

showed that in no respect, but in being unauthorized and uncontrolled, did the Ritualistic system differ from that of the Roman Catholics. In England mutterings of domestic suspicion and remonstrance have been already heard, and the first loud outcry will probably bring on a crash.

—Moral Philosophy seems to have reached the bottom of the descent: perhaps she may now begin to struggle upwards. Mr. Spencer's *Data of Ethics* has found a critic from the Agnostic point of view in the person of Dr. Van Buren Denslow, whose work on *Modern Thinkers* appears with a preface by Col. Ingersoll, and who appears to be a vigorous thinker in his way, though a rough writer. Dr. Denslow is of opinion that Mr. Spencer has stopped short of his legitimate conclusion, and that he ought to have discarded the idea of morality altogether. Moral laws, according to Dr. Denslow, "can be shown by analysis and historical research to be merely doctrines established by the strong for the government of the weak." "It is the strong who require the weak to tell the truth, and always to promote some interest of the strong." "Thou shalt not steal, is a moral precept invented by the strong, the matured, the successful, and by them impressed upon the weak, the infantile and the failures in life's struggle, as all criminals are." "So the laws forbidding unchastity were penned by those who in the earlier periods of civilization, could afford to own women, for the protection of their property rights in them against the poor who could not," It is the same with the other precepts of morality, including, we presume, that which forbids murder. In place of ethics Dr. Denslow would have, as the rule of human conduct, and of any system that is framed to regulate it, an analytical account of the passions or propensities which demand gratification after the manner of the phrenologists or Fourier. We confess that if we stood on the ground on which Mr. Spencer stands, we should find it difficult to prevent ourselves from being pushed by the stalwart arm of Dr. Denslow's logic into the gulf of