

Rev. Bro. S. M. ...
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WITH

◀ ANSWERS TO OBJECTIONS TO THE BIBLE ▶

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"BELIEF & UNBELIEF."

A LECTURE BY COLONEL INGERSOLL.

Ribaldry is a powerful weapon, and especially in relation to the defectively educated — "the unthinking masses" as they are sometimes designated—and it is to these, we may presume, that Colonel Ingersoll addresses himself, and it is these he flatters; it is scarcely possible that he can make himself believe that the Israelitish-nation allowed themselves to be deceived with regard to the facts of their own history, or that the learning and piety of eighteen centuries can be set at nought by any human being, much less by such a person as Colonel Ingersoll. One consideration stares one in the face, in connexion with the Colonel's proceedings, which, we may presume, is obvious to all; that is, that the emolument derived from them far exceeds that of multitudes of simple-minded men, whom he denounces, men who, according to their measure, adopt precisely the opposite course. Unscrupulousness of statement is so nearly allied to ribaldry,

that we need not be surprised to find the two associated in the harangues of the Colonel. There is one particular, in which Colonel Ingersoll unwittingly confirms a prominent feature of the Biblical narrative, and that is the fact of the fall of man, for it would not be easy to find a more striking illustration of this, than is afforded by the spectacle of a man of ability denying the existence of a Creator. He has a most legitimate target in the corrupt Christianity which has blighted the world for some eighteen centuries, and he makes great capital of it, but the existence of counterfeit coins presents an irrefragable argument for the existence of the true. This lapsed condition of the professing Church, is itself distinctly predicted in scripture, and foreshadowed in Matt. xiii, and so far confirms the veracity of the sacred volume. It would not pay to adopt a line of rational argument, to assail the mass of evidence relating to Christ-