

**ANTINOMIANISM REVIVED; OR,
THE THEOLOGY OF THE SO-
CALLED PLYMOUTH BRETHREN
EXAMINED AND REFUTED**

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Antinomianism revived; or, The theology of the so-called Plymouth Brethren examined and refuted by Daniel Steele

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DANIEL STEELE

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ANTINOMIANISM REVIVED;

OR,

*THE THEOLOGY OF THE SO-CALLED
PLYMOUTH BRETHREN*

EXAMINED AND REFUTED.

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Papers," etc.*

WITH INTRODUCTION TO CANADIAN READERS BY

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Introduction to Canadian Readers.

THIS work, by the Rev. DANIEL STEELE, D.D., Professor of Didactic Theology in Boston University, is a very timely book. An Antinomian view of the Atonement, an Antinomian definition of faith, and an equally Antinomian view of the agencies by which the Kingdom of Christ is to be advanced to its final glory, are the curse of a large part of our modern evangelization. Dr. Steele has well named this error "Antinomianism Revived," for in every century since the Reformation it has made its appearance. It constituted the chief enemy of true religion with which Wesley and Fletcher were called to contend, thwarting more than any other the mission of Methodism to spread Scriptural Holiness over the land. In the work before us Dr. Steele has, in a very popular style, and with the clearest and most trenchant logic, set before us, (1) The

nature of this error ; (2) A comprehensive and valuable sketch of its past history ; (3) A very full exposition of its modern organized form as Plymouthism ; (4) A careful examination of its three fundamental errors as to Faith, the Atonement, and the absolutely irrevocable character of the believer's title to eternal life ; (5) A most valuable chapter on the Antinomian doctrine of imputed Holiness ; and finally, (6) a very complete discussion of the Eschatology, or Second Advent Doctrine, which accompanies this Gospel, falsely so called. We regard this entire system of teaching as one of the greatest enemies with which Christianity is called to contend to-day, inasmuch as it creates weakness from within, which is far more dangerous than can be any attack from without. In combating this heresy, our younger ministry will find in Dr. Steele's book an invaluable storehouse of information and argument, giving them the gist of the keen logic with which Wesley and Fletcher met this error in their day, but admirably adapted to the new guise in which it appears in our time.

N. BURWASH.

INTRODUCTION.

THE arguments of this book are directed, mainly, against the doctrines inculcated by the so-called *Plymouth Brethren*. We shall attempt little more, in this introduction which we are asked to write, than to answer the question, "Who are the *Plymouth Brethren*?"

They are a sect (if it be proper to call those a sect who repudiate all sects) popularly known as "Darbyites," "Brethren," "Plymouth Brethren," etc. They originated in England nearly sixty years ago, under the leadership of Mr. John Darby.

Mr. Darby was born in England, of wealthy parents. He was educated for the law, and commenced its practice. But his subsequent conversion changed his whole course of life. He was impressed that it was his duty to enter

the ministry. His father, learning of his purpose, became violently opposed to it, and not being able to dissuade him from it, actually disinherited him. But a wealthy uncle adopted him, and at his decease left him an ample fortune.

Mr. Darby having finished his theological studies, was ordained, and admitted to the ministry of the Established Church. But he did not long continue in fellowship with that church. Not being able to understand the doctrine of apostolic succession, he rejected it, and withdrew from the Establishment and denounced it as an illegitimate church.

Having severed his connection with what he regarded an apostate church, he went in search of the true one, not doubting as yet but what such a church could be found. But Mr. Darby never found his ideal church.

Such as were of his way of thinking were urged to band themselves together and wait until Christ should make His personal advent, which