

illiberality and superstition. For if you once admit that God *has* given an inspired revelation of His doings and His will, is it not then even reason to suppose,—nay, has He not declared,—that He will “darken the hearts” (minds, intellects,) of those who set themselves in determined opposition to such Revelation? Besides, if intellect *did* share in the ruin of the Fall, then before it can reasonably be expected to comprehend the high things of God, it must again be illuminated by the Spirit of God; but such illumination the self-idolizing sceptic scornfully, and yet idiotically, rejects. Further, if *there be* a mighty fallen intellect, who is the Prince of the Power of the Air, upon whom are his subtle influences likely to be so earnestly and successfully exerted as upon those of the learned, who share in his scorn of heavenly light and purity? Especially, since such men are amongst his ablest auxiliaries in carrying on his malignant warfare against God and man.

It will not do for sceptical *savans* to assume a tone of perfect indifference to the truth or falsehood of Revelation in their professed researches, literary or scientific, after truth. In so doing they beg the very question at issue; since nothing can be more certain than that *if there be* two antagonistic powers of good and evil, seeking to influence every individual of our race, each one of us must have, in a greater or less degree, a distinct tendency to love or hate the revealed things of God.—Indeed, what but the latter feeling could cause the sceptic to endeavor to propagate his doubts, even although himself were *honestly*, if such a thing be possible, their victim? What does scepticism offer us in the place of Christianity, that its votaries should so eagerly endeavor to diffuse their negation of faith? The very sin of Christianity, so to speak, in the eyes of its opponents, is, that it seeks to impart a purity too intense, a love too unselfishly deep, a dignity too divinely awful, and an immortality too lofty in its thrilling enjoyments, for their earth-bound intellects to compass, or their fleshly hearts

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