

latter was far the bloodier of the two. As William Cobbett puts it : " For every drop of blood shed by Mary, Elizabeth shed a pint." But for every pang suffered and for every drop of blood shed the Bible is responsible, and in the light of the facts of history, it is impossible for you or any other man to successfully refute this statement.

The story of the young infidel travelling in the west in company with his uncle, who was afraid that the keeper of the log cabin would rob them, but whose fears were dispelled when he saw their host take down a Bible, read it, and then offer up a prayer, is like most stories of its class. No names or dates are given. But, instead of a Bible, suppose the old man had taken from the shelf Darwin's " Origin of Species," or Buchner's " Force and Matter," or Huxley's " Controverted Questions," do you think the young man would still have been afraid of him ?

Suppose instead of taking any sort of a book from the shelf he had taken a crucifix and a string of beads, do you think the plan adopted as to the keeping watch would have been abandoned ? Knowing what you do or ought to know about the history of religion, in whose hands had you rather trust yourself unprotected, those of a Freethinker or a Jesuit ? You may say, the Jesuit, but you would act differently if the case were to be tested.

Thousands of lying religious tracts are circulated every year containing just such foolish stories as this which are manufactured on purpose to cast ridicule on Freethought and Freethinkers by pious persons who, like St. Paul, think it no harm to lie for the glory of God (Romans 3 : 8).

" Everybody knows," you say, " where the Bible has influence it makes things safe." Did it make things safe for Quakers in Puritan New England ? Do you not know that they had their ears cropped and were whipped at the cart tail from town to town, by the hundred, and that the Bible was the direct cause of it (Luke 12 : 47) ? Did it make things safe for Protestants in the Netherlands in the reign of Charles V., or for Huguenots in France in the reign of Charles IX ? Has it ever made things safe for Freethinkers anywhere or at any time ? Have not thousands of the best and noblest of the