

was against the interests of Christianity, and as such illegal. The rule *nisi* was accordingly discharged.

Our friends will see by this judgment that they have no rights which Christians are bound to respect, or even tolerate. They tell us that in the Dominion we have religious freedom. Yes, Christians are free to be Christians, and to coerce all others, under pains, penalties and disabilities to be Christians also. Religious freedom with a vengeance!

We have made arrangements for an unlimited supply of excellent photographs of Prof's. Tyndall, Huxley, Darwin and Proctor, Herbert Spencer, Mrs. Annie Besant, Mrs. Sara A. Underwood, B. F. Underwood, Charles Bradlaugh, Col. Ingersoll, William Cullen Bryant, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Goldwin Smith, Wendell Phillips, J. G. Whittier, Longfellow, and a large number of others of celebrated persons, poets, divines, &c., which we will send, post paid, at 7 cents each, 8 for fifty cents, or 17 for one dollar; also cabinet size photographs of Mrs. Annie Besant, Tyndall, Darwin, Huxley, Spencer, and Charles Bradlaugh, at 30 cents each, post paid. Liberal discount to dealers.

LIBERALS, do not forget to go to James Leslie's, 6 Queen Street West, for your boots and shoes. He keeps a good stock at reasonable rates, and he will make first-class work to order.

### THAT ITINERANT DEFENDER OF CHRISTIANITY.

#### WHAT KIND OF A MAN CLARK BRADEN IS.

Clark Braden, after having made, and for two or three years repeated, false statements against B. F. Underwood, when confronted by Mr. Underwood during the Jacksonville, Ill., debate, retracted his statements and apologized to the man he had wronged. He put into Mr. Underwood's hands a written statement, in which he said: "I am compelled to confess I was mistaken." It is dated Aug. 14, 1876. The *Jacksonville Courier* of Aug. 16, 1876, said: "Mr. Braden last night confessed he was mistaken in certain statements he had made concerning Mr. Underwood, and which have caused much ill feeling." He expressed himself grateful to Mr. Underwood for the manly and generous treatment he had received from him, especially in declining to use certain documents against him which had been sent him by Braden's own brethren in the church, and he promised to publish in his own denominational papers a retraction of what he had said reflecting on Mr. Underwood.

To the surprise of Mr. Underwood and others, there appeared in the *Christian Standard* of Sept. 2, 1876, a card conveying the impression that Mr. Underwood had slandered Clark Braden, and had retracted his statement. "I satisfied Mr. Underwood," says the card, "that I did not make any such statement concerning him as was reported to him; and that what I did say was not designed to injure him, and could not do so if correctly reported. He retracted his charges against me, based on the report mentioned above, and it is hoped that the old-time friendship between us is restored." Mr. Underwood had made no charges against Braden that were not true, and retracted nothing. He still holds Braden's written statement. What kind of a man Clark Braden is may be inferred from the above.

We are permitted to give the following extract from a letter to a prominent Freethought lecturer and debater, by Mr. Clark Braden. It discloses his true motives and character. Rev. John Sweeney has for some years been a prominent preacher and debater in the same denomination with Braden. Wishing to be regarded himself as the champion debater, and to see his brother in Christ and in the ministry defeated and disgraced, so that he would be no longer a rival in the field of debate, he writes the advocate of Freethought a letter, hearing that he is about to debate with Sweeney, pointing out Sweeney's weakness, that the Infidel may strike effective blows, and make his victory complete. What sincere devotion to Christianity! what honesty and honor are here exhibited.

The gentleman who received this letter has had several debates with Braden, but has had no respect for him since he learned his real character, and has met him in debate only because Christians, in communities where he is unknown, have put him forward and endorsed him. Until now he has not permitted any portion of it to be published, but Braden's recent course, characterized by unqualified misrepresentation and falsehood, has induced him to show the Christian community what kind of a man Clark Braden is. We vouch for the correctness of the extracts here given, and if they are disputed the original letters can be produced by us.

Here is the extract from Braden's letter regarding Bro. Sweeney: "I enclose a tract which I have published, which is the basis of my insanity. Last fall I attended a Convention of our preachers in Indianapolis. You remember Luther's visit to Rome. Though I was not as infatuated as he was, yet found that a view behind the scenes was not beneficial in keeping up the illusions of the stage. 'A chiel was amang them tukin' noes and faith he prented 'em.' There was one of two things to be done. Answer the strictures or destroy their influence. The first they could not do. They seek to destroy their influence by scattering stealthily that I am insane. \* \* My offence has been that I have succeeded in a field of discussion where J. S. Sweeney failed, and have published a book that has been pronounced to be better than his efforts. He has been trying to injure me ever since last summer, and so have his lackeys. I criticized his conduct in Convention, and now he is doubly exasperated. I shall not notice the Dubuque chap\* at all. His feathers won't pay for powder and shot. If you have not met J. S. Sweeney you will find him weak on history, historic evidences, science, the position that the Bible is an outgrowth of pre-existent paganism, and was built up like all other books of religion. He is sharp, pert, and declamatory, but superficial in education, not well read, and retails second-hand what he uses. If you will press those points on him, and frequently press on him that he does not answer them, you will defeat him. He will fail on what we debated in our first and second propositions also. Review what you have presented on his attention and you can defeat him.

Should you feel like reminding him of our debates do so for me."

The following is an extract from a letter written by Mr. Clark Braden to a Freethought lecturer. Braden is evidently "on the make."

"I learn that you are lecturing and expecting to lecture next winter. I write to you to suggest that we agree to unite our labors, by holding joint discussions instead of lecturing separately.

I enclose a list of propositions. We could debate all or part of these as might be desired by our patrons. I do not think it advisable to debate for less than one week, and our time should count from our departure to our return home, or from the time we left our last place of work, until we closed the discussion. We should charge one hundred dollars per week each and require the hall to be furnished and kept up for us. Could we get places enough to make it pay? Let me hear from you or suggest some one who would make such an arrangement."

\* "Dubuque chap" is Rev. Wm. Sweeney, brother of Rev. John Sweeney.

The great truth has finally gone forth to all the ends of the earth that man shall no more render account to man for his belief, over which he has no control. Henceforward, nothing shall prevail upon us to praise or to blame any one for that which he can no more change than the hue of his skin or the height of his stature. Henceforward, treating with entire respect, those who conscientiously differ from ourselves, the only practical effect of the difference will be to make us enlighten the ignorance, on the one side or on the other from which it springs—by instructing them, if it be theirs; ourselves, if it be our own, to the end that the only kind of unanimity may be produced which is desirable among rational beings—the agreement proceeding from full conviction after the freest discussion.—*Lord Brougham*.