

sixth in the Decalogue ; while all civilized countries, ignoring this supposed divine law, make it the first in order of importance in all their statutes.

Proposition 7.—That Christianity, if we are to understand by that term the teachings of Christ instead of the teachings of priestcraft, is not a magical, mysterious system of atonement by which bad men and women may be saved from the punishment they deserve for their sins, but a system of ethics based on the principles of the "Golden Rule," illustrations of which doctrine may be found in the parables of the "Good Samaritan" and the "Last Judgment."

Proposition 8.—That the doctrine of the immortality of the soul and eternal rewards and punishments did not originate with the Jews at all, but was borrowed by some of their sects such as the Essenes, Christians, Pharisees, etc., from the Greeks and Parsees ; therefore, whoever wishes to speculate in these ideas need not be the least troubled in their minds about the throwing away of the "Old Testament."

Proposition 9.—That the ordinary run of clergymen are the most selfish, spiteful and indifferent to human welfare of all classes of the community ; therefore, they are not a help to the people to lead better lives, but a stumbling block.

Proposition 10.—That it will have a more beneficial effect on the people to show them the loving, self denying life of Christ as a man, for an example, than to promise them an atonement for bad conduct through the merits of the blood of a crucified god.

Proposition 11.—That the Hebrews, as a people, were not superior in morals or intelligence to the nations by which they were surrounded, therefore inculcating the idea that they were a specially chosen people, is prejudicial to the Jews of the present day and degrading to other nations.

Proposition 12.—That the morals of the ancient Germans (our ancestors), as described by Tacitus, were as high (if not higher) before they ever heard of Christianity than they have ever been since ; therefore, the boast that we have been raised from barbarism by the Bible is pure presumption.

Proposition 13.—That the best way of teaching the people