"HOW SHALL WE ESCAPE?": AND OTHER MESSAGES

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FRENCH E. OLIVER

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Trieste



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BY

REV. FRENCH E. OLIVER

EVANGELIST



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DEDICATION.

This volume is lovingly dedicated to my Father and Mother, whose prayers and precepts led me to God, and still bless my life.

F. E. O.

Chicago, August 4, 1904.

INTRODUCTION.

"How Shall We Escape?" is a timely book for these days when an uncertain sound comes from so many pulpits in America as well as abroad. The fact that Mr. Oliver was my associate in evangelistic work for almost four years enables me to say with certainty that these messages come from a man who is fully convinced that men without Christ have need of salvation from sin and the consequences if sin hereafter. If there is no hell, the Bible is a fraud, the preachers are false prophets and the church buildings stand as monuments of the folly of the human race, and the Theological Seminaries are perpetrating a series of crimes in educating men for the ministry. Whether or not there is a hell is a question which the Church of God by virtue of its very existence can answer in but one way, namely, "He that believeth shall be saved, and he that believeth not shall be damned." The pressing demand of our days is a revival of preaching the old-time doctrines of sin, the certainty of hell and the judgment for the finally impenitent, salvation by faith in the Atonement,-no glittering generalities, no rhetorical niceties,-the message must ring like a fire alarm, and sound like the drumbeat before the battle.

Much of the preaching now is given for the literary excellency of the production; more attention is paid to the message than to the actual social condition. The time has come when we as ministers must be something more than walking theological mummies with isms and schisms and ologies swarthed in papyrus, breathing an odor of hieroglyphics, oozing Greek diphthongs and seven-jointed terminologies of Latin extraction, which can be intellectually digested and assimilated only by bi-peds wearing alphabetical tails to their names. Strong convictions move strong minds. These messages are fresh from Evangelist Oliver's revival campaigns, where they have been signally blessed of God. I take pleasure in bespeaking for them a wide reading.

WILLIAM A. SUNDAY.