

and Robert Cooper, Ingersoll and Holyoake, Christendom to-day would be a perfect hell, and the clank of chains and the creak of the rack, the groan of the heretic and the exulting cry of priests, would be as common as in the worst days before the Reformation. But, happily for humanity, the Christian religion has been torn asunder into two contending camps, and it is only because these hostile camps hold each other in check that liberal-minded men, whether Christians or not, can live in security and peace.

The shipwrecked sailor, you say, was overjoyed to see the spire of a church? Would he not, think you, have been equally pleased to see the British flag flying over a fort, or the sign of a hotel, where food, and whisky, and tobacco could be procured? Had he been a Protestant cast upon the shores of Catholic Spain three hundred years ago, how much better off would he have been than among the cannibals? Had he been a Mahomedan missionary landing among either Catholics or Protestants of our own time, what would be the duty of the latter according to Deuteronomy 13?

As to a man's scalp being safer in a Christian land than in any other, I would call your attention to the fact that about four years ago a monument was erected in the city of Rome to the memory of Giordano Bruno. Why? Because his scalp was not safe in any Christian country in all Europe on account of his religious opinions. Had not God thundered through the inspired 13th chapter of Deuteronomy that it was the duty of the faithful to destroy heretics? Were Christian sectarians or heretics safer in New England than in the old country? Have not the lives and property of even Christians themselves been rendered safer by the efforts of heretics and Freethinkers to wrest power from the hands of the tyrannical priest? Bruno and many another noble man was hounded to torture and to death because your divinely (!) inspired book taught that an honest unbeliever was not fit to live, and that it was the duty of the faithful to take his life.

It makes me sick at heart when I find that even to-day men are willing to defend this kind of deviltry, for no defender of the Bible can fail to be logically a defender of religious persecution.