

THE BIBLE.

Each age has its literature. The Old Testament may be said to be the Christian literature of the old dispensation. The New Testament, as far as Matthew, Mark, Luke and John are concerned, composes the literature of the period during which Christ was on the earth. The balance of the New Testament comprising the Acts and Epistles composes the literature of the beginning of the new dispensation. Regarding the Bible it is recognized even by infidels that facts are probably recorded at least in many instances. Ingersoll and his satellites may reject the miracles, but accept the general facts. Christians undoubtedly accept the facts of the Bible. What are the facts of the age? What constitutes the literature of this age? What has been the Christian literature of the past seventeen centuries? Are there any facts to record during these seventeen centuries? The Old Testament was not sufficient for Christ's time. His words had to be added. His followers obeyed Him, not the Old Testament. He guided His followers then. The Old Testament was not then the guide. In fact He condemned them for not coming to Him for life. He admitted that the Old Testament Scriptures testified of Him, and upbraided the Jews for their much-searching of the Old Testament. Why was not the record of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John sufficient for the new dispensation? Why need the Acts and Epistles to have been added? Why should the sayings and doings of Paul and Peter and James be placed on a par with those of Jesus? Would not a record of the facts of the old dispensation, together with a record of the life, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus, be literature enough for the new dispensation without the Acts and Epistles having to be added? Why should facts concerning Simon, Hymeneus, Apollos, Gains, Archippus, Julius, Marcus, Barnabas, Erastus, Crispus, Dionysius, Drusilla, Publius, and others be needed? Are these facts absolutely necessary as a foundation for Christianity? With how many less of these facts could Christianity have been safely

launched? If all the facts about the aforementioned individuals had never been recorded, would Christianity have any the less the living power that it has in the world? To what extent does Christianity depend for its existence on the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament? Is there any analogy between the huge Protestant system built upon the Bible and the huge Roman Catholic system built upon "this rock" Peter? Is there any similarity between the devotion and adoration paid by Catholics to Peter and Pope, and the devotion and adoration paid by Protestants to the Bible? Thou shalt have no other gods beside Me. Is there any danger of the Protestant's Bible like the Roman Catholic's Pope becoming a species of god? Individual solutions to these questions before the God of the universe are in order.

We have no intention of attending the funeral of the Bible, except in so far as it has obtained a place as a substitute for God.

Our love-letters to the churches are based on positive knowledge of the fact that divorce proceedings between Protestants and their bibles need to be inaugurated. Many of the grand and glorious and immortal memories in this connection may safely be relegated to the barbaric past. The regency occupied by the Bible is terminating. The God of the Bible is rising. "Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make His paths straight." Heraldic signs are on the horizon. Pulpit, pew and press outvie one another in giving honor to the Holy Ghost. College halls everywhere are giving prominence to the offices and work of the Holy Ghost. Programmes for religious conferences everywhere are filled with some phase or other of Holy Ghost literature. Mighty efforts, in thousands of prayer-meetings, all over the land, are being put forth to honor the Holy Ghost. The Bible is being cared for by the politicians and Orangemen. The Church is engaged in other business. It has its hands full, theoretically honoring the Holy Ghost. When this theorising about the Holy Ghost is reduced to practice, and the battalions of Christendom get down to