

Religion, for the doctrine of the atonement rests upon this fable as its cornerstone.

We further understand that your most learned scholars, men like the Hon. John Morley and James Anthony Froude, are now convinced that the old books of your Bible, instead of being written by God as your priests at one time taught, have in reality been written by many different men, and patched together afterwards by other men who had not the critical knowledge to sift the truth from the error, but joined the mythological stories and the true stories together without using any critical judgment. And this accounts for the contradictions in the book. Please tell us if this is true. We want to know the whole truth about this Old Book.

We also understand that your religious teachers have spent a great deal of time in writing creeds and trying to define things which they know very little about and that a great deal of valuable time is wasted in colleges studying these theological books; which add nothing to true knowledge; for true knowledge is based upon scientific investigations, and these books ignore the methods which science has laid down for arriving at what is true. We have not time here in Japan to listen to theories, we do not want to hear what your priests think about these subjects, we only want to listen to what they know.

My learned men called my attention to some of the creeds of this Church in the city of Edinburgh where the missionary convention was held. The book from which they are taught is called a Catechism, and is taught to children. We have gone carefully over this book of creeds, in order to try to understand its teachings, and we find nearly every definition in it wrong. The first question in it is: What is the chief end of man?