

able truth recorded as a part of the Church Creed or Discipline and there it staid, preaching and persuading, invincible as an armed angel of light, till at last, with its two-edged sword, it cut the quivering Church in twain from the Atlantic to the Rocky Mountains.

Thus ever has it been and ever will it be. A great scriptural truth, adopted and recorded by the assembled Church ever exerts, and must exert, a potent influence on the theories, lives and destinies of men. Who may estimate the mighty influence of the creeds of the Christian churches, as heaven's artillery, aimed at the follies and crimes of individuals, communities and nations ?

(8.) *To reject all Creeds, religious and secular, rather than liberating and liberalizing man, as is claimed, plunges him into darkness, doubt, absurdity and barbarism.*

Nothing but lofty creeds, religious, political and scientific, clearly defined and strongly maintained, can keep men from dropping back into ignorance, superstition and barbarism.

What is it to reject all creeds but to reject all beliefs ? And what is it to reject all belief, but to deny all certitude ? And what is it to deny all certitude, but to deny that man has moral eyes to see moral truth ; or, that having eyes, there is no truth to see ? And what is all this but to deny man's moral responsibility, and to license all folly, all sin, and all blasphemy ? The sure way to degrade a man, and to send him reeling down toward ruin, is to insinuate *doubts* respecting all religious teaching and teachers and all moral truth ; while the sure way to lift a man up from degradation, is *first* to make him *believe* something—believe it intensely and steadfastly. Doubt is weakness—doubt paralyzes the will and is the mother of all evil. No one can estimate the mischief wrought by the New Academy of Athens in propagating the doctrine of doubt.