

confusion, sneering Sadducees He foiled with their own weapons. Pharisees who sought to entangle Him in His talk, He puzzled so effectively from their own Scriptures that "no man was able to answer Him a word, neither durst any man from that day forth ask Him any more questions."

His attitude to the principles of the Scribes and Pharisees was one of unrelenting opposition. He did all that He could to win them to the truth, but when they were obdurate, He exposed their hypocrisy, and ruined their influence. In that last terrific denunciation, the lightning strokes of His wrath shattered the fabric of their pretences which had been the labor of generations, and scattered in a moment the shadows in which they trusted. You cannot parallel that denunciation in history. Like whited sepulchres they were fair without, but within they were full of all corruption; their spirit was that of vipers, poisonous, cruel; their aim and their end the damnation of hell. Its effects were appalling. Study the history of religious persecutions and controversies from the days of Elijah down, and you cannot find one sect that was so completely demolished, and its name buried so deeply in shame by any human effort, as was Pharisaism by this awful burst of Divine wrath.

All this certainly does not resemble the absolute non-resistance which Count Tolstoi advocates, nor does it approach the tolerance for everything and everybody which so many moderns ascribe to Christ. This much it certainly shews: Christ excludes physical violence from the service of truth, and teaches His followers to suffer wrong rather than use it in their own defence. Other means they may use, as when the disciples were taught to depend on the Holy Spirit to give them what they should speak in their own defence when on trial before governors and kings, provided that these means be right, and, above all, that such defence be consistent with the progress of the Gospel. But even with these privileges, Christ reversed the world's standards of action. To personal considerations He gave scarcely a thought; to moral and spiritual interests, He devoted all His mind and strength. The world's and even the church's custom is to exert all their