

look at. I counted the cost of being ridiculed because of these strange stories. I was quite prepared to take the place that would be assigned to me among those who are "behind the age." I anticipated too—and I do not announce this in support of a claim to the gift of prophecy—that some graceless ministers would lead the choir of scorners.

To some, the rarer attainments of the godly furnish an opportunity, for such an expression of their enmity against vital religion, as will not damage their credit in the church. They are offensive to them, merely because they are more palpable evidences of the reality of communion with God. Yet they can attack them under cover of superior enlightenment, and even of a regard to the credit of Christianity. "Of course," they will say, "only men who are not up to the times would be so credulous as to believe these things;" whereas the more extraordinary instance of credulity, by far, is their believing that they themselves are capable of forming any right opinion on the subject. If the occasion seems to require it, they can shake their heads, very wisely, over the supposed imprudence of exposing to ridicule the cause of true religion, by the record of such things; but when they do so, it is but to conceal, that, while having a form of godliness, they deny its power.

Such things being unusual in the experience of