

how do you know your sins are forgiven? "Because I feel so well." Thus he knows he is forgiven because he feels well, and feels well because he knows he is forgiven!!! Like the priest: Let a protestant demand of him to prove the infallibility of the Church, and he appeals for proof to the Bible. A Deist calls upon him for proof that the Bible is true, and as conclusive evidence he adduces the infallibility of the Church! This is what might be called a *logical circle*, or as Paul says, "they, measuring themselves by themselves—are not wise." I do most heartily concur with the Apostle, that it is rather a foolish piece of business for a man to prove by himself that he is right, or by something within himself, which is the same thing. Even Jeremiah, many hundred years before Christianity was introduced, knew better than this; for, says he—"O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself—it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps." (x. 23.)

2d. It is maintained that in order to have full assurance of our acceptance with God, we must absolutely *know* our sins forgiven, and in order to this we must necessarily have something better than external evidence: we must *feel* it! We admit, to have full assurance a man must *know* it. But let us see if we cannot *know* by external evidence. There are two kinds of knowledge—*moral* and *physical*. A man's translation into the kingdom of Christ being a moral, not a physical change, and forgiveness being not a physical, but a moral work, it follows that it is moral and not physical knowledge which is the foundation of our assurance. But, prove, say you, the distinction here made between moral and physical knowledge, before you predicate an argument upon it. Very well. Proof No. 1: "Let all the house of Israel *know assuredly* that God hath made that same Jesus whom ye have crucified both Lord and Christ?" (Acts ii. 36). Did they *know*, by the direct evidence of either or any of their senses that Christ was crowned King? Certainly not. They knew *physically*, that Peter and the other Apostles were standing before them; but they knew *morally*, by the testimony of others, that Jesus was crowned in the heavens. Proof No. 2: "We *know* that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." (2 Cor. v. 1.) How did the ancient christians *know* they had a building of God in heaven? Ans. By the testimony of the Spirit through the Apostles. Proof No. 3: "We *know* that when he (Christ) shall appear, we shall be like him." (1 John iii. 2.) This fact could not have been known physically, for it was future; hence as the only testimony they had was moral, the knowledge concerning that fact must have been moral knowledge. Thus, the same Apostle says, "I *write* unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God, that ye may *know* that ye have eternal life." (1 John v. 13.) Here we discover that a person can know a thing by written testimony, providing he have confidence in the writer; and the only reason why some folks want other testimony than the Word of God before they can *know* their sins forgiven, is, that they are tainted with scepticism and do not know it—they do not believe the Bible with all their hearts. But can a man know a thing *certainly* by written testimony? What says Luke? "It seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to *write* unto thee