

will be so plain (!) that it is to be hoped, and is partly expected, that all will be made infidels together. A new bible!! Think of that, dear Christian friends!—you who have been trying honestly to save your souls under the old bible! Everything mathematical ought now to be put under revision, not even excepting the axioms of Euclid—for if that infallible book, which is the divinely inspired Word and Will of God, was not sound, and needed revising—how much more the merely human arrangement that two and two are four, or that the angles of a triangle are equal to two right angles? Nothing is safe now—not even the multiplication table! There seems to be nothing certain in this world! Just imagine the souls that have been lost under the old bible, and the mathematical demonstrations that have been made all in vain!

“Great God! on what a slender thread
Eternal life depends!”

But it is urged by some that it is better to believe even fables that are pleasant than to embrace cold truth. It is said that our doctrine of the everlasting sleep of death is a cold and dreary one, and that the Christian doctrine of a future existence in heaven or hell is a very comfortable one. But let us look at this for a moment. It is perhaps better to be too cold than too hot! Which is to be preferred—a quiet and everlasting sleep, that knows no awakening—or excruciating, never-ending torture, which, if the bible were true, would be the lot of the majority of mankind? To any benevolent mind it would seem better that *all* should go forever into utter oblivion than that *one* should be tortured in hell forever. We, therefore, think that to be swallowed up in the soul of the Universe and lost in the eternal forgetfulness of *Nirvana*, is infinitely more comforting, or less repugnant, than the Christian doctrine of conscious existence in a future life of heaven and hell. We do not, however, either affirm or deny a future existence; but simply *disbelieve* it because we can see no evidence in Nature that the doctrine is true. Should it prove true, however, we hold that the wisest course for us in this life, and the very best preparation for another, are *good works*—not mere belief in absurd creeds and dogmas.