

are 'parents visit your dear children with sore and mortal sickness, and see them languish from day to day, and at length see them pass away in the agonies of death, when you could save them, at any time, by a word? Impossible! You could not do it! And does not God love His children as well as you love yours? And do you think that He will inflict sickness, and pain, and death, upon any of His children, which you would not inflict upon yours? No, my friends; never, never. According to the reasoning which you have heard, no one ever was sick, or ever suffered pain, or death, under the government of God, or ever will."

Dr. Edwards was about to introduce some further inferences; but Mr. Murray could stand it no longer. He caught his hat and left the house, and the assembly was broken up. The sermon was spoiled. It was evident to every one that, if the argument of the preacher proved anything, it proved vastly too much. It contradicted the plainest facts, and consequently was good for nothing.

MODERN CULTURE AND PURITANISM.

If by modern culture we mean painting, statuary, novel-writing and romancing, then we may admit that Puritan theology is not particularly and ecstatically enthusiastic in such things at this present juncture of the world's affairs; but if by culture we mean the culture of the brains so as to make men clear thinkers, the culture of the heart so as to make men good livers, the culture of the feelings so as to make men pitiful and merciful, the culture of the imagination so as to make men spiritual, the culture of the conscience so as to make men honest, then we say the Puritan theology has cultivated men and women so far in that direction as to have made Britain and America what they

now are, whereas, the miserable scepticism which calls itself "*modern culture*" has no record to show of deeds, but only of words, words, words! By their *fruit* men must judge systems of thought.

THE FACTS OF HISTORY.

Mr. Beecher in one of his latest sermons, expressed himself as follows: "I think the facts of history will show that the human race came on to the globe at an exceedingly low point. Men were created at the very minimum point of humanity, as near to zero as it is possible for them to be; and historically the unfolding has been very gradual." It is not to be expected that pulpit orators are to be regarded as very high authorities in matters requiring careful research; unfortunately, however, their utterances were well-nigh oracular with thousands. Mr. Beecher says that the facts of history show that men were created at the very minimum of humanity, as near as possible to zero.

Now we say that the facts of history show no such thing. As soon as man appears within the range of history,—and we do not now refer to the Bible,—he is the same grand and lordly being we find him now. True, we can find savages in the distant past; so we can—by stepping one side a little—find them in the present. If Mr. Beecher means the facts of *geology*, as he probably does, let us remind him that Prof. Dana, the highest American authority in this latter science, says, referring to an early "stone age," as it has been called, "But until *Asia* has been fully explored and found to afford corresponding facts, the term should be regarded as belonging to European history, rather than to that of the human race; and so also with all conclusions with regard to the characteristics of the earliest of mankind derived from the forms of bones or skulls."