

out some of the girls and found their statements to be quite true. Verily, it is quite consistent that a book which immortalizes Lot and Judah, Rahab and David and Solomon, should be produced by the wages of prostitution.

You admit that there is much ignorance among believers as to the contents of the Bible, and you have given several instances of misquotations resulting from it. Here is another. Two men were disputing about the nationality of Jesus Christ. One of them said that he was an Egyptian and the other that he was an Ethiopian, and they both quoted passages which they claimed to be in the Bible to prove their respective theories. I once heard one of those men seriously quote as a passage from the Bible, "Every tub stands on its own bottom," and I could fill a page with the same kind of stuff, but there is no need of that, for you and everybody else knows that there is not one person in fifty who knows anything whatever about the Bible, for the simple reason that they never read it, but the few who really do read it are like me, they read and reject.

The great bulk of Bibles are unread; the great mass of those who do read it reject it so what is the use of your 165 million bibles? Under the circumstances, if the supply could be wholly cut off nobody would be the worse off, except perhaps a few lazy priests and Bible dealers, those vendors of oral and printed superstition.

"The longest message ever wired," you say, "was the first 118,000 words of the New Testament."

You have heard, also, I suppose, that the first message sent over the Atlantic cable was a quotation from the Bible, and that the first package sent through the "pneumatic tube" from New York to Philadelphia was a Bible, but do any or all of these things prove it to be God's book? Certainly not, but on the contrary, the vast number of copies printed, and the reverence with which it is regarded by ignorant and credulous people, is one of the strong points against it. A book that delights the ignorant always bears upon its face the impress of falsehood.

The vast number of people professing to believe the Bible no more tends to establish its truth than the discovery of America or the eruption of a volcano.