

fuls of slime instead of blood into His face, His justice is precisely what it was in the fourth century of the Christian era, and in the centuries which preceded that, and in the incomputable eternity which is the parent of all centuries! There is such a thing as a delay in the visitation of Divine wrath, as we who have been taught the truth can testify, but these delays mean punishments and purgations in that tenebrous world where justice rules intempered by the pleadings of a tender mercy, and where those *independent* souls for there *are* some men who proclaim themselves independent of that mercy whose joy it is to stand unwearingly between us and the chastisements which our wickedness deserves, shall reap the full harvest of their temporal misdeeds in "weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth!"

To one of these illusionists, Mr Gladstone's attention has been directed, and it surely shall not take an overwhelming quantity of the venerable scholar's logic to upset a doctrine whose founders and propagators "understand not the thing they say, nor whereof they affirm." But allowing Mr. Gladstone's projected victory to be an easy one, it must be conceded that it is no less marvellous than praiseworthy to see this busy statesman stealing from the very limited leisure which his countless responsibilities leave him, time to devote himself to the current topics of the day, with a view to defending the truth, and further benefitting the nation whose chiefest ornament he is. He is surely an economist in every sense of the word who lives twice as fast as his most active contemporaries, and yet has minutes and hours remaining to utilize for the emula-

tion of those, who addition to his many other distinctions like to think of him as one of the leading *litterateur* of his century.

Mr. Gladstone, who owes something to the spirited theological discussion which took place some years ago, between him and a world famed convert to the Roman Communion, for the opportunity it gave him of cultivating the intimate acquaintance of the early Fathers and doctors of the Church, and who has realized indeed, that if temporal consolation is to be found anywhere for a man with intellectual and spiritual needs, who has survived the inevitable vicissitudes of a parliamentary career, and the long train of saddening experiences which follow in its wake, will not lay down the arms he has taken up in defence of Christianity until he has given Mr. Ingersoll and his family of sympathizers some wholesome food for reflection. If Mr. Ingersoll has found the principle "throw dirt enough and some shall stick" serve him when reason and learning and the kindred resources of educated men were wanting, Mr. Gladstone ought surely to succeed in throwing as much clear, sunny logic at him as shall reveal some if not all of the countless rents in his ragged system of philosophy, no part of which hangs naturally or securely to any other!

I confess I think it a pity nevertheless that the Grand Old Man shall hereafter be spoken of in the same breath as Ingersoll who may however have the one redeeming trait of proving himself a useful *bob* to a clever angler like Mr. Gladstone, more useful let us hope in that capacity than he is, or can ever be as an animal or an Atheist.

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