

and falsehoods of the pulpit about his recantation and his despairing death. Don't you think it a little strange that the Christian priesthood seem never to have seen or heard of the 9th Commandment when speaking of an opponent of their religion?

France is a great nation. Some of her sons are among the greatest of the human family. She has produced statesmen and generals, philosophers, scientists, scholars and intellectual autocrats by the thousand; and yet a respectable history of that country cannot be written with the name of Voltaire left out. But it is doubtful if any respectable history of the United States ever to be written will contain even a clue to the fact that such a man as H. L. Hastings ever lived.

Thomas Paine also comes in for a share of your vulgar abuse, and in speaking of his death you say "he crawled despairingly into a drunkard's grave."

Unfortunately for you, there is sufficient evidence to prove that this, like almost all your other statements, is totally false, and had you not lived outside the modern world of literary culture you must surely have been aware that such is the case.

There was a man named Cheetham, a contemporary of Mr. Paine, and who edited a newspaper in which he malignantly attacked Paine's character, as you and your fellow ministers have done since Paine's death. Refusing to apologize, Paine prosecuted him for libel, and he was convicted and fined.

There is plenty of evidence to prove this charge a malicious falsehood, all of which you can read for yourself in Ingersoll's *Vindication of Thomas Paine*, published at 10 cents. It does not certainly say much for your veracity, that you should circulate an unverified story about a great and good man, injuring his character and degrading his memory, when a 10 cent book published at your own door would furnish you with the facts.

Thomas Paine did more for human liberty than all the priests that ever lived, and his whole life-work was in the most perfect harmony with his creed, if so I may call it, in which he says: "The world is my country, mankind are my brethren, and to do good is my religion."

Thomas Paine's whole life was one of constant adherence to principle, and his name will be as sweet incense to pure-souled