The ministry of healing, or, Miracle of cure in all ages

Gordon A J
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Author: Gordon A J

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BY

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**CONTENTS.**

I.—THE QUESTION AND ITS BEARINGS.

Have there been any miracles since the apostles?—Traditional answer—Unreasonable dread of miracles—Healing and regeneration—Demand of the age respecting the supernatural—Growing sway of naturalism—How it can be resisted. ... ... ... 1

II.—THE TESTIMONY OF SCRIPTURE.

Christ bearing our sicknesses—Forgiveness and healing—Signs promised in the great commission—Comments of Bullinger and Bengel on the same—Promise in James—The threefold test of perpetuity—Lange on anointing. ... ... ... 16

III.—THE TESTIMONY OF REASON.

Archbishop Tillotson.—“Very agreeable to reason”—The cessation theory against analogy—Miracles not abnormal—Considered as signs—The first fruits of redemption—Miracles of healing distinguished from other miracles—Views of Ellicott and Godet as to their continuance. ... ... ... 39

IV.—THE TESTIMONY OF THE CHURCH.

Dr. Gerhard Uhlhorn’s verdict on the teaching of the Fathers—Justin Martyr, Irenaeus, Terullian, Origen, Clement—Decline of apostolic miracles—The age of Constantine—Revival of miracles with revival of faith—Doctrine of the Waldenses on miraculous healing—The Moravians hold and practice it—The Huguenots—Wonderful records among the Cove-
naters—Friends, Baptists and Methodists all bear witness—Joseph Benson's story. ... ... 58

V.—THE TESTIMONY OF THEOLOGIANS.
Augustine—His view defined by Trench—He tells the story of a miracle of healing—Luther's strong faith—He raises Melancthon from mortal sickness—Myconius called back from the gates of death—Baxter's strong testimony and personal experience—Bengel pronounces for modern miracles—Edward Irving's views—Thomas Erskine's doctrine and proof—Bushnell, "miracles and supernatural gifts not discontinued"—Other witnesses. ... ... 87

VI.—THE TESTIMONY OF MISSIONS.
Importance of evidence from this field—Argument of Prof. Christlieb—His strong endorsement of missionary miracles—Instances cited by him—Testimony of Grotius—Witness of missionaries themselves—Preaching the gospel with signs following—A commentator's prayer. ... ... 116

VII.—THE TESTIMONY OF THE ADVERSARY.
False miracles a witness to the true.—Antichrist and his lying wonders—Spiritualism and Necromancy—The spurious should not prejudice us against the genuine—Christlieb on miracles in the last days—Erskine on Satan's use of the church's denial—Caution and watchfulness required. ... ... 131

VIII.—THE TESTIMONY OF EXPERIENCE.
Some who have practiced the ministry of healing—Dorothea Trudel—Her remarkable consecration, and power in prayer—Her persecutions and triumphs—Home for healing at Mannendorf—Samuel Zeller her successor—
## CONTENTS

| Pastor Blumhardt — His devoted life — Striking instance of cure and its effect — Pastor Stockmayer — His exposition of the doctrine of sickness and healing — Pastor Rein — His saintly character and apostolic works — Lord Radstock’s views — Dr. Cullis and his work of faith in Boston. | ... | ... | ... | 144 |

### IX.—THE TESTIMONY OF THE HEALED.

“**One thing I know**” — Value of experience — Story of Miss Fancourt’s healing — Her venerable father’s confirmation — Evil entreated — A cripple healed — Comment of Rev. Morgan Edwards — The Doctor’s story — Broken arm restored — Miss Jennie Smith — The all night prayer meeting — The victory of faith — Reflections. | ... | ... | ... | 174 |

### X.—THE VERDICT OF CANDOR.

Jellet on miracles — False theory of sickness — Healing rare because faith is rare — God’s sovereignty not to be contravened — Value of testimony cited — Danger of denying the supernatural — Unbelief of our time — Effect of miracles of healing on their subjects. | ... | ... | ... | 195 |

### XI.—THE VERDICT OF CAUTION.

Too much not to be demanded of the church of to-day — Heresy to be avoided — Dangers of fanaticism — Need of study and quietness — Prof. Godet — The true secret of knowledge — A memorable instance of national prayer — Caution against dogmatism and pride. | ... | ... | ... | 209 |

### XII.—THE CONCLUSION.

The prayer of faith a great attainment — Coleridge’s testimony — How reached — Three conditions — Communion, obedience, submission — Thy will be done — Words to the sick. | ... | ... | ... | 224 |
I.

THE QUESTION AND ITS BEARINGS.

INTRODUC TORY.

Have there been any miracles since the days of the apostles? To this question the common answer has been, in our times at least, a decided no. A call recently put forth in one of our religious journals, asking the opinion of ministers, teachers and theological professors on this point was very largely answered; and the respondents were well nigh unanimous in the opinion that the age of miracles passed away with the apostolic period. The statement contained in several of these replies gave evidence indeed that the question had never been deeply investigated by the witnesses. In some instances there was a perhaps unintentional, evading of the issue by the question "What is a miracle? But there were only one or two replies which gave countenance to the view, that miracles are possible in all ages and have appeared more or
less numerously in every period of the Church's history. If then the little book which we now send forth shall win any assent for its views, it will not do so in all probability because its sentiments accord with the opinion of the majority of the theologians of the day.

It is therefore no enviable task which we have undertaken. The demand of the times is rather in the contrary direction from that in which our conviction carries us. "The strongest requirement now pressing on the Church is for an adaptation of Christianity to the age,"—so we read not long since. How presumptuous it will look in the face of such an utterance for one to set his face squarely in the opposite direction, and insist that the greatest present demand is for the adaptation of the age to Christianity. And not that exactly; for "this present evil age" can never be made to harmonize with a religion that is entirely heavenly in its origin, in its course and in its consummation. But we trust it will not be presumption to say that the Church in every direction needs to be re-shaped to the apostolic model and re-invested with her apostolic powers. For is it not apparent that between the indignant clamor of skeptics against