

of righteousness and rejoicing. If these writers were not inspired, and were natural fools, the power of their persuasion would be more wonderful than all their miracles. It would be unthinkable, for it would be an effect without a cause, and such an effect that at it the world wonders. See! it rouses and strengthens the morally impotent, the tremblingly timid, till he, pressing forward undaunted, braves worldly wisdom's freezing supercilious patronage and persecution's burning breath. He, a centre of conviction, clasps virtue's hand, joins the ranks of the despised ones and marches on, fearless, through wild alarms, waving, what he deems, the banner of salvation in the thickest of the fight. Therefore, if they were uninspired, and could produce such results, they must have been far removed from all that characterizes either the maniac or imbecile, and were more than capable to judge the matters of which they testified. Neither could they have been enthusiasts, for their belief was founded on the facts which grew in their own experiences and observations. Hence, they KNEW the truth.

THIRD.—We proceed to show that they told the truth, and we shall also show that they were so circumstanced that they could not tell, what they did tell, as they told it, and tell a lie.

All liars lie to gratify, either directly or indirectly, immediately or remotely, some desire. That is their intention, their wish, their object—when they have an object in view—and, when they have no object in view, it is the result of stupid, unthinking indifference. But punishment gratifies no desire; it would not be punishment if it did; nor are punishment and indifference such that they can be common factors in producing any product. Where punishment begins, indifference ends, or else it is not punishment. Consequently, a man will not lie when he knows that present punishment, without present or future benefit, is what he is certain to receive for so doing. Hence, there is one thing—punishment—for which sane men will not lie, and yet for that thing the Apostles lied, if they did lie. Let us see.