

the moral character of those by whom it is received. If the adherents of any system exhibit an unexceptionable moral character, then, it is only fair to conclude that their religious belief, however imperfectly stated in words, must in its main features be correct and safe. On the contrary, if the morals of a people be degraded and vicious, then there is good reason to judge unfavourably of their religion. And especially must this be the case, when such exceptionable conduct is found to agree with the doctrines of their "sacred books."

The apologists for heathenism, at all events, have no right to complain, if we should apply this test to that system which they have taken under their special protection. And, should the defenders of Christianity hesitate to submit their creed to the same practical test, they would, in so doing, dishonour their Lord and Master: for this is, in fact, the rule that He has given for trying all religion, and all religious systems.—*"By their fruits ye shall know them."*

On the subject of heathen morality, many fine things have been written and spoken to which I have only one objection—and that is—*They are not true.* Every person who is conversant with the writings of the ancient philosophers of Greece and Rome will readily admit that *they* have said a great many complimentary things respecting morality, in the abstract.—But, in the first place, they have given abundant evidence that they did not understand the principles of true morality or virtue. Compared with the standard of true virtue contained in the Scriptures, theirs is absolutely mean. Cicero, for example, tells us that "virtue proposes glory as its chief end, and looks for no other reward." Zeno maintained that "all crimes are equal, and that a person who has offended or injured us should never be forgiven." Aristippus affirmed that, "as pleasure was the chief good a man might practise theft, sacrilege, or adultery, as he had opportunity." Even the famous Socrates, of whom Infidels speak as if he were almost a