

His people eternal life in the world to come, I maintain it is the duty of all such to employ both pen and tongue in opposition to such ungodly teaching; which we know, if allowed to be instilled into the mind of the young and rising generation, will not only tend to demoralize the unguarded mind of the young, but think of the remorse, the anguish, sorrow, degradation, the awful reality of one soul deluded by such satanic teaching. Does it not call forth the combined efforts of all who believe in God and in a glorious immortality through a risen Christ, to put forth every effort to repulse the fiery darts of the devil.

Now my intention is to show how unfair an argument Mr. Watts used in order to defend his erroneous theory. In the first place, he tells us that the world was becoming better, and the people wiser, because they had begun to think for themselves—this, he holds up as the why "he is allowed to-day to present his theory." "Why," says he, "fifty years ago a man in Scotland would be thrust behind the prison bars for attempting to express his mind," but let me tell Mr. Watts it was men who stood up for the integrity of the Word of God against such men as taught the self same doctrine as Mr. Watts is advancing to-day. If Mr. Watts had been in Scotland at that time, he would have been a leading spokesman and friend of the persecutors; this is one of Mr. Watts' spurious evidences against the religion of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Again let us look at another of his unfair positions. He says: "I never did deny that there is a God, I believe there is a God," and in the next breath tells us there is no God. Now for a man to believe in anything he does not know anything about, is absurd; for instance, a man may look at a mountain, and in the center of that mountain in the bowels of the earth may be a treasure, but how can he believe in that treasure when he knows nothing about it; in like manner how can Mr. Watts substantiate his belief in God when he confesses he knows nothing about God. This then is another one of Mr. Watts' spurious defences. The reason why Mr. Watts admits there is a God, is only to save the tottering theory he has espoused. Now, again, let us look at another unfair basis upon which Mr. Watts attempts to defend the cause he holds so close to his breast. He says, "Prove to me that Christ is Divine, and that the Bible is of Divine origin, and that its authenticity is reliable;" and when Mr. Watts is asked to prove that Christ is not Divine, and the Word of no Divine origin, he immediately turns to the Word of God in order to condemn its authority. Now the idea of a court taking the evidence of the criminal to decide whether the criminal is guilty or not.

Now is it not absurd for Mr. Watts to go to the Word of God for proof to prove that it is not of Divine origin, when he does not know that there is a God, he does not believe in the Divinity of Christ; hence, the Bible in Mr. Watts' estimation is untrue and of no authority, then why does he fly to the Bible for proof of any kind. If a criminal is condemned, it is by evidences outside the evidence of the criminal; thus must Mr. Watts, if he would condemn the Word of God, furnish something more tangible, he must furnish something apart from the Bible in order to condemn it. The Bible has been held by those who firmly believe in its Divine origin and authenticity for 1800 years, and if our secular friends can produce a better authority, we will gladly receive it. So far, this then is another one of Mr. Watts' side issues and erroneous statements.

Again, Mr. Watts would make us believe that all things came by chance, and creation, in every particular, was a material consequence. Will our secular friends open up this mystery, perhaps they will by answering a few questions. We may ask: the first then we would inquire into would be the "why do we not see the wonderful material birth to-day." Ah, says the secularist, life has come through the spontaneous germination of matter, and therefore life begets life, and we have no more need of the former reproduction of life. This, no doubt, seems very plausible in the mind of the agnostic. If so, it will bear a little questioning. If so be that life begets life, from whence came the life vested in the matter that first produced life. You tell us life produces life, we grant you that, but all the powers of human invention and nature combined cannot cause, neither prove, that death will produce life. If the agnostics theory is so, and seems feasible, why should not the foundryman take the iron in its natural state and produce one stove, setting this stove away, he says, "I have now the first production, I have no need of going to the trouble again, from this one I will have many. I have no need of reproducing the same or passing the matter through the same process, for this one will produce many." "Ah," says the materialist, "there was no life in this matter." True, and pray tell me where is the life or where was the life that first produced life in matter. Here is the point I want the secularist to prove; thus the sifting of this theory is to prove the existence of a supernatural overruling power. As soon as the agnostic attempts to prove his theory, only proves that it cannot be proved at all. And, after all is said, it leaves the mind of the unbeliever in doubt, and he is compelled to admit there is something beyond I know not, some power that surpasses all that I can say or think, and, lost in wonder and amazement, he exclaims, "is there a God of Divinity?"

Now, I would like to call to mind a few of the passages Mr. W. quoted from the Bible; also some of the charges against Christ, the Son of God. The first, then, I will mention is, Mr. Watts said that when Christ came, there were three great evils prevalent in the world, viz., poverty, slavery, and intellectual ignorance, and if Christ was or had been a just man, He would have grappled with these things; and to prove his statement, he goes to the very book he has already denied as any authority for his needed information, and then mis-quotes even the despised and rejected Bible, and says, "blessed are the poor," and tells us that Christ said this, meaning the poverty-stricken people. This I would ask the public to turn up in Matt. 5th, 3rd verse, and prove Mr. Watts' statement untrue, for Christ says, "Blessed are the poor in spirit," and any sound, logical person, can see he does not allude to temporal poverty. As regards temporal poverty, our Lord himself was

the poorest of all living at the time; and again, He did not come to give His people earthly store, He came to give them Heavenly store, Eternal life. He could not give that He had not; for, at the time the wealth belonged to the world, the flesh and the Devil, for the Devil offered the Lord Jesus enormous possessions if he would only yield to Him. So you see this is a ridiculous and unfounded charge against Christ the Lord and the Bible. Again, as far as intellectual ignorance was concerned, a careful study of the New Testament will prove that the people were endowed with superior knowledge. When Mr. Watts charges the people with being illiterate, he makes another mistake. If our friend, Mr. W., had flourished at that time, he would not have had the trouble of advancing his theory, for the people in general were versed in that doctrine, so intellectual ignorance was not one of the great evils he would have us believe. Again, as to slavery, it was sin that made slaves; on account of sin the human family was bound down; but Glory be to God, Christ coming in the likeness of sinful flesh, condemned sin in the flesh. Nailing it to His Cross, therefore, He abolished sin, i.e., slavery, and Mr. Watts' charge crumbles and falls to the ground. So must all false accusation against the Christ the Son of the Living God.

Halifax, Sept. 16, 1867.

H. E. C.

COMMERCIAL.

The development of trade during the week has been healthy, and the volume of distribution has increased. This is largely due to the advance of the fall season, which naturally leads up to more business being done on more animated markets. The results, so far, have been satisfactory. Though in some sections portions of the crop have turned out poorly in nearly all our staples, good average yields have been secured, and any slight deficiency that there may be is fully offset by the good prices realised for dairy products. There has been an excellent business accomplished in all the leading lines, and the markets have, in fact, shown as much activity as at any time during the year. The August imports, and those for the current month, so far, have been somewhat restricted, which is a satisfactory sign, in that it shows that importers are inclined to avoid the dangers of over-importation.

Advices from St. John, N. B., are that bills of the Maritime Bank are there at a discount of 45 per cent., as they are selling at 55c. on the dollar. This discount is necessarily chiefly borne by the poorer classes, who can least afford to lose it. The people need not, and should not, be submitted to this class of calamities. They could be easily made impossible, if the Government would take the steps that we have already urged on them. If it would put itself in a position to guarantee the notes of all chartered banks, as is done in the United States, by compelling them to lodge with the Government the amount of their issues in bonds, this would at once secure a safe bank currency.

The following are the Assignments and Business changes in this Province during the past week:—Ebenezer Moseley, boat builder, Dartmouth, assigned to C. J. Wylde; C. & W. Hackett, grocers, North Sydney, burnt out; J. G. Shipley, grocer, Amherst, sold out; Dunlap, McDonald & Co., tailors, Amherst, sold out to Dunlap, Fowler & Co.; Miller & Crosby, G. S. and sawmill, Carleton, dissolved, W. H. Miller continues and liquidates; J. A. Balcom, genl. store, Margareville, advertising stock for sale at auction; Murray & Grant, butchers, New Glasgow, dissolved, E. Murray continues with Hugh McMillan as Murray & McMillan; A. Stanley Fisher, late genl. store, Berwick, assigned to D. B. Parker; Mrs. Caroline LeCeras, genl. store, Tracadie, assigned to Cathcart Thompson; E. Boreham, boots and shoes, Halifax, stock to be sold off by Sheriff.

DRY GOODS.—Trade has been fairly active in most lines of seasonable goods, and a satisfactory reduction has been effected. Travellers will take the road in about a fortnight for the regular fall sorting trip. The city retail trade complains of quiet times. One good feature, however, is found in the improvement that has been experienced in remittances since the beginning of the current month.

IRON, HARDWARE AND METALS.—There has been a fairly active trade in iron and hardware. Indeed, merchants have been well employed, and the movement has been satisfactory both as to volume and character, and prices rule steady. Orders for heavy goods are increasing.

BREADSTUFFS.—Flour has continued very firm under light offerings, and a fairly active demand, in fact all offerings are quickly absorbed. Some dealers have cleaned out stock entirely, and claim to have been unable to replenish them. Strong bakers' is specially in demand. There has been little change in European grain markets. Beerbohm reports that as American wheat is held too high, operators are buying Russian, which appears to be cheaper. There was fair enquiry for corn on passage, with prompt, quoted at 19s. 3d. California wheat is quoted at 30s. 5d. for June, and spring wheat at 32s. 9d., buyers December. In Liverpool wheat was quiet and steady, fair average received, winter being at 6s. 1d., and white Michigan at 6s. 3d. Corn, on the other hand, was weaker. Minneapolis straight flour was quoted at 23s. The Chicago wheat market continued weak, and there has been a further declension of prices, with more active trading.

PROVISIONS.—Pork continues firm under light stocks, and the full prices quoted from the West. From Liverpool provisions are cabled unchanged. Pork, 72s. 9d.; lard, 33s. 9d.; bacon, 44 to 45s., and tallow, 22s. 9d. In Chicago, in accord with the weakness of grain, provisions declined, and the markets ruled weak. January pork stood at \$12.30, while lard declined 5 to 10c., being at \$6.37½ for October, \$6.35 November, and \$6.37½ for December. Meats fell back 5c. The hog market was weak, and dropped 5 to 10c. The cattle market was dull.

BUTTER.—The market has been quiet and practically unchanged, but the undertone has had an easy expression, and in some cases offerings have