

not believing, they were all damned—for “he that believeth not shall be condemned”—damned through no fault of their own, but through the fault of Jesus who gave them a rule which it was impossible for them to follow—which is simply absurd. Therefore, for over three hundred years, Mr. Stephenson’s rule of faith was not a “sufficient” rule; for, as I have shown, instead of guiding people to heaven, its impossibility or unavailability would have sent them to hell.

Again; it was not until the fifteenth century, that the art of printing was invented. People, now-a-days, are so accustomed to see a Bible on every table, that, without reflection, they imagine that Bibles should have been always as numerous and common as they are at present. But, sometimes, people make mistakes, and they never fell into a greater mistake, than to imagine that before the art of printing was invented, Bibles could have been, as plentiful as they are now. At the present day, by the aid of type and steam-presses, Bibles can be struck off and printed by thousands in the day; but before the fifteenth century, when neither type nor steam-presses existed, the whole labour of getting up a copy of the Bible, had to be performed by hand and pen. And, now, tell me, Mr. Stephenson, how many Bibles could be got up in this manner—not in a day—but in a year by a man of average expertness in writing? and what would be the cost of each? I will let a Protestant author answer the question; the estimate he makes is certainly exceedingly low. The author is the Rev. S. R. Maitland D.D.F.R.S. & F.S.A., sometime librarian to the late Archbishop of Canterbury and keeper of the M.S.S., at Lambeth. In his series of lectures, intended to illustrate the state of religion and literature in the 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th centuries, he says: “To copy all these books (of the Bible) was a great undertaking; and even when there was no affectation of caligraphy, or costly ornament, and when we reduce the exaggerated statements about the price of materials to something reasonable, it was not only a laborious but an expensive matter. Of course, writing and printing are very different things. I do not pretend to speak with accuracy, (for it would require more trouble than the thing is worth), but I am inclined to suppose that at this day a copy of our English Bible, paid for at the rate at which law-stationers, pay their writers for common fair—copy on paper, would cost between sixty and seventy pounds (sterling) for the writing only; and further, that the scribe must be both expert and industrious to perform the task in much less than ten months.” (Page 202). This is what a Protestant author says. Add to this estimate, the cost for material (which was parchment or other costly preparations) and binding, &c., and twenty or thirty pounds more may be added to the cost of the writing. Thus, you see, Mr. Stephenson, that your ordinary English Bible, which now can be purchased for fifty cents, would, in