

act upon it ; and there may be others who do not give to the religion of the loving Christ even their outward assent. It is to these classes of medical students specially that I purpose speaking, though I shall not have in mind them only.

Some young men, and some who are not young, think it smart to laugh at religion in general, or at some of its doctrines ; and this without having studied the subject in (if at all) more than a very partial and superficial manner. I trust that there are no such mockers among you. Such mockery, permit me to say, is rude and foolish conceit on the part of any young people who indulge in it, considering that the subject is of transcendent importance, that the religion of Jesus is and always has been very dear to multitudes of the best people everywhere, and that a great host of men of high intellect and great learning have in all ages believed in it.

People of the present day are encouraged to disbelieve by the authority and example of eminent men (comparatively few in number) who, during the last half-century, have been declared or known unbelievers. The influence, also, of many of the most read novels of the present day is on the same side. These novels are generally read, not for their agnosticism, but for their attractions in other respects, and, while