

**THE DOCTRINAL
INTEGRITY
OF METHODISM**

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The Doctrinal Integrity of Methodism by Bishop E. M. Marvin

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BISHOP E. M. MARVIN

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BY
BISHOP E. M. MARVIN,
OF THE M. E. CHURCH, SOUTH.

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INTRODUCTION.

THE publisher of "MARVIN'S DOCTRINAL INTEGRITY OF METHODISM" requests me to write an "Introduction" to the book. With this request I the more readily comply because of my long and intimate personal relations with, and my very great esteem for, the lamented author; and also because I believe the book to be a very valuable contribution to the literature of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

This work first appeared in the form of a series of articles published in the *St. Louis Christian Advocate* in the year 1871; the series commencing July 19th and ending October 25th. From the work itself it is very evident that the author intended to produce a thorough and exhaustive treatise of the subject which he had in hand, and the publisher has certainly rendered an important service to the church by casting it in its present permanent form. That series of articles was too valuable to pass away with the ephemeral existence of a mere weekly newspaper publication. The subject had taken very deep hold upon the Bishop's mind, and had time permitted he desired to have it treated still more exhaustively. In the last of the series he says: "This series of articles must now come to a close short of the point which I had at one time in view. My tour of Conferences is at hand, and I shall have no opportunity fo-

writing except in a very desultory way. It was my purpose to give two or three articles on the work of the Spirit, but the very brief treatment of the most important doctrines connected with it given in the last number must suffice. The doctrine of justification by faith, also, I purposed to write of somewhat at length. Particularly, I intended to treat of the right of the church to adopt and enforce a 'creed' embodying vital doctrines of the Christian faith. But imperative duties forbid."

Thousands, who read with interest and profit the work as it first appeared in the *Advocate*, will now hail it in its present permanent form. For although our departed Bishop has not said to us all that he desired to say on the subject, yet what he has said is wonderfully adapted to the exigency of the times and will be of invaluable service especially to our young preachers in aiding them to resist the tide of error and unbelief that is sweeping over the land, and to maintain the Doctrinal Integrity of Methodism. The shifts and turns of modern infidelity and the pretended demonstrations of skeptical science are here met and exposed. The ancient landmarks of sound doctrine which are becoming increasingly obscure under the accumulated rubbish of modern opinion, are clearly defined and strongly affirmed.

I most heartily and earnestly commend the work to all lovers of sound doctrine.

W. M. RUSH.

BOONVILLE, MO., April 24, 1878.

