

life, so some are snatched from utter spiritual destruction ; but maimed and crippled for time, perhaps for eternity, they can never again be all that once they might have been. In some churchyard in Germany two tombstones stand side by side ; on the one it is written *Vergeben* "Forgiven," on the other *Vergebens* "In vain." If I had to write an epitaph for some, I think I would write both *Vergeben* and *Vergebens*.

My brother, will you win nothing better for yourself than that ? I appeal to your sense of honour. Play the man. If you honestly believe that religion is good for nothing, that it can do nothing for you and help you to do nothing for others, say so, and at least we shall know what we are about. If you never intend to be a Christian, admit it, and mad as I shall think your decision there will at least be some show of consistency in your conduct. But you intend nothing of the sort ; you believe there is very much in religion ; you fully purpose to be some day among the followers of Christ. Then is it just, is it honourable, is it manly, to treat this question as some of you are treating it ? Is there any other concern in life to which you present the same dallying, hesitating front you do to this ? Has it come to this, that every other creditor is to get twenty shillings in the pound, and God is to be put off with the sorriest pittance ? Is there to be enough and to spare for every other guest, and for Him only the crumbs that fall from the table, the mere