

potent enough to conjure away the disagreeable fact, he has only to ask, Is it verified by experience? and whisper *Aberglaube*, and it is done.

Not the least remarkable thing about this book is, that the author should have deemed it necessary to write a volume to show that the Bible teaches in a reliable manner, what might be found in almost any heathen moralist. He goes to the Hebrews for religion; but when we discover all that he has *verified* of their teachings, we are quite at a loss to know why he might not with equal propriety have gone to the Greeks or Romans. They certainly believed that "to right conduct belongs happiness," and that the "*not ourselves* makes for righteousness." This is all he can verify in the Bible; all the rest is "a kind of fairy tale which a man tells to himself."

There is no living God who watches over us with unslumbering eye and loving heart—no incarnate Saviour, no atoning Sacrifice, no Divine Spirit to enlighten and renew the heart, no immortality, no judgment to come, no authoritative revelation of truth and duty!! It leaves us "without God and without hope in the world." All that remains to us is a little bald morality, detached from everything which makes it possible. To those oppressed with a sense of sin and a conviction of their weakness, its message is, See to your conduct, be good, do your duty; for to right conduct belongs happiness.

If this is the gospel of literary culture, we are profoundly thankful that it is not the glorious gospel of the blessed God.

We have heard of a worthy Canadian minister who once discoursed on the text, "He was a good man," under three heads: I. Be good; II. Be very good; and III. Be sure that you are very good. Matthew Arnold's Bible would form a homily of the same order.

He still adheres to *morality* as something fixed and certain. This is about the only thing in his book for which his assumptions will not account. He cannot go quite so far as his principles would carry him. He scouts the notion that knowledge may come from intuition. It is only from experience that it can proceed. What cannot be verified by experience is a mere extra-belief.