

INFIDEL FATHER, OR PIOUS MOTHER ?

I N the United States of America, infidelity found an active champion in the well known Colonel ———, who made an open profession of his disbelief of revealed religion. It happened that a daughter of the Colonel's, to whom he was very much attached, became ill. During the progress of her disorder Dr. ——— was one day dining with the Colonel and after dinner, having adjourned to the library, some deistical publications were introduced by the Colonel to the Doctor's notice. While they were occupied in looking at them, a servant came to announce that an alarming change had taken place in his daughter, and that his presence was required in her bedroom. Thither he went, accompanied by Dr. ———. As he approached her bedside, she shook his hand, and said, "Father, I feel that my end is drawing near ; tell me, I entreat you, am I to believe what you have taught me, or what I have learned from my mother ?" Her mother was a sincere Christian, and had spared no opportunity of instilling christian truth into the mind of the child. Her father paused a moment, he fixed his eyes on his dying child, his countenance changed, his frame seemed convulsed to its very centre, while his quivering lips could scarce give utterance to the words, "Believe, my child, what your mother has taught you." The struggle was too great, the conflict between the pride of human reason and the swelling of parental affection in the heart was more than he could bear, and even over his stubborn mind the truth prevailed.