

## WHAT THE ORTHODOX SAY

The Christian Union, edited by the Rev. Henry Ward Beecher and Rev. Lyman Abbott, has the following brief editorial respecting Rev. L. L. Briggs: "The Rev. L. L. Briggs, formerly pastor of the Universalist church of Auburn in this state, has resigned his pastorate and withdrawn from the denomination, and has connected himself with Plymouth church of Syracuse, Rev. A. F. Beard, D. D., pastor. Mr. Briggs was a prominent clergyman of the Universalist church, having been successively settled in Philadelphia, Boston and Auburn. He withdraws from it partly because he can no longer preach a dogmatic Universalism, that is, the positive doctrine of the final salvation of all men, partly because he does not find in that denomination the spiritual life which is more important than any dogma, and for which all dogmas exist. At the same time he does not hold dogmatically to the endless suffering of any creature, he leaves the impenitent in the hands of a just and merciful God. Such an action by such a man furnishes food for reflection to both the Universalist and Orthodox bodies. That a prominent preacher should leave one denomination for another is no new thing; but when he leaves it because in three leading churches of New England, Pennsylvania, and New York he finds little spiritual life and nowhere the conditions of successful spiritual work, the denomination which he leaves may well ask itself the question whether, if teaching is to be known by its fruits, it has the fruits which justify its teaching.

On the other hand, the denomination at whose door he knocks may also well ask itself the question: what, in the light of his course, becomes of the counsel, so cavalierly given to orthodox ministers who doubt the dogma of endless suffering, to go to the Universalist church. If no man can remain a Universalist who does not believe in universal salvation, and no man can be orthodox who does not believe in endless suffering, there is rapidly growing up a new denomination which is neither orthodox nor Universalist. What shall we do with it? And what shall we call it?"

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