

religion, murdered her monarch, and renounced her God?— Was France happy? Was France free? All of you can answer the question. "The miseries suffered by that single nation, have changed as it were all the histories of the preceding sufferings of mankind into idle tales. The kingdom appeared to be turned into one great prison, the inhabitants converted into felons. The sword, the bayonet, and the guillotine rested not from their crimson task by night or by day. It seemed for a season as if the knell of the whole nation was tolled, and the world summoned to its execution and funeral. In the short space of ten years, three millions of human beings perished in that single country, to prove *how happy and free a nation can be without God.*"

The Devil, if he cannot destroy openly, will deceive, and so destroy indirectly. His great aim and object is the ruin of souls—his great purpose, to keep mankind miserable and enslaved. He felt that he could not uproot the gospel tree, for it was planted by God's own hand, and watered and fostered by his Spirit. He had therefore recourse to stratagem. He took upon himself the form of an angel of light. Under the name of Christianity, a system came by degrees into existence, where truth was linked with error, the Word of God with the follies and fancies of men. Superstition was added to superstition,—every age furnished a contribution to the heap of rubbish, till at length the Babal Tower was completed, and then it was named Popery!

Time would fail me even to glance at the leading delusions, the cunningly devised fables of the Church of Rome. Their name is legion, for they are many. Suffice it say that "the perfect law of liberty" was virtually repealed. Mankind were forbidden to enquire the Creator's will at himself. God's word was not allowed to take its "free course," and so be gloried in the conversion of sinners. The Bible was closed and bound in fetters of brass, forged at the Vatican. Christ indeed was retained, but substantially little more than in name. Dishonour, foul dishonour, was done to the efficacy of his