

Out upon such pretentious insolence, from whomsoever it comes! If our faith were, indeed, thus at the mercy of the brightest intellect that God ever made, it were not worth the preserving!

But the illogical impudence of such men, apart from their wickedness, excites one's deepest scorn. Let them at least shake the walls that surround the revelation of God's eternal truth and mercy, before they so *conceitedly* and *ignorantly* attempt to lay them in the dust with their very small artillery. Let, I say, Chevalier Bunsen, the *Westminster Review*, et *id genus omne*, manfully endeavor to disprove the truth of revelation, and of our faith as founded thereupon, by shaking the *positive* evidences upon which they are based; such as the testimony of profane history, miraculous facts, church institutions, holy traditions, and the mighty spiritual effects produced by Christianity; and when these are undermined, but not till then, we may be prepared to listen to the negative possible objections, by which, through a great stretch of infidel credulity even then, our hopes of salvation may be assailed.

But to conclude this letter with one word.—It does seem to me that so long as I believe in a God I must also believe in Christianity, and in the simple and literal truthfulness of that Revelation on which it is so largely founded; until, at least, scepticism shall offer me a system more worthy of the Divine perfections, and more full of blessedness to man. And this feeling of holy confidence is irrespective of those positive arguments for its truth, which when men or devils shall succeed in shaking, the pillars of Heaven itself may tremble. It is high time that Christian men more thoroughly understood that reason is not elevated, but rather dishonoured, *by doubting*, and that a whole legion of negative difficulties ought to have no power to disturb the faith of one whose religion, if rightly understood, will abundantly enable him to give "a reason of the hope" that is in him. Difficulties are the very

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