some $5 a year for a limited period. New light appeared to have broken in upon them all at once, for he remembered on various occasions the disputations between the the Surveyor General and the hon. member for St. John, who had been Serveyor General, upon the subject of the revenue derived from sales of lands and timber, each contending for the amount he had collected in his own time, as proof of good mangement, and the prosperity of the country, but now it appears the better system is not to sell the land at all. He, the Attorney General, was convinced that no method could be devised to stop speculation, but the imposing of a tax upon unimproved lands. It was a delusion to suppose there had been any unusual speculations during the last few years, contrast the condition of things now, with what it was in time past. In 1846 there were 834,658 acres of land reserved for mills alone, and in 1858 when the system was broken up by the present party, there 312 miles of mill-reserve producing only £215 per year. He had noticed during the progress of the investigation of the committee, the conduct of some persons when the evidence disclosed anything that might be unfavorable to the party in the ascendency. They should bear in mind that the country was indebted to the progressive party for the destruction of a system under which the public lands of the province were doled out to favorites. In a few years during the good old times, 22000 acres of land were given to eleven councillors for their services, and the last grant issued in 1845 to Captain Hurd, and it would be difficult to find what services he had rendered the country, to entitle him to 2000 acres of land. Between April 1833, and December 1845, thirty-five thousand acres had been given to 35 half-pay officers of the Army and Navy, besides several grants made since, to gentlemen whose names were not in the list he had before him. There was no class of men actuated by higher principles of honor than officers of the Army and Navy, and yet nearly the whole of this large quantity of land, if not the whole, had been granted in violation of the regulations. Before grants could issue it was necessary to prove to the satisfaction of the Governor in Council that the applicant intended to settle on the lot granted, which was done in very few instances, if in any.

The Commitee had stated in their Report that during the last four years there had been a rush for land along the line of Railway. Now upon examining the returns, there appeared to be nothing in the condition of things to warrant any such statement. During the last 5 years the whole amount of land sold in Kings was 18,987 acres, while in 1853 and 1854 there were 15,534 acres sold, and in Westmoreland there were 37,108 acres sold in the last five years, while in 1853 and 1854 there were 38,000 acres; so that in reality the rush had been in 1853 and 1854 instead of since. During the last year all the land sold in Kings, Westmoreland and Albert, were 13,475 acres. A like state of things occurred all over the Province. In 1853 there were 87,699, in '54 82,338 acres sold, in '59 only 54,237, and in '60 56,712 acres sold, so that while in '53 and '54 there were 170,000 acres sold, there were in the five past years only about 220,000 acres sold in the whole Province. These figures did not include sales under the Labor Act. It had been stated that he had noticed the speculations, he had only become aware of them from seeing the grants, and this was after the land had all been sold, and then it was represented to him that much of it was not good settling land, and he assumed from the small quantity left in Kings, such was the fact, that the good settling land had been long since taken up.—With regard to the Monteagle block, he did not even know in what County it was situated, and he had stated to the Committee, after having considered the question, that in his opinion the Regulations of 1858 virtually repealed the Regulations of 1856 setting apart that block, and the omission of the repeal in express terms had been an omission in copying out the new Regulations. But if they would refer to the Regulations of '56 it would appear that they became inoperative by their very terms:—The 14th Rule provided That "a Road be made at the public expense from the nearest highway to and through each of the tracts so ected and set apart under these Rugulations." Now as no such road had been made, it clearly indicated an abandonment of the reservation. The Committee had referred to the delay in the Reports of the Crown Officers; the Attorney General was surprised at that, for he had taken up the bundle that Mr. Inches produced, and found some of the Reports amongst the papers, and explained every case until the Chairman had stated that he need not go any further, expressing himself satisfied. If there had been any case of importance delayed it is singular that the parties interested had not called for it. They complained also of the prosecution of trespassers, and could only point out one case, that of Mr. Murray, in five years, which he supposed he had explained. He had stated to the Committee that before the case came to his knowledge, the lumber had been allowed to go to St. John, and could not be found; that upon enquiry he ascertained that the only remedy against Murray, if he was liable at all, was action of Trover, as the lumber had not been got by him but persons whom he supplied, and that having called upon Murray, he denied any liability, and finally agreed to go with him to the Surveyor General and have it arranged if they could, which he, (the Atty. Gen.,) had no doubt would have been done in some way, had not recent events occurred. He knew nothing of the transaction, but found great difficulty in being able to trace the lumber, he had ascertained there was only a small quantity, tho' nothing like the amount first mentioned to the Committee. The whole difficulty occurred not with him (the Attorney General,) but in not having the lumber detained at first by the surveying officers, and condemned if it really was subject to condemnation. He never shrunk from his duty, but was not disposed to take the blame of the defaults of others.—He, the Attorney General, was not learned enough to know the meaning of that paragraph in the Report, which referred to his letter to Baring; relative to the value of wild lands in Canada. When he wrote that letter his object was to state truthfully and strongly the condition and resources of the Province, its population and capacity to sustain population, for the purpose of inducing the Messrs. Baring to lend money. It will be remembered that when he left the legislature in 1850, he had been enabled successfully to resist the construction of the Railroad to Shediac. During the four years he had no seat in the House the legislature had authorised its construction, and the famous Jackson contract had been taken, which from the beginning he, the Attorney General, said would not construct the Road, as it was a mere bubble. After he came into the government, efforts were made to induce them to proceed with the work. Mr. Ritchie went to England for the purpose, but nothing was done; finally the company sent the Hon. Mr. Robertson to make further arrangements, and he, (the Attorney General,) was also sent to unite with Mr. Robertson in making arrangements with Messrs. Jackson, and in the event of any failure on their part, was authorised to endeavor to raise money on the credit of the Province. No man ever left the Province under more unfavorable circumstances. It was during the war with Russia. His predecessors had always obtained the interposition of some third party to negotiate the securities. He thought the time had arrived when New Brunswick should take her position amongst the States and communities of the world, and he had succeeded in effecting that object, and the prediction contained in his letter, that the Provincial Bonds would after the close of the year, command a premium, had been verified, though it was derided here at the time. So strong was party feeling here, that when he left the Province it was stated that he was either a rogue or a fool—a rogue to make the public believe he could raise money when he knew he could not, or a fool for believing that he could. He had represented the price of land in Canada fairly; the facts were as he had stated, and the dividends of the Canada company proved it. Lands had risen from the inflation of everything in that Province, by the enormous Railway expenditure. Messrs. Jackson & Co. alone paid out £120,000 stg. a month besides all the other roads constructed by the Municipalities and other companies. This induced inordinate speculation, and the failure of the crops for two years had brought on the commercial paralysis, from which that country was just recovering. He believed that Railroads would increase the value of lands in this Province, and that when the line pierced into the interior in its progress from St. John to Woodstock and Maine, which he hoped to see commenced the coming year, it would sensibly affect the value of all the lands through seven counties. He held in his hand the original paper which laid on his table in Morley's Hotel, in London, when he wrote the letters to Messrs. Baring. At that time by this statement a copy of which was appended, with other statistics to his letter, the whole vacant land in Kings was only 147,000 acres, in Westmorland 260,000 and in Albert 169,000 acres. This was after the best and most convenient had been picked out; there were then upwards of ten millions of acres in the other counties of the Province which he looked to as a means of assisting in providing for the construction of Railroads.

The Committe referred to the address moved by him in 1846, relating to the sale of land, but evidently misunderstood its object. By the Regulations of May 1843, it was provided in the 7th Rule that the upset price of land should be three shillings per acre, 25 per cent. down and the remainder in three equal annual instalments, with a discount of 20 per cent for cash. There was no limit to the quanity to be purchased for cash or by instalments. Now it is said that there is a note on the bottom of these regulations confining the sale by instalments to lots of one hundred acres each He (the Attorney General) had examined the Council Books, and could find no order in Council to warrant that note. It was written in red ink at the bottom of the page which contained the regulations, and subsequent to their enactment. By referring to the *Gazette* in which the regulations were published, no such note was to be found. If it was made in consequence of the address he had moved, then it had been altogether misconceived. It would seem by the note as if the address had asked for the introduction of the instalment system to the extent of one hundred acres when in fact the regulations authorized it without limit.—

Now what the address was intended to effect was to induce the Governor to authorize the sale of lots of 100 acres of land fit for cultivation to actual settlers by private sale, to be paid for by instalments. For years in succession Bills had passed that House authorising the sale of lots 100 acres of land fit for agricultural purposes to actual settlers, payable by instalments without auction, which had been rejected in the Legislative Council, and it was supposed that by an unanimous address the Government would authorize such sales. A reference to the Journals of the House would corroborate these statements. It was a mistake to suppose that any such regulation had been acted upon ever since. In the year 1844 after the address some thousands of acres were sold, payable by instalments, in lots exceeding 100 acres. In 1846, and he believed before and after that year, the notice of the restriction did not appear in the Gazette during the whole year. It simply stated that no credit could be given to any person who was indebted under former purchases and said nothing about instalments. The only land he (the Atty. Gen.) had been connected with, that could be supposed to violate any rule, was the 475 acres in Moncton, bought agreeably to the regulations of 1843, and if there was no order in Council limiting the purchases by instalments to lots of 100 acres, then no rule had been violated, and he could find no such order. With regard to the land he spoke to Mr. Inches to purchase some 4 or 5 hundred acres under the instalment system, directing him not to pay more than the upset price and not to interfere with any settler or other applicant. He had no idea that fictitious names had been used for him in any case until the investigation took place, he paid no attention whatever to it at the time, until he paid the money and Mr. Inches handed him the receipts and the transfers from the parties in whose names the purchases were made and who were all living men. He supposed all was right and paid no further attention. The purchases of the lots in the Sherman Settlement did not contravene any regulations. With regard to the Mackawick land, he spoke to Whitehead to select one or two hundred acres of lumber land if he found any that would answer, but not to interfere with any other settler. Whitehead had applied for three lots for his brother and recommended this. He (the Attorney General) did not desire more than two, and from something that had transpired about the time of sale, he (the Attorney General) concluded not to carry out the sale which at his instances Whitehead had directed. Mr. Inches is mistaken in supposing that he (the Attorney General) spoke to him to purchase them, it must have been Whitehead. Assuming there was an order in Council limiting the purchase by instalments to lots of 100 acres, these lots were all in the name of bona-fide persons who each had a legal right to purchase, and could dispose of that right to another.—Suppose he should to-morrow buy ten lots from as many different individuals, who had paid with either first or second instalment, surely he could do it; but if the doctrine of the Government was true, such purchases would violate the regulations. He understood at the time the land was not fit for settlement, and that all the good lumber had been cut off, and he recently learnt from gentlemen who was acquainted with the land that the money never could be realized from it. He was not disposed to discuss this question at any great length, as he had no object. Now judgement had been given against him without any trial, and he had no desire to move to reverse it. The intelligent mind of the country would pass upon it and he had no fear of their verdict. But suppose that a technical rule had been broken, how did it happen that the Government in their zeal had not applied the principle further. The Solicitor had signed the memorandum which had declared this to be a political wrong, and yet he had himself violated the regulations. It appeared by the returns before the House and by the admission of the Solicitor General in his controversy the other day with his colleague, that in 1859, E. Hartley had applied for lot 201, containing 100 acres in the Inoishone Settlement near Grand Falls, and G. T. Hartley, lot 320 containing 100 acres in the same settlement which had been at their instance advertised for sale at the Grand Falls on the 6th of September 1859. That the Solicitor General noticing the lands advertised, had directed an agent to compete for them and the lots were bid off for the Solicitor General, one for 3s. 1d. and one for 3s. 3d. an acre, and that the Solicitor General did not pay for them until six weeks after the sale. Now he (the Attorney General) had referred to the Gazette containing the advertisement of the land, and one of the regulations published at the top, was as follows: In all cases of competition, the purchaser must immediately pay the money, or else the land will be again forthwith offered for sale, excluding bids from the Defaulter.

Had the regulations been complied with on default of the Solicitor General, the land would have been offered again, and the two poor hard working young men whose lands the Solicitor Gen. had obtained, would have got their land, as it was the purchase remained open, and the money was not paid for a month—all in violation of the regulations. He did not refer to this as any moral wrong, but the Sol. Gen. had certified that it was a political wrong in the memorandum he had signed. A violation of this rule was more injurious than a violation of the instalment rule, for in this case the actual settler was deprived of his land, previously selected and surveyed for him, by the speculator who paid no money for six weeks. In the case of instalments no harm could be done, the Revenue lost nothing but rather gained, and if land was blocked up the Government could prevent it by requiring persons to pay up or lose their land except in cases of actual settlement. There was this difference between himself and the Solicitor General; he (the Attorney General) had got no land, and the Solicitor General had. No one can doubt the opinion of the country upon this question. The Provincial Secretary had referred to the obligations due to the great party they represented. He (the Att'y. Gen.) thought that great party had a right to expect their leaders would show they had some pluck, that they did not quail in the time of difficulty and excitement. The members of the Government had evinced a want of courage derogatory to their position. Each one was afraid of his election; one thought that in the excitement he would not be so high on the poll another would lose a few votes. It would be far better to be rejected and maintain your party obligations than be elected high on the poll, and at the sacrifice of the party. They had from cowardice undertaken to sacrifice him (the Attorney General) to save themselves. He made these remarks more in sorrow than in anger. If they had all stood together they could have gone through the Session easily. It had been observed by an hon. member that he had gone in and out with them had stood by them on all occassions. In 1856 he had first to face the storm, and he passed through the fire maintaining his party obligations. At the time he could have obtained a present advantage at the permanent sacrifice of character. The pusillanimity of his colleagues on these occasions would attach to them for ever, and in the future in every time of difficulty or trial, their conduct now would come up in judgement against them, and he believed that there was only one opinion among intelligent men as to the course they had adopted. The country had been led to believe that he, the Attorney General, had done some great wrong, and it did not exactly appear what it was, he had made no efforts to disabuse them but the people would soon understand the subject, and there would be no difference of opinion. Nothing would have induced him to act so toward them, and their action would seriously injure the great party referred to, and affect the estimation they were held in. When he went home after the occurrence he opened a little book laid on his table and found such a sentiment as this: which appeared very appropriate: "It was not an open enemy that hath done me this dishonor, for then I could have borne it, neither was it mine adversary that magnified himself against me for then peradventure I could have hid myself from him, but it was even thou my companion and mine own familiar friend." It had been said that no precedent could be found for such a case in British or Colonial History; the reason was that no body of men before had every been found so regardless of party obligations and who only thought of themselves. The cry was, to your tents O Israel, every man for himself. Cases of the kind often had occurred, but men of courage stood by each other, and more easily braved the strom than by seperating.—

What would Mr. Pitt or any great statesman in England say, if some difficulty had occurred in the Army, the Navy or the Post Office, in which some contract had been made or thing done contrary to the regulations, and it was proposed to remove the member from the Cabinet. He could imagine the indignation with which such a proposition would be met. He, (Atty. Gen.) would refer to a case in British History to show how British Statesmen acted. It was at a time when the House of Commons comprised some of the most illustrious men Britain ever produced. There was the son of the great Earl Chatham, William Pitt, who was called in early life to wield the destinies of that great Empire, and whose name would run down through the stream of history as the great statesman to the end of time, and who would be remembered, and whose talents would be appreciated wherever the English language was spoken or British History studied. There was Canning, the eloquent member for that great mart of Commerce, Liverpool, who saw in the distant future the emancipation of men's minds, and the establishment of political and commercial liberty, and who never became the member of a Cabinet, unless he stipulated that the question of the removal of the Roman Catholic disabilities should be open. There was Chas. J. Fox whose thrilling eloquence had often enchanted the crowded lobbies of old St. Stephen. There was Sheridan, whose sparkling wit enlivened every debate. There was Huskinson, whose exposition of the principles of trade commanded the respect of commercial men. There was Wilberforce, the friend of the *African*, whose name is immortalized, and whose labors will endure for ever. There was Charles Grant the Lord Glenelg of a later day, whose portrait adorns this Hall, and whose name will be ever dear to the people of New Brunswick. Last but not least, there was Charles Grey, who lived to carry through Parliament the Great Reform Bill of our day, besides a host of others in that galaxy of distinguished men, who shed lustre upon the political horizon of Britain in the early part of the nineteenth century.

The case to which he referred was that of the hon. Henry Dundas, Lord Melville. To give the House an idea of the nature of the complaint against him, he would observe that after the final resignation of his office he was impeached, and the charge made against him was, that he, "while Treasurer of the Navy, did receive out of the monies entrusted to his Majesty, ten thousand pounds, and fraudulently and illegally converted the same to his own use, or some other corrupt and illegal purpose." Upon the trial of this impeachement though acquitted, fifty two Peers, about one third of the members present, declared him guilty upon their honor. The evidence from which the charge against him was derived was taken from the 10th Report of the Commissioners of the Naval Enquiry which had been laid before Parliament. All sorts of insinuations were made against him, and it had been stated that in the giving evidence before the Commissioners, he had evaded the question and had declined to answer some questions. Many of the supporters of the Government became incensed against him, but none of his colleagues called upon him to resign notwithstanding that the charge in his case was of a serious nature. Mr. Whitebread moved a resolution in the House of Commons containing thirteen different propositions, one of which stated that he had been guilty of a gross violation of the law and a high breach of duty, and the 13th stated "that Lord Melville in applying monies paid for the service of the Navy to other services, stated to have been of delicate and confidential a nature, that in his opinion no account can or ought to be given of them, had acted in a manner inconsistent with his duty and incompatible with those securities which the Legislature had provided for the proper application of the public money." When the notice of the motion was laid on the table did his colleagues call upon him to resign and relieve them of any further difficulty, though many of their supporters were prepared to vote against him? No! They stood by him and when the motion came up for discussion, the first minister of the Crown, Mr. Pitt., met the proposition with an amendment to the effect that a committee be appointed to consider the tenth Report of the Commissioners and the documents, and examine the same, and submit their opinion to the House. Mr. Pitt urged that in point of fact, there is no allegation in the Report, or even "in the speech of Mr. Whitebread, that any losses to the public have been sustained, there is no allegation that any defalcation, any mischief, or any evil whatever has occurred to the nation by the transaction now in question." Mr. Canning in a speech of much power remarked. "The one point to which we are desired to confine our attention, and upon which the vote of the House is founded, and to which the right hon. gentleman, who spoke last, limits his accusation is the bare infraction of the act, the technical crime of an infraction of Law." The Master of the Rolls spoke thus; "The whole of the charges seemed to rest on suspicion of the principles on which Lord Mellville acted, that the were corrupt and against law." There were or ought to be endless gradations in the guilt of the violation of an act of Parliament. Some might best be prevented even by the slightest censure." * * * * "Nothing like personal corruption was proved against the noble viscount, how was he to judge of his own offence, but by his own understanding." "There was no proof of any loss sustained, and if no loss, there was no risk."—The question was fully debated, the ministry all opposing the resolution which was finally carried by the casting vote of the Speaker.—After the decision of the Commons, Lord Melville resigned, and so strong was the feeling against him, that he was afterwards impeached but acquitted. Now, he (Attorney General) referred to this as a strong case to prove how far party obligations, and principles of mutual honor, which govern men associated together, influenced ministers in that great country to which they all looked for examples. It contrasted strongly with the conduct of his late colleagues, all he (Attorney General) asked, was, that they should wait till the Committee reported, or the House took action. He was confident neither the Committee nor the House would single him out, when all the facts were elicited, and the result had proved the correctness of his opinion, as the Committee in their Report had referred to members of the Government and Legislature, and the only cases particularly mentioned were under the Labor Act. If any such resolution as the Provincial Secretary had mentioned, had been proposed, it would then have been time enough to take such a course as would relieve the government from embarrasment if it were likely to pass. (Here the Attorney General took up the correspondence with His Excellency and the Executive Council, and commented upon it.) Doubtless the Governor had the abstract right to exercise the prerogative, as he had, but constitutional fairness, entitled him (the Attorney General) to an opportunity of reorganizing the Government which he could have done, he had no doubt, and it is strange if his late colleagues were so satisfied of his inability, that they should have interposed to prevent it, and thereby increase the difficulty. The whole subject was before the country and without feeling much interest in the present, he had no fear of the future. The sober judgment of the great party referred to, and of the country, would be with him. In the meantime he had not been inculcating the principle of self-reliance for twenty years; without being able to practice it himself. He had been too well drilled in the school of adversity, to lose his confidence in himself, or his faith in the moral government of the world.

THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

THERE is hope in the Gospel for any man, so long as he lives. There is infinite willingness in Christ to pardon sin. There is infinite power in the Holy Spirit to change hearts.

There are many diseases of the body which are incurable. The cleverest doctors can not heal them. But, thank God! there are no incurable diseases of the soul. All manner and quantity of sins can be washed away by Christ, hardest and most wicked of hearts can be changed.

Reader. I say again, while there is life there is hope. The oldest, the vilest, the worst of sinners may be saved. Only let him come to Christ, confess his sin, and cry to him for pardon—only let him cast his soul on Christ, and he shall be cured. The Holy Spirit shall be sent down on his heart according to Christ's promise, and he shall be changed by his almighty power into a new creature.

Why should it not be so? The Holy Spirit is a mighty, merciful, and loving Spirit. He turns away from no man because of his vileness. He passes by no one because his sins are black and scarlet.

There was nothing in the Corinthians that he should come down and quicken them. Paul reports of them that they were "fornicators, idolaters, adulterers, effeminate, thieves, covetous, drunkards, revilers, extortioners." "Such," he says, "were some of you." Yet even them the Spirit made alive. "Ye are washed," he writes, "ye are sanctified, ye are justified, in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God." (1 Cor. 6: 9. 10, 11.)

There was nothing in the Collossians that he should visit their hearts, Paul tells us that "they walked in fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry." Yet them also the Spirit quickened. He made them "put off the old man with his deeds, and put on the new man which is renewed in knowledge after the image of Him that created him." (Colossians. 3: 5—10.)

There was nothing in Mary Magdalene that the Spirit should make her soul alive. Once she had been possessed with seven devils. Time was, if report be true, she had been a woman proverbial for vileness and iniquity. Yet even her the Spirit made a new creature, separated her from her sins, brought her to Christ, made her last at the cross, and first at the tomb.

Never, never will the Spirit turn away from a soul because of its corruption. He never has done so; he never will. It is his glory that he has purified the minds of the most impure, and made them temples for his own abode. He may yet take the worst of those who read this tract, and make him a vessel of grace.

Why indeed should it not be so? The Spirit is an Almighty Spirit. He can change the stony heart into a heart of flesh. He can break the strongest bad habits, like tow before the fire. He can make the most difficult things seem easy and the mightiest objections melt away like snow in spring. He can cut the bars of brass, and throw the gates of prejudice wide open. He can fill up every valley, and make every rough place smooth. He has done done it often, and he can do it again.

The Spirit can take a Jew—the bitterest enemy of Christianity—the fiercest persecutor of true believers—the strongest stickler for Pharisaical notions—the most prejudiced opposer of Gospel doctrine, and turn that man into an earnest preacher of the very faith he once destroyed. He has done it already.—He did it with the Apostle Paul.

The Spirit can take a Roman Catholic monk, brought up in the midst of Romish superstition—trained from his infancy to believe false doctrine, and obey the pope—steeped to the eyes in error—and make that man the clearest upholder of justification by faith the world ever saw. He has done so already.—He did it with Martin Luther.

The Spirit can take an English tinker, without learning, patronage, or money—a man at one time notorious for nothing so much as blasphemy and swearing—and make that man write a religious book, which shall stand unrivaled and unequaled in its way by any since the time of the Apostles. He has done so already.—He did it with John Bunyan, author of "Pilgrim's Progress."

The Spirit can take a sailor drenched in worldliness and sin—a profligate captain of a slave-ship—and make that man a most successful minister of the Gospel, a writer of letters which are a store house of experimental religion, and of hymns which are known and sung wherever English is spoken. He has done it already.—He did it with John Newton.

All this the Spirit has done, and much more, more, of which I can not speak particularly. And the arm of the Spirit is not shortened. His power is not decayed. He is like the Lord Jesus—the same yesterday, to-day and for ever. He is still doing wonders, and will do to the very end.

Reader, do you feel the slightest drawing towards God—the smallest concern about your immortal soul? Does your conscience tell you this day that you have not yet felt the Spirit's power, and do you want to know what to do? Listen and I will tell you.

For one thing, you must go at once to the Lord Jesus Christ in prayer, and beseech him to have mercy on you, and send you the Spirit. You