

of the Bible. It is also thoroughly known that, amongst the laity, the belief in miracles has been greatly undermined. Such being the case, we should expect that clergy and laity would be laboring together, to find out just what ought to be believed under this head. Instead of this, there is a general, and as it were concerted, avoidance of the subject : and when anyone takes it up openly, and treats the miracles as things in which he does not believe, he is at once credited with indulging in "well-worn sneers;" or, if he is too serious for that, then in "well-worn arguments." The question is, how do the arguments stand the wear? I fancy they are standing it better than the miracles. The door through which witchcraft disappeared is still open, and other things are making towards it.

As a preliminary to discussing the sudden collapse of the walls of Jericho and other incidents of a like nature, my critic would wish to go into the evidence for the resurrection of Jesus, holding apparently that the former fact would become much more probable if the latter could be proved. It is doubtful how far this is wise policy. To tell people before hand that, if they once admit the resurrection, they will be forever estopped from questioning any marvel, however grotesque, that may be asserted to stand in any kind of relation to it, is perhaps not the best way to secure a perfectly unprejudiced consideration of such evidence as may be adducible for the central miracle. Moreover, there are those who believe the miracle of the resurrection, who do not believe that of Jericho. There are clergymen who hold that there are miracles and miracles, even in the Bible ; and, for all that distinctly appears in his pamphlet, "Vindex" may be one of them. If, instead of saying what he would like to see done as a preliminary to the discussion of miracles in general, "Vindex" had stated, in a brief, direct and unmistakable way, that he himself fully and firmly believed that all the miracles of the Old and New Testaments took place precisely as recorded, the effect would, I humbly submit, have been better. In these days people like something they can lean upon. When "Vindex" states that the resurrection of Jesus "survives, a clearly-attested fact of history," what he must mean is that the *belief* in it survives.