

not see how that which is could take its nature from that which is not, or how an effect could be the cause of its own cause's nature. They were keen-sighted enough to see that this involved the dogma of Lord Dundreary, that the tail wags the dog.

INGERSOLL—"God or no God, larceny is an enemy of industry."

COMMENT—To say an act is a larceny is to determine its nature—its quality. You have said that the quality of an action is determined by its consequences. How then can you assert that any given act is a larceny till its consequences are known? To assert larceny, you must assert it of particular acts, for larceny in the abstract is simply nothing, and can have none but abstract consequences, which are no consequences at all, and therefore cannot be an enemy of industry, unless it be industry in the abstract, which again is no industry at all. Larceny, to injure industry, must be larceny in act and practice—the act of A., B. or C. But how can you assert that the act of A., B. or C. is evil or larcenous till its consequences are known? for, according to your philosophy, the nature of the act of A., B. or C. can be known and judged only by its consequences.

INGERSOLL—"Industry is the mother of prosperity."

COMMENT—Industry, aside from industrious acts, is an abstraction, having no more reality than larceny aside from a larcenous act. Industry, to exist, must exist as the acts of A., B. or C. But here you are again met by your philosophy that "consequences determine the quality of actions," and you cannot assert that the actions of A., B. or C. are industrious or idle till you know the consequences.

INGERSOLL—"Prosperity is good."

COMMENT—According to your standard prosperity is good only when its consequences are good. But the philosophy of history teaches that prosperity leads to the downfall of nations as well as of individuals. What did prosperity do for Egypt, Greece, and Rome? It made the people luxurious, voluptuous and imbecile, and buried the monuments of hardier ages in ruins. It was the siren that led Hannibal, Alexander and Caesar to untimely graves, and Napoleon to Moscow and Waterloo. Prosperity leads to decay, national, individual, intellectual,