

But you attempt to ridicule Voltaire by saying that *he* has passed into history, and not very respectable history either."

I am not at all surprised to read this sentence. Voltaire was one of a few great and noble men who, to their honor be it said, hated superstition, no matter whether it came to them arrayed in the robes of Brahma, or Mohammed or Christ; and they did more than any other men to make you and every other Christian priest ashamed of his calling. No wonder, then, that you hate them and stab them on every occasion.

Did John Calvin, who burned Servetus, pass into very respectable history? Don't you think the Presbyterian Church would be glad to expunge the record of that fearful crime from the life of its founder? Is the history of John Wesley, the defender of witchcraft, a respectable one?

Torquemada, Alva, Charles V. and Philip II.—are their histories respectable? Yet they were devout Christians, and not only believed in the inspiration of the Bible, but logically carried out their belief, by racking and roasting to death every man, woman and child who differed from them in opinion.

But, in spite of what you say, I find that many eminently respectable historians have made most honorable mention of Voltaire. Buckle, in his *History of Civilization*, says he was "the greatest historian Europe has ever produced." Lecky, in his *History of Rationalism*, says he "did more than any other of the sons of men to do away with that greatest of all curses, religious persecution." Lord Macaulay says that he and his school "were ready to encounter principalities and powers in the cause of justice, mercy and toleration." Here are respectable writers who have been honest enough to tell the truth about this great man, whose name stands first as a benefactor of the human race. A history which does not deal fairly and truthfully with such a man is not respectable. Judged by such a standard, how many respectable histories have you ever read? and how can you claim to be a judge of what a "respectable" history is, unless and until you do read it?

In the *Encyclopædia Britannica* I find also this statement in reference to Voltaire: "The stories set afloat about his dying in a state of terror and despair on account of his unbelief are certainly false." This gives the lie direct to all the calumnies