

orthodox say. The same man that is supposed to have given the Commandment, Thou shalt not kill! was a murderer himself and also ordered a wholesale slaughter.

The clergy tell those who don't know any better that modern civilization is based on the Bible. I ask them, and wait for an answer, "How is it that heathen Greece and Rome legalized monogamy, while Hebrew theocracy legalized Polygamy, and how was it that the old Germanic tribes, as we learn from Cæsar and Tacitus, practised chastity to a degree unknown among ancient Hebrews and modern Christians in the same countries under Christian teaching?"

O Priests! Priests! if there is a day of judgment after death you have much to answer for. How are we ever to forget this demoralizing superstition? (1st) by adopting Euclid's system of "Reductio ad absurdum," and then try to forget it, and to teach the rising generation some more moral fables—Æsop's, for example—than is demoralizing literature called the Bible. Let us forge Jesus if we can. He did not accomplish anything. Let us rather study the life of Voltaire, who helped to free his country from superstition, also the life and writings of Thomas Paine and Robert Ingersoll. If Jesus said that people ought to hate father, mother, brother and sister, wife and children to become His disciples, it says very little for the common sense of the first apostles; if He did not say so, He ought to instruct His modern disciples, if He is still in communion with them, to cease libelling Him. We do not know whether He said so or not, let us be more charitable to His memory than His professed disciples, and put that expression down as an interpolation by some scheming priest, who was desirous of increasing his own authority over an ignorant public. There are some excellent maxims attributed to Jesus, and we have no record that He gathered up riches from deluded mortals who are promised rewards in another world like modern priestcraft. If they had anything to say about man's place in any world beyond the grave, they would do exactly as they do in this one—keep the best places for themselves, and let the unfortunate victims shift for themselves.