The words which the Holy Ghost teacheth are ranked in the same category with the words of man's wisdom; nay, meet with a treatment from which these are exempt. The fence reared by a divine hand around the field of the Word is rudely torn down, and from being a garden enclosed, it is converted into a common, over which any who please may recklessly rush, and trample down in their impotent fury whatsoever is good for food and pleasant to the eyes, and to be desired to make men wise.

Notwithstanding all their friendly overtures and lofty pretensions, and a copious interlarding of their speeches and writings with Scripture terms, worthy the age of the Puritans and Covenanters, these men, it is to be feared, are in reality as hostile to the Bible as the fiercest of older Infidels. Tom Paine boasted (a blustering bravado) "that he had gone up and down the Christian's garden, and, with his single axe, demolished every tree, till not a sapling was left." These men think that they too will become famous according as they have lifted up their newly sharpened axes, after a different fashion, on the tall trees, the planting of the Lord; but every stroke misses, and all the while they are themselves the sufferers. Eyeing the Tree of Life in the distance, its branches running over the wall, its twelve manner of fruits hanging in ripe clusters, its leaves for the healing of the nations, these archers sorely hit at it; they whet their tongues like a sword, and bend their bows to shoot their arrows, even bitter words. But they really come not nigh the object of their attack. Shot up into the harmless air, they fall worse than pointless, for with the rapidity and force of their ascent do they come back upon their own heads. And yet, they profess to have no evil intentions, to be only striking off encumbering suckers, removing excrescences, with which time and superstition have encrusted it! Thus Newman, adopting a similar figure, pictures himself, after being tossed to and fro and carried about by every wind of doctrine, seeking rest, but finding none; "resting under an Indian fig tree which is supported by certain grand stems, but also lets down to the earth many small branches, which seem to the eye to prop the tree, but are, in reality, supported by it. If they were cut away, the Tree would not be less strong; so neither was the Tree of Christianity weakened by the loss of its apparent props. I might still enjoy its shade and eat of its fruits, and bless the hand that planted it."

Passing strange, to describe the Tree of Christianity as not less strong, though it has been tapped all over and drained of its vital sap! What Newman, Parker, and their friends regard as exhausting and disfiguring suckers, as unnatural and unhealthy fungi, are those very truths the Believer counts most precious, and which give to the Tree all its strength and fruitfulness.

We may take a specimen of the truths thus summarily dealt with.

1. Touching God. Mercy, in their esteem, is the prime attribute in his character, and Father, the chief title he bears. They forget that God is a Lawgiver, a Judge, a King, and that he cannot enforce his laws, administer justice, or wield his sceptre of righteousness, without punishing the guilty. They are blind to the fact that there are as many illustrations of God's punitive justice in the *world* as in *the Word;* that in fact the disclosures of the one exactly harmonize with the declarations of the other. For God to command the sacrifice of the Patriarch's innocent son, and to sanction the destruction of the Canaanites or the perfidious murder of Sisera, is, in their esteem, to invest him with a most repulsive aspect; but nothing is said by them of views precisely similar, presented by that very light of nature whose superiority, or at least sufficiency, they assert. Cities and villages are entombed by the yawning of the earth, by the sliding down of the avalanche, or by a desolating discharge from some raging volcano. Many innocent persons are swept away on the bosom of the rushing water,—fall victims to the devouring fire,—are mowed