

TO THE READER.

That the present days are days of most real and terrible perplexity to many, is unquestionable. We can neither wisely nor safely ignore the fact, that increasing multitudes are seceding, not merely from this or that article of Christian faith, but from the faith as a whole, into what is practically at least, if not avowedly, the baldest atheism. An unknown God, impossible to be known, and the development of man and all the lower creatures by natural law out of a concourse of atoms, nobody knows how begotten: these are supposed to be the final utterances of man's highest wisdom, and are accepted already by tens of thousands. An apostasy from Christianity has already begun, (predicted by Scripture as the forerunner of the day of Christ, 2 Thes. ii.) to the floods of which our colleges and schools are already and more and more contributing. The text-books used in numbers of these are the product of men who are leaders of what is called, 'advanced thought.' Huxley and Tyndall, with many others of their school, are become the educators of a generation, which will be as a natural consequence infidel like its masters, and who will carry out that infidelity to moral and practical results, which voices even from among themselves are warning of and deploring. Again it will be, and more terribly than ever, fulfilled: "And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind to do those things which are not convenient; being filled with all unrighteousness," &c.

It is in view of this state of things that the present Serial has been undertaken, with a view to meeting, as God shall enable us, the real difficulties that beset enquirers in the fields of natural science, philosophy, and of biblical criticism; and especially to provide to some extent an antidote to much that is being taught in the schools as unquestionable truth, and popularized for the multitude in lectures and 'lay sermons.' The complete verbal inspiration of the Scriptures, consistent only with the absolute truth of all that (upon whatever subject) they announce as such, and their entire harmony with all that can be proved as truth, from whatever source: these are first principles with all contributors to these pages. The prayers and active co-operation of all who sympathize with our undertaking in its character and object, are earnestly solicited.

F. W. GRANT, Editor,

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