

As against science itself, anathemas are vain. It is man's nature to inquire, to seek knowledge, to build up his knowledge into theories. Criticism and controversy destroy false theories, and establish those which stand the tests of truth. This is a law of human progress as certain as that of the tides or the seasons. You can no more destroy science than you can turn the moon out of its course or change the axis of the earth. You may oppose successfully some particular opinion of some particular man of science; that is quite another thing. But do not revile science in general; *don't revile at all*. More idle are scolding words than the surges that fume and hiss round the base of the sea-beaten rock.

Great is my fear for the evil influence of our popular pulpit foes of *science*. Many look on them with contempt. I do not. They also, like the priestly claimants of divine powers, tend to repel from Christianity fair-minded and reasonable men. Young people, whose ardour for scientific knowledge is one of the sure proofs of a generous mind, and one of the best auguries of a useful and honourable career in life, turn with wonder and pity—if not anger—from a strain of teaching offensive at once to their understanding and their taste. The leaders of thought do not mind these pulpit-men, but say "They are joined to their idols: let them alone." And the idea is spreading among intelligent people generally, that men so ill-furnished with knowledge and thought as such teachers must be, can have little to say that is worth attending to. So the cause of the gospel suffers, and is suffering even now. For, need I say, society is in the long run governed by the mass of educated opinion within it; and that opinion is determined by knowledge, facts, and the conflicts of discussion. Thus it is that truth, or what men take for truth, is evolved. And just as in the progress of war, "Providence is usually on the side of the heavy battalions," so, in the progress of society, Providence is usually on the side of reason and sense. Denunciations of science must eventually recoil on the utterers of them to the injury of the cause they were, by methods of folly, trying to support. Is this a slight injury to Christianity?

#### ANOTHER REFORMATION WANTED.

And now, if what has been said be true, or even partly true, what further does it become us to think and to do? Not surely to think that Christianity is dying out, and so going the way of all things