

Brown of Haddington says: The Scythians, Arabs, and Egyptians had an aversion of swine. And we know that the Sepoys having to bite the greased cartridges was one cause of the Indian mutiny. We cannot say that all this was mere prejudice; for if there were sanitary reasons for prohibiting the Israelites from eating pork and fat, the same would apply to the heathen in hot countries. On the other hand, our own heathen ancestors in northern Europe hunted and ate the wild boar; nor does it appear that they suffered physically by so doing.

Very recently an item in one of our best papers showed that some missionaries took insufficient care of their health; and the eating of bacon was the first thing mentioned as objectionable. The writer held that some things could be done with impunity in England that would not do in Central Africa. So we will not say that pork eating will be prohibited outside the blessed company of nations; nor outside of the golden city of Rev. 22nd chapter, which is said to be 1500 miles every way.

But why not look into ourselves a little? Many years ago, in a letter to the same paper a rather able writer spoke of travelling in the North West and seeing some Indian folks chasing a creature in the long grass in order to catch, kill and eat. By and by it came in sight, said he, and what do you think it was? Just a dog! He thought that was sufficient evidence of the deep degradation of the red Indian. Now suppose a Jew to be travelling, and he sees some white folks chasing a creature in the long grass. And when it came in sight what do you think it was? says he. Just a pig!

We think any song given in this book is more from above than from beneath. Some may think that he who maintains a close walk with the Creator will sing nothing in praise of the creature; but David did so in praise of Saul and Jonathan. If we call that uninspired we open a wide field for controversy. Solomon's Song might go overboard next. But we think it is even prophetic of the future, and more so than the Author knew of. Does Solomon's one song give us some idea of what his 1000 songs were like? If so, was the inspiration from above, or was it of a mixed character like the man? If you sing psalms when merry, your mirth should be reverent; but can you always keep it so? Has God any gift in the shape of song, for the multitude who are not very reverent? Is not the light and careless singing of a love song better than the light and careless singing of a sacred song? In trying to separate the precious from the vile men will differ widely.