

wrong, and they cannot be so ignorant as not to know it, why are they not honest enough to admit these errors and make new creeds, as the Hon. John Morley truly says, by which men can live, a creed which intelligent and good men can believe. You are the head of this Church, which has its center in the city of Edinburgh, and you have taken an oath to uphold this doctrine. We, here in Japan, would like to know if this is true. Kingly let us hear from you on this point.

Our learned men have also carefully examined the creed of the Church of England, called the "39 articles," and we find these teachings no better than that of the Scotch Church. It is metaphysical verbiage which was written in an ignorant and superstitious age, and which explains nothing to any intelligent thinker. You tell us in the XIIIth Article that it makes no difference how many good acts a man may do, how much kindness he may have shown to the poor, and how good a life he may have led. All these things do him no good: in fact, this article says they do him harm, as they are in the nature of a sin, and unless he is atoned for by Jesus he will surely go to hell. Now as we poor Japanese have only heard of this Jesus lately, we suppose by this "13th article" that we are all destined to be sent to hell, and you are sending your missionaries to us to tell us that all our ancestors have gone to hell. We will say what every true born Japanese will endorse, that if our fathers and mothers and our ancestors are in this Christian-made hell that we do not want to go to the Christian heaven and see all our people in hell—we will join them and be happy or miserable with them.

We would like to know if you are sworn to uphold this "XIIIth Article" of your creed. Kindly let us know.