

*CREDULITY.*

It is great simplicity and uncharitable credulity in us to think, that either the most ancient or middle ages of the world were generally so simple, credulous, or apt to believe everything as some would make them. It had been as hard a matter to have persuaded men in those times that there were no gods, no divine power or providence, as it would be to persuade the modern Atheists that there is an almighty power which created all things, governeth and disposeth all things to His glory.

The most politic Atheist now living is as credulous in his kind as the simplest creature in the old world was; and will yield his assent unto the Epicures' or other brutish philosophers' conclusions, upon as light reasons as they did their beliefs unto any fable concerning the power or providence of the gods: the reason of both their credulities in two contrary kinds is the same.

The often manifestation of an extraordinary power in battles, or presence in oracles, and sensible documents of revenge from heaven, made the one prone to entertain any report of the gods, though never so strange; and the want of like sensible signs or documents of the same power in our days (whilst all men's minds are still set on politic means and practices for their own good) doth make the other so credulous and apt to assent unto any politic discourse, and so averse from belief of the Prophets and Sacred writers, which reduce all effects to the First Cause.—*Dr. Thomas Jackson.*

Sir Isaac Newton was a great philosopher. He wrote many

learned works on natural science and has ever since been regarded as a most reliable authority. He was also a devout and humble-minded Christian, and he also wrote a work on the prophecies of Daniel and Revelation. In this work he makes this singular remark, "If these prophecies were true it would be necessary that a new mode of travelling should be invented. The knowledge of mankind would be so increased before a certain date or time terminated, namely one thousand two hundred and sixty years, that they would be able to travel fifty miles an hour." Now as he wrote these words more than one hundred and fifty years before railroad and steamboats were known, they were considered very bold words. Voltaire, a French infidel of great fame got hold of these words and said, Now look at the mighty mind of Newton, who discovered gravitation! When he became an old man and got into his dotage he began to study the book called the Bible, and it seems in order to credit its fabulous nonsense we must believe that the knowledge of mankind will be so increased that we shall be able to travel at fifty miles an hour. The poor dotard!"

The self-complacency of this infidel made his friends laugh immoderately at the expense of the Christian philosopher. But what has time revealed? Less than two hundred years after Newton wrote his bold words the knowledge of mankind has so increased that daily between London and Liverpool travellers go more than fifty miles an hour and so in many other places. Now which was the dotard—the Christian philosopher or the scoffing infidel?