

The fact that deism denies a future existence prevented him from giving a cordial assent to the doctrine, though he did not accept the Scriptures as inspired. When, however, he came to look upon the Bible as its own interpreter, instead of accepting the current theological teaching as the exponent of revelation, all his difficulties were swept away. From the year 1818, when he reached the conclusion that the personal coming of Christ was near, he continued for thirteen years prayerfully investigating the subject, but mentioning his views only in private. He entered upon their public presentation in 1831, and, between this time and 1844, delivered four thousand lectures in five hundred different towns. About two hundred ministers accepted his views, and five hundred public lecturers engaged in their promulgation. In nearly a thousand places, congregations of believers were raised up, comprising about fifty thousand persons. Under Mr. Miller's labors alone, not less than six thousand souls were converted to Christ, and the number was probably much greater. Of the converts, fully seven hundred were avowed infidels before attending his lectures.

Though mistaken in regard to the exact time of the second advent, his belief was unchanged as to the manner and nearness of the Saviour's coming. In 1845 he wrote: "I have candidly weighed the objections advanced against these views; but I have seen no arguments that were sustained by the Scriptures, that, in my opinion, invalidated my position. I cannot, therefore, conscientiously refrain from looking for my Lord, or from exhorting my fellow-men, as I have opportunity, to be in readiness for that great event." Yet he felt that his own work was nearly ended. "I shall leave to my younger brethren," he said, "the task of contending for the truth. Many years I toiled on alone; God has now raised up those who will fill my place." He continued, however, to preach from time to time, as the increasing infirmities of age would permit; and he died in full faith of the doctrines which he had proclaimed.

JOSEPH WOLFF, the famous Hebrew missionary and traveler, was born in 1795, in Bavaria. "Endowed with almost unprecedented linguistic talent, a quick power of perception, lively temperament, and great prudence, he became acquainted, at a very early age, with the most prominent men in different countries of Europe. In 1812 he was baptized at Prague by a Benedictine monk. At Rome, where he went to be educated as a missionary, he devoted himself to the study of Oriental languages, intending to carry the gospel to both Jews and Mohammedans. He enjoyed the favor of the most prominent men, including that of Pope Pius VII.; but the liberal views which he expressed on various occasions made him suspected in the eyes of the Inquisition, and he had to leave the college and the eternal city. In England, he speedily found friends. The founders of the London Society for the Jews, perceiving his special fitness for missionary work, effected his entrance to Cambridge University, where he continued his Oriental studies.

"During his adventurous life as a traveler,—in Europe, Asia, America, and a part of Africa,—he became acquainted with kings and princes, as well as with the most learned men of all ecclesiastical relations. In the greatest perils he showed an undaunted courage, and great presence of mind. He