

The Monthly Advocate.

VOL. I.

AUGUST, 1880.

No. 4.

AN ATHEIST IN PARLIAMENT.

It must be painfully apparent to those who look at public movements from a Bible stand-point that the course of British national legislation, during the last few years has been morally downwards. This has been particularly the case in relation to the terms of admission to the Imperial Legislature. *Fifty years ago*, the oath of parliament was such as to exclude *Romanists*. *Now*, the minions of Antichrist are swarming in the legislative halls of a professedly Protestant people. In the present Parliament, there are more than sixty pledged supporters of the Papacy, all whose energies will be directed to the securing an increase of Romish endowments, and more enlarged national privileges for that mystery of iniquity which aims at the subversion of Protestantism, and the replacement of the nation under the yoke of Rome. *Twenty-five years ago*, the parliamentary oath was such as to exclude *Jews*, who could not swear "on the true faith of a Christian." *Now*, that oath is modified in express accommodation to the unbelieving sons of Abraham, who have a constitutional right to legislate for a Christian Church, although they reject and professedly despise the Christian's acknowledged Saviour. *One year ago*, the ground of *Theism* still remained entire, and it was hoped that the clause in the oath: "So help me *God*," would be an effectual barrier against the entrance of Atheists into the Legislature. *Now*, even that ground has been abandoned; and for the first time in the history of Britain, there is presented before the world, the melancholy spectacle of an avowed *Atheist* in the British House of Commons.

After much manœuvring by the Gladstone cabinet, the atheist Bradlaugh has been allowed to take his seat in Parliament, as the representative of an English constituency. Expediency has again triumphed over christian and moral principle. An avowed enemy of the christian religion has taken his place amongst the legislators of a professedly christian nation. The blasphemer of the Most High is now an acknowledged legislator of an empire that owes its wealth, its liberty, its all, to that God whom he reviles. It is specially sad to notice, that he owes his elevation to the persistent efforts of a professedly christian statesman, and government. The British Parliament has thus virtually endorsed the blasphemer's atheism, and has thus set itself in opposition to Him by whom "kings reign and princes decree justice."

It is much to be regretted that such a man as C. H. Spurgeon should allow his Liberal proclivities to warp his judgment in such a case. Verily, he was not the Spurgeon of former years, when he penned the following sentiments: "The fitness of a man to represent us politically, cannot be measured by his piety or his orthodoxy. We employ a physician, not because he is a Baptist, but because he understands medicines, and so

Vol 1, No 4, Aug 1880