

Mr. Ingersoll's assumption that he is the only one who dares to speak about the Bible is of course baseless. It might be better assumed that Mr. Ingersoll dare not say the truth about the Bible for fear of his income. In fact, one is impressed at all times that the speaker is not making a systemized attack, only hitting here and there where a laugh can be most easily provoked. There is a lack of due dignity shown to a subject which is of ultimate importance. The speaker is before his audience to entertain rather to convince; to satirize and soar away in eloquence rather than to reason and find the truth. At first sight it might appear that Col. Ingersoll by taking the unpopular side of the question has taken up a hard fight. If the fight is to be measured by the result he certainly has taken up a hard fight, but if it is measured and decided by the number of thrusts and parries made he is certainly a winner. It is easy to be an unbeliever. It is easier to pull down than to construct. A child playing with a hammer could destroy a piece of art in a minute over which genius labored for years. Anybody can propound questions which the greatest philosophers cannot answer. Why does the heart beat, or a fire burn, or a blade of grass grow? All these are simple phenomena, with which we are all acquainted, yet not one of us can give a reason. The law of the action of the heart, the law of combustion and vegetable gestation are well known; but the ultimate why, no one can give.

People then should not be troubled because difficulties are suggested, because Mr. Ingersoll can ask questions your answers to which cannot be proved; innocent children ask the whyfore of things every day which the most intelligent parents cannot give. The greatness of any truth varies directly as the mystery. The greater the truth the greater the mystery. It cannot be that Col.

Ingersoll really desires to see the Christian world deprived of the religion under which the best civilization and the best code of ethics known have grown up. Grant all that he claims on the ultimate points and he only claims, "he knows not." It appears rash indeed to attack a belief which has done so much for the world simply because that belief cannot be demonstrated by a mathematical or scientific formula. He condemns a book and its teachings because men draw different meanings therefrom and because evil men have justified their actions by it. There is nothing so good in this world that it cannot be made an agent of evil in the hands of evil men, and it is no argument against the Bible to say that blood has been spilt in its cause.

After all Col. Ingersoll should not be taken seriously. He is doubtless out for revenue and knows that he can draw better talking about the Bible than about law. People do not take him seriously. They do not listen to him to be enlightened or convinced but to be entertained. If he is sincere he must die as far from certainty as he is now if he continues to measure truth as he does. Faith is not a matter of credulity; nor religion a matter of naked reason.

The sealing regulations for 1895 have been issued by the United States Government. They provide that every vessel shall have a licence, refrain from the use of firearms and fly a special signal. They may, moreover, traverse the sea during the close season, the sealing output being of course secured under seal. The British regulations will be pretty much, if not identically the same. It is not anticipated that the American idea of totally prohibiting the catch for a series of years will be entertained by the British authorities.

In the opinion of Mr. Ogilvie, the great miller of Montreal and the Northwest, Winnipeg never looked so prosperous as at the present time, while the farmers of Manitoba have stood the depression in wheat better than those of any wheat growing country he knows of. There is, he says, a much larger area ready for seeding than last year. Although the price was low, every bushel of wheat the farmers had this year was a good bushel of merchantable wheat, while they have more dressed hogs, poultry and butter for sale than usual.

Encouraged by the immense fortunes amassed by the publishers of weekly newspapers in this city, I understand that another company is being formed to go into the general publishing business, and incidentally to add another paper to the already long list of candidates for public favor. I am not sufficiently in the confidence of the members of the new company to be able to state what the name of the new paper will be; but I do know that it is intended to make it the most comprehensive publication ever issued in this Province. It will embody every feature contained in the weekly papers of British Columbia, such as statistics of trade, commercial and shipping news, social, political and literary departments, an original story each week, dramatic and musical gossip, etc., etc. It is understood that the paper will contain from 150,000 to 200,000 ems of type each week, or nearly three times as much reading matter as in any weekly paper now printed in British Columbia. The editor will be a gentleman well-known in literary circles on this continent and in Europe, and the manager a practical man. To THE HOME JOURNAL it appears that there are enough newspapers already in British Columbia, but this does not prevent this great moulder of public opinion from extending