

### THE CHRISTIAN BIBLE.

If we would only lean more upon reason, if we would bring our minds, which have been trained by many years of active business or professional experience to accumulate facts and to draw conclusions, minds built up, cold, clear and calculating, and trained to sift and reason, minds trained by the broadest scientific methods, to lean on themselves, and to sift the wheat from the chaff, how much more progress we would make. If we would honor reason in all the departments of thought we would save ourselves many mistakes.

Let us now examine one of the many stories supposed to have been received from revelation. This story is the basis of our whole system of religion. A great all-wise and all-powerful being created this world, and all that therein is, and when he had finished his work he was satisfied with it and pronounced it good. Afterwards another great and powerful being comes along who had a spite against the first, and upsets all the good work which the first being had done. Burns said that "the best laid plans of mice and men gang aft agley." Theologians evidently think that the Deity is also subject to these changes of fortune. Then the first all-powerful and wise and merciful being gets angry against the beings whom he had created, admits that he had made a mistake when he made man, and said that he was sorry and disappointed. He then proceeds to drown them all like rats in a trap, except one family, whom he starts again on a new experiment to replenish the earth. The