

they have not glorified him as God, nor gave thanks; but became vain in their thoughts, and their foolish heart was darkened." How many, alas! are in that state to-day. How many, seeing what the ingenuity of man can effect, and not considering in their heart, forget God's action in the world, laugh at the efficacy of prayer, dethrone the Almighty, and put humanity in his stead. It is a renewal of the darkness of heart of the old Pagan world, when men "professing themselves to be wise, became fools."

A Natural Law which teaches the duty of adoring God, and distinguishes between virtue and vice, is written in the soul of each of us. Conscience, or right reason dictating what we should do, or leave undone, at any particular time, is a guide ever intimately present. Too often, however, men allow passion, or prejudice, or worldly interest, or sensual pleasures, to blind their intellect, and to sway their will. Conscience then becomes but as a voice crying in the wilderness.

But God was not satisfied with imprinting the Natural Law on our souls; he confirmed it by Revelation, and prescribed, moreover, the manner of life his faithful children should live. Now, since God is infinitely perfect whatsoever he has revealed must be true; human reason may err, but the word of God shall stand forever. The physical liberty man has of choosing the wrong, is an imperfection, not a gift of which he should boast. Hence since God's revealed word is the unerring truth, our reason is never more reasonable, is never more ennobled, is never nearer to perfection than when firmly holding, even though it cannot comprehend, a doctrine revealed by God. And yet, against this self-evident fact unbelievers raise a shout of derision, and weak-kneed believers hang their heads, and seek to gain the name of an "enlightened thinker" by appearing to mildly deprecate the action of their more fervent brethren. Every civic and moral virtue has, at some time, been profaned by being used as a cloak to some vice; and now the God given reason of man is invoked to destroy that reason itself. Surely those who are misled by the miserable sophistries of men who reject Revelation, do not consider in heart. Surely they forget that "we have access through Faith into this grace wherein we stand, and glory in the hope of the glory of the sons of God,"—(Rom. V—2.)

Therefore, Dearly Beloved, when you read, or hear, any attacks on God's existence, or on any article of Your Faith, even though made by those whom an unthinking crowd proclaims great, you should not be disturbed in mind, nor should you seek to apologise, as it were, for your belief. You are the truly