

Some people labour under the delusion that a commonplace thought can be elevated to the dignity of an aphorism by giving it an aphoristic form. To this class belongs the Rev. William Philpot, "Vicar," as he describes himself, "in the orders of the Church of Christ and of England." Under the title *A Pocket of Pebbles* (P), he has put together a volume of fragments of reflection, very few of which were at all worth preserving, while some are simply without intelligible meaning, and others are mischievously narrow and untrue. How will the average "Philistine" of the day, for instance, smack his lips over such a statement as this?—"Not only in word, but too often in deed also, there is but an iota of difference between the aesthetic and the atheistic"—an assertion which is either false, or, if true, is the very best possible indication of the "atheism" at which Mr. Philpot means to strike. Of a like spirit it is this:—"The people who want to make out that the Scripture is false are generally, if not universally, those who know that they are on the way to be damned if it be true." Here and there in Mr. Philpot's pages is to be discovered a trace of liberality, though never of depth, of thought; but on the whole it will certainly repay nobody to sift this pocket of pebbles in the hope of finding some unpolished jewel. [From the *Scotsman*.]

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