

literature or evil companions, agents of the infernal spirits, who perverted his once innocent and confiding heart.

Let us examine on what grounds these alleged infidels deny the existence of God. We call them *alleged* infidels for we can not persuade ourselves that, at the bottom of their hearts, with their early instruction, they sincerely disbelieve in God. In their pride and conceit, the free-thinkers pretend to deny the existence of God, because indeed they do not see Him with their corporal eyes. "No man can see God and live." God is seen in the work of His creation all around us. As we read in the Book of Wisdom, "All men are vain, in whom there is not the knowledge of God: and who by those good things that are seen, could not understand him that is, neither by attending to the works have acknowledged who was the workman: But have imagined either the fire, or the wind, or the swift air, or the circle of the stars, or the great water, or the sun and moon, to be the gods that rule the world. With whose beauty if they being delighted, took them to be gods: let them know how much the Lord of them is more beautiful than they; for the first author of beauty made all those things: or if they admired their power and their effects, let them understand by them, that He that made them is mightier than they. For by the greatness of the beauty, and of the creature, the creator of them may be seen, so as to be known thereby. But yet as to these they are less to be blamed. For they, perhaps, err seeking God, and desirous to find him. For being conversant among his works, they search: and they are persuaded that the things are good which are seen. But, then again, they are not to be pardoned. For if they were able to know so much, as to make a judgment of the world: how did they not more easily find out the Lord thereof? (Wisdom xiii., 1, 9.) St. Paul likewise speaking of the old pagans says: "For the invisible things of him, from the creation of the world, are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made: his eternal power also and divinity: so that they are inexcusable. Because that,

when they knew God, they have not glorified him as God, or given thanks: but became vain in their thoughts, and their foolish heart was darkened." (Rom. i., 20, 21).

INFIDELS ASK FOR PROOFS

of the existence of God. Behold them from the book of Wisdom and from St. Paul. None other than a Being self-existing by his own force and necessary from eternity could be the creator and director of this world on which we are permitted to live, and of the innumerable spheres of stupendous magnitude thrown into space, and moving with incomprehensible force, order and exactness amongst the myriads of other worlds, which we can see on a starry night. Could all this be the effect of chance or of blind force in matter inert in itself, shaking and evolving from eternity? Perfect order, symmetry and beauty could not be the effect of mere chance, as chaos and confusion could not be the ultimate effect of an all-wise cause. Take the formation of flowers with their beauty, variety, odour and seasons, could they be the effect, in their incipient state, of mere chance, or the trees, with their sap and seeds in proper times and seasons? And again, which was first? the seed having all the essential properties of a tree with seeds to produce other trees, or the tree itself with its seed? The egg and the bird—The bird comes from an egg, and the egg from a bird, which was first? Philosophers are much embarrassed at such questions, but they require a solution.

THERE MUST BE A FIRST CAUSE

for everything, and an intelligent cause that can work from end to end, governing and sustaining all things and their movements. Take the mechanism of our own body. Suppose that we had to govern and regulate it in every particular—we would forget to pump the blood through the heart and to purify it, to direct the nervous system and the digestive organs and eye sight. In the growth and change of parts and substances we supply the food, but after that what or who regulates all the rest? If we were left to ourselves for one hour our whole system would break up. People who say that all this is the effect of