

[From *The Times*, February 8, 1892]

Leviticus xi., and adopting his canon of interpretation I have shown that he is "hoist with his own petard."

It is on petty points of this sort that the conventional attacks upon the Bible rest. But the foundations of faith are of a very different character. If facts be adduced to prove the Bible false, I shall give it up and cease to be a Christian. But practical men and men of common sense care little for mere theories. In common with so many other Christians I regard the Darwinian theory of evolution as being, within strictly defined limits, a reasonable hypothesis. But the peculiar biological theories with which Mr Huxley's name is prominently identified are in a different category. I am old enough to remember the time when they first gained currency in England; I am young enough to be warranted in hoping I may outlive their popularity. But these unproved, and possibly ephemeral, theories of the hour, dignified by the title of "natural science," are put forward as the grounds on which the book of all the ages is to be rejected.

Nor am I abashed at incurring Mr. Huxley's contempt for the statement I made that the Scriptures are, as Lord Bacon phrased it, "of the nature of their author" and have a deep spiritual meaning and a "hidden harmony" far beneath the surface strata in which the critics ply their tools. But at this point, as in my former letters, I check myself. Attacks upon the Bible are a fit subject for discussion anywhere; but the moment the Christian turns to the great spiritual realities on which faith rests, the controversy becomes too distinctly religious for the columns of a newspaper. It only remains for me to thank you most cordially for permitting me to go so far in this direction as I have done, and to apologize for having trespassed so largely on your space.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

R. ANDERSON.

39, Linden-gardens, W., February 5.