

in their carelessness, and roll sin like a sweet morsel under their tongue! They give it to the world under a new name, such as Restorationism, or Annihilationism or The Larger Hope, whereas it is 6000 years old, and spoken by the arch-enemy of mankind, when he said to our first parents in the garden:—"Ye shall not surely die"

The negative theology of the age, is due in many cases to an insatiable craving for notoriety, that resurrects and reclothes the old worn out skeletons of infidelity that were buried a hundred years ago. It pays, speaking as a business man would say, to be a sceptic. "They thought said a clergyman's wife lately, of shutting up the Church, as hardly anybody attended the services. But that is all changed now. My husband is now preaching heresy, and he has given the cause of religion, such an awakening, as it has not had for years. His salary is raised, and everything is in the most prosperous condition." Such egotistic, irreverent, self-advertising skeptiscism has its little day, but carries no weight with bible reading men and women, however much it may attract the young, and gratify the scoffer. None the less, is it reckless and destructive. "If it can give pain to any old saint, it does it; and thinks it has done a smart thing in doing it. If it can undermine or disturb the foundation of a young man's faith, before his mind has matured enough to understand the reasons of that faith, it counts it a great victory, and speaks of its exploit, as if it had done some great thing. Its emblem is the sword and the dagger: the dark lantern and the poisoned cup. Its hands never hold the trowel, nor carry the mortar. The light in which it works is not the broad light of open and honest day, in which men build and energize, but the prying, concealed light of suspicion, creeping along on its own dark errand, guiltily trying to wrench away the fastenings from something that does not belong to it. It works only to destroy and disintegrate and raze to the ground, alike the roofs which protect men from the tempests, and the monuments which the past has erected, in grand and solemn perpetuation of its greatness." Its exponents, although comparatively few in number are active,