

earth, in all places and times since there was a Bible, lived in jeopardy and died either a cruel death or in poverty and obscurity because its cruelty became the life-blood and the stock-in-trade of both priest and king?

But if the Bible is a cruel book and has produced cruel people, what shall we say of its obscenity? On this point your lecture is silent, but I would like to ask if, in your opinion, the 38th chapter of Genesis could have been inspired by a decent and pure-minded God. What do you think of the 19th chapter of the same book? Would you think it a perfectly proper thing for a young minister to read the 15th chapter of Leviticus to a class of young ladies unless he could be included among those described in the 20th verse of the 21st chapter of that book?

Do you think anyone was ever made better by reading such stuff as is contained in the 5th and 31st chapters of Numbers? There is not a race of savages on earth to-day whose ideas of sexual morals are not higher and purer than those of the Bible. And, in addition to its obscenity and its cruelty, it gives abundant sanction to wars of extermination, to slavery, and even to human sacrifice. (Josh. 6 : 6-26 ; Lev. 25 : 44 and 27 : 29 ; Judges 11 : 30-39 ; and Deut. 21 : 11-14.)

I notice a great number of foolish and nonsensical expressions in the Bible, which in themselves are sufficient to demonstrate not merely its human but its savage origin. For example, in Psalms 91 : 4 I find God described in a manner in which the idea is conveyed to the mind that he is something like an enormous hen, inasmuch as that, under certain circumstances, it is declared that "*He shall cov-er thee with his feathers.*" But, notwithstanding its absurdity and its obscenity, you say that "where the Bible holds sway rovs and quarrels don't come." Don't they? Let me call your attention to a short extract from Lecky's "History of European Morals." "In the 'Robber Council' of Ephesus, Flavius, Bishop of Constantinople, was kicked and beaten by the Bishop of Alexandria, or at least by his followers, and a few days later died from the effect of the blows."

"In the contested election that resulted in the election of St. Damasus as Pope of Rome, though no theological question