

these good old times before printing was invented, have cost you about a hundred pounds sterling, or about five hundred dollars of our money; or if you had preferred to copy it off yourself, it would take you about ten months' or a year's constant labor. What do you think of this? And I wonder whether you would feel very much inclined, under these circumstances, to press your rule of faith very strongly upon your congregation and insist on their reading it; especially if you had yourself to write out a copy of the Bible for each of them, or pay \$500 for it. What I also ask? would all poor men, men with little and hard earned money, think of it? What would all daily workers, laborers, mechanics, artisans, &c., who constitute now and have always constituted, two thirds of the population of the world, think of it? What would they say, Mr. Stephenson, of your rule of faith, if they had to pay about \$500 to get it, or spend about twelve months' of their time to copy it? I opine they would rather open their eyes, and say: "What! Mr. Stephenson; you say, we must believe or be damned, and that we must purchase a Bible as our rule of faith at a cost of about \$500 and search it, and learn from it, what we are to believe. Why, the thing is utterly impossible, sir; we have not that amount of money, never have had it at any one time, and never expect to have it. That rule of faith may suit you and be "sufficient" for you, as you say, as perhaps you have \$500 to spare; but for us, it, evidently, is not a rule that we, having no \$500 to spare, can avail ourselves of; and therefore it is not and cannot be a sufficient rule of our faith, and our case is the case of *two thirds* of the population of the world. What then are we to do Mr. Stephenson? What is to become of us? We must believe, you say, or be condemned, damned, and it is utterly impossible for us, according to your rule of faith, to believe; for we cannot now, and never expect to be able to, purchase a Bible at \$500, and search it, to learn what we are required to believe. What, therefore is to become of us? Must we be damned? Ah! Mr. Stephenson, this is rather a hard thought to digest. To be damned through our own perversity, our own fault; we could understand it. But to be damned through no fault of our own, and with the best desire and wish in the world to believe all that God requires of us, simply because we cannot scrape together \$500 to buy a Bible, as our rule of faith and search it, to learn what we should believe—the thing is terrible; it appears to us frightfully inconsistent with what you have often told us in your sermons;—that Christ has a deep, an anxious, and unbounded desire to save us. Surely, if He had such a desire, He would not require us to believe upon pain of being eternally damned, and then have given us a rule of faith, wherein we must search out and learn what we are required to believe; which it is utterly impossible for us to make use of, as we have not and