

Both the Old and the New Testament abound in precepts of persecution, and it is only the power of the secular law and the restraining influence of Freethought and advancing civilization that prevent religious fanatics again building the martyr fires of the days of Mary and Elizabeth.

The Bible inspired? Did you ever read the 15th chapter of 1 Samuel, or the 109th Psalm, or the 68th Psalm? Just look at a few passages.

1 Sam. 15 : 3. Now go and smite Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and spare them not ; but slay both man and woman, infant and suckling, ox and sheep, camel and ass.

Has human savagery ever invented a more bloodthirsty and cruel warfare than this divinely-inspired vendetta? What was the crime of the Amalekites? That many ages before their forefathers had fought to save their lives and their homes. And Saul himself was punished because he saved the life of the king and took some of the best of the cattle and sheep!

What do you think of this from the 68th Psalm? "That thy foot may be dipped in the blood of thine enemies, and the tongue of thy dogs in the same." If the annals of hell were written, could they contain a more fiendish passage?

How does this strike you coming from the mouth of Paul? "Hymeneus and Alexander have I delivered unto Satan, that they may learn not to blaspheme." And this from 1 Cor. 5 : 5? "Deliver such an one unto Satan, for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord," etc. This was what the pious Inquisitors did—destroyed the body in order to save the soul!

These and other like horrible passages are the seeds from which all the religious persecutions have grown during the past fifteen hundred years; and any man ought to be ashamed to defend the book that contains them as a revelation from God.

It is of no avail for you to say that Catholicism is wholly to blame for religious persecution, for, although Protestantism is the younger and the meaner of the two, still, allowing for the comparatively small chance she has had to show herself, she has been fully as sanguinary as her rival. We often hear of "Bloody Mary," but never of Bloody Elizabeth, although the