

New Lanark, Scotland, who, at that time, boasted of having read *five* hours per day for *forty* years, visited the United States, to disseminate infidel principles. Religion, matrimony, and private property, were his trinity of evils! To extinguish from the mind the idea of a God and a future state; to abolish the sacredness of the matrimonial contract; to make worse than animals the whole human family—to induce all to form one community, so far as property was concerned, was what the well disciplined mind of Robert Owen determined on accomplishing. Christianity was in his road; he could not proceed only upon its ruins. He, therefore, challenged the clergy to meet him in a public debate—he affirming that *all religions were false!* Whether it was considered unfashionable by the clergy to prove their own principles in the presence of an opponent who had the privilege of replying; contempt of Mr. Owen, or fear of discomfiture, it is not for us to determine; but certain it is that his challenge had been published in several newspapers more than *seven* years before it was accepted. During this time he purchased a fine tract of land in Indiana, commenced the settlement of the town of “New Harmony,” and laid out the city of “Mental Independence.” Infidelity went forward with rapid strides. But a man was found in the person of Alexander Campbell, who readily accepted his challenge, and in defence of the truth took his stand as a man, convinced that the truth would sustain him. In a discussion of eight or nine days, he not only exploded the whole “social system,” but has given to the public a triumphant refutation of every system of scepticism, and has showed to the world the permanent basis on which the Christian’s hopes are based!

Had Alexander Campbell been silent, in the course of a few years the tables of the American Congress would doubtless have groaned under the petitions to the government for aid to stop the progress of “socialism!” But no, so completely did Mr. Owen feel his defeat, that within a short time he bid farewell to America, and gave up the prospect of making Atheists of Americans, and turned his face again to the land of his forefathers. It is scarcely necessary to add, for the information of you, my friends, who reside in the British Provinces, that during the few years since, in which Mr. Owen has labored in Britain, he has been presented to Her Majesty, and boasts of *two hundred* public advocates for the abolition of religion, matrimony, and private property!! And what are England’s lorded Bishops doing? Why! presenting petitions to parliament to put a stop to the progress of socialism! Soon we expect to hear that Mr. Owen is endeavoring to induce the people to think that he is a persecuted man—that no person is able to meet him in the fair field of open encounter. The inhabitants of Britain are too enlightened to permit any person, however base, to be sacrificed at the stake for his religious or irreligious views. What then will be the result of parliamentary opposition, and his cry of persecution? The procuring of friends to Mr. Owen, no doubt, and the consequent dissemination of infidelity.

We ask then, friends and brethren, no aid from secular powers in the dissemination of truth. The pure Gospel will “win its wideness.”