

ism, as modern infidels try to make it appear that those magnificent results are the fruits of reason and experience. These intelligent men of Greece and Rome had their faults, but they were not given to that kind of lying.

INGERSOLL—"Is it necessary to believe in the existence of an infinite intelligence, before you have any standard of right and wrong?"

COMMENT—Yes. Deny the infinite intelligence, or God, and all deeds are morally alike; there is no right, no wrong, and of course no distinction between them. Where there is no right or wrong there can be no standard of right and wrong. Where there is no standard there cannot be *any* standard. It will not do to say that Christians admit a difference between right and wrong, for they do not admit it, if there is no God; on the contrary, they deny it.

INGERSOLL—"Is it possible that a being cannot be just and virtuous unless he believes in some being infinitely superior to himself?"

COMMENT—You have constructed this question very adroitly—to catch gudgeons. It is not necessary for *every* being to believe in some being infinitely superior to himself, but it is necessary for every *created, finite* being to so believe, in order to know what justice and virtue are and conform his life to them.

INGERSOLL—"If this doctrine be true, how can God be just and virtuous?"

COMMENT—Ah! Precisely. This question supposes you caught a gudgeon. Is this play upon words worthy the subject you are treating of? Is it worthy a philosopher whose motto is "honor bright"? As your answer does not contain the doctrine you thought your prior question would necessarily elicit, your last question is simply ridiculous. God is just *because* he is *Justice*; and justice and virtue are justice and virtue because He is, and without Him there is neither justice nor virtue, nor anything else. I merely indicate here Christian principles; to enter into a discussion of their metaphysical basis with you would be to degrade a magnificent science, of which you manifest an ignorance which is only commensurate with your brazen egotism.

INGERSOLL—"Does He (God) believe in some being infinitely superior to Himself?"