

Orthodox view, therefore, which makes the death of Christ not a mere declaration of God's feelings, but the actual payment of the sinner's transgression — this Magee maintains, *is not revealed*, and it is *not* our duty to believe it. "It is not for us to inquire, nor does it in any way concern us to know."

Our next reference is to the views of the Atonement expressed by that popular and excellent writer, Jacob Abbott, in his book called "The Corner-Stone."

Mr. Abbott illustrates his view of the nature of the Atonement by a story of some school-boys, one of whom has thrown away his companion's cap into the snow. The Master perceives that the boy is penitent, and accordingly forgives him. But, says Mr. Abbott, if the matter were left here, it "would bring down the standard of justice and kindness among the boys." The Master accordingly goes out into the cold and snow himself, to find the lost cap, and brings it back with him. And when the boys saw him returning, "there was not one whose heart was not full of affection and gratitude toward the Teacher, and of displeasure at the sin."

"Such a case," adds Mr. Abbott, "is analogous, in many respects, to the measures God has adopted to make the forgiveness of human guilt safe." He indeed adds, in another place, that no human transaction can be entirely analogous to the great plan of redeeming man from sin and misery by the sufferings and death of Jesus Christ. Yet as *the only view which he presents* of the nature of the Atonement has reference exclusively to its influence on the human mind, we may take it for granted that this is with him the essential feature of the transaction.

But how far this is from the Orthodox view of satisfaction! It is the theory of Grotius, not of Anselm. The death of Christ is not a debt paid to God, but an influence exerted on the world to maintain the dignity of the law.

Another example of the way in which modern Orthodoxy departs from the ancient theory of Atonement may be found in a book, which has been widely circulated