

people deny the story of the Flood. Infidels and bad people say there never was a flood, but if you ever hear anyone say that, you can tell them it is certainly true, for you have seen a stone that came from Mt. Ararat, where the Ark rested." "That's the kind of stuff" Christians "are made to swallow and digest."

But here is a sample of the reasoning of Tertullian on the evidences of Christianity.

"I maintain," says he, "that the Son of God was born. Why am I not ashamed to maintain such a thing? Why? Because it is itself a shameful thing. I maintain that the Son of God died. Well, that is wholly credible because it is most monstrously absurd. I maintain that after having been buried he rose again, and that I take to be absolutely true because it is manifestly impossible."

What is the evidence of such a man worth? Christian apologists must be driven to awful straits when they have to rely upon the testimony of a man who could say the like of that.

If the evidence of Clement was any good why was his epistle excluded from the Canon.

As to Irenæus, with the exception of Eusebius, Tertullian, Jerome, Origen, and Ignatius, he was probably the greatest hypocrite in the whole range of ecclesiastical history.

It is he who tells the story about the Devil building a monument in honor of Simon Magus (Acts 8 : 9-23) on the banks of the Tiber and that the Apostle John was a priest, a martyr and a Doctor of Divinity and that he wore a petal on, which I suppose is some sort of Popish trumpery.

It is perfectly useless for you to attempt to prove the inspiration of the Bible by the evidence of such men as these. There is no person in the world who really knows the value of evidence who would hang a mad dog on the testimony of any or all of the "Christian Fathers" that ever lived.

It is an undeniable fact that not a single trace exists of the application of historical criticism to any book of the New Testament in the early ages of Christianity, and during the Middle Ages the Church was powerful enough to prevent any and every thing of the kind. You know the result.