

men. We will be pardoned by all who love the truth and do not fear to bear it, when we say that the principle of Luther proclaimed from so called Christian pulpits, that every man may interpret the Bible as he pleases, and is his own judge, setting aside all authority in religious matters,

WAS THE GERM WHENCE AROSE

and spread the free-thought and infidelity which now prey on the vitals of Christianity especially amongst the followers of Luther. Not long ago a Rev. Professor in this city, whom I need not name but whose lecture appeared in the *Globe*, and was not reproved by his church, boldly asserted the supremacy of human reason over faith or the word of God. He is reported to have said, "the pious rant, I believe it, though I cannot understand it, or although it seems absurd, is superstitious blasphemy." Does this Rev. gentleman deny the Holy Trinity? It is an article of faith in any church calling itself Christian. He must do so if he calls it superstitious blasphemy.

IT IS THE NOBLEST EXERCISE OF HUMAN REASON

to submit itself and believe truths enunciated by Divine authority. Does it degrade the child to keep from it sharp weapons? God has revealed himself to man and disclosed to him sublime truths which ennoble the soul, and fill it with the highest aspirations after the eternal good. "God who at sundry times and in divers manners spoke in times past to the fathers by the prophets, last of all in those days hath spoken to us by His Son," (Heb. i., 1, 2) And does it degrade reason to be the pupil of so wise a Master? Certainly not; it is no degradation to believe and to submit to what is true. Have those free-thinkers the certainty of having the monopoly of all the reason and science of the world? and of knowing all truth? Does it degrade reason for a pupil to learn of a wise preceptor? or a child to obey its parents though it may not know the reason?

Those deluded men (there are no women who believe it) who claim for themselves a material and beastly origin, as the seventh

species from the ape, pretend to have infinite intelligence, and to account for all things without God, whom they cannot understand. They mount up to the throne of His Majesty and arraign His justice, mercy, and other Divine attributes as though they were human virtues. They proclaim that the great Lord and Master of the universe

SHOULD HAVE NO RIGHT

either to reward his good children or to punish rebels. A child who rebels against a most loving father has less claim on his father's mercy than a common subject. He unjustly claims the exercise of paternal love, who acted the part, not of a child, but of a most ungrateful rebel.

The Atheists reject all faith in God, and in the Bible, and yet they blindly submit their reason to the loudest or most extravagant talker; and think themselves wonderfully wise. Some of the plausible, yet shallow, objections to the justice and mercy of God come from the false interpretation of the texts of the Bible, bearing on faith and predestination. Some have said, "Faith alone will save you, no matter how reprobate you might stand before the judgment of God." This, of course, must be repugnant to justice and right. A man is struck down instantly in the midst of his sins without time to repent, but he has faith in Christ. To say that that man

MUST BE SAVED,

gives a grievous objection to the infidel. And again the doctrine that God predestines some to be lost, independently of their committing sin, is simply atrocious, gives a lever of great power into the hands of the infidels, and swells their ranks. And yet these doctrines are preached from so-called Christian pulpits.

Our Lord in his foreknowledge of the world asks this very pertinent question: "The son of man whom He cometh shall He find, think you, faith on earth?" (Luke xviii., 18.) He did not say *truth*. His divine goodness will find that in His Church, which He established to teach all truth, guiding and directing to the end of time. "Heaven and earth will pass away but His word will not pass away."