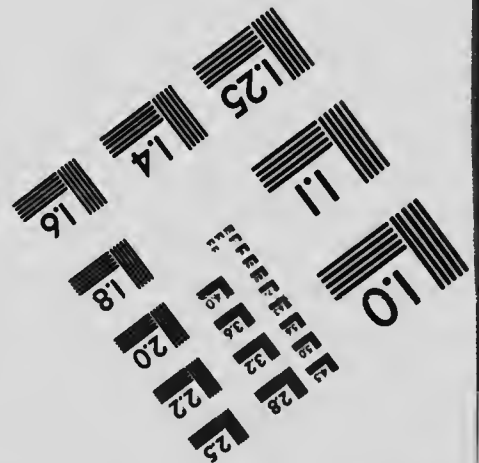
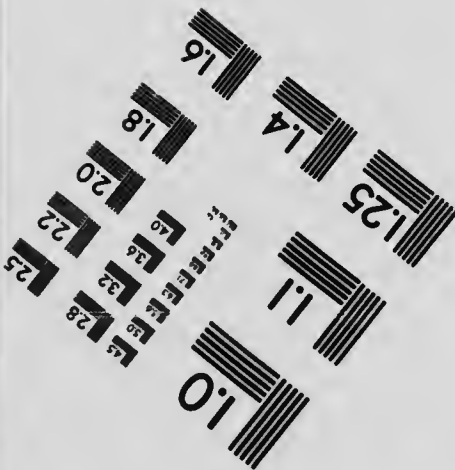
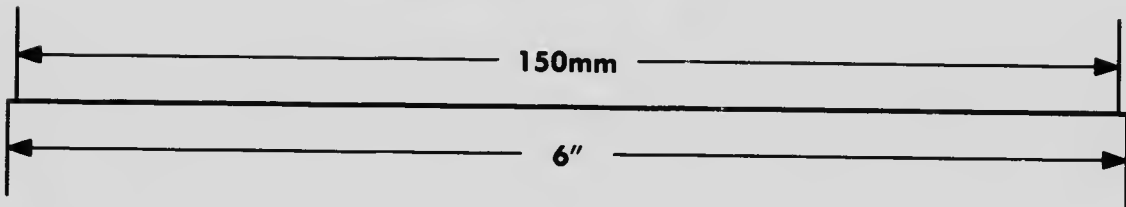
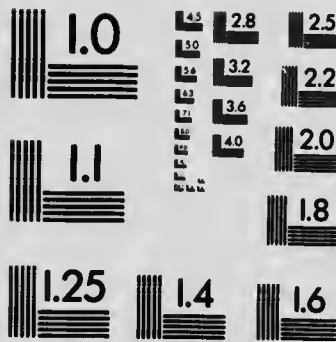
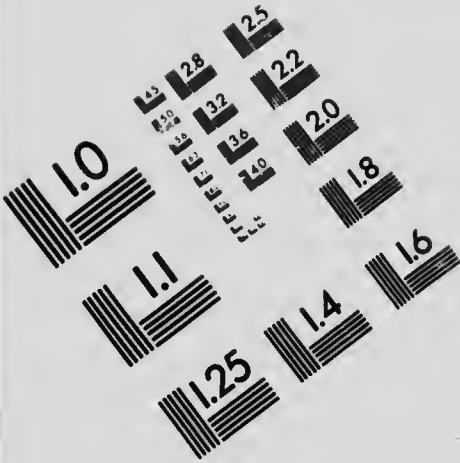


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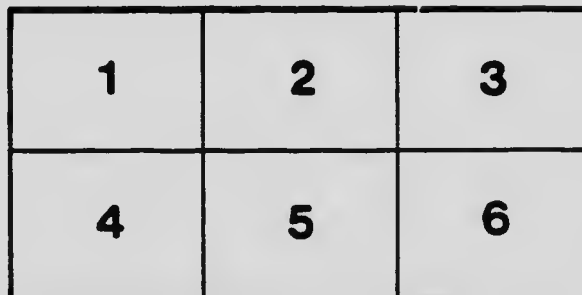
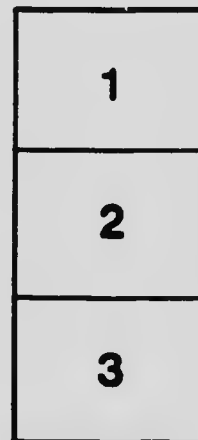
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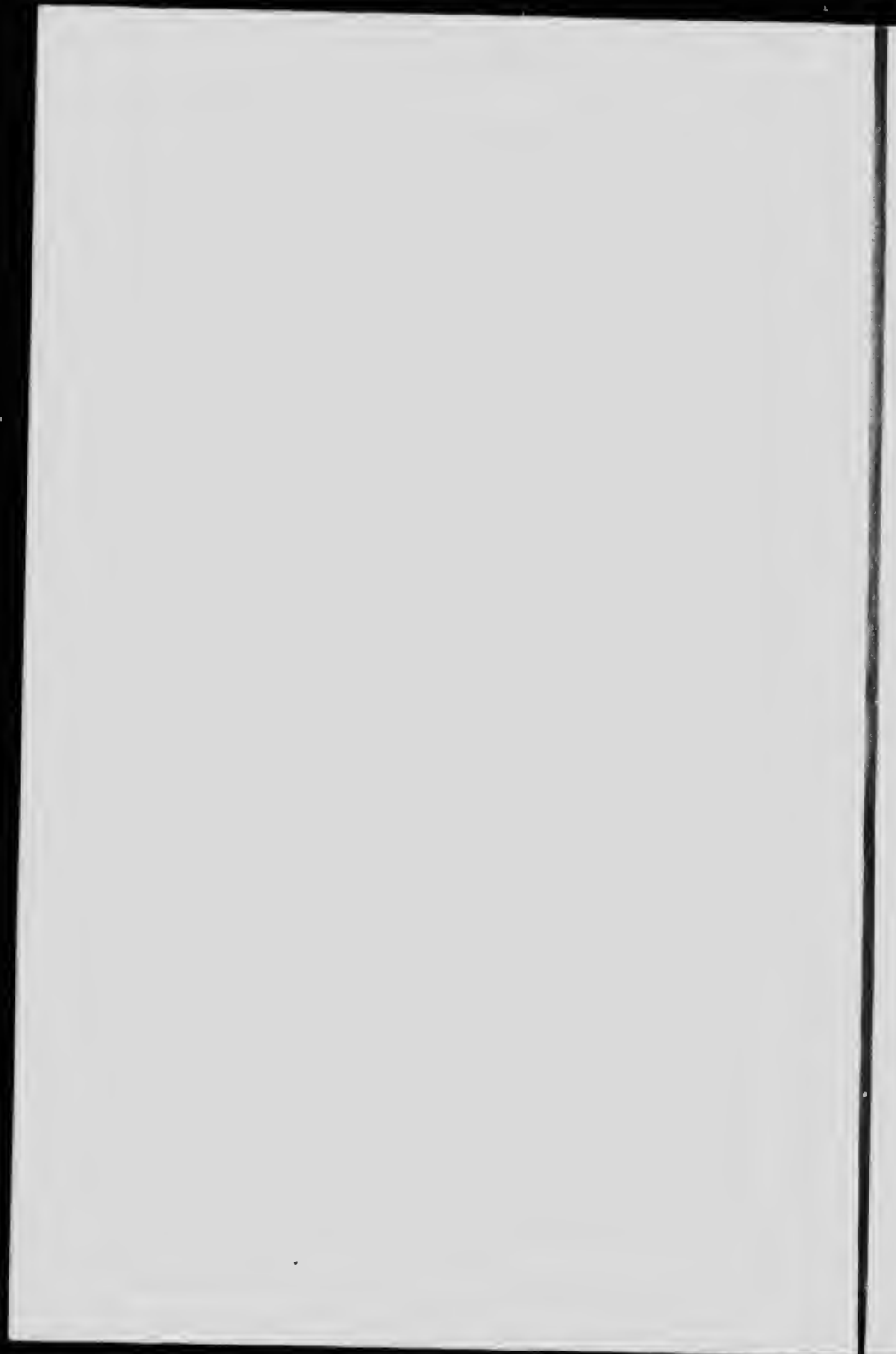
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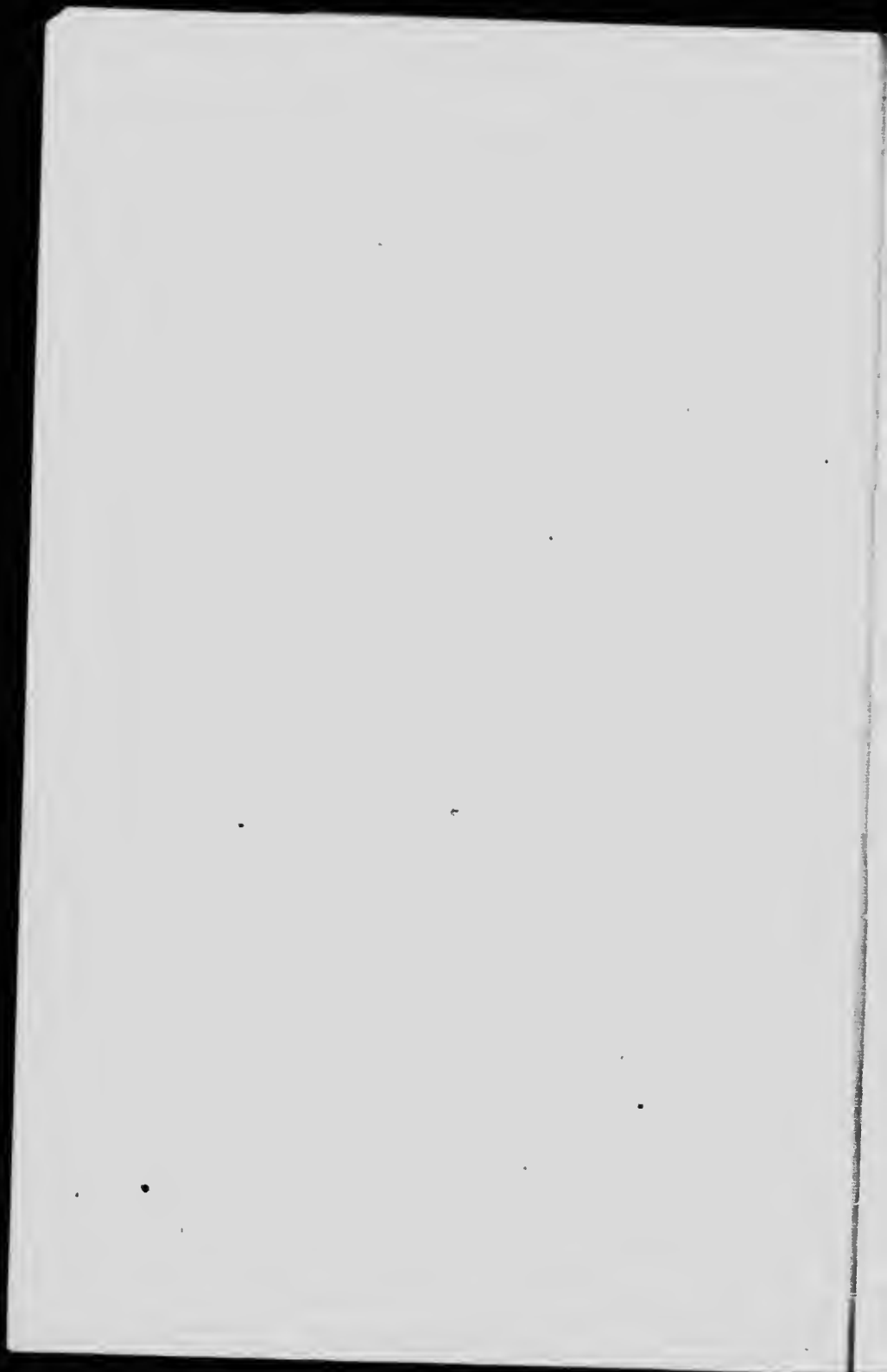


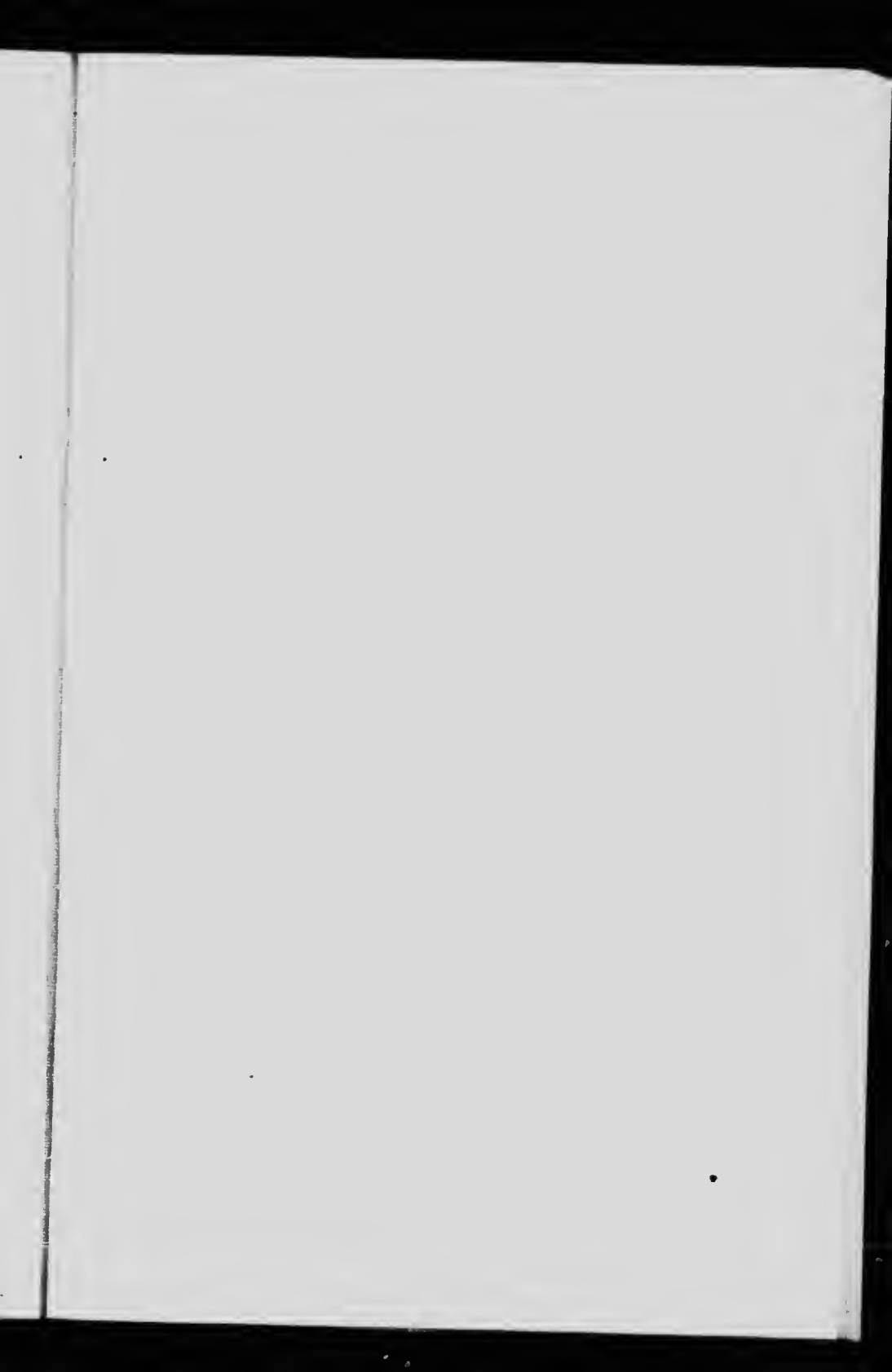
BIBLE STORIES
AND
RELIGIOUS DOCTRINE
ANALYZED

J. A. CAMPBELL
Author and Compiler
TORONTO, ONTARIO

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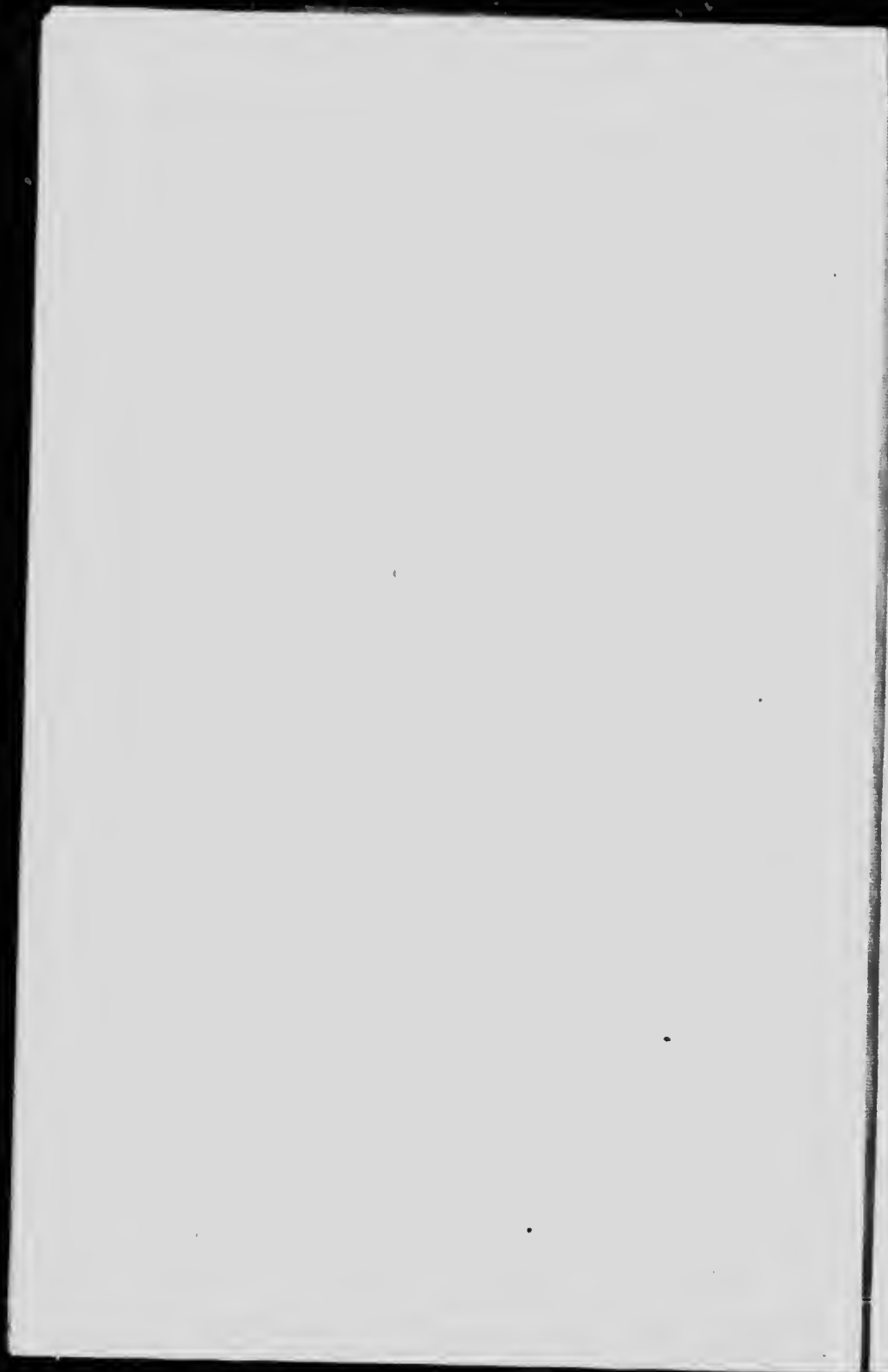
J. A. Campbell.

INTRODUCTION

Dear Reader :—My desire in putting this book before the public is to benefit my fellowmen and poor dumb animals, and to let the world see that they are prisoners within the walls of superstition.

As the Bible has kept me in prison for years, I will now expose it to the public for so doing. If the Bible is true, no amount of investigation can harm it; the more a truth is investigated, the brighter it shines; the more error is exposed to the searching light, the more cloudy it becomes.

If the Bible is the work of God, the Omnipotent, it will bear all investigation; if it is the work of ignorant men, that fact should be shown to the world, and this I have done. I therefore dedicate this work to the cause of human enlightenment, and present it to the world for a search light in the dark corners, which is the fervent wish of the author.



BIBLE STORIES AND RELIGIOUS DOCTRINE ANALYZED.

REASONS FOR WRITING BOOK.

To my fellowmen:—My object in writing this book is to refer you to the Bible, and its author, God, to see if it is as perfect and holy as we have been taught to believe that it is, and to give you my opinion of where man arrives after death. Reader, I am not writing this book for gain, or to hurt your feelings in regard to your pet religion. It is only to leave some of my valuable knowledge to my fellowman on this subject, as it may be of some help to open his eyes to the light of truth; then he will see that he was kept in superstition and darkness by a lot of parasites who only gave him supposition and lies for his money. As you will see by reading this book, if the Bible is true, no amount of investigation can harm it. The more a truth is investigated, the brighter it shines. I have been taught from a boy that the Bible was the Word of God, and that he chose the Apostles to write it. As proof, all scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine (II. Tim., ch. 3, ver. 16). He is the rock, his work is perfect, a God of truth, and without iniquity. Just and right is he (Deut., ch. 32, ver. 4). For I am the Lord, I change not (Malac., ch. 3, ver. 6). With whom there is no variableness, neither shadow of turning (James, ch. 1, ver. 17). God is not a man that he should lie, neither the son of man, that he should repent (Num., ch. 23, ver. 19). That being the case, we can investigate without danger, and I have done so. Now, I will be brief on this subject, as it would involve too much time and labor to examine all of the Bible, and that would make my book too large and too expensive for a good many to purchase. You will see by reading the first chapter of Genesis, ver. 1-7, that God made the firmament, but the Lord made the heavens (I. Chron., ch. 16, ver. 26). All things were made by him, and without him was not anything made that was made (St. John, ch. 1, ver. 3); this being the case, then God made all the material that the Bible is composed of, such as paper, ink, etc. Then he made man after his image, and God saw everything that he had made, and behold it was very good (Gen. ch. 1, ver. 31).

8 *Bible Stories and Religious Doctrine Analyzed.*

As all scripture is given by inspiration of God, then God inspired man to write his holy book, the Bible. So God is responsible for all that is in the Bible, let it be good, or bad. Now let us see if this holy book will stand the facts of truth that the preachers and priests tell us. Now you will see by the first and seventh verses of Genesis that God made the firmament and heavens, open space, as God could not exist before space, then he did not make it; this is one lie that God tells us about his work. This gives the infidel the first inning, as space is God's superior in age; then it would be more reasonable to suppose that space made God. Then, God tells us, his eyes are in every place (Prov., ch. 15, ver. 3); if so, have they seen the end of space yet; as there is no end to space, then his eyes are not in every place. So this is the second lie for Jehovah, and the second inning for the infidel. Again, we read in God's book that he made all things in space in about six and a half days (Gen. ch. 1, ver. 31; Gen., ch. 2, vers. 1-2), so God finished his work on the seventh day and had a good rest during the day as well. So it is no harm to work on the seventh day, even if it is Sunday. Then we read in God's book that Adam and Eve were the first man and woman God made on this earth (Gen. ch. 1, ver. 27, and Gen. ch. 2, ver. 22). So God created the woman in his own image, as well as the man; then God must be part male and part female. A union of the two sexes in the same individual is called a hermaphrodite. It is a physical impossibility that two persons differing as greatly in anatomical construction as man and woman could be made in the image of one person, even if that person was a God; this looks to me like more lying, and is the third lie for Jehovah, and the third inning for the infidel.

ADAM AND EVE.

Adam being the first man made on this earth, and he was made from dust (Gen., ch. 2, ver. 7), a good many think that Adam was made from mud, as dry dust would not hold together. Then, after God made his man he did not want him to be alone, so he decided to make him a woman (Gen., ch. 2, vers. 18, 20, 22); then Adam was hypnotized, and while in this sleep, one of his ribs was removed, and when he awoke Eve had been made of it. As Eve was produced of a rib

taken from Adam's side, he must, therefore, have been her father, as it says she was taken from him. Then, God told them to multiply and replenish the earth (Gen. ch.1, ver.28), so they lived together as man and wife, without a license, and had a family. Miss Adam's first two children were boys, Cain and Abel (Gen., ch. 4, vers. 1-2). Cain slew his brother Abel, then the Lord set a mark upon Cain, lest any finding him should kill him (Gen., ch. 4, ver. 15). Who did God suspect would kill Cain, there being none living at the time, aside from himself, but his father and mother. "Everyone that findeth me shall slay me" (Gen., ch. 4, ver. 14). How many times can a man be slain without being killed? After the murder of Abel, Cain went from the presence of the Lord into the land of Nod, and there knew his wife, and there built a city; where did Cain's wife, the mechanics, and the people requiring a city come from? (Gen., ch. 4, vers. 16-17). How could Cain go from the presence of an omnipresent God, as he is present in every place (Prov., ch. 15, ver. 3).

This looks to me like the fourth lie for Jehovah, and the fourth inning for the infidel. Now when Adam was one hundred and thirty years old, his daughter Eve bore him another son, and they called his name Seth (Gen., ch. 4, ver. 25); this makes only four persons living in the locality of the Garden of Eden, or any place else on this earth, if God tells us the truth. And to Seth, to him also there was born a son (Gen., ch. 4, ver. 26). The Lord don't tell us where his grandson Seth got his wife. Now, if God told us the truth about Adam and Eve, then how could Cain, and Seth, have a wife, as their mother was the only woman on this earth. The only way Cain, and Seth, could have a wife, was to marry their sister, providing they had one, but, having no sisters, they had no wives. Then God told them, that none of you shall approach to any that is near of kin, to uncover their nakedness (Levit., ch. 18, vers. 6, 7, 8, 9, 17). It is good for a man not to touch a woman (1st Cor., ch. 7, ver. 1). But he that giveth her not in marriage doeth better (1st Cor., ch. 7, ver. 38). Art thou loosed from a wife, seek not a wife (same chapter, ver. 27), and there be eunuchs, which have made themselves eunuchs for the Kingdom of Heaven's sake (Matt., ch. 19, ver. 12). This order from God stops

Adam and Eve from having any more children—why did God change his mind so soon; why did he not tell his son Adam and his granddaughter Eve this before they had any children. The above shows that God changed his plans. This put a stop to replenishing this earth with people. How could this be when he tells us he can't change, with whom there is no variableness, neither shadow of turning (James, ch. 1, ver. 17). For I am the Lord, I change not (Mala., ch. 3, ver. 6). This makes the fifth lie for Jehovah, and the fifth inning for the infidel. Now let us see if there can be any truth found in this Garden of Eden story, about the mud man and the rib woman. After God made Adam and Eve, he told them to multiply and replenish the earth. This they did to the extent of three children, all boys, Cain, Abel and Seth. Then Cain slew his brother Abel. This would leave only four persons, and the devil, living on this earth. You will see that the serpent, or devil, was in the garden with Adam and Eve before their children were born (Gen., ch. 3, vers. 1-2), and the devil was cast out of heaven unto this earth (Rev. ch. 12, vers. 9-12). Then God told the above four persons not to multiply any more. This being the case, where did these people come from that were in the land of Nod, where Cain got his wife, not to say anything about where Seth got his. Now those two God stories can't be true. So let us see if any one of them is true. If the garden of Eden story is true, Cain and Seth could not have had a wife, there being none living at the time, aside from themselves, but their father and mother, and there should be no people living on this earth at the present time, or from the time the four persons died a few thousand years ago. But as we have millions of people living on this earth at the present time, this will prove the Garden of Eden story a lie. Now, if Cain and Seth did get wives, this would further prove that the above story is a myth. This makes the sixth lie for Jehovah, and the sixth inning for the infidel; and for further proof that the Garden of Eden story is not true, when you see so many kinds and colors of people living today, such as the negro, the Indian, the Japanese, the Spaniard, and so on, and so many different languages. Then it would be impossible for so many different tribes and colors of people to originate from one man and woman, who had only three children, and one of them got killed. Now, as we

have sufficient proof that the Garden of Eden story is a lie, then the tale about the six and one-half days' work on creation is only a bundle of lies. So this does away with your God, your mud man, rib woman, the devil, the Holy Ghost and the Redeemer. This proves the Bible to be a man-made book. So the foundation of all religions that are founded on this book are only built on supposition and lies, told by man for revenue and gain, and he wants you to believe all scripture is given by inspiration of God, and it profitable for doctrine (2nd Tim., ch. 3, ver. 16). All religions are artificial and are sold as a commodity to the superstitious public for revenue and gain. Now you have seen the end of the Adam and Eve story, and I hope it will open your eyes to the light of truth. Now, if the God of the Bible did not tell us the truth in the first part of his work, how are we to believe him in any other part of it? If this Eden tragedy or rib story is written by man, then we have a right to believe that all the Bible is manufactured by man, and I do believe so for one. Again, you will see that God lied to Moses about the two forms of the ten commandments.

TWO FORMS OF THE TEN COMMANDMENTS.

Every careful Biblical student knows that they are given in three different places in two different forms—so dissimilar that one cannot possibly be considered a counterpart of the other.

The first ones we considered will be found in Exodus, ch. 20, and Deuteronomy, ch. 5. The ones your attention is now called to will be found in Exodus, ch. 34.

The substance of the story is that Moses, after having broken the stones upon which the first Ten Commandments were written, prepared two more tables, and went up into the mountain, where God gave him the second edition of the Ten Commandments. Exodus, ch. 34, ver. 28, says: "And he was there with the Lord forty days and forty nights, and he did neither eat bread, nor drink water. And he (the Lord) wrote upon the tables the words of the covenant, the Ten Commandments."

Exodus, ch. 34, ver. 1, says: "And the Lord said unto Moses: Hew thee two tables of stone like unto the first; and

I will write upon these tables the words that were in the first tables, which thou breakest."

The second form of the Commandments was then given. The two forms will be placed side by side for ease of comparison:

FIRST FORM.

1. Thou shalt have no other Gods before me.
2. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image.
3. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain.
4. Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labor and do all thy work; but the seventh is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God, in it thou shalt not do any work.
5. Honor thy father and thy mother.
6. Thou shalt not kill.
7. Thou shalt not commit adultery.
8. Thou shalt not steal.
9. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.
10. Thou shalt not covet.

SECOND FORM.

1. Thou shalt worship no other God; for the Lord, whose name is jealous, is a jealous God.
2. Thou shalt make thee no molten gods.
3. The feast of the unleavened bread shalt thou keep.
4. Six days shalt thou work; but on the seventh day thou shalt rest; in earing time and in harvest thou shalt rest.
5. And thou shalt observe the feast of weeks, of the first fruits of wheat, harvest and ingathering.
6. Thrice in the year shall all your men-children appear before the Lord.
7. Thou shalt not offer the blood of my sacrifice with leaven.
8. Neither shall the sacrifice of the feast of the passover be left unto the morning.
9. The first of the first fruits of thy land thou shalt bring unto the house of the Lord thy God.
10. Thou shalt not see the kid in his mother's milk.

Which set shall we be governed by? While the above is so plain that comment is unnecessary, the attention of the reader is called to the varying forms in which the "Ten Commandments" are given. If we are to be governed by the Ten Commandments, which set shall we be governed by? If one

of the series of commandments which God gave to man to govern himself by, which one is it?

One of them says nothing about killing, stealing, lying, swearing, coveting, honoring your father or mother or committing adultery. The other says nothing about the feast of unleavened bread, the feast of weeks, of the first fruits, and ingathering or appearing three times a year before the Lord, about mixing leaven with blood of the sacrifice, about not leaving any of the Feast of the Passover until morning, about bringing the first of the first fruits to the house of the Lord, or about the acceptable way of cooking a kid.

It does agree on three points: Thou shalt not worship any other God but Jehovah; thou shalt not make any brass, copper, iron or lead gods (doubtless tin and gold ones would be equally obnoxious), and thou shalt keep the Sabbath. This makes the seventh lie for Jehovah, and the seventh inring for the truth seeker.

MORE LYING AND STEALING TAUGHT BY JEHOVAH.

And the Lord said, "Who shall persuade Ahab?" And there came forth a spirit and stood before the Lord and said, "I will persuade him." And the Lord answered, "Wherewith?" And he said: "I will go forth and I will be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets." And he (the Lord) said: "Thou shalt persuade him and prevail also; go forth and do so." Now, therefore, behold the Lord hath put a lying spirit in the mouth of all these thy prophets, and the Lord hath spoken evil concerning thee (1st Kings, ch. 22, vers. 20, 21, 22, 23). "And for this cause God shall send them strong delusions that they may believe a lie" (2nd Thess., ch. 2, ver. 11). God ordered Samuel to go to Jesse, the Bethlehemite, with a horn of oil and anoint one of his sons king of Israel. And Samuel said: How can I go? If Saul hear it, he will kill me." And the Lord said: "Take a heifer with thee and say, 'I am come to sacrifice unto the Lord'" (1st Sam., ch. 16, vers. 2-14). Wilt thou be altogether unto me as a liar? (Jere., ch. 15, ver. 18). Ah! Lord God surely thou hast greatly deceived this people (Jere., ch. 4, ver. 10). Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord (Prov., ch. 12, ver. 22). All liars shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone (Rev., ch. 21, ver. 8). So

you see the Lord through lying will have his part in the lake of fire, the place he made for the wicked. If I ascend into heaven, thou art there; if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there (Psalm 139, ver. 8). The eyes of the Lord are in every place (Prov., ch. 15, ver. 3). So if the eyes of God are in every place this would prove the above to be true. So this looks bad for the founder of your Bible, and gives the truth seeker or infidel more faith in their belief.

Was not stealing justified, if to satisfy the soul (the body) when hungry (Prov., ch. 6, ver. 30), so that they shall take no wood out of the field, neither cut down any out of the forest; for they shall spoil those that spoiled them, and rob those that robbed them, saith the Lord (Ezek., ch. 39, ver. 10). Christ sanctioned and authorized stealing; him that taketh away thy cloak, forbid him not to take thy coat also (Luke, ch. 6, ver. 29). And it came to pass that he went through the cornfields on the Sabbath day; and his disciples began as they went to pluck the ears of corn, he was told that it was not lawful (Mark, ch. 2, vers. 23-24). And saith unto them, go your way into the village, and as soon as ye be entered into it ye shall find a colt tied, loose him and bring him, as I need him (Mark, ch. 11, vers. 2-3). You see he did not ask the owner for him. For he saith, by the strength of my hand I have done it. I have removed the bounds of the people, and have robbed their treasures (Isaiah, ch. 10, ver. 13). Now, when you read what God and his son Jesus did in the line of stealing and robbing, then you need not be surprised if some do steal, when such things are advertised in the Bible.

BIBLE CONTRADICTIONS.

The God of peace (Romans, chap. 15, ver. 33).

God is Warlike.

The Lord is a man of war (Exo., ch. 15, ver. 3). Blessed be the Lord, my strength, which teacheth my hands to war and my fingers to fight (Psalms 144, ver. 1).

And he said, thou canst not see my face, for there shall no man see me and live (Exo., ch. 33, ver. 20). For I have

seen God face to face and my life is preserved (Gen., ch. 32, ver. 30).

Judas Hanged Himself.

And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple and departed and went and hanged himself (Matt., ch. 27, ver. 5).

Judas did not hang himself, but died another way. And falling headlong he burst asunder in the midst, and all his bowels gushed out (Acts, ch. 1, ver. 18).

Michal Had no Child.

Therefore Michal, the daughter of Saul, had no child unto the day of her death (2nd Sam., ch. 6, ver. 23).

Michal Had Five Children.

The five sons of Michal; the daughter of Saul (2nd Sam., ch. 21, ver. 8).

Good Works to be Seen of Men.

Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works (Matt., ch. 5, ver. 16).

Good Works Not to be Seen by Men.

Take heed that ye do not your alms before men to be seen of them (Matt., ch. 6, ver. 1).

God is All Powerful.

Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh; is there anything too hard for me; there is nothing too hard for thee (Jere., ch. 32, vers. 17, 27). With God all things are possible (Matt., ch. 19, ver. 26).

God is Not All Powerful.

And the Lord was with Judah, and he drove out the inhabitants of the mountains; but could not drive out the inhabitants of the valley, *because they had chariots of iron* (Judges, ch. 1, ver. 19). There be three things which are too wonderful for me, yea, four which I know not; the way of an eagle in the air; the way of a serpent upon a rock; the

way of a ship in the midst of the sea ; and the way of a man with a maid (Prov., ch. 30, vers. 18, 19).

I could give you many more such contradictions, but the above will suffice to show what the Bible is like.

Adultery Encouraged.

God instructed Hosea to marry a prostitute and to hire or buy, an aduress (Hosea, ch. 1, vers. 2-3, and ch. 3, vers. 1-2). Now, Sarah, Abram's wife, bare him no children, so she told him to go in unto my maid, it may be that I may obtain children by her, and Abram went in and the maid conceived (Gen., ch. 16, vers. 1, 2, 4). Was not this adultery? Thou shalt betroth a wife and another man shall lie with her (Deut., ch. 28, ver. 30). Thus saith the Lord: "Behold I will raise up evil against thee, and I will take thy wives and give them unto thy neighbor, and he shall lie with thy wives" (II Sam., ch. 12, ver. 11). I will not punish your daughters when they commit whoredom, nor your spouses when they commit adultery (Hosea, ch. 4, ver. 14). Therefore, thus saith the Lord: "Thy wife shall be a harlot in the city" (Amos, ch. 7, ver. 17). And the Lord's share of the thirty-two thousand captive virgins was thirty-two (Num., ch. 31, vers. 35, 40). Was not the Lord a polygamist himself, or, worse, an adulterer, and the Lord's share of the stolen sheep was six hundred and seventy-five (Same chapter, ver. 37). Methinks he would need them all when he had so many young women to look after. How does the above look for the Bible God? Is it any wonder that us truth seekers gave him up as no good? Read the 16th chapter of Ezekiah and see where the Lord made a bargain or covenant with a young lady that was quite a sport, and he dressed her up in grand style with broidered work, and decked her with bracelets and ornaments and put a crown upon her head. And he had children to her. See vers. 8, 17 and 20. But you will see the Lord soon got tired of this woman as she had a bad reputation. If the Lord is so good and holy as you Christians say he is, then why did he keep company with such a woman as this? If so, why did he not make her a good Christian, instead of advertising her badness. This chapter should be

taken out of the Bible, as it is not fit for any person to read; so much for God's reputation.

Polygamy Encouraged.

Solomon had seven hundred wives and sported three hundred women who were not his wives (1st Kings, ch. 11, ver. 3). Solomon, by God's authority, was the wisest man that ever lived or should live (I Kings, ch. 3, ver. 12). In view of this, could God have considered it unwise of Solomon in having so many wives and mistresses? "And David took him more concubines and wives out of Jerusalem" (2nd Sam., ch. 5, ver. 13). And Lamech took unto him two wives (Gen., ch. 4, ver. 19). And Gideon had many wives (Judges, ch. 8, ver. 30). And I, the Lord, gave thee thy masters' wives into thy bosom (2nd Samuel, ch. 12, ver 8).

And Rehoboam loved Maachah, the daughter of Absalom, above all his wives and his concubines, for he took eighteen wives and three-score concubines, and he had eighty-eight children to them (2nd Chron., ch. 11, ver. 21). But Abijah waxed mighty and married fourteen wives (2nd Chron., ch. 13, ver. 21). So can you consistently condemn Mormonism without first throwing away your old Jewish polygamist God book?

All of man's religions
Have the same end in view—
The plundering of the multitude
To benefit the few.

Ignorance is the field in which
Religion's seed is sown;
The preacher is proprietor;
What grows is all his own.

While other men foot all the bills
And toil long, weary hours,
The preacher loafs around and culls
The finest female flowers.

When he is tired of a lass
He weds her to a "brother,"
He soaks the brother a good fee,
Then straightway culls another.

Maine.

B. T. L.

The Bible Sanctions Strong Drink.

And thou shalt bestow that money for whatsoever thy soul lusteth after, for wine or strong drink (Deut., ch. 14, ver. 26). "Give strong drink unto him that is ready to perish, and wine unto those that be of heavy hearts. Let him drink and forget his poverty (Prov., chap. 31, ver. 6, 7). And he dealt among all the people a flagon of wine (II. Samuel, chap. 6, ver. 19). Drink no longer water, but use a little wine for the stomach's sake (I. Tim., chap. 5, ver. 23). The priest and the prophet have erred through strong drink; they are swallowed up of wine (Isaiah, ch. 28, ver. 7).

Does the Bible sanction the use of intoxicating liquors? If not, please explain the above quotations. "Noah was the only man who found grace in the sight of the Lord" (Gen., chap. 6, ver. 8, and chap. 7, ver. 1) at the time of the flood. Yet his first act after the flood was to plant a vineyard, raise grapes, make wine and get drunk upon it (Gen., chap. 9, ver. 20, 21). Lot, who was the only just man in Sodom, got drunk (Gen., chap. 19, ver. 33, 35, 36). As their father did not know what happened that night to his daughters, then he must have been drunk; in fact, wine and strong drink was in common use among all of the chosen ones. It was also included as an offering to the Lord in the holy place. Shalt thou cause the strong wine to be poured unto the Lord for a drink offering (Num., chap. 28, ver. 7). Drink ye, and be drunken, and spue and fall, and rise no more, because of the sword which I will send among you (Jere., chap. 25, ver. 27). And Jesus made wine at a wedding in Cana of Galilee (St. John, chap. 2, ver. 1, 9, 10). So when your Holy Bible sanctions the use of strong drink and wine, then you need not be surprised at so many hotels and liquor stores doing a flourishing business in all of your Christian countries. I see by the papers that the drink bill of the United States in 1915 was no less than \$2,475,569,719. In the same year the United States contributed about \$12,000,000 towards missionary work, and sending the Bible to the heathen to let them see that your God sanctioned the use of strong drink and all other kinds of vice as well, as you have seen by the former part of this book.

And I see the consumption of tobacco in the United States in 1910 was as follows:

Seven billion six hundred million cigars; 160,000,000 more than 1909, and six billion eight hundred and thirty million cigarettes. An increase of a solid one billion four hundred and two million pounds of plug, fine cut, cube cut, granulated, or sliced smoking or chewing tobacco, or snuff four million more than the year before.

And I see by the papers that crime costs the people of the United States every year about \$1,076,327,605.99, or more than twice as much as we spend on all spiritual, ecclesiastical, physical, humanitarian, educational and healing agencies put together. Rev. John Munro, chaplain to the prison Evangelistic Society of New York, estimates that the greater city spends this year at least 25 per cent. of its revenues on crime. This means \$35,000,000; so it goes all over the country. Everywhere the people are burdened heavily for the gratification of dishonest men's criminal instincts, and the load increases every year. So why not keep your missionaries at home to reform your own people first? Why pay out so much good money every year for the upkeep of churches, preachers and prayers, when they are of no avail to stop sin and crime.

Cannibalism Ordered.

If God gave any command in the Bible, He gave this one: "And ye shall eat the flesh of your sons, and the flesh of your daughters shall ye eat" (Levi., chap. 26, ver. 29). The fathers shall eat the sons and the sons shall eat the fathers in the midst of thee (Ezekiel, chap. 5, ver. 10). "And toward her young one that cometh out from between her feet and toward her children which she shall bear, for she shall eat them for want of all things" (Deut., chap. 28, ver. 57). "And thou shalt eat the fruit of thine own body, the flesh of thy sons and of thy daughters which the Lord thy God hath given thee" (Deut., chap. 28, ver. 53). So we boiled my son and did eat him; and I said unto her on the next day, give thy son, that we may eat him (II. Kings, chap. 6, ver. 29). Now, what do you think of your Heavenly Father? Perhaps those supposed heathens that do eat their children have seen this bad advice advertised in God's Holy Book.

So, this may be how cannibalism originated. And if those heathens came to our supposed civilized country and saw you Christians murder your innocent animals, such as the calf and lamb, by cutting their throat with a sharp knife, and letting their heart's blood spill out before your eyes, and not being satisfied with this, but you have to boil and roast them with fire. Then you devour them to please your mind and stomach. This would give the heathen a very bad impression of your Christianity, and he would advertise you as cannibals, and when he reads of how many Christians that have been hanged from the scaffold, this will still strengthen his belief in your cannibalism.

"A LITTLE INNOCENT TURKEY."

By Will F. Griffin.

I am growing quite uneasy, I'm so fat I'm getting wheezy,
 For a month they've kept me fed till my suspicions are aroused—
 Aye, so fat I merely wobble, and I hardly care to gobble,
 And at night they all take pains to see that I am safely housed.
 I surmise there's something doing—can it be there's trouble brewing?
 From the interest they take it's almost certain as can be.
 Every bone in me is shaking and my very soul is quaking,
 For I fear the worst is coming—coming mighty quick to me.

I in fancy see a platter and I hear the clink and clatter
 Of the dishes, knives and forks, as Bridget flies around the room:
 But the worst of all my dreaming is the flash of crimson gleaming
 When my head is on the block and I at last have met my doom.
 Life is growing sad and palling—pardon, please, the tear drops
 falling—
 For a turkey's life is hard this time of year, as you can see;
 Woe is me and deep my sobbing, and my heart with grief is throbbing,
 For I fear the worst is coming—coming mighty quick to me.

Now, until you Christians can live without taking the above life, please let the heathen and cannibals have a rest. You see a child can be taught to believe anything. Even from the Christian lie to the existence of Santa Claus, a child's brain is so easily warped that it will believe in anything you have a mind to tell it. So, if you taught your child that it was right to kill and eat human beings, then it could do this and think it no more harm than to kill and eat any other animal. This may be why we have so many artificial religions, languages and customs of living to-day; and if you did not teach it your religion it would know nothing

about it, but would grow up in the natural way and be a truth-seeker; but if you had taught your child to believe in some other foreign doctrine, then it would be just as happy as if you taught it your own belief.

So be very careful not to teach your child anything but facts of truth; if otherwise it would make you feel embarrassed if you could not explain what you undertook to teach it. Remember your child is liable at any time to ask you where your heaven and hell is located, and what kind of material is God and a spirit made out of, and what is a ghost, and how could a ghost be the father of a natural child?

The Wickedness of God.

First, please read the 31st chapter of Numbers, and see where the Lord ordered Moses to kill every male among the little ones, and kill every woman that hath known man by lying with him (ver. 17). "But they kept 32,000 women that had not known man by lying with him for themselves" (ver. 18, 35). And the Lord's share of the virgins was 32 (ver. 40), and they took as spoil about all the sheep, cattle and asses in the country, and the Lord did keep 675 sheep for himself. Methinks he would require that many when he had so many young women to look after. The Lord was not satisfied with this, as he burned all their cities and castles with fire (ver. 10). "Thus saith the Lord God of Israel, put every man his sword by his side and go in and out from gate to gate throughout the camp and slay every man his brother and every man his companion, and every man his neighbour (Exod., chap. 32, ver. 27). Their children also shall be dashed to pieces before their eyes, their houses shall be spoiled and their wives ravished (Isaiah, chap. 13, ver. 16). "For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night and will smite all the firstborn in the land. And there was not a house where there was not one dead (Exodus, chap. 12, ver. 12, 30). Just think of God going around at midnight to kill one person at every house. So you see how many little children God had to kill that night. Happy shall he be that taketh and dasheth thy little ones against the stones (Psalms, 137, ver. 9). Their infants shall be dashed in pieces and their women with child shall be ripped up

(Hosea, cap. 13, ver. 16). Their young men wilt thou slay with the sword, and wilt dash their children and rip up their women with child (II. Kings, chap. 8, ver. 12). And all the women therein that were with child he ripped up (II. Kings, chap. 15, ver. 16). Set thou a wicked man over him and let Satan stand at his right hand, when he shall be judged let him be condemned, and let his prayer become sin, let his days be few, and let another take his office, let his children be fatherless and his wife a widow, let his children be continued vagabonds and beg, let them seek their bread also out of their desolate places, let the extortioner catch all that he hath, and let the stranger spoil his labour, let their be none to extend mercy unto him; neither let their be any to favor his fatherless children, let the iniquity of his fathers be remembered with the Lord, and let not the sin of his mother be blotted out because that he remembered not to show mercy, but persecuted the poor and needy man that he might even slay the broken in heart (Psalms 109).

But these are Old Testament passages; why do you not give us something from the New Testament; that is different; it teaches something different? Jesus came to replace the old with the new; to give us good thoughts and words of love, instead of the wars and persecutions of the old dispensation. We are the most accommodating people on earth; just listen to the words of love that came with the new commandment. Now, listen to what God's Son has to say. "Think not that I am come to send peace on earth. I came not to send peace, but a sword (Matt., chap. 10, ver. 34). "And he that hath no sword, let him sell his garment and buy one" (Luke, chap. 22, ver. 36). "But those mine enemies which would not that I should reign over them, bring hither and slay them before me" (Luke, chap. 19, ver. 27). "Woe unto you, Scribes and Pharisees, ye serpents, ye generation of vipers. How can ye escape the damnation of hell?" (Matt., chap. 23, vers. 29, 33). If any man come to me and hate not his father and mother, and wife and children, and brothers and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple (Luke, chap. 14, ver. 26). So likewise whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple (Luke, chap. 14, ver. 33). And everyone that forsaketh all of the above shall receive an hundredfold,

and shall inherit everlasting life (Matt., chap. 19, ver. 29). So Jesus offers a bribe to get you to be one of his disciples; then if you do believe and have faith in him you have forsaken all of the above and hated your brother; by doing this it makes you a murderer. "Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer, and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him" (I. John, chap. 3, ver. 15). If a man say I love God and hateth his brother he is a liar, for he that loveth not his brother, whom he hath seen, how can he love God, whom he hath not seen? (I. John, chap. 4, ver. 20). As all murderers and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone (Rev., chap. 21, ver. 8). So if you want to miss the above hot place have nothing to do with Jesus Christ (if so, you get everlasting life in hell), for God so loved the world that He gave His Son, that whosoever believeth in Him shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone. So you see this world is still without a Saviour, and you Christians have been barking up the wrong tree this last two thousand years; that is, if you accept Jesus as God's Son. Now, what do you think of the New Testament stories? But cheer up, sinner! There may be some other way of getting to heaven. Let us see. Was Jesus God's Son? As God made all things in space in about six and a half days, then he made the Holy Ghost, the devil and Adam. So God had three sons. Now, to be brief, two of His boys and His granddaughter Eve got into trouble over an apple in a garden. By so doing they committed a sin which kept them from getting home to heaven. So about four thousand years after their Father decided to settle the family trouble that took place in the garden patch, and this is how it was done: God told the Apostles that He would send His only Son, that was at home, to this earth, and if you do believe that He is my son I will forgive you for disobeying my orders; then you will not perish, but have everlasting life (St. John, chap. 3, ver. 16). But if you do not believe it, then you will be damned (Mark, chap. 16, ver. 16). So God's Son came to this earth, but He kept away secret by himself. So no person had ever seen him but one and that was his sister Mary (Matt., chap. 1, ver. 18). As God had made all things, then He was the Father of the Ghost and Mary, as Mary's brother was only im-

material, then her child would be part human and part immaterial. We have never heard what became of the Ghost after He got His sister into trouble. He must have fled the country or started back to His home, above the sky. As He may have thought there was nothing in it for Him to die for a lot of sinners that His Father would not forgive; and he that sinneth against the Holy Ghost hath never forgiveness, but is in danger of eternal damnation (Mark, chap. 3, ver. 29).

This may be why that Mr. Ghost did not die for your sins, as it would not help you out any. This child that Mary had, whose name was Jesus, was only God's grandson, providing the Ghost was His father. Mary having conceived out of wedlock, was not Jesus an illegitimate child? If so, He could not inherit or share His Father's estate. "A bastard shall not enter into the congregation of the Lord, even unto his tenth generation" (Deut., chap. 23, ver. 2). Punishment of the innocent for the guilty. Was not Mr. Ghost, by whom Mary conceived, guilty of rape or seduction? Should not Mr. Ghost have been prosecuted, or compelled to marry the maiden? Is it not probable that Mr. Ghost would have been arrested had he not fled the country? So you see from the above that Jesus never got back to His grandfather's home above the sky. So He still remains on this earth in some form of matter.

Jesus was not God's Son. So He had nothing to do with your sins or the affairs of this world. So you sinners have no Saviour yet, and you have been worshipping the wrong man this last two thousand years. This is the second time I have shown that you have no Saviour.

How can a knowledge of salvation be had founded upon belief, and that belief upon a dream; or what is less reliable still, what is said to have been a dream? (Matt., chap. 1, ver. 18, 20). Have you any authority from Joseph, the step-father of Christ, for the statement that he had a dream? So, have you anything more than an alleged dream as a foundation for your religion and Christianity to rest upon? So you have no proof that Jesus was the Son of a Ghost. Is not the story of the conception of a Jewish maiden by a Ghost the biggest ghost story on record? Is it any wonder that it is so hard to keep the churches from tumbling down,

when their foundation is only built on a ghost story and an alleged dream?

It is strange how much of what is called Christianity hangs upon as slender a thread as the existence of a personal devil. Nearly all the dramatic power of the Gospel would be lost without Satan. Orthodoxy has probably frightened half the people into its churches, who have joined them by picturing this imaginary individual. Was not the grand scheme of salvation opened up or consummated by the devil through Judas (Luke, chap. 22, ver. 3, 4). The devil having consummated the grand scheme of salvation, might he not be considered a benefactor to the human race? Were not the devil and Judas made use of by the invisible power of the Infinite God? That His plans as foretold by the prophets might be consummated and the Scriptures fulfilled? (Matt., chap. 26, ver. 54, 56; Mark, chap. 14, ver. 49; Acts, chap. 1, ver. 16). Is not the devil the foundation of the church, or, in other words, could the church exist without a devil any more than without a God; without the devil and his emissaries as combatants, would not your occupation be gone? And would not the clerical guides to the Kingdom be required, like others, to get their living by the sweat of the face? (Gen., chap. 3, ver. 19).

Can sin be destroyed without destroying the cause? Do the pulpit pounders strike at the root of the tree of evil, or merely clip off its branches? Why do not the pilots of purity and glory destroy, or endeavor to destroy, the cause of all sin—the devil—and thus put an end to sin and misery on earth? If God will not kill the devil, why not pray for his restoration to his former position in heaven, and thus put a stop to his evil works on earth, under the command to "Love your enemies and pray for them?" (Matt., chap. 5, ver. 44). Must you not love the devil and pray for him? If the devil is independent of God, are there not two omnipotent beings? If he is dependent on God, is not God responsible for his actions? How can an all-powerful and all-wise God hate evil and allow the devil to exist? If God can destroy the devil, or sin, and will not, is He infinite in goodness? But why should God kill the devil, His Son? If it was not for the devil man would never have known the difference between good and bad, and he was honest enough to tell us that

his father, God, was evil (Gen., chap. 3, ver. 4, 5, 7, 15, 22).

God told Adam, In the day thou eatest of the tree of knowledge thou shalt surely die (Gen., chap. 2, ver. 17). But the devil told Eve they would not die. So, which of them told the truth? Eve had more faith in her uncle, the devil, than she had in her grandfather, God. As she ate the fruit, did not die that day or until years after, and she fed some of it to Adam, and he lived to be 930 years old. So the devil told the truth, and God told a lie. This makes the eighth lie for Jehovah, and the eighth inning for the truth-seeker. Then God put enmity between the devil and Eve, because she took his son's advice (Gen., chap. 3, . . . 15).

The world owes a great deal to the devil. Before they ate the fruit they were naked, but did not know it; neither did they know the difference between good and evil. So God made good and bad fruit on the same tree (Gen., chap. 2, ver. 17). And he did not want his children to eat of the Tree of Life, for fear they would live too long (Gen., chap. 3, ver. 22, 24). And to prevent their return to the Tree of Life He put a flaming sword, which turned in all directions to block the way. So God was the cause of sin in the garden instead of the devil. It was well for Adam and Eve that their Father changed His mind not to let them near the Tree of Life. If they had taken some fruit of this tree, then they would have to live all alone with their small family and the devil in the woods with the wild beasts for eternity.

Nothing could be more undesirable than to live forever in this condition, as God had made all the animals after their kind. Then where did the first kind come from, and how could the waters and the earth bring forth animals, and how did they know what God meant by multiplying? (See Gen., chap. 1.) As Adam and Eve were sinners before they had any family, then their three boys were sinners before they were born. "Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee" (Jerem., chap. 1, ver. 5). "And in sin did my mother conceive me" (Psalm 51, ver. 5). "Visiting the iniquity of the father upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth generation" (Exod., chap. 34, ver. 7). "For there is no man that sinneth not" (I. Kings, chap. 8, ver. 46). "There is none that doeth good, no not one" (Romans, chap. 3, ver. 12). Now, we know

that God heareth not sinners (St. John, chap. 9, ver. 31). "God is angry with the wicked every day" (Psalms 7, ver. 11). "Anger resteth in the bosom of fools" (Eccls., chap. 7, ver. 9). By the foolishness of preaching, the foolishness of God (I. Cor., chap. 1, ver. 21, 25). "And a rod for the fool's back" (Prov., chap. 26, ver. 3). "Make no friendship with an angry man" (Prov., chap. 22, ver. 24). Men do therefore fear him, because he respecteth not any that are wise of heart (Job, chap. 37, ver. 24). "For I am the Lord, I change not" (Malachi, chap. 3, ver. 6).

So what is the Almighty that we should serve Him, and what profit should we have if we pray unto Him? (Job, chap. 21, ver. 15). "Touching the Almighty, we cannot find Him out" (Job, chap. 37, ver. 23). So you will see from the above that you were a sinner before you were born, and you have seen that God heareth not sinners, and He wants you to make no friendship with Him, as He is angry with the wicked every day. This will prove that every person is a sinner from when they are born till they die. "For the wages of sin is death" (Rom., chap. 6, ver. 23). So every person that dies is a sinner (this proves the above to be true), but if you were not a sinner, then you would keep on living for all time. That is, if the above statement is true.

Now, you will see from the above that no matter what you believe you will never get to heaven. This makes the third time that I have proven from the Bible that you can never get to this supposed heaven. Now will you be good to us infidels? So why kill the devil? He never offered a bribe to get you to hate your father and mother the way Jesus did. The devil never gave any orders to kill married women and children the way God and Jesus did. And the devil never told the people to use strong drink and wine the way God and Jesus did. And the devil did not kill one person in every house in Egypt after night the way God did. And you can't find in the Bible where the devil told as many big lies as God did. So why kill the devil? It is a wonder the devil is as good as he is, considering the way his father used him. As he was thrown out of heaven he must have got a hard fall on this earth, as heaven must be a good many million of miles up when astronomers can't find it with the telescope. Then, again, his father bound him and cast him

into a pit that had no bottom. So he kept on falling down, down, down, for one thousand years. Then his father decided to catch him and take him out for a little season, so he could go and deceive the people for a while longer (Rev., chap. 20, ver. 2, 3, 7, 8).

The devil must have been going some towards the end of his term—the breath must have been pretty well out of his lungs. It was a blessing to humanity that God did not put the devil back into the pit again. If so, Jesus might have kept on encouraging people to be murderers. The devil being the means of his nephew's death, this gave the people a chance to still love their father and mother, wife and child, brother and sister, and yourself; and it put millions of money into circulation and gave work to millions of people as well. When the news got out that God's grandson was murdered it must have caused some excitement amongst the people. So they commenced to build churches and halls so that they could have some place to congregate where they could speak their minds about Jesus and His tragedy. And they employed some good men to preach to them about Jesus and His Father. After a time this became a money-making business, as they commenced to make images of Jesus and Mary, and put them in the windows for sale. Then crosses, beads and relics were sold galore. When one reflects that shrines and relics are still utilized to swell the coffers of the churches, one can imagine their influence on the people a few hundred years ago. So thousands of religious pretenders are making money and having a good soft time over the death of Jesus Christ. And they should thank the devil for this opportunity. This may be why the devil is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore, it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness, whose end shall be according to their works (II. Cor., chap. 11, ver. 14, 15).

False Real Estate Offices.

To my mind the churches represent a real estate office, where the people go to advertise for a home beyond the skies, and the preacher is God's real estate agent, whom the people employ to look after their interests in this home, and no doubt the preachers of the Gospel and the Salvation Army

will stick to their employment in this business as long as it is profitable for doctrine. The preachers and the Lord's Day Alliance people close up about all kinds of business on Sunday but their own. By so doing they expect to increase their own business that day. Then the Salvation Army will give you some nice music on the street on Sunday; then they make a canvass of the houses to see if you will give them some money to help their business; and I have seen them do the same in hotels on Sunday as well. If any other person was to do this they would stand a good chance of being arrested for vagrancy. I see the Army is well trained in their business, as they mostly send young lasses with the bloom of youth on their cheek into the offices and hotels to sell their papers, as they are not so apt to be refused as an old man or woman with gray hairs. When they preach so much against hotels and strong drink, then it does not look well to see those girls going into barrooms where men are drinking and smoking to sell or exchange some of their papers for some of the devil's money.

But never mind, the money is clean, and it looks bad for your religion when you have to stand freezing on the street corners the week before Christmas with a begging box in your hand looking for money from those that are a little more prosperous than the ones you expect to help with it. How does this look for your God? As your Bible does say that God is not any respecter of persons, nor taking of gifts (II Chron., chap. 19, ver. 7), then how do you account for those that are so poor and needy. It would not look well for God to be bad to some of His children and good to the others. But this was so, yet I loved Jacob and I hated Esau (Mala., chap. 1, ver. 2, 3). Then it does not look well for your religion or prayers when you have to go to the Police Court some mornings to rescue some drunken man or woman that you may reform them. If so, then you may employ him for a time to drive a horse and rig around the city to collect from the public what they have a mind to give you for nothing to help your business; then you keep those goods in your industrial stores to be sold back to the public again for money to still help your business. So if it was not for those drunkards and sinners your good jobs would be gone, and you would have to close up your industrial stores. So you may be

thankful that the hotels are still doing business, and that the Lord does not answer your prayers. That is, providing you want to hold your good jobs. But let us see if you should stay at your employment of salvation. Now, listen: "He that is unjust, let him be unjust still, and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still" (Rev., chap. 22, ver. 11). "But if any be ignorant let him be ignorant" (I. Cor., chap. 14, ver. 38).

"And I say unto you, make to yourselves friends of the mammon of unrighteousness" (Luke, chap. 16, ver. 9). "In much wisdom is much grief, and he that increaseth knowledge increaseth sorrow" (Eccle., chap. 1, ver. 18). "Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom, and with all thy getting, get understanding" (Prov., chap. 4, ver. 7).

How does this harmonize with the above: "He respecteth not any that are wise of heart" (Job, chap. 37, ver. 24). I will destroy the wisdom of the wise and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent. "Hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world" (I. Cor., chap. 1, ver. 19, 20). "If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise, for the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God" (I. Cor., chap. 3, ver. 18, 19). When God destroys the wisdom of the wise and brings to nothing the understanding of the prudent, then it is no wonder the natural man does not want to have anything to do with this God, for "His ways are foolishness unto Him" (I. Cor., chap. 2, ver. 14). So why do you supposed Christians not give up preaching, praying and begging for money and mercy, when you read in your Holy Bible what your wicked God has done; and this God did drown about 165 Salvation Army people when the "Empress of Ireland" went down on May 29, 1914. Your prayers were of no avail when the trouble came, and your God did not come to the rescue. So why pray to Him any longer, when He tells you that He heareth not sinners? (St. John, chap. 9, ver. 31).

God may be a good coroner when the trouble is over. Why did your God let His head agent, General Booth, go blind in his old days after him preaching to the public for years about how good and kind God is to those that do His will?

Why did God let Mrs. General Booth die with a cancer?

This is proof enough that there is no God that looks after man's affairs on this earth. I give the Salvation Army due respect for all the good they have done to help the poor, but I would like to see them thank their fellow-men more for helping them to do so, instead of this supposed God above the sky.

Now, I hope you will be men and women enough to throw away this artificial religion and seek some more honest employment, where you will be able to give value for what you receive. Now, I will return to the real estate office again to see what the preacher and home seekers have to say in regard to getting a free home in heaven. They tell me in this office if I want to share in this home with them that I must have faith that Jesus died on the cross for my sins, and I must be a disciple of His and believe that He shed His blood for me before Jesus will accept of me to be His disciple. You will have to do something else; you have to hate your father, mother, wife and child; home, lands, brothers, sisters and yourself as well. And the home seekers have a book for their guide that tells you, "Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer, and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him" (I. John, chap. 3, ver. 15). "And if a man say, I love God and hateth his brother, he is a liar" (I. John, chap. 4, ver. 20). And this real estate book tells you that all murderers and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone (Rev., chap. 21, ver. 8).

So if you want to miss hell keep away from those real estate agents and their offices on Sunday. The preachers will marry you for money; then before you can be a Christian you have to hate this wife. Then what next? "And the people shall be as the fuel of the fire" (Isaiah, chap. 9, ver. 19). In the light of Christianity, must it not be considered a sin to propagate children as fuel to keep up the fires and flames of hell. Does it not behoove you as men to quit supplying the devil with material for the everlasting fires of hell? Oh, but we Christians do not believe in a hell nowadays. I don't think such a place is mentioned in the Bible. Well, let us examine a little. "But whosoever shall say 'thou fool' shall be in danger of hell fire" (Matt., chap. 5, ver. 22). "And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, for I am

tormented in this flame" (Luke, chap. 16, ver. 23, 24). "For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell" (II. Peter, chap. 2, ver. 4). "And the angels shall come forth at the end of the world and cast the wicked into the furnace of fire" (Matt., chap. 13, ver. 49, 50). "And whosoever was not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire" (Rev., chap. 20, ver. 15).

"The devil and the false prophet were cast into the lake of fire and brimstone" (Rev., chap. 20, ver. 10). This is sufficient proof that there is a hell fire and brimstone awaiting you orthodox sinners after death; that is, if you believe what the Bible says. The vital part of Christianity depends upon the existence of a hell. If there is no such place as hell then no such salvation as the church offers is efficacious, and if no such salvation is needed by man, no faith in Christ is necessary.

Again, you Christians say that man is a free moral agent. That is, free to choose for his course of life—good or evil. Had man any choice in being created with the seeds or elements of evil within him, or being conceived and born in sin? (Pslams 51, ver. 5).

Man, being conceived and born in sin, or being possessed of sin or evil inherently at birth, where is there room for choice of free agency? Man, it is said, was created good and possessed only of the elements of good. Could a person choose between two articles when already possessed of one? If God intended man should live uprightly and free from sin, did He not fail in His intentions? If God intended to destroy sin from the earth by sending the flood, did He not fail in His intentions? And if God intended to destroy sin from the earth by sending His Son, did He not fail in His intentions?

So if the devil has thus far thwarted the Almighty single-handed, may he not some time in the future, with the aid of his mundane forces, fleece from Him the Kingdom and reinstate himself, and take possession of the throne? Now, what do you Christians think of man being free to choose

between good and evil? And what do you think of God's failure in regard to His intentions?

Heaven and Home.

You supposed Christians often tell us truth-seekers, or what you call infidels, that we are destroying your peace of mind by telling us that our religion is built only on a sandy foundation, and is bound to fall sooner or later. Yes, and you orthodox people never tire of telling us that you have nothing to lose by your religion here, and all to gain in the future. Do you really think you would like to live for eternity in this supposed heaven above the sky? Would it be all gain?

Let us see what this home is like. In the first place it is the devil's home town, and where sin first originated, and it is noted for wars and dragons (Rev., chap. 12, ver. 3, 7). And it seems to be quite a place for fire and brimstone, and hailstones and water. "Then the Lord rained upon Sodom brimstone and fire from out of heaven" (Gen., chap. 19, ver. 24). "Behold there came fire down from heaven and burnt up the two captains" (II. Kings, chap. 1, ver. 14). "The Lord cast down great hailstones from heaven" (Josu., chap. 10, ver. 11). "And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven" (Rev., chap. 16, ver. 21). "And the time of the big rainstorm, when the waters of the flood were upon the earth" (Gen., chap. 7, ver. 10). "The windows of heaven were opened to let down the rain which covered the surface of this globe to a depth of 29,000 feet" (Gen., chap. 7, ver. 11, 19). As Mt. Everest is considered the highest hill, and as the earth is about 8,000 miles square, this would leave quite a little water to return back to heaven again, from where it came (Gen., chap. 8, ver. 2, 3). As heaven is 1,500 miles square (Rev., chap. 21, ver. 16), then its surface would be covered with water to a depth of about 156 miles. So you Christians had better learn how to swim before you leave for your heavenly home; so what have you to gain by going to such a place for eternity?

Heaven and hell hang together like Siamese twins, and what knocks the one out of gear deranges the other. They make one edifice, of which hell is the under storey and heaven the upper one. Take away the under storey from a house

and after that try to live in the upper storey. This is precisely what you do when you deny hell and yet believe in heaven. Take away the under storey and your upper storey crashes down in ruin.

So hell is the backbone of your heaven. It was the immortal tinker who blessed the collection of the dog and toad because they had no soul to perish under the everlasting weight of hell. And again, you Christians tell us truth-seekers that you have nothing to lose by being a Christian. Now, let us see, as you have seen by reading the former part of this book.

If you have faith in Jesus and be a disciple of His, it makes you a murderer. This being the case, you have lost some valuable time in worshipping the wrong man, and your Christianity made you lose confidence in yourself that you could not be good like us infidels without praying to your supposed God twice a day to keep the badness that is in you from coming to a head, and you have lost some sleep over the fear of hell and the devil, and you feel embarrassed by not being able to tell us infidels who made your God, and how could He have a Son as old as himself? So you Christians have gained nothing of value, but have lost your time and good money in supporting a religion that would make you a murderer, and you must feel slighted when God does not answer any of your prayers.

Now, listen to what your Good Book has to say about prayers: "Touching the Almighty we cannot find Him out" (Job, chap. 37, ver. 23). "What is the Almighty that we should serve Him, and what profit should we have if we pray unto Him?" (Job, chap. 21, ver. 15). "When he shall be judged let him be condemned and let his prayer become sin" (Psalm 109, ver. 7). "And when ye spread forth your hands I will hide mine eyes from you; yea, when ye make many prayers I will not hear. Your hands are full of blood" (Isaiah, chap. 1, ver. 15). "Know, we know that God heareth not sinners" (St. John, chap. 9, ver. 31). It is impossible to be really moral in the worship of God. Why? Because the highest ideal of mankind is altruism, doing good for others from which you can expect no return. Now, you cannot do good to God. As you look up to God, altruism is far from you, and your service is tainted with the expecta-

tion of return—an eternal crown, mansions in the sky, a golden harp, and everlasting life. Is a person pure in mind or honest in thought who refrains from stealing or wrong doing through fear of hell. The chief dangers which confront the preachers and priests of the coming century will be religion without the Holy Ghost; Christianity without Christ; forgiveness without repentance, and honest men and women without churches, Bibles and prayers. How long, oh, how long, will you church people remain on your knees in the dark praying to a mummy that does not hear your cry?

JESUS AND LAW.

If I had not come and spoken unto them they had not had sin. If I had not done among them the works which none other men did, they had not had sin. It is no wonder they hated Jesus and his father (St. John, ch. 15, vers. 22, 24). Sin is not imputed when there is no law (Rom., ch. 5, ver. 13). For by the law is the knowledge of sin (Rom., ch. 3, ver. 20). Where no law is, there is no transgression (Rom., ch. 4, ver. 15). Then did not the coming of Christ and the giving of the law establish sin and open up the way to eternal death, instead of eternal life? But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin (Rom., ch. 6, ver. 17). Does not this strengthen the above in the establishment of sin by God through Christ and the law. The strength of sin is the law (I Cor., ch. 15, ver. 56). Does not this still strengthen the above position. If without the law of the Lord there is no sin, why send the law to the heathen and thus open to them the way of eternal death? Jesus did not want you to preach with wisdom of words lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect (I Cor., ch. 1, ver. 17). "That seeing they may see and not perceive, and hearing they may hear and not understand, lest at any time they should be converted and their sins should be forgiven them" (Mark, ch. 4, ver. 12). Does not this still prove that Jesus wanted you to remain a sinner.

This is the fourth time I have shown you that you have been worshipping the wrong man. God and Jesus did not keep the moral law or the ten commandments that they gave

to their children as a guide how to live, as you have seen by reading this book.

GOD BROKE HIS OWN COMMANDMENTS, AS YOU WILL SEE BY THE FOLLOWING:

First Commandment: Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy; six days shalt thou labor and do all thy work; but the seventh day is the Sabbath, in it thou shalt not do any work (Exodus, chap. 20, ver. 10).

God broke the first commandment and on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made (Gen., chap. 2, ver. 2). So God did work on the Sabbath.

Second Commandment: Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.

God broke the second commandment.

Ah, Lord God, surely thou hast greatly deceived this people (Jer., chap. 4, ver. 10).

Now, therefore, behold the Lord hath put a lying spirit in the mouth of all these thy prophets, and the Lord hath spoken evil concerning thee (I Kings, chap. 22, ver. 23).

Third Commandment: Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor anything that is thy neighbor's.

God broke the third commandment.

The Lord did covet his neighbor's goods. As he took as spoil or booty, without asking, 675 sheep, 72 beeves, 61 asses, and 32 virgins (Num., chap. 31, vers. 7, 9, 37, 38, 39, 40).

Fourth Commandment: Thou shalt not steal.

Fourth commandment broken.

For he saith by the strength of my hand I have done it, I have removed the bounds of the people, and have robbed their treasures (Isaiah, chap. 10, ver. 13).

Fifth Commandment: Thou shalt not kill.

Fifth commandment broken.

For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the first born in the land (Exodus, chap. 12, ver. 12, 30).

Sixth commandment: Thou shalt not commit adultery.

God broke the sixth commandment.

The Lord committed adultery with a harlot, as he had children to her (Ezek., chap. 16, vers. 8, 20, 21, 35, 36, 37, 44); and as God and Ghost are one then he committed adultery with his daughter Mary (Matt., chap. 1, ver. 18).

Seventh Commandment: Honor thy father and thy mother, that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee (Exodus, chap. 20, ver. 12).

God wants you to break his seventh commandment. If any man come to me and hate not his father and mother, he cannot be my disciple (Luke, chap. 14, ver. 26).

This makes the ninth inning for the Truth Seeker.

Now, I have given you Christians proof enough from your Holy Bible to let you see that the foundation of your

pet religion only rests on a murdering and lying God, and there are four corner stones that rest on this foundation to prop up your churches. These stones are very expensive to the public, as it costs millions of dollars per month to keep them in repair, and from crumbling away. Those precious stones are notorious for their names. The name of the first stone is Hell; the second stone is devil; the third stone is dream, the fourth stone is Jesus. The composition of the first, second and third stones is supposition and immaterial, and the fourth stone is composed of part ghost and part woman (Matt., ch. 1, ver. 18), and half of this stone is immaterial as well; now you see your church and pet religion only hangs on half of a corner stone that is material, and this half stone has only an invisible and immaterial foundation to rest on, as no man hath seen God at any time (St. John, ch. 1, ver. 18). Whom no man hath seen nor can see (I Tim., ch. 6, ver. 16).

Touching the Almighty, we cannot find him out (Job, ch. 37, ver. 23). This makes the ninth lie for Jehovah, and the tenth inning for the Truth Seeker.

Now, you Christians will see from the above facts that you have no foundation for your churches and religion to rest on. This may be why it takes so many thousands of rev. gentlemen, and all Bible believers as well, with barrels of money, to keep their religion and churches from falling down, down, into the mud and sand. Now we have arrived at the end of our journey on this subject, and I hope your eyes have been opened to see that you have been kept in superstition and darkness by a lot of false teachers of the Bible. You may say: "What will I do now, when the foundation of my religion and Bible are gone?" You will have to come to us truth seekers and be born over again, then we will give you a good clean foundation to build your belief on, one that you will not be ashamed of, one that will stand facts of truth, one that will take away all fear of death and hell from your mind, and leave you free. I will explain this subject more fully later on.

When your eyes become opened to the light of truth you will be more than surprised how so many can believe in this old man-made Bible that had to be revised so many times.

King James' Bible, the one now in common use, was published in 1611, but, in 1711, it was corrected by Bishops

Tenison and Lloyds, thousands of errors having crept into it. In 1769, Dr. Blayney corrected a multitude of new errors, reformed the text in many places, and rectified some material errors in chronology. More recently, "The British and Foreign Bible Society, after having circulated millions of copies of it, have declared that a faithful examination of it gives rise to serious doubts whether it can be truthfully called the word of God." In 1847 the American Bible Society appointed a committee of its members to prepare a standard edition of King James' version, free from typographical errors. They prepared such an edition, correcting, as they stated, twenty-four thousand errors; but, alarmed at the attacks made upon it, it was withdrawn, and the American Bible Society continues to this day to circulate for the word of God a book having in it twenty-four thousand acknowledged errors.

—(Address of Dr. T. S. Bell before the Bible Revision Association in 1858.)

And as the Bible contains about 1,200 chapters, this would average a little over twenty errors to the chapter; how does this look for the Holy Bible? Don't you think our government should stop the printing and sale of this Bible, as it breeds bad thoughts in the minds of the young? Don't you think it is a shame to send such a book to the heathen, or rather the natural man, as it will give him such a bad impression of your God and Saviour. I think I can hear this natural man at the antipodes say when he reads your Bible, that he would not think of trading gods with you, and he will see this book can be made to uphold almost anything that man desires. It is the consolation of every vice, and the barricade of every crime, and, besides, our hell would have no charms for him, and he would much sooner go up to his own heaven, where there is not so much water, fire and brimstone to contend with, and he would think you missionaries very foolish people to be advertising such a book, as it contains so many false stories, such as the creation, the mud man, and the rib woman, the tower of Babel, Jonah and the whale, Noah and the ark, the flood; and he might think your God very cruel to drown so many thousand little innocent babies that did not know anything about sin, and he might

think if your God was so all-wise and powerful that he might have done his cruel work with less water, or without any, and he might say if your God intended to destroy sin from your earth by sending the flood, did he not fail in his intentions when you have so many false prophets and teachers of religion up there yet, and he might refer you to their reputations in your Holy Book. Now listen: The Lord said unto me, the prophets prophesy lies in my name. I sent them not, neither have I commanded them, they prophesy unto you falsely (Jer., ch. 14, ver. 14). The priest and the prophet have erred through strong drink, they are swallowed up of wine, they are out of the way through strong drink, they stumble in judgment (Isaiah, ch. 28, ver. 7). The prophet is a fool, the spiritual man is mad, but the prophet is a snare of a fowler in all his ways (Hosea, ch. 9, vers. 7-8). Beware of false prophets which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves (Matt., ch. 7, ver. 15). I have seen also in the prophets of Jerusalem a horrible thing, they commit adultery, and walk in lies (Jer., ch. 23, ver. 14). Woe be unto the pastors that destroy and scatter the sheep (Jer., ch. 23, ver. 1).

But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom which God ordained (I Cor., ch. 2, ver. 7). So this man at the antipodes and the heathen in other countries where you missionaries go, will not wonder at you being so ignorant of the truth when your teachers speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, and the hidden wisdom is kept from you as well. Then the heathen might tell you that your God entered into a partnership with his son the devil to afflict Mr. Job with boils till he cursed his day (Job, ch. 2, vers. 6-7, and ch. 3, ver. 1). The fire of God hath fallen from heaven and hath burned up the sheep and the servants of Mr. Job (ch. 1, ver. 16). Then the heathen might ask you why your God was so cruel to such a good man. Is this why you ask your God not to lead you into temptation; if so you cannot think him all good; if not all good he is not God; if God, the prayer is a blasphemy, and the heathen might tell you? Is not hatred toward relatives and friends a condition to salvation? (Luke, ch. 14, ver. 26). And if I do love your Jesus and be a disciple of his, then I will be a murderer and a liar (I. John, ch. 3, ver. 15, and I. John, ch. 4, ver. 20). Now

the heathen will tell you missionaries that he does not want to be so terribly wicked. I do not want to hate my good wife and little children, so if your God can't do any better for us poor people here at the antipodes, then I will still remain a natural man and a truth seeker. If your God exists, he is as much mystified at his existence as we are ourselves. It is impossible for a being to understand itself. When you Christians can tell us heathens who made your God, and how he could have a son as old as himself, then we will take more stock in what you tell us. Oh, our God is eternal; if so, then he did not make the firmament or space, as your God could not exist before space. Then he did not make it; perhaps his father made it, as I see by your Bible he had a father and maker. Thus saith the Lord, the holy one of Israel, and his maker (Isaiah, ch. 45, ver. 11), and hath made us kings and priests unto God and his father (Rev., ch. 1, ver. 6). Now, Mr. Missionary, I have given your Bible a look over, and I have found but little of value in it; what little good there is in it can be found in other books and papers that we print ourselves. One objection I would have to your Bible, I am afraid it would play havoc with our people, as it tells them they can have all the women they want without getting married, as you have seen by the former part of this book; and you can have all the strong drink and wine you want, and you can murder, steal and lie, and, in fact, you can have all your soul lusteth after (Deut., ch. 14, ver. 26), and besides it would give us an angry God, a devil, and a hell. And I see by your Bible that your God is a murderer, a liar, and a fool, and a rod for his back, and your Bible contains two very bad wills that your God left to his children to be their guide, the Old and New Testament, and I see those wills have not been signed by him or any of his sons, as you will see by the following:

The Old and New Testament, it is said, is the will of God. the Old Testament the first will and the New Testament the last. Must not a will, to be valid, have the signature of the testator with witnesses?

Did the Lord God make his mark or sign to either of the wills, or any of his witnesses, so-called—Moses, Joshua, Matthew, Mark, or any of the others?

“Where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the

death of the testator. For a testament is of force after men are dead; otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth" (Heb., ch. 9, vers. 16-17). Can a will be in force, or probated, while the testator is living?

Is your God, the testator, dead or still living?

If your Heavenly Father, the testator of these wills, is still living, how can they be probated, or in force or action?

When a will is made by several jointly, should not each, to make it valid, subscribe his name to the document? Therefore :

To make the wills above mentioned, or the last, which invalidates the first, valid, should not the testators, G. Hovah, Holy Ghost and Jesus Christ, have signed it, with attestation by witnesses?

Are not dates and signatures essential to the validity of a will?

Does the will of your Heavenly Father contain either?

Does not your authority as vice-regents of God rest upon an invalid will, written by whom, and when no one knows?

So, Mr. Missionary, us natural people down here at the antipodes have decided not to accept of your bad book. So please take it back home with you and tell your preachers to have all the bad advices taken out of it and what will not stand facts of truth, and have your God sign his signature to those wills before you send them to us heathens, and if your Bible is the foundation of all civilization, of all just ideas of right and wrong, or your duties to your God and each other, why did your God not give to each nation at least one copy to start with? He must have known that no nation could get along successfully without a Bible, and he also knew that man could not make one for himself. Why, then, were not the books furnished?

He must have known the light of nature was not sufficient to reveal the scheme of the atonement, the necessity of baptism, the immaculate conception, transubstantiation, the arithmetic of your trinity, nor the resurrection of the dead. It is safe to say that not one-third of the inhabitants of your world ever heard of this Bible, and not one-tenth ever read it. It is also safe to say that no two persons who ever read it agreed as to its meaning, and it is not likely that even one person has ever understood it. Nothing is more needed at

the present time with you people than an inspired translator. Then you would need an inspired commentator, and the translation and commentary should be written in an inspired universal language, incapable of change, and then all the people on your earth should be inspired to understand this language precisely the same. Until these things are accomplished, all written revelations from your God will fill your earth with contending sects, contradictory creeds and opinions.

Now, as you have had a little chat with the heathen at the antipodes, I will draw this chapter to a close. So I wish you Christians all success in any good work you do for humanity, but keep your religion and angry God out of the business, then you will be respected more by us truth seekers, and what we do receive from our fellowman, and the kind, dumb animals, give thanks to them, and them only. Now I will draw your attention to a very nice poem written by a truth seeker, and the author of this book must say that this is the only printed matter that he has ever seen in his life that brought tears to his eyes when he read it and saw how those supposed Christians burnt good honest people at the stake in the dark ages for telling the truth. Shame, shame, to all such artificial religions. This may be why this poem was written, and this may be why I am not a Christian :

I'M GLAD I'M NOT A CHRISTIAN.

I'm glad I'm not a Christian,
 For really, you should know,
 I'd have to believe the absurd things
 They taught long, long ago.
 I'd have to believe that in six days
 This world was made from naught ;
 That Adam was the first man,
 And doubt what Darwin taught .

I'm glad I'm not a Christian,
 For reasons more than one.
 I'd have to believe that an angry God
 Nailed o: a cross his son ;
 That this son died for all our sins.
 To make each mortal glad ;
 That he was of the "Holy Ghost"—
 An old and pagan fad.

I'm glad I'm not a Christian,
 For then I'd have to lie

By telling folks about a home
That's somewhere in the sky.
I'd have to think myself a worm
To be trodden in the ground.
My eyes, I know, they would be closed
To truth that's daily found.

I'm glad I'm not a Christian,
When I gaze on the "Holy Cross"
It makes me think of days gone by,
Of superstitions gross;
It calls to mind the priesthood days;
When darkness reigned supreme,
The days when holy men of God
Were filthy, vile and mean.

I'm glad I'm not a Christian,
When I see the iron boot
I think I see some foot thrust in
And hear the demons hoot
As their poor victim writhes in pain
When the oil is poured within,
I see him faint and fall and die,
Another victim's slain.

I'm glad I'm not a Christian,
When I see the spider's prong
Thrust in some mother's loving breast,
Who's done no earthly wrong
Except the nursing of some babe
Of a friend who'd passed away.
I hear the flesh as it's torn out,
I see her fall and pray.

I'm glad I'm not a Christian
When I see Bruno at the stake,
And see the flames from fagots
Reach up his life to take.
Or when I think of vile deeds done,
So infamous and black,
Or gaze upon some noble soul
Strapped on the cruel rack.

I'm glad I'm not a Christian,
For they fill our prison walls,
And those are they who wear the cap
When the gallows does them call.
Their priests have been the vilest men
This world has ever had.

That's why I'm not a Christian
And why I'm really glad.

I know this world is full of folks
Who're glad the same as I,
Who would not give up life on earth
For a mansion in the sky;
Who'd rather have respect of men
Upon the graves we trod,
Than all the love that could be sent
From a fierce and angry God.

J. WILLIAM HUDLOW.

PRAYERS OF NO AVAIL IN TIME OF TROUBLE.

Now I have shown you Christians what a bad book your man-made Bible is, and what a bad God and Saviour you have, and what a poor foundation your religion and churches rests on; and I have shown you that you had nothing to gain by going to your water-soaked heaven, that is, if you could get there, but I have proven by your own Bible that you can never get to this heaven or lake of water, and you have all to lose by having a hell to arrive at after death. So this is all you Christians have to offer us Truth Seekers in return for what we do believe. I will let you Christians see later on what us Truth Seekers will give you in return for your religion. You will see how wicked and cruel you Christians were in the past ages, by burning thousands of good honest people at the stake, such as Giordano Bruno, for making the statement that this earth revolved, and that there were other planets in our solar system, or something to that effect, what all are now willing to acknowledge, but as it was unscriptural, he had to bear the name and suffer the fate of the infidel, by the Christian massacres and tortures in the reign of Constantine, the founder of Christianity in 313, who in cold blood murdered his own relatives; tens of thousands burned at the stakes under Christian laws that compelled the condemned to roast forty-five minutes before death could end misery.

So is it any wonder that us Truth Seekers would draw your attention to what you Christians and your religion have done before we got our eyes opened to the light of truth. Every step gained by the sincere Christian is a step towards

repeating the twelve hundred years of dark ages and immeasurable suffering when Christianity was in its bloom, when doubting was scarcely known, when honest people were not allowed to express their opinions, when disbelief in inspiration meant death in untold agony, when the thumb-screw, rack and torturing machines were enforced by Christian law. Reader, this is not infidel slush, as the so-called pious clergymen would have you believe—it is history contained in our public libraries. See Henry White in his massacre of St. Bartholomew, Bondcraft, Conquerel, and Samuel Smiles, and others. So much for your Christianity. You say, "But how could we have known right from wrong had it not been for the Bible?" When people had so evolved that they could reason that two hands had more fingers than one; that it was shorter to cross a stream than to go up and around its head; that mutilation of the body caused pain; that it was unpleasant to have property stolen, then right and wrong were realized, and these things were matters of experience long before any portion of our Bible was written; before our ancestors had invented the alphabet. A Christian asks: "How would you know you were a man were it not for the Bible?" I will answer by asking another question, Christian friend, how do you know that a typewriter is a typewriter, when that word does not occur in the Bible? How did the Persian know that he was a man long before he had ever heard of our Bible? A man, to be able to think correctly, must be willing to think freely and fearlessly. You Christians say to us Truth Seekers: "What will you give us that is better than our Bible?"

We would give you facts of truth, for one thing, and we would give you a higher morality without a useless Christianity. It cannot truthfully be said that the man who attacks Christianity attacks all morality; he does not attack goodness, justice, mercy, or anything that tends in his judgment to the welfare of mankind, but he attacks something that has been added to these. He does not attack the fruit or the flower, but the parasite—truth is better than falsehood, we would give you the religion of reason and humanity, instead of that of the Bible, that tells you that you can never get to heaven, as you have seen by this book, so hell and fire is the only place left for the orthodox sinner after death.

The fear of that awful punishment has caused many good people to go to insane asylums. Vain and worthless, indeed, is the religion that heals no human woe. Sin, the bugbear of the world, the sheet anchor of the church, the source of all its revenue and all its power, has no place in the things that are really natural that we find at hand. The gods of all ages and races have been deaf, dumb and blind to the cries and sufferings of mankind. So why pray to this unknown God that does not hear you cry when trouble comes upon you, as you will see by the following, earthquakes, ocean tragedies, and big wars:

WORLD'S EARTHQUAKES.

Year	Lives lost.
526—Antioch	250,000
1667—Schumaki	80,000
1693—Sicily	100,000
1703—Yeddo, Japan	200,000
1731—Pekin	100,000
1868—Ecuador and Peru	25,000
1905—Norch, India	20,000
1906—San Francisco	1,000
1908—Messina	200,000
1911—Mexico	1,300
1912—Constantinople and district	6,000

OCEAN TRAGEDIES.

Year	Lives lost.
1893—June 22, H.M.S. Victoria	359
1895—Jan. 30, Elbe	334
1896—June 16, Drummond Castle	247
1896—Dec. 7, Salier	281
1898—July 2, Bourgogne	571
1902—May 6, Governorta	739
1904—June 15, General Slocum	1,000
1905—Sept. 12, Mikasa	599
1906—Aug. 4, Sirio	350
1908—Mar. 28, Matsu Maru	300
1908—July —, Ying King	300
1912—April 14, Titanic	1,503

BIG WARS.

The blood and money cost of great wars during the last

one hundred years has been tabulated by the "Chicago Daily Journal" as follows:

Wars.	Duration in days.	Loss of life.	Cost in money.
England-France, 1793-1815	8,168	1,900,000	\$6,250,000,000
Crimean 1854-1856	734	485,000	1,525,000,000
U.S. Civil 1861-1865	2,456	656,000	3,700,000,000
Franco-German 1870-1871	405	290,000	1,580,000,000
Boer 1899-1902	962	90,898	1,000,100,000
Russo-Japanese 1904-1905	576	555,900	2,250,000,000

And this big European war which started in 1914 will cost the Christian countries billions of dollars and a few million lives. How does this look to you Christians? I am sure it will make you feel embarrassed to think that your loving, kind God did hide his face from you, and would not even answer one prayer during all of those big earthquakes, ocean tragedies, and wars. But why should he answer your prayers? He tells you, For I am the Lord, I change not (Mal., ch. 3, ver. 6). Now, we know God heareth not sinners (St. John, ch. 9, ver. 31), and it would make your God feel embarrassed to change his mind, as this would make him a liar, and he would have to abandon what he takes the most pleasure in. Now, listen, the Lord is a man of war (Exodus, ch. 15, ver. 3). Blessed be the Lord, my strength, which teacheth my hands to war, and my fingers to fight (Psalm 144, ver. 1). I will not pity, nor spare, nor have mercy, but destroy them (Jer., ch. 13, ver. 14). Now go and smite Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and spare them not, but slay both man and woman, infant and suckling, ox and sheep, camel and ass (I Sam., ch. 15, ver. 3). For the Lord thy God is a consuming fire, even a jealous God (Deut., ch. 4, ver. 24). So how could you expect this God to stop wars, or stop you Christians from cutting the hands off little children, when he gave orders to do the same thing himself. Is it any wonder that this cruel, wicked God makes darkness his hiding place. The Lord said that he would dwell in the thick darkness (I Kings, ch. 8, ver. 12). He made darkness his secret place (Psalm 18, ver. 11). Clouds and darkness are round about him (Psalm 97, ver. 2). The Lord hath said that he would dwell in the thick darkness (II Chron., ch. 6, ver. 1). And Moses drew near unto the thick darkness where God was (Exodus, ch. 20,

ver. 21). It seems strange that God would dwell in thick darkness all the countless ages of eternity up to about 6,000 years ago. This may account for his crooked work, for who can make that straight which he hath made crooked (Eccles., ch. 7. ver. 13). It is not much wonder there are so many people in the dark to-day when their father was there so long. So why pray to a God that loves darkness better than light.

Prayer makes God a changeable being. It implies that he will grant any favor we ask, whether he had previously designed to do so or not.

Sinner—Is God infinite in his wisdom?

Priest—He is.

Sinner—Does he at all times know just what ought to be done?

Priest—He does.

Sinner—Why do you pray to him?

Priest—Because he is unchangeable (Mal., ch. 3, ver. 6).

FAITH, MONEY AND GOD.

There is no better method of proving misrepresentations of a book than by the book itself—the Bible and religion is used now-a-days for a cloak and shield, and is a very good money-making scheme. It has been most successful, for, when people have been taught to believe that they will be eternally damned if they don't believe, they are too ready to give their hard earnings to the clergy. Money is the foundation of about all religions. There are millions of dollars made every year out of selling Bibles, prayer books, hymn books, church bells, images, crosses, beads, holy water, and small purses or pads, better known by Roman Catholics as Mary and Joseph. These are worn around the neck, one in front and one behind, and I have been told they cost twenty-five cents each, and while you wear these little fellows you are not supposed to have any hard luck, or the devil to contend with. These little fellows are a source of revenue for the church, and when you see those Sisters dressed in black, with a white band around their foreheads, and wearing a cross and a string of beads around their neck, then you are more apt to believe that the purse story is true. This cross, I have been told, represents the crucifixion of Christ. If those worshippers of the cross understood it a little better, I

think they would feel ashamed to own it or wear it—as you have seen by the former part of this book that Jesus was only God's grandson, and was only part human and part divine. So he was not your Saviour and had nothing to do with your sins. So your cross represents the wrong man, but if you Catholics still want to keep your cross, and would sooner believe in the old way that Jesus was the only Son of God, that came to die on the cross for your sins, now let us see if this plan will justify you in worshipping the cross. God and Jesus being one (St. John, ch. 10, ver. 30). Now, as you have seen by the Garden of Eden story in this book that God was the cause of all sin, this may be why the Lord repented that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart (Gen., ch. 6, ver. 6). Now, as God did not do his work right in the first place, then he was the cause of his son's death. As a matter of fact, the action of God in letting the devil into the Garden of Eden had made the coming of Christ a necessity, laid the foundation for the atonement: crucified the Saviour, and gave us the trinity.

His historians, having brought him into the world in a supernatural manner, were obliged to take him out again in the same manner, or the first part of the story must have fallen to the ground. So when you look at this cross on your church or on your chain, it will remind you that God was the cause of Jesus' death. And this same God gave you orders not to make any graven image or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above or that is in the earth beneath, and you must not bow down yourself to them nor serve them (Exod., ch. 20, vers. 4-5).

So why do you Christians continue to make those images and worship them? This makes you a vile sinner. So why do you make the image of Jesus and his cross, and put them in your church and on your chain, as this will haunt your mind that you have broken God's commandment, and it puts you in the hands of the devil. So why cater to these images for your bread and butter living. So be honest and come out from the church, and seek some honest employment where you can give value for what you receive. Now, what about your faith? I see that all denominations have more faith in life and fire insurance companies than they have in God, and more faith in fire departments in case of fire, and they have

more faith in doctors, medicine, bakers, butchers, coal and gas men in providing their wants than they have in God for doing it, and you have more faith in advertising your business in the papers and on the fences for results than you have in God for helping you out, and you show what little faith you have in God as a protector when you keep locks and chains on your doors, and pay policemen to look after your property and yourself. And you have more faith in traps and poison for keeping down rats and mice, and you have more faith in your fellowman and money for supplying your wants than you have in this supposed God above the sky. So much for faith, money and God.

IT LOOKS BAD FOR GOD.

Shall not the judge of all the earth do right? (Gen., ch. 18, ver. 25). The Lord is upright; he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him (Psalm 92, ver. 15).

A God of truth and without iniquity. Just and right is he (Deut., ch. 32, ver. 4). If God is as good as he advertises himself to be, then it looks bad that he had to repent that he made man on the earth. This grieved him at his heart (Gen., ch. 6, ver. 6). And it looks bad for God that his own sons were so bad, and it looks bad for God to make a hell before there were any sinners to occupy it, and it looks bad that God don't know his own age, and it looks bad for God to allow so many good people to be burned alive at the stake at the time of the Inquisition, and it looks bad for God that he had to drown so many little babies and innocent animals the time he sent the flood, and it looks bad for God that there was sin on earth after the flood, and it looks bad for God that there was any sin on earth after his grandson's death, and it looks bad that God had to stop the sun from going around the earth in order to help Joshua to defeat his enemies with those big hailstones (Joshua, ch. 10, vers. 11, 12, 13). And it will remind the people wherever the Bible goes of the long day when God killed so many with hailstones, and it looks bad for him to have the earth go around the sun at the present time, this looks as though he did forget that the earth stood still before he gave Joshua a hand, and it looks as though he did forget to start the sun on its course again, and

it looks bad for God that he did not give us a better book than the Bible to be our guide.

The real oppressor, enslaver and corrupter of the people is the Bible. That book burnt heretics, built dungeons, founded the Inquisition, and trampled upon all the liberties of man. That book spreads the pall of superstition over the colleges and schools.

That book puts out the eyes of science, and makes honest investigation a crime. That book fills the world with bigotry, hypocrisy and fear. How long, oh, how long, will mankind worship a book? How long will they grovel in the dust before the ignorant legends of the barbaric past? People in general know not what wickedness there is in this pretended word of God. Brought up in habits of superstition, they take it for granted that the Bible is true, and that it is good; they permit themselves not to doubt of it, and they carry the ideas they form of the benevolence of the Almighty to the book which they have been taught to believe was written by his authority. But, remember, my friend, there is not one clean chapter in this book that every word will stand facts of truth. Yes, it looks bad for God when you see so many big earthquakes, ocean tragedies, and big wars, and it looks bad for God when you see so much cannibalism all over the world. As Christians chop the heads off innocent turkies and chickens, and cut the throats of innocent calves and lambs, but their God tells them to kill (Gen., ch. 9, ver. 3). It looks bad for God to see so many advertising schools all over the Christian countries where the people go on Sundays to show that they are sinners, and to ask their God not to lead them into temptation, and it looks bad to see so many people go into those churches with hunch backs, wooden legs, false teeth, glass eyes, wigs and bald heads. This looks as though the Lord was not looking after his work very well, and it shows how foolish people are for going to church to worship a God that would afflict them so, and it looks to me that God is not onto his job when you see so many hotels, liquor stores, drug stores, doctors, hospitals, asylums, gaols, slaughter houses and churches. All such places stand as an advertisement of God's bad work. This proves that God did not do his work perfect in the first place; if so we would have no such places as the above, and when you see a rain-

bow it reminds you of God's poor memory, and how wicked he was to drown so many good people and little children the time of the flood. And if God intended to destroy all sin and sinners from the earth with the flood, then it looks bad for him to have saved alive Noah, and his sons, for to multiply and replenish the earth with sinners over again, as you will see that about the first thing Noah did after he got out of the ark was to plant a vineyard, grow grapes, make wine and get drunk on it, then uncovered his nakedness (Gen., ch. 9, vers. 1, 20, 21, 22). And the dread and fear of Noah and his sons were upon all the beasts and fowls of the earth (Same chapter, ver. 2). So this was a wicked drunken crowd that the Lord saved in his ark during the flood; by so doing his scheme to destroy sin from the earth with the flood was a failure, and was the cause of his grandson's death on the cross. And it looks bad when God says "so he that goeth down to the grave shall come up no more (Job, ch. 7, ver. 9). They are dead, they shall not live; they are deceased; they shall not rise (Isaiah, ch. 26, ver. 14). If this was true, animal and vegetable life would be extinct before this. If nature kept on depositing the animal or man in the earth and never got back anything in return, then her surplus supply of animal and vegetable matter would have become extinct hundreds of years ago, but as we have so much of both at the present time is proof that the above statement is false. This makes the tenth lie for Jehovah, and the eleventh inning for the truth seeker. Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord (Prov., chap. 12, ver. 22). And it looks bad for God that He did not prevent this big war which took place in 1914, but was willing to let His children manufacture explosive shells and guns to kill each other before His eyes, and it looks bad for the orthodox religion to see recruiting meetings held in some of the principal churches in Toronto on Sunday to get young men to go and kill their brother man in this big war; and it looks bad for prayers and Bibles when you see so many soldiers in uniform parading the streets on Sunday training for war. This should make you Christians feel ashamed of your God and religion, and to think how foolish you have been for spending so much good money every year in sending missionaries and Bibles to those countries where you are now sending soldiers, shells

and guns, and it looks bad for your religion when you see so many preachers and their sons going to the front to help in killing of their fellow-man. This looks as though they had more faith in the gun and sword than they had in God or prayers. I should think you preachers and Salvation Army people would seek some more honest employment after you have seen from experience that your God, your prayers and your Bible were of no avail in stopping this big war. This looks bad for Christianity, and us heathens and infidels are laughing up our sleeve at you. So never tell us again that the Bible was the means of civilizing the world. I often think the apostles must have had very filthy minds when the Lord got through telling them what to advertise in the Bible. No person is a Christian unless he expects to get something out of it. So many cater to the Lord just on account of business, religion is only used nowadays for advertising purposes. People mostly go to church to hold their customers and show their nice clothes and hats, and so many go to spark and make dates for the following week and Sunday. So you see the Christians are onto their job. And when you see so many hotels, liquor stores, tobacco stores, billiard halls, dance halls, opera houses, horse racing, baseball games, gaols, police courts and asylums all so well patronized by the church people, then you can book on it that they don't take much stock in the old-time religion, or Jesus and His supposed home beyond the skies, or in His Father the Ghost. Now, you Christians should do a little more experimenting. Say you stop praying and asking blessings for a few weeks, and by the end of that time if you find you are just as good a citizen and neighbor as when you left off praying, then you will know that prayers are of no avail. From this experiment you will have more confidence in yourself that you can live a good, honest, clean life like us infidels and truth seekers without this artificial religion and its parasite teachers. Most men and women live in only one or two rooms of the mind. Unlock the doors and enter and occupy and enjoy every room in the house of your mind. Don't shut the sunshine out of your life, and don't shut yourself out of the sunshine; but above all things, don't let anybody else have the key to your mind and lock you into an attic, a cellar or a closet, where you can't be free to think. He who puts his

destiny into the hands of a priest is a prisoner for life. But thank fortune, science is driving the priests and preachers out of business. A man could not be fooled by an angel today as Joseph was two thousand years ago. Every religion has been ninety-nine per cent. superstition and one per cent. morality. God will answer prayers to clear the snow off the sidewalks if one can wait long enough. When Roman Catholic priests go afishing for souls they do not bait their hooks with science; the cap of folly does not fit the head of wisdom. It is better to be able to talk sense than to speak several languages. Give the people the right education and Jesus can go out of business. The bulk of professors believe from custom rather than from reading; they profess a faith as they follow a fashion, because others have done so before them. There are no two such tyrants in the world as fashion and authority, and yet fashion is only what certain people wear, and authority only what certain people say. Let people change their clothes and fashion changes. Let them change their opinions and authority changes. How cheaply do we surrender our independence. If our thought is true, it needs no indorsement. If our action is right, it requires no sanction. Let us no longer follow the false teaching of the church, but the true teaching of reason and conscience.

It does require a certain amount of what some people call courage to break away from the church and church people and join the ranks of the Freethinkers, but after one once sees the impossibility of the Christian religion being true, it then requires much more courage to remain in the church a professed believer, while one is in reality an unbeliever. The courage of the martyr is much lauded in this world, but it does not strike me as being anything like as great as the courage of the hypocrite. A martyr may suffer many external pangs, but he, at least, always has his self-respect—a pleasure denied the hypocrite.

Now, before I close this chapter I must say that it looks bad for God and the orthodox religion when you can find just as good honest people among the infidels and heathens as you do among all other religious denominations. Now, let us be honest. Your Christians claim God is good, and the devil is bad. Then you claim all who believe in God is good, and all who do not believe in God is bad and belong to the

devil, as you say a person cannot serve God and Mammon and be a child of God. Then you can't serve God and Mammon and be a child of the devil. You see the devil is opposite to God; therefore he wants no one that is good, or part good. So you must be good to be a child of God, and you must be bad to be a child of the devil. This being the case, what becomes of those people that are part good and part bad, and whom do they belong to. It is safe to say that one hundred per cent. of the people from they are a few weeks old until they die belong to this class that have no God or devil. Now, it is up to you Christians to solve this puzzle. You Christians often ask the question, "What have you infidels done to benefit humanity?" My answer is this: We infidels have put out the fires of hell, driven the God of the Bible out of business, swept the earth of the devil and his imps, shown that Jesus was only God's grandson.

Let us be honest. Did all the priests of Rome increase the mental wealth of man as much as Bruno? Did all the priests of France do as great a work for the civilization of the world as Voltaire or Diderot? Did all the ministers of Scotland add as much to the sum of human knowledge as David Hume? Have all the clergymen, monks, friars, ministers, priests, bishops, cardinals and Popes, from the day of Pentecost to the last election, done as much for human liberty as Thomas Paine? What would the world be if infidels had never been? The infidels have been the brave and thoughtful men; the flower of the world; the pioneers and heralds of the blessed day of liberty and love; the generous spirits of an unworthy past; the seers and prophets of our race; the great chivalric souls, proud victors on the battlefields of thought, the creditors of all the years to be. Now, I have let you Christians see some of the good, honest charitable infidels that have done so much to educate and help suffering humanity. You preachers and Christians maintain that Colonel Ingersoll recanted before death. This is a falsehood.

Col. Ingersoll's Death.

There are so many Christian preachers in the country who think the truth of God will more abound through their lying, that stories of the recantation of his infidelity and con-

version to Christianity of the late Robert G. Ingersoll are being published with a frequency which shows the zeal of the pious ones of the earth. The Ingersoll family have had such stories sent to them by the dozen, with a request for the facts, and the Truth Seeker has answered in the paper and by letter some score or two within the past few weeks. To set the matter at rest, and to have the facts in shape for use by Colonel Ingersoll's friends, and by future historians, the family have prepared the following sworn statement:

State of New York)

County of New York)

) S.S.

ROBERT G. INGERSOLL.

THE TRUE STORY OF HIS ILLNESS AND DEATH.

On November 16, 1896, while on a lecture trip, at Janesville, Wis., Colonel Ingersoll had a cerebral hemorrhage. He continued to lecture for a few days, but at the solicitation of his family went to Chicago and consulted Dr. Frank Billings, who advised him to return home and rest for two months, which he did. He then, January 24, 1897, resumed lecturing, which he continued up to the time of his death. It was at this time, early in 1897, that he developed angina pectoris, from which he suffered greatly, and which was the cause of his death. Since his death, we have learned that he knew exactly his condition. In other words, his physicians had told him that he was likely to die at any moment, but acceding to his earnest entreaties, they did not tell his family. In spite of the fact that death was ever beside him, he was always very cheerful, and when asked as to his health invariably replied, "All right." During the night of July 20, 1899, he had an attack of acute indigestion and slept very little; but he came to breakfast the next morning, and afterwards sat on the piazza, as he was wont to do, reading and talking with the family. At about ten-thirty he said he would lie down and rest a little, and would then come down and play pool with his son-in-law. Mrs. Ingersoll accompanied him to their bedroom and remained with him while he slept. At about 11.45 he arose and sat in his chair to put on his shoes. Miss Sue Sharkey came into the room, followed by Mrs. Sue M. Farrell. Mrs. Ingersoll said, "Do not dress, Papa, until after luncheon; I will eat up stairs with you." He replied, "Oh, no; I do not want to trouble you." Mrs. Farrell then said, "How absurd, after the hundreds of times you have eaten up stairs with her." He looked up laughingly at Mrs. Farrell, as she turned to leave the room, and then Mrs. Ingersoll said, "Why, Papa, your tongue is coated; I must give you some medicine." He looked up at her with a smile, and as he did so closed his eyes and passed away—without a struggle, a pang, or even a sigh. No one else was present. It is said that he recanted. This

is a cruel and malicious falsehood, without the slightest foundation in fact. His convictions on the subject of religion remained absolutely unchanged. He died as he had lived, an Agnostic.

EVA A. INGERSOLL.

SUE SHARKEY.

SUE M. FARRELL.

Severally affirmed to before me this
17th day of March, 1906.

JOHN H. HAZELTON,
Notary Public.

New York County, No. 59.

Now, I will give you the name of a few good, honest infidels who have published some good books to open the eyes of blind faith. First is Mr. Charles Watts, the author of the "Christian Scheme of Redemption"; Mr. O. B. Trothingham, author of "Safest Creed"; Mr. William Denton, author of "Commonsense Thoughts of the Bible"; Mr. W. H. Bach, Lilydale, N.Y., author of "Big Bible Stories." This book explains some of the fairy tales in the Old Testament, such as Noah and his ark, Jonah and the whale, the Tower of Babel, Joshua wanting the sun to stand still, etc. And the book entitled the Ten Commandments analyzed. Those are books that every person should read, and Mr. J. A. Campbell, the author of "Essence of Reason," and this book as well, and Mr. Charles Bradlaugh, author of "What Did Jesus Teach?" I could give you many more, but the above is sufficient to show what good, intelligent men, who are Truth Seekers, and whom you Christians call infidels, have done for the world. Now, I have proven that the infidels have done as much, and more, to enlighten and benefit suffering humanity as you orthodox Christians have. This proves your religion to be on a wrong foundation. If otherwise, how could you account for the infidel being so good and charitable to the poor if he belonged to the devil. So before you Christians can score one inning in this game you will have to prove what Christians that are more intelligent and have done more for humanity, science, literature or art than the foregoing infidels you have been reading about. Until you can do that you will never score one inning in this game. If so, your religion is not up to the standard you thought

it was, but due respect and credit to you Christians for what good you have done in this world for humanity, and the dumb animals as well, and may you continue in this good work is the fervent wish and desire of the author; but remember it is nature's reason that have always existed without a maker that teach us to do what we do. If a man comes to your door with smallpox you cannot let him in. You cannot kill him. As a necessity you provide a place for him, and you do this to protect yourself. With this Christianity has nothing to do. You see it was reason that made us provide homes for the sick and afflicted. It was good and bad reason that wrote the Bible, or it would not be in existence to-day. So you see it was not the Bible, as you say, that civilized our country and built our schools and other public places of charity. The Bible has a tendency to lower reason, as it instils into the minds of the young people so much murder, bloodshed, adultery, lying, stealing and all other vice of the lowest type. I had no idea that this book contained so much vice, crime, error and lies until I applied the searchlight of reason on it. Then I felt it my duty to expose it to my fellow men that it may help him out of the prison cell of darkness. This is my fervent wish and desire. So I will end this chapter by saying it looks bad for God to have such a bad book as the Bible in circulation. And it looks bad for God coming down from his home in heaven and confounding the language of his children and scattering them abroad all over the earth (Gen., chap. 11, ver. 7, 8). The Lord don't tell us what He confounded their language for. He says nothing will be restrained or kept back from them which they have imagined to do (ver. 6). You Christians say that God confounded their language to stop them from building the tower up to heaven. This is not the case, as they had the tower built before God came down to see their city (ver. 5). This will remain a good advertisement of God's badness on earth. It was no wonder they had to stop building their homes when the Lord scattered them all over the earth, and they had to learn themselves another language again before they could do much, and the Lord don't tell us what language the people had when He came down to see their city and tower. He seemed to be surprised that they had all one language (ver. 6). This would look as though

He did not teach them any language when He made them. If so, what did He confound it for? But God did not confound the language of His children the first time He called to see their city and tower, and He told them he would not stop them from doing anything they wanted to do (ver. 6). By God saying, and this they begin to do (ver. 6). This don't say what they begin to do, or if it was anything wrong that they were doing. You will see it was the second time that God came down with some one else with Him that He confounded the people's language, and His reason for doing this was so they would not understand each other (ver. 7). So it is up to Christians to tell us Truth Seekers what your cruel God confounded the language of His children for. So when you meet a person that can't speak your language it will remind you how cruel God was to put the language of His children out of gear so they could not understand each other. So there is a good many travelling advertisements of His bad doings. This may be why there is so many infidels. But this is only one of the many fairy tales that you read in the Bible, and it looked bad for God to sanction slavery and to tell the people that they could buy and sell children the same as other animals. Moreover, of the children of the strangers that do sojourn among you. Of them shall you buy, and of their families that are with you, which they begat in your land, and they shall be your possession, and ye shall take them as an inheritance for your children after you, to inherit them for a possession; they shall be your bondmen forever (Levi, chap. 25, ver. 45, 46).

Was not slavery ordained by God? And I will sell your sons and daughters into the hand of the children of Judah, and they shall sell them to the Sebeans, to a people far off, for the Lord hath spoken it (Joel, chap. 3, ver. 8), and the Lord sold them into the hand of Jabin, King of Canaan, that reigned in Hazor (Judg., chap. 4, ver. 2). Was not the Lord God himself a dealer in the souls or bodies of men? No doubt this is why slavery existed so long in the United States, because the Bible God sanctioned it, and you Christians may thank us Truth Seekers, and such men as Lincoln, for doing away with such a vile practice. This same vice and the burning of people at the stake would still be in vogue to-day if it was not for such men as Giordano, Bruno,

Thomas Paine, Lincoln, Galileo, Ingersol, Charles Moore, Socrates, William Denton, Herman Menz, Voltaire, Stephen Girard, and thousands more of such loyal infidels who had courage enough to stand up for truth, regardless of fire, thumb screws or prisons. Those are the men you Christians want to worship to-day for what liberty and comfort you have, instead of this cruel, wicked, superstitious God, as you have seen by the former part of this book. Yes, you Christians owe a homage to the infidels for what freedom and pleasure you have to-day. There are thousands of you church-going people that are in business and holding good positions that are just as much an infidel as the author of this book, but you are not honest enough to open your mouth and speak your manly mind, for fear your pet business would be boycotted by some of your church customers; or you might lose your good job if you spoke your honest mind on the subject to your boss, providing he was a church member. It is just such infidels as you that are keeping the preachers and churches alive to-day through a false modesty. Be like the author of this book; think more of truth and honesty than of money or business; then religion and the preachers' days will be numbered. But know this, oh, priests and people, he is the infidel who loves money more than truth; who preaches lies for hire and falsehoods for gain; who bow down to wealth and worships Mammon, regardless of truth and justice; who professes to believe the Bible is the word of God, and yet is utterly regardless of its teachings when they conflict with his own interests; who would not be an unbeliever in all things unreasonable and foolish? The name infidel which the orthodox are so ready to give to every one who differs from them in opinion has lost its terror. Were I to profess to be other than a disbeliever of orthodox follies and delusions I should be a traitor to my own mind. Socrates was an infidel because he was in advance of his countrymen. Galileo was an infidel, because he asserted what all are now willing to acknowledge; but as it was unscriptural he had to bear the name and suffer the fate of the infidel. If it be infidelity to seek for truth with an unprejudiced mind, to love it above all things, and be willing to make any sacrifice for its sake, who would not be an infidel? But those who make use of the term "infidel" do it

reproachfully. When they meet with a man whose arguments they cannot answer, and whose life is irreproachable, all they can do is to raise the cry of infidel. This saves them the trouble of answering his arguments, for who is going to discuss with an infidel? What minister will soil his holy fingers by coming in contact with such an unclean thing? It also saves the church from contamination. Only persuade the members of a church that a man is an infidel and they will shun him as they would the plague. They will no more dare to read his writings than to put their hands in the fire.

Thus this term is exceedingly convenient to a certain class. No wonder that it is whispered in the parlor and thundered from the pulpit, till the whole land rings with the sound. You can see by this book what the Christians have done in the past to their shame. Many Christians will not investigate; they think it is a sin to do so. No religion is worth anything if it will not stand investigation. Any religion that will permit the worst of murderers to enter heaven by faith and baptism while their victims are in hell for honest faith in Ingersol's doctrine, can have no connection with justice. The foundation of true religion does not rest on the Bible, but on man's nature, and are as enduring as that nature itself. The religion that consists in teasing God, in begging for favors, in mumbling childish prayers, in dozing every seventh day in some fashionable church, in howling like a dervish in revival meetings, in denouncing every disbeliever in orthodox dogma as an infidel and a blasphemer—such religion as that might die and be buried, and the world would be the better without it. The sooner the grave closes over it the better, and something worthier takes its place. So much for the infidel and truth. Yes, you Christians know so little about what infidelity means that it is no wonder you want to run away from us when we start to talk on religion. Please look up the dictionary and see what infidel means. Then please get well acquainted with the infidel's belief and views on your orthodox religion. Then by that time you will not be quite so frightened to see an infidel. Then please get well acquainted with what an orthodox Christian is. Then get well acquainted with the foundation of the orthodox religion; then by that time you will feel ashamed of it. Then you will feel embarrassed

that you said so much against the infidel before you gave him a hearing. So you Christians should apologize for wanting us to accept such a book as the Bible, and the way you treated us the time of the Inquisition. If it was not for such infidels as Giordano, Bruno and Galileo, you Christians would still think this earth was flat and stood still on a foundation, and you would never have known that there was other planets in our solar system. As Galileo in 1610 discovered and introduced the use of telescopes, and by applying them to observe the motions and appearances of the heavenly bodies, afforded additional means for ascertaining the true structure of the universe. Instead of being esteemed for these discoveries he was sentenced to renounce them, or the opinions resulting from them, as a damnable heresy; and prior to that time Virgilius was condemned to be burned for asserting the antipodes, or, in other words, that the earth was a globe and habitable in every part where there was land; yet the truth of this is now too well known even to be told. So you see from the above how religion in the past kept the people in superstition and ignorance; and it is doing the same at the present time. So if it was not for the above infidels you would know but little about astronomy or science, and you would never have known that the Bible was a man-made book, and you would still think that a Ghost was the father of Jesus; and you would still believe the story about the mud man and rib woman; and you would still have the Inquisition and slavery; and you would still have to pay preachers and priests for lies and supposition; and you would never have known that Jesus was only God's grandson; and you would never have known that Jesus had so many fathers, as He was the son of a Ghost (Matt., chap. 1, ver. 18), the Son of David (Matt., chap. 9, ver. 27), the Son of Joseph (St. John, chap. 1, ver. 45), the Son of Man (Matt., chap. 16, ver. 13), the Son of God (Acts, chap. 9, ver. 20), and he was father of himself, and son of himself (St. John, chap. 10, ver. 30). And you would not have known that Adam and the devil were sons of God; and you would not have known that God was so wicked and cruel; and you would never have known how bad a book the Bible was only for us infidels, so you Christians should get on your knees and thank us infidels for opening your eyes to the light

of truth and giving you what little comfort and freedom you have to-day. So be honest, come out from the church and let the world see that you can be a good citizen without this artificial religion. Work up your reputation and business on honesty, instead of upon religion, and see how much more you will be respected. Hold your position by being honest and keeping your word good, instead of holding it with a pretended religion. You Christians use your brains so little on the subject of religion that this is why you know so little about the Bible, and this is why you stick to the church so long, and this is why you have never known much about the above facts. So, in order to be a Truth Seeker, do your own thinking; by so doing your brain becomes more active, then you become more intelligent, then you may commence to analyze the Bible and religion; by so doing you will find it don't stand facts of truth. Then you seek for something better. This is how people become Truth Seekers.

I will now enclose a few letters and testimonials from some of my brother truth seekers that may interest you a little. These letters are clippings taken from a paper called the "Truth Seeker," that is published in New York. This is a very reliable paper, and is doing a good work for the cause of truth.

THE RELATIVE WICKEDNESS OF ACTORS AND CLERGYMEN.

Aroused by the action of the Young Men's Christian Association of Pittsburg in refusing membership to an actor on the ground that one of that profession could not be a moral person, Mr. Henry E. Dixey, who is himself a well-known actor, offered to give a thousand dollars to charity if it could be proved that actors were not as good as ministers, by showing there were less of them than of ministers in the state prisons. It is said that Mr. Dixey also ventured an equal amount on the proposition that every state in the Union had a minister in jail.

From a newspaper clipping sent to the "Truth Seeker" office, it is learned that a poll of the prisors. has been taken, with the following result:

- Arkansas—Four clergymen, no actors.
- Arizona—Two clergymen, no actors.
- Connecticut—One clergyman, no actors.
- Colorado—No clergymen, no actors.
- Delaware—No one of either.

Florida—Many colored preachers, no actors.
 Georgia—Seven negro preachers, no actors.
 Idaho—No clergymen, no actors.
 Indiana—Neither actor nor clergyman.
 Iowa—Three actors, no clergymen.
 Kansas—One negro preacher, no actor.
 Kentucky—Three ministers, one actor.
 Louisiana—None of either.
 Maine—Neither clergyman nor actor.
 Maryland—No clergymen; one actor, a minstrel.
 Massachusetts—Neither profession represented.
 Michigan—One actor, one clergyman.
 Minnesota—Three actors, one clergyman.
 Montana—One clergyman.
 Missouri—One actress, no clergymen.
 Nebraska—Two clergymen expected, no actors.
 New Jersey—Four ministers, no actors.
 New Hampshire—Entirely out of both.
 New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon,
 Pennsylvania, South Dakota—None of either.
 Rhode Island—One clergyman, no actors.
 South Carolina—No actors, no white ministers.
 Tennessee—Four clergymen, no actors.
 Texas—Nine clergymen, six actors.
 Utah—Never had one of either profession.
 Vermont—Four actors, one clergyman.
 Virginia—One preacher (dark), no actors.
 West Virginia—One alleged minister, no actors.
 Wisconsin—Nit.
 Wyoming—No preachers, once had an actor.
 Such as they are, the returns show 42 ministers to 21 actors.

A RATIONAL PREACHER.

Editor Truth Seeker: A sample copy of the Truth Seeker was handed me a few days since. Now I would like space to give briefly my experience as a preacher. I commenced preaching at twenty-five, and continued in the work for four years. I might add it was in what was known as the Campbellite Church. I was a success as an evangelist, having baptized in the neighborhood of three hundred people, and having large audiences wherever I preached. Another thing remarkable was that those brought into the church stood three men to two women on an average, but my sermons were of a rational order. Then what? The church called me down. The time had come for me to think. I had but very few infidel works, but made use of scientific works, and soon found myself a confirmed Socialist, instead of a Republican; a con-

firmed infidel instead of a churchman. I cannot see how any one can think and remain in the church.

AFRAID TO DOUBT.

There is no sense in your religion; it is all a matter of feeling; but I'm not so sure about your beloved pastor. The last time he talked with me, which was only a few months ago, I said to him:

"Now, dominie, as man to man, do you believe in the doctrine of the Trinity—that God is three separate and distinct persons, and yet, at the same time, that he is but one person? And do you believe that God, the first person, laid upon God, the second person, the sins of the whole world, past and future, so that if a man believes that this occurred he will be saved, and if he doesn't believe it he will be damned? And do you believe——"

"Wait," said Dr. Stone. "My dear boy, there are many questions in connection with our precious religion that are perplexing to the intellect, and very much calculated to raise up doubts in the mind. Now, I believe that it is a sin to doubt, so I have closed these questions never again to be opened. If I should open them I should become an atheist."

There was a lot more talk, but I could not bring him to discuss any doctrine as he would discuss other non-religious questions, and this is all the proof I want that Dr. Stone is just as much an infidel as I am. When a minister is afraid to discuss his faith for fear he will become an atheist, he is an atheist already.

NO LONGER A MINISTER.

To the Editor of The Truth Seeker:

For the inclosed twenty-five cents send to my address a copy of "Crimes of Preachers." I have been a preacher myself for fifteen years, but have quit it. I am now eighty-two years of age. About six years ago I became disgusted at so many preachers committing crimes and immoralities, and I began to do my own thinking, using my own reason, and drawing my own conclusions. I am now convinced that no divine author can be assigned to the book called the Bible, or to any other book. Through the kindness of Mr. Downing I read the Truth Seeker, which has been a great eye-opener

to me, and I have found the truth by searching for it. I feel that I am now mentally a free man. I have no further use for the Christian religion; it is nothing but superstition and hypocrisy. I denounce it as a delusion.

Yours for truth,

M. SAILER, Kansas.

A TEXAS COWBOY.

It is surely quite humiliating, it seems to me, for one to be obliged to worship the little God of the Christians. Just think for a moment of his pedigree, half ghost and the other half human. How does such a God as that tally with the average free-thinker's God, as, for instance, "The Great First Cause," or the glorious "Old Dame"—Nature? To me, the comparison makes the little Nazarene look like "thirty cents."

I am well pleased to note that several sky-pilots hereabouts have been forced to the necessity of raising children and cotton, instead of hell, for a livelihood.

Free-thinkers have indeed accomplished wonders within the past two centuries. They have, among many other grand achievements, compelled all the "devils" to pack their grips and "hit the road" for parts unknown; rendered "ghosts" perfectly harmless to the women folks; put out the "flames of hell," and are gradually, though surely, forcing pipe-bods out of business all along the line. My advice to the pious is: Be honest and acknowledge your mistakes and apologize for your ignorance. Join the ranks of Free-thinkers and assist us in making a paradise of this old world. Do not allow the priests to lead you around by the nose any longer. Be like true men and women and say: God or no God, hell or no hell, I am going to do all I can to make all living creatures upon this earth contented and happy. Quit thinking about your "soul"—you haven't any. Quit thinking about a manlike God—there isn't any. Force all pious drones to make an honest living or pack their grips and do as all other "devils" have been forced to do. They are all frauds, humbugs or fools.

May the Truth Seeker ever continue to seek for that

which is true and expose all "holy humbugs," is the sincere wish of an old "Texas Cowboy."

INFIDELS WHO HAVE BEEN BENEFACTORS.

Agnostics, doubters and infidels have founded many charities, and, before enumerating a few of them, allow me to say that hospitals and asylums were founded in China, India, Egypt and Athens long before Christianity was born, and if any one had asked a Christian 300 years after Christ was born, "What hospitals have you founded?" he would have been obliged to say "None."

Dr. Nicholas Seen, a renowned Chicago surgeon, says: "The finest hospital I ever saw was owned by the Sultan of Turkey."

To return to agnostic charities. What of Stephen Girard, an infidel, who founded the college in Philadelphia bearing his name, where thousands of orphans have been fed, clothed and educated, and which has an endowment fund of over \$20,000,000? In addition to this great gift he gave large sums throughout his lifetime to hospitals, to deaf and dumb and orphan asylums, to the Lancaster schools, to provide fuel for the Philadelphia poor, to aid distressed sea captains, for the relief of poor Masons, for various other charities in Philadelphia, and \$300,000 for the absolutely poor. At the time of the cholera epidemic in Philadelphia, when the people fled panic-stricken from the city, this infidel went into the hospitals as a nurse and cared for the sick and dying who had been deserted.

Mr. Wallace C. Andrews, of New York, who died a few years ago, gave \$5,000,000 to endow a college for orphan girls. Mr. Butland, of Toronto, bequeathed \$50,000 to the Toronto hospitals. Peter Brigham gave \$3,000,000 to build hospitals in Boston. Mr. James Lick, of California, gave \$1,000,000 to found an astronomical observatory, which has one of the finest telescopes in the world.

John Redmon, of Boston, left \$400,000 to the Massachusetts General Hospital. James Smithson gave \$500,000 to found the Smithsonian Institution in Washington. And all of these men were agnostics.

I might enumerate many others, like Robert Owen, whose whole life was devoted to philanthropy; John Howard, the

most famous philanthropist of the eighteenth century; all infidels. But why go further?

FORMS CHURCH CARD AND DANCING CLUB.

Columbus, Dec. 2.—The Rev. Charles E. Byers, rector of the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, has established a club of the young people of his congregation in which dancing and card playing will be the chief amusements. The club will have its headquarters in the church.

In its organization the Rev. Mr. Byers followed the advice of his vestrymen. His idea is that being allowed to indulge in these enjoyments in the church, the young people will be less likely to do so where bad results might follow.

Yes, the above rev. gentleman thinks the dance hall and card playing would be a good scheme to popularize church services. This proves that the orthodox religion is on a wrong foundation when it takes the above attractions to hold the people from drifting away from the church. If you were a Truth Seeker, then your religion or belief would be natural. Then you would require no churches, Bibles and prayers, and the people would not require the above attractions to get them to listen to what would be a benefit to them.

THE TRUTH SEEKER'S FUNERAL ADDRESS.

In leaving life and you, my friends, I had no fears as I approached death's door. Gods and devils, heavens and hells, had no place in my mind. Death can have no terrors for those who have climbed above superstition and slavery, imaginary gods and devils. And now may the blessings of earth ever be with you. May your lights so shine among men that others may be brought from the darkness and valley of superstition to the noble light and heights of mental liberty. May you ever be found giving battle in the cause of truth, justice and humanity; and when at last you are called from life to death, may you close your eyes in peaceful sleep. This was the fervent wish of our departed friend. As we are assembled here to-day in accordance with an impulse as universal as the human race, and as enduring as love and

sympathy, to perform the last earthly duty toward our friend who now lies in the stillness of death before us.

Leaf by leaf the roses fall,
Drop by drop the springs run dry,
One by one our friends depart,
For all on earth are born to die.

Borne on the eternal flow of time, we are carried a little while down its rapid current—the longest life a mere breath, a dot—then we disappear from the surface for a time. As entities we have a birth, as entities we die, nothing remains of our individual existence but a fleeting memory, for they who remember us soon pass away. We were placed here without any will or volition of our own by all creating nature—which will remove us by death without our consent. For it is as natural to die as it is to be born. Like the leaf which was the hope of spring, the pride and glory of summer, we are rudely torn away, the sport of destiny, to return to the elements of nature from which we spring; nature and her laws are the only safe guide; whatever doctrine conflicts with these cannot be true. We accept the inevitable without fear. Death means but new forms of life, and in this sense there is no death. Our birth is a resurrection, our death a birth. Here in this world where life and death are equal kings, all should be brave enough to meet what all the dead have met. From the wondrous tree of life the buds and blossoms fall with ripened fruit, and in the common bed of earth the old and young sleep side by side but for a time. So why should we fear death, that which we must all meet; we do not know which is the greater blessing, life or death. If we live beyond the grave, we should have no fear of being in a worse condition than while here, for nature's laws are eternal progression. We are all children of the same mother, and the same fate awaits us all. His personal influence can never die; it beats to-day with the endless progress of man. Suns will rise and set, moons will wax and wane, generations come and go, empires will flourish and decay, bringing hopes and fears, joys and sorrows, to all who live and the millions yet to be, for these are the common lot and heritage of man. But we do not remain long in the grave, as science has proved by unquestionable demonstration that the constituents of the body, at death, decay, but that they do not die; they continue

their usefulness in the realms of nature forever, changing into flowers, fruits and birds; never at rest, melting from one physical form into another. So it's only a matter of time till our friend is back with us again in the form of vegetation, helping to decorate our gardens and lawns with beautiful flowers and trees.

AT THE GRAVE.

To nature, the source of all, we now surrender our friend who has passed on before us. In this silent city of the dead we have laid to rest the mortal remains of our departed friend; with trees and birds, with leaf and flower, we bid our dead a last and long farewell. Careful hands and loving hearts will guard and deck thy grave and keep thy memory green.

FACTS IN NATURE.

The mortal form that once had birth,
And since consigned unto the clay,
Shall yet appear upon the earth
In other forms some future day.

The tint within the rose's hue
While blooming in its fragrance sweet,
Shall yet in course of nature true
Produce the blush on beauty's cheek.

The iron which we cannot feel
Now circulating in our blood,
May yet be in the screw of steel
Propelling ships on ocean's flood.

For nature utilizes all,
In reproducing forms sublime,
It matters not how great or small,
Along the stream of endless time.

Her workshop is unbounded space,
Her labor is not by the hour,
But every thing in time and place
Embodies her eternal power.

The same material she retains
Regardless of the pain or cost,
And by her power all is changed,
But nothing from her grasp is lost.

So everything that e'er had life,
Or yet awaits a coming birth,
In time will close its worldly strife
And then return unto the earth.

By A. S. THOMPSON,
(A Truth Seeker.)

THE AUTHOR'S OWN EXPERIENCE.

As a good many, after they read a book, would like to know of what nationality the author is, and what religion he was taught when young, etc; if this will be of benefit to the reader, I am only to pleased to say that I am of Scotch-Irish descent, and Canadian born. I was brought up at my mothers' knee to believe in the Protestant religion, a Presbyterian. But my father was very liberal in his views on this subject. So he did not believe in this supposed heaven and hell, God and devil, and he died a peaceful death, the way all honest believers in nature do. The author of this book professes to be a Truth Seeker, not what you Christians call an infidel, agnostic or an atheist. A Truth Seeker is one who is seeking after facts of truth, one who is not satisfied with supposition or guess work, and one who says, if there is a God he has not been discovered yet.

And he is one who says if there is a God he could not make matter out of nothing any more than a school boy could; and if matter or substance could not exist without a maker, then God could not exist without a maker. The author of this book was converted, or, as some Christians call it, had a change of heart, when about fourteen years of age. The way this took place was like this. I was taught to believe there was 2 God who had a nice home called heaven above the sky where your spirit would go after death, providing you did live a good life and believed in him and his son Jesus up to the time of your death; and I was also taught to believe there was a devil who had a bad home called hell, that contained fire and brimstone. This home was for bad people after death, providing they were bad up till the time of their death, then the devil would come and take your spirit away to this home and burn you with fire and brimstone for eternity. Then my mother would tell me in order to miss this terrible bad place I would have to pray to God night and morning to keep me good and from doing any sin. As there was only one side to this religious story, my young

mind soon became saturated with this belief, then I was satisfied that I was saved from going to hell. This is how people become converted; they work their minds up to believe what they are taught is true. A person can be converted to be a horse thief, a bank robber, or to commit suicide, by working his mind up to do so. This is how such deeds are done. So people convert themselves to any belief or business in this way. This accounts for converts in all denominations. You Christians might like to know why I changed my mind to be a Truth Seeker. Well, I must say it was only from using good sound judgment when I commenced to read the Bible for myself, and to do my own thinking or reasoning. It did not take me long to see that the Bible was only a man-made book. This I found in the first chapter of Genesis, where it tells you about the creation. As I could not find in the Bible where this supposed God did say himself that he made space and all matter that exists, then I thought it must have been some person who was hiding close by where God started to make Adam out of mud. As you will see, it is altogether the style and manner of another person speaking of God. It is always, and the Lord God formed man out of the dust of the ground, and the Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and God made the firmament, and God called the dry land earth, and God did so and so. This started me to doubt. So I did ask myself the question: Who made this person that was watching God making Adam, who was supposed to be the first person made on this earth. Then I wanted to know how this God could exist before space, as a spirit or substance could not exist before it, then God did not make the firmament and heavens, as God could not make matter out of nothing, then where did he get the material from which to make the planets out of. Then I examined the interior or middle part of the Bible. By so doing it made me doubt still more. When I read of King Jehoram having a son two years older than himself, as King Jehoram was thirty-two years of age when he began to reign, and reigned eight years, dying at the age of forty (II Chron., ch. 21, ver. 20). He was immediately succeeded by his youngest son, as the eldest had all been killed in battle. When Jehoram died at the age of forty, Ahaziah, his youngest son, who, according to Josephus, was the youngest of seven brothers, was forty-

two years of age (II Chron., ch. 22, vers. 1-2). It takes an exceedingly smart man to be the father of seven bouncing boys two years before he was born. Then again the Bible teaches that Jesus and God are one (John, ch. 10, ver. 30). And the Father and the Holy Ghost are one (I John, ch. 5, ver. 7). This being the case, then Jesus was his own father. (See Matt., ch. 1, ver. 18.) To the best of my knowledge these are the only cases on record where such events took place. Then, again, the Bible tells us that King Jehoram's youngest son, Ahaziah, was only twenty-two years old when he began to reign; and he reigned one year in Jerusalem (II Kings, ch. 8, ver. 26). Then again you will see by reading the 21st chapter of II Chronicles, verses 16 and 17, that Jehoahaz was King Jehoram's youngest son. This is the eleventh lie for Jehovah and the twelfth innng for the Truth Seeker. How does the above look to you, Christians? Is it any wonder that us Truth Seekers have to laugh at what the Lord told the Apostles to put in his Holy Bible? Then I examined the later part of the Bible to see if it would hold good, and to my surprise it was out of gear like the rest of it. I found that heaven was the devil's home *toron*, and where sin first originated, and it was a storehouse for fire and brimstone, and hailstones. And the Bible says: "Flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God" (I Cor., ch. 15, ver. 50). This being the case, how did this woman that was with child come to be in heaven (Rev., ch. 12, vers. 2-5), and this woman was clothed with the sun, and had the moon under her feet; and what about those four beasts, each of them had six wings about him, and they were full of eyes within, and they rest not, day or night. Read the Book of Revelations about this heavenly home and see if you would like to live there forever.

FOREVER.

I had not known before,
Forever was so long a word,
The slow stroke of the clock of time
I had not heard.

Now, as I have examined the Bible a little, I must say that I have found it rotten at both ends, and putrid in the middle. So this is why I threw the Bible away, and this is why I became an infidel. Then I commenced to look for

truth in nature. Now, as I promised in the former part of this book to give you Christians a better belief and a better foundation to build it on than the one you had, and I was to give you something better in return for your religion, I will now do so. But I must be brief, as it would take too much space to give all the details of this subject. Man has a little intelligence, and he should use it. Intelligence is the only lever capable of raising mankind. Reason must be the standard in all things. Reason is the light, the sun of the brain; it is the compass of the mind, the everconstant northern star, the mountain peak that lifts itself above all clouds. My mind is so that it is forced to the conclusion that substance is eternal, that the universe is without beginning and will be without end, that it is the one eternal existence. I cannot conceive of something being created out of nothing. So keep this in mind. Nature with one hand building, with one hand tearing down; armed with sword and shield, slaying and protecting, and protecting but to slay. All life journeying towards death, and all death hastening back to life again. Animals live on vegetation, and vegetation lives on animals. Everything in those two kingdoms is undergoing a change every second of time. What was once hay, oats and turnips, have changed to beef, milk and butter, etc. Then we utilize this for food and it is converted again into bones, hair and skin, etc. Animals and vegetables are neighbors lending and borrowing of each other all the time, and we will continue to live in some form for eternity, as matter is indestructible. When matter cannot be destroyed or put into nothing, this proves that it was not made out of nothing. So whoever wrote the account of creation in the Bible did not know what he was talking about any more than a monkey. So in order to be intelligent, educate yourself to facts. Now, you Christians will see the foundation I have given you to build on in exchange for the old suppositious one you have, composed of faith and prayer. If you build your belief on a foundation of facts, then you never feel embarrassed when a person questions you about your religion. Again, I was to show you Christians what I would give you better in exchange for your heaven and hell. This is what I have to give: I will give you facts of truth, for one thing. I have something more for you yet; now listen. When you

die you stop right here on this planet to take your turn in doing something else. You do not stop long in the grave, as the laws of nature will separate you into atoms and bring them to the surface again, where they are absorbed by vegetation. So our dead body is utilized in producing others. By this wonderful journey through the inlet and outlet of nature, we become well renovated and ready for business over again. It is as natural to die as it is to be born. Death means but new forms of life, and in this sense there is no death. Our birth is a resurrection, our death a birth, for nature's laws are eternal progression. We are all children of the same mother. Now, my Christian friend, do you not think you would get more comfort out of this life to know that after you die you go to contribute your share towards building up some nice shade tree, a rose in the garden, a song bird, or a nice plant on some of your friend's window sills, where they could see you once more; than to believe that you will spend eternity in hell suffering untold agony. As you have seen by this book that it is impossible for a person to go to heaven, and if you did get there, just imagine what a terrible place it would be to live in for eternity, and if you should get the privilege to look over the walls, you would see over a great gulf where hell is located (Luke, ch. 16, vers. 23, 24, 26), and where your brother fellowman had to suffer torment forever. Now, I think you will agree with me that the Truth Seeker has the most comforting belief of the two, as we have nothing to lose in this life by worrying about this hell and heaven, and we have all to gain by knowing there is no such places where man arrives after death to suffer eternal pain. We now know that heaven is not above the clouds, and that hell is not below the earth. The telescope has done away with the ancient heaven, and the revolving world has quenched the flames of the ancient hell. Those imaginary worlds have disappeared for good, and all due respect to the infidel for that. All matter in space is the same age, and will never get one ounce heavier or lighter, it will keep the scales in balance for eternity. It has never been discovered yet that man was ever made; why should he not exist without a maker as well as any other particle of matter that is in space? Then you Christians say that man is so much more intelligent than any other animal, that he must have had a divine

maker. Yes, but who made the divine maker? The personal powers of man are so limited, and his heavy frame so little constructed to extensive enjoyments, that it keeps him a little behind the times with most of the animals. Man is about the most helpless animal there is in the animal kingdom, as he would almost starve and freeze to death if he did not appropriate about all the animals we know of to his use. This may be why nature endowed him with such an intelligent mind, so he could provide for the wants of his helpless body. Every animal in creation excels us in something: the winged insects can pass over more space with greater ease in a few minutes than man can in an hour. The glide of the smallest fish in proportion to its bulk, excels us in motion almost beyond comparison, and without weariness. Even the sluggish snail can ascend from the bottom of a dungeon, where man, by the want of that ability, would perish, and the same is true of every other animal.

It is interesting to note how man has borrowed many of his ideas from the animal world. Wasps made paper from wood long before man decided it was a good substitute for rags. The folding scissors and folding pocket compass, are only copies of the folding lower jaw of the dragon fly. The flying squid, a species of cuttle-fish, has a way of projecting itself as high as twelve feet above the surface of the water by forcibly expelling water from its body. Man saw this, and invented the sky rocket. The rope-making machine made in the United States navy yard, follows almost the precise lines that a spider does when making his own frail cable. Yes, and those animals could live independent of man, and could live where he would starve to death. So this looks bad for the divine maker that he did not make man as independent as the other animals. Yes, if man was as good as the poor, dumb animals, you would see no liquor or tobacco manufactured or sold in the country. You would see no gaols, houses of ill-fame, or churches. You would see no armies or navies, no policemen or preachers. But man is so selfish and bad that he has to manufacture guns, traps and poison to kill off about all of the animals except those he wants to appropriate for his own use. And man is so bad that he hires and pays policemen and preachers to look after him and see that he doesn't get too bad, and he gets on his

knees every day and asks his God to keep him in bounds that he may not become any worse; this may be why hell was made for him. Man has become so adulterated with education, religion and style, that he is no longer the good natural man, and he is so tangled up with societies and churches that he is afraid to speak his honest mind for fear it would not suit the other fellow. And man is so superstitious that he believes at death that he will be separated into two parts, one part to remain in the earth till the resurrection morn, and the other part, which he calls spirit, arrives in heaven or hell. So man is about the most wicked, selfish, superstitious and helpless animal there is in the animal kingdom. So get off your high horse and be more thoughtful and considerate to those animals that can't help their being, and love to live.

Since the author of this book became converted to be a Truth Seeker he never steps on any insect to kill it, as he believes that it has just as much right to live on this earth as he has, and he don't believe in might making right. So before you shoot any innocent deer, rabbit or squirrel, stop and think for a moment, that their bodies may be partly composed of some of your relatives who died some years ago, and please don't load your horse too heavily, and spare the whip, for his body is only made up of vegetation the same as your body, and you only appropriated him to yourself for gain. So much in favor of dumb animals.

THE CHECK-REIN.

Loosen the check-rein, master!
See how your poor horse tries
To free himself from the cruel strain;
He tosses his head because of pain,
And pleads with his beautiful eyes.

Loosen the check-rein, master.
If only a moment you stay
To chat and gossip with friends in town,
Heed the sad pleading of his eyes so brown,
And give the tired neck full sway.

Loosen the check-rein, master!
Ah! see what pleasure you bring!
Be careless of check-rein style to-day;
To-morrow, for pity's sake, throw away
The cruel and useless thing.

Now, I will return and finish up the subject I started out with. You Christians say, O, yes; man's body goes back to the earth to remain until the resurrection, but his spirit goes to God who gave it. The word God, spirit and soul is nothing more than a word or expression invented by man to suit his own purpose. So keep this in mind. It is a wonder you do not tell us Truth Seekers what kind of material the spirit is composed of, and what part of your body does it occupy while it remains with you, and why does this holy spirit let your body do so much sinful work, and why does it not keep you alive without food, water and air, and what time is this spirit connected up with the body, before birth or after? Has the Lord to send each particular spirit to its own particular body to get them all in on time lest some be born spiritless, and to make provision for these cases where, when his delivery agent arrives with the spirit goods, he finds that the body goods for which his charges were intended have disappeared. Now, to all these and kindred questions, Christians and spiritualism are usually either dumb as an oyster or visionary as a Hebrew seer. It is only childish to say that this supposed God above the sky would keep a store house full of spirits for thousands of years, waiting for children to be made to put them in, and some children are born dead, this would leave some spirits left on the Lord's hands that he would have no bodies for. If there was any such a thing as a spirit, man would have discovered before this something about its makeup and form. The spirit or life of man is composed of air, food and water. These form an energy that keeps his internal organs in action, but as soon as you shut off this energy our organs cease to act. This is proof that there is no spirit that has charge of our bodies or keeps us alive until it is ready to move out.

You Christians say that a spirit is not composed of matter; this being the case, then it is nothing. This would do away with the spirit and soul belief. Then if the spirit is material, it would require good reasoning faculties in order to know when it was going to move out of your body, and what course to steer in order to find its way back to heaven or hell. Or if this spirit wants to stay here for a few days to attend some spiritualist meeting, it would require to have knowledge to do this. So you see if there is such a thing it

is composed of a substance and has life and knowledge, and it would require some energy to keep it in repair, the same as all other animal and vegetable life. You Christians talk about this spirit or soul, but you have never discovered it yet. If there was such a thing in our bodies we could find it as well as we found the animalcules in our blood, and it could be analyzed, and it could not leave our body at death without being detected, and there would have to be both male and female spirits, and they would need to multiply, if not, they would become extinct.

Jesus tells us that he saw the spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting upon him (Matt., ch. 3, ver. 16). Now, I have shown you Christians that a spirit is material, and if not material, then no spirit exists. So take your choice in which one you worship. Such absurd stuff is only fit for tales of witches and wizards. The only possible spirit that keeps us alive and gives us reason to take care of ourselves, is air, food and water. If you stop breathing air into your lungs for a short time you would cease to live. This proves that it is no divine spirit that keeps you alive or looks after your body. The Lord had to use air to bring his mud man Adam to life. This looks as though he had no spirit to put in him; if so, he had more faith in air putting his son on his feet. So if God is a spirit and did breathe air into his son Adam's nostrils, then he is material and depends on air for his existence, the same as any other animal. In order to live we have to take life. One thing lives on another. So if you cut down a tree or a head of cabbage, or boil a potato, or make a bouquet of flowers, you are taking life. So if all things were possible with the supreme being, then why did he make animals and vegetables to murder and live on each other in such a cruel way. This looks as though it was impossible for God to do his work perfectly, as you have seen by this book. About the only thing that keeps matter in motion is heat and cold. This causes contraction and expansion. It is this constant changing that brings us to and from the earth, and heat and cold have to depend on some other energy for support. So all things in space are linked up together like an endless chain, and man is only one of the links in this chain, that is in perpetual motion, and this chain will be employed in nature's workshop for eternity. Then you Christians might say

if man has always existed, then why is the earth not overpopulated long before this? What we call nature holds the animal kingdom in check, such as big wars, earthquakes, shipwrecks, germs of disease, and many other things, but the one principal thing that will keep man from becoming too numerous on this earth is vegetation. When man overtakes vegetation, then he will become reduced in numbers by starvation. This may have taken place a good many times already. It has never been discovered yet how man came to be on this earth. We are born without our permission, so we are not responsible for our being. We are here because we are here. The author of this book does admit that it is a marvel how man or any other particle of matter came to be in existence, but it is more reasonable to suppose that man and all other matter always existed without being made, than to think they made themselves out of nothing. This is the only possible conclusion that we will ever be able to arrive at, and if matter did not exist, then there would still be empty space without limit, no end. This is fully a bigger marvel still. So if there was a supreme being who made space, then he started a work that he could not finish, as space can have no end; this would prove that this supreme being was not supreme. Now I have brought you to the end of your journey, as this is as far as man's thoughts can possibly go. Before I close this chapter I will say that you Christians often say that if it was not for the Bible and religion we would have a terribly wicked world to live in. If this be the case, how is it there is so many good people living all over the world that do not believe in any Bible or religion, as you have seen by this book. And how is it that there is not one person that does believe in God, Bibles and prayers, that is not a sinner from the time they were born until they die, as you have seen by this book. So when you read a Bible, go to church and say prayers, you only advertise how bad God did his work in the first place. If otherwise you would not have to do this, and you let the infidel see what poor judgment you have when you do this.

And you have seen by this book that Christians can't be much worse than they are now, if they had no Bible or church. So keep in mind, Christian, that Bibles, churches, preachers and priests are only advertisements to remind us

Truth Seekers and infidels how bad your God did his work in the first place, and how he sent himself to hell for murdering and lying. So if you are a pretty good citizen, thank nature for that; if not, then thank your fellowman for making laws that you had to obey in order to know how to live. So remember that it is man's laws that make so many keep in bounds and toe the mark, and not religion. This again looks bad for your God and religion when man has to make laws to keep people from becoming too wicked. If your religion was true, then it would be founded on natural laws, and would be universal. Nature would teach your children all that was necessary to know about God and heaven, and about the devil and hell, in just the same way that it tells them when they are hungry to eat, and when they are thirsty to drink, when tired to sleep. So when your children do not know anything about your religion until you tell them it proves that it is only artificial, and when you see so many different religions all over the world, this again proves that they are all artificial. . You might compare a child's brain at birth to a musical instrument, as it will take on any belief you have a mind to give it. So be very careful what you teach your child, and do not start it on a journey that you do not know where it is going, or where the end is. It is surprising how little the rev. gentlemen and Christians know about their religion. I once asked a rev. gentleman to give me just two facts of truth in regard to the foundation of the orthodox religion, and if he could do so then I would be willing to go back to the old-time religion again. But this rev. gentleman was not able to do so. And this is why I am still a Truth Seeker. This rev. gentleman could not tell me how he did know there was a God, neither could he tell me what God was, nor who made God, nor how God could have a son as old as himself, nor what the Holy Ghost was, nor how it could be the father of a natural child. Neither could he tell me how space was made, nor where his God got the material to make the planets out of, nor where heaven and hell were located, nor why God and his sons were so bad. He could not tell me why the Lord repented at his heart that he ever made man, neither could he tell me if God made hell before the rumpus or war took place in heaven, nor who made God so wicked and cruel that he had to drown so many

innocent babies and animals with the flood, nor who it was that saw God making Adam out of mud and Eve out of a rib, nor who wrote his Bible. So I gave up asking questions, as this rev. gentleman could not give me any knowledge on the subject of his own religion. So this is why I am still a Truth Seeker. Now, before you rev. gentlemen, or Christians, say anything about your Bible or religion to us infidels and Truth Seekers, be sure you have it founded upon facts of truth, then you will not feel embarrassed when you are called upon to explain yourselves. Truth never envelops itself in mystery; faith in God may be as pure as the smile of a moonlight night, but it fades when the sun of knowledge rises in the mind. Truth bears the torch in the search for truth. Religions die when they are understood.

You see, the author of this book can give you Christians all the facts of truth you desire in regard to his belief, or what some call religion. Why do you Christians not do the same in regard to your belief. This looks as though there was a nigger in the fence somewhere. It is idolatry to worship anything, so why not throw away your idol, the Bible, and be men and women enough to seek for facts of truth, instead of losing your time grappling with supposition. This would dignify you as teachers and helpers, rather than as censors and masters. It would make you less priestly, but more brotherly; less superstitious, but more rational. It might diminish your authority, but it would increase your usefulness. Religion can never reform mankind, because religion is slavery. It is strange if this orthodox religion was right, that Jesus in all his "Sayings" never once mentioned the "Plan of Salvation," and was clearly not aware that there was such a "plan." He did not once speak of Adam, or of Eve, neither of the apple, nor the snake, neither of the fall, nor of the sin imputed to Adam's posterity. And there is no proof that the deity ever wrote books revealing his will and "plan" to mankind. No proof can be found that he ever inspired men to write such books. The Bible does not purport to reveal anything. Each book in it bears the stamp of the times in which it was written; from Genesis to Revelations it teems with dreams, witches, angels, devils, demonical possession, miracles wrought by good men and bad men, Jesus and Beelzebub, with resurrections from the dead and ascensions into heaven, punishments of the innocent for the guilty,

eternal vengeance of an angry God, and all the other machinery invented for the government of mankind in the interest of the priesthood. The only "plan of salvation" is for each individual to avoid vice, cultivate virtue, and do all he can to improve himself and so much of the world and other men as he touches, especially his own family, city and country. He is his own saviour; his own virtues must save him from sin, not those of another man. The inhabitants of each of a billion worlds cannot expect the Almighty to appease his own wrath by dying a billion times on the cross. The fear of God will damn the truest heart which bends to think and play the manly part, but love of truth will raise the living head above the creeds and failures of the dead.

Some day may there be reared in America, or if not in America let it be elsewhere in some more favored land of the free, a stately temple dedicated to liberty, before which the noblest cathedrals shall pale into insignificance. May men from all lands make pilgrimages to this temple, and as they enter its portals to stand before its sacred shrine, let their eyes behold emblazoned on its walls in characters of living light the names of men and women who fought and bled and died for liberty, and made the erection of such a temple possible. As they stand erect, not crawling and cringing, before this shrine, let them chant hosannas of praise to Hypatia, to Rienzi, to Giordano Bruno, to Garibaldi, to Mazzini, to Lafayette, to Mirabeau, to Voltaire, to Washington, to Thomas Paine, to Jefferson, to Franklin, to Tolstoy, to Lincoln, to Ingersoll, and to the innumerable host of noble men and women.

Now I have let you Christians see that there is no heaven or hell awaiting you after death, and that you have found no God or devil. And I have shown you where you will arrive after death. So give up living in doubt and fear and you will get more pleasure out of life, and have less fear of death. The author of this book will soon be handing in his checks to pass him through the gates of time to join hands with nature again in some other form of life, and become young over again. So this book is my last gift to my fellowmen, and I hope the reader will be honest enough to keep it in circulation, as it may be the means of letting someone see the light of truth. Do not keep truth under a lock

and key, do not put truth under your feet, for the sake of your business. If so, it may haunt you on your death bed. Keep this book on your table, where your children and friends can see it and read it. Don't be afraid that it is going to kill your business by letting your neighbors read it, as it will be to their interest while here, and after death as well, for we do not remain long in the grave, we soon return to contribute our share towards building up some other forms of life. Once people realize this, they will be more kind and considerate to all dumb animals. So in order to enjoy the future, convert people to this belief while you are here. Do not be afraid to tell your customers and friends that you do not believe all the Bible. There are too many people running to church under the cloak of religion just for a business purpose. So if you do not believe in Bibles and churches, be men and women enough to boycott them, even if it should hurt your business a little. Shame to those who stay in church against their belief just for the sake of business and money. The world will owe homage to the author of this book for imparting so much valuable knowledge to open the eyes of the blind. Then the prison wall will fall, the dungeons will be flooded with light, and the shadow of the scaffold will cease to curse the earth. It is far better to be free, to leave the forts and barricades of fear, to stand erect and face the future with a smile, and then to rouse yourself to do all useful things, to reach with thought and deed the ideal in your brain, to give your fancies wing, that they, like chemist bees, may find art's nectar in the weeds of common things, to look with trained and steady eyes for facts, to find the subtle threads that join the distant with the now, to increase knowledge, to take burdens from the weak, to develop the brain, to defend the right, and to make truth the standard in all things. This is real religion. This is real worship. Now I hope the reader may have derived some benefit from my experience; this is the fervent wish of the author.

QUESTIONS.

N.B.—I, J. A. Campbell, promise to pay one hundred dollars (\$100) in cash to any orthodox Christian on earth, who

can give evidence or prove from facts all of the following questions:

1. What is God?
2. What is the soul and spirit composed of?
3. If a spirit hath not flesh and bones and is invisible, how can it have a heart, lungs, eyes, hands, and can breathe and walk, and be in the shape of a dove at the same time?
4. Are all things possible with God; if so does he know his own age?
5. Was Jesus Christ's father a ghost?
6. How are we to know that an angel saw a ghost cohabit with a young woman by the name of Mary?
7. Was this ghost in the form of a dove when it got acquainted with Mary.
8. Of what did God make the firmament, or space?
9. Where did God get the material to make the sun, moon and stars and all other matter that is in space?
10. Who was it that saw God making space, the earth, sun, moon, stars, etc.
11. Who was it that saw God making Adam out of dust and air?
12. If God's eyes are in every place, have they seen the end of space yet?
13. What language did the snake use in talking with Eve in the garden of Eden?
14. Before the snake talked with Eve had it legs, feet and wings?
15. What way did the snake convey Jesus to the top of the high mountain and pinnacle?
16. In what way did the snake tempt Jesus in the wilderness, and how did the snake know that Jesus was God?
17. How did so many species of animals know how to figure on the time to leave their homes in different parts of the world in order to get aboard the ark before Noah pulled in the gangway or plank?
18. How did Noah know when all the species of animals had arrived to take passage in the ark?
19. How did Noah find room for so many animals and their food in the ark, and how was it kept clean and renovated?

20. How did so many different tribes of people originate from Noah and his three boys?

I could give you many more questions, but the above may be all you have time to answer. Let us see who will be the first to get the reward. If you can not prove the above questions to be the truth, why do you pay preachers to instil such belief into your children's minds in the church and Sunday schools? And why do you church people call us Truth Seekers heathens for not believing such gilded fish stories to be the word of God?

Second Reward.

I, J. A. Campbell, do promise to pay twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) in cash to any person who can produce a book other than the Bible that is published and sold for man's everyday use that contains as many big lies and as much bad language as the Christian Bible does. Let us see which of you reverend gentlemen will be first to get the above reward.

Conclusion.

Christians pretend to be very much hurt if one speaks of their belief in words of censure, as though every man and woman were bound to patronize this hideous belief, and to pay some pretty compliment to a church that says everyone who does not accept its faith will go to hell. We are fighting Christianity, and Christians must come to us; we can never go to them. If all would advance far enough Christ would be the natural instead of the miraculous product of humanity. Take away the false teaching of the church, that which is based upon ancient fiction, and nearly all that Christian ministers have said for two hundred years is worthless. It is time that we said to the pulpit, "No more fables, if you please. Tell us the truth if you dare do so; if not, keep silent." The reverence of the Bible is simply respect for certain men's opinions. We have not yet got over hero worship. The world still looks up to the priest as though he stood a little nearer God than common men. We must get rid of our reverence for steeples and pious cravents. The holiest things inside the church are the men and women, and the minister is only like the rest. Let the false teaching

of the church no longer be respected, but let us demand of ministers that they talk common sense. Two things will force themselves upon the student of Christianity—namely, that Christianity is not the truth, and that they who accept Christianity are afraid of the truth. It has been a custom so long to preach the Christian doctrines as true that he who attempts to criticise those doctrines is regarded as blasphemous. It is under this imputation that every man must stand who would speak for more light. Am I wrong when I say that the Christian religion is false and unnatural. The money and time which are spent by the Christian church in doctoring these absurd fancies were better expended in teaching the facts of nature and the truths of the understanding. It seems to me that every person of sound mind who has reached the age of twenty-one years ought to know better than to believe the orthodox dogmas. We show the highest reverence for what is true when we correct what is false. None of our modern improvements get into the church. The inventions of the age, which surpass miracles, furnish no arguments for the church's religion. Whatever militates against Christianity, no matter what its service to the world, is regarded as dangerous. The electric telegraph is not less divine because it originated in the brain of this century. It would not have been of God any more had David discovered it instead of Moses. The best knowledge of the world is that which increases our power of development, and adds to our understanding of nature. Science has found new tables of stone which contradict the old ones. We have retained the Old Testament too long as our guide. It leaves us still in the wilderness. Who wonders that our religion is round-shouldered when Israel has been astride our humanity for twenty centuries? The fact is the religion of the church is outgrown, and the world that is outside of the church possesses a larger and truer faith.

We have steam cars for business. Why must religion ride in the old stage coach? We have telegraph wires for every message but a heavenly one. Science can travel to the sun while religion is packing her carpet-bag.

Science gets to Europe before religion gets off her knees. Science has explained the problem, while religion was searching for her manuscript. Science has saved the world before

religion could find a text from which to preach salvation. Religion has taught the catechism; science has enlightened the world. Religion has administered sacraments; science has found what is true.

If a truth be found in the last pamphlet thrown from the press it is sacred. No lips can pronounce a falsehood and make it truth. No book can make that holy which is vile. It is useless to oppose the facts of science with the exploded theories of a Bible, or to declare that to believe what is false is better than to accept what is demonstrated as the truth. Our duty is to our age; we should rid ourselves of all that hinders growth, and acquire that which will help develop our powers. We need one generation of honest-speaking men in the pulpit. We need to have a professorial chair of common sense in our theological seminaries. The vanity, nonsense and humbug that are marked Christian, and that men and women reverence with bowed heads and pious "amens" should be exposed and swept away. Everyone knows that right doing is the only thing that brings peace to the heart, or gives joy to the world. Then let us no longer countenance the false teaching of the church, but demand that ministers preach what is true. There are hosts of people connected with the Christian church who do not accept its doctrines. These people, in justice to themselves and to those who believe as they do, should come out of the church and cease to give their support to what they know is injurious, and stand up like men and women and speak their honest minds.

As the Bible is the work of other men, so Bible religion is the religion of other men. Our religion is independent of the Bible, or it is not ours. A person with human feelings in his heart cannot but have indignation and contempt for the man, though he be clothed in holy robes, who says our dearest friends are damned for their faith. It is time this damning business was stopped. That a man can be found base enough to engage in it is a blot on our human nature. That we have colleges for the purpose of training up young men to damn their fellow-creatures is a disgrace to our enlightenment. If God is infinitely wise, can He frame any excuse for creating the devil? If He is opposed to the suffering of the majority of the people in the Christian world, if the Bible be a record of God's doings, we want nothing to do

with God. If it be a record of what ignorant men thought of God, then let it be so understood, and leave the book to its fate. I know of no dogma that deserves a swifter death than this. It has filled the mind with hypocrisy and the earth with slaves. On every Christian pulpit lies a book called "the Holy Bible." This title is an inheritance from the past which rewarded imposters and killed honest men. There was a time when to deny the divinity of the Christian Scriptures meant imprisonment or death. What I want to know is, what part of the Bible is divine, if all of it is not? Christians are evidently ashamed of some of the acts of their God. We are told that the old book stands in spite of the attacks of infidels and the poisoned arrows of the higher criticism. It does not stand by its own strength. It stands because thousands of men are paid to hold it up.

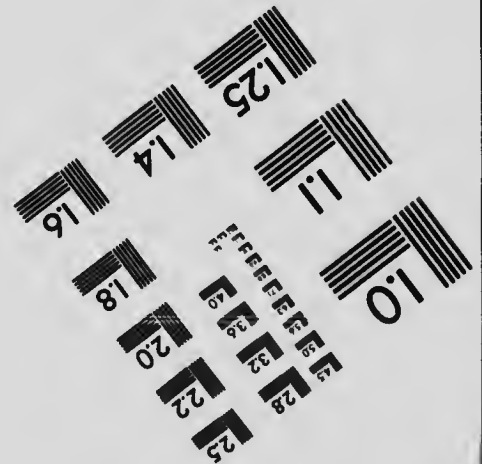
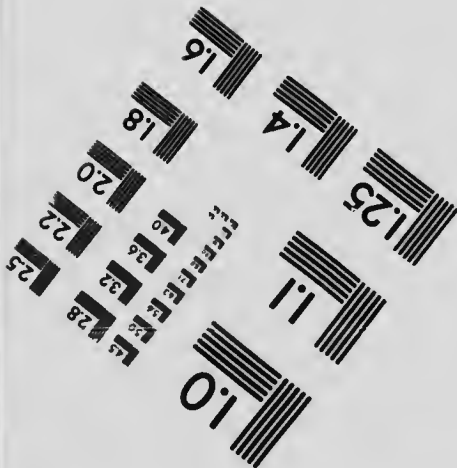
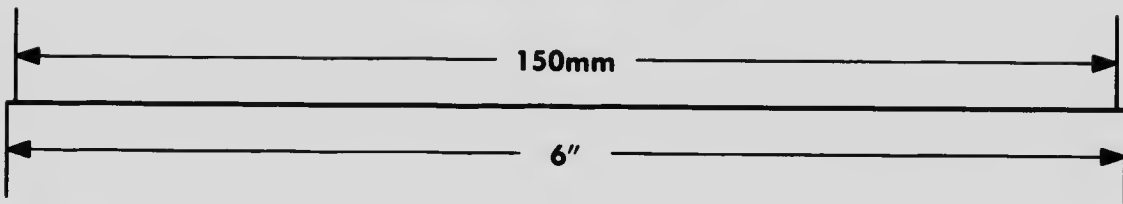
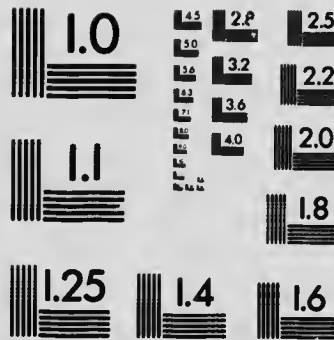
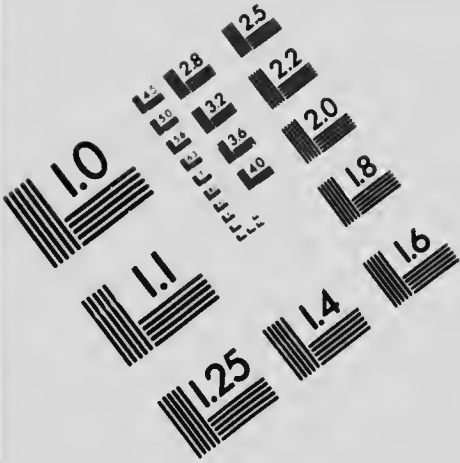
The Scriptures have been brought forward to knock down or strangle every new scientific thought. Our orthodox ministers have stood like highwaymen on the road and called to every new thought, "Your assistance for our cause, or your life!" Science has flourished, not because it had the Bible to help it, but in spite of its direct opposition. Astronomy discovered that the earth is round and revolves; but the Bible taught something widely different; and hence the astronomer was an infidel, and astronomy a dangerous science. Geology proved the world to be millions of years old, and the wail over its infidelity has not yet subsided. It is well known that man was on the earth ages before the time of Adam and Eve. You can find no greater difference, nor yet as great a difference, between the creeds of those who do not regard the Bible as authority than of those who do. Of what use, then, is your standard?

If the United States possessed a standard measure of a yard to which all parties had access, and yet we found honest men with measures that they called yards, of fifteen, thirty and fifty inches in length, which they all declared they had made from the standard, what should we think? We might possibly think that the standard differed in length at different times, or that the men had not sufficient knowledge to form their standard from it; but, at all events, we should conclude that as a standard it was of no earthly use whatever, and that they would be likely to do better without it





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than with it. And what are we to think of the Bible as a standard of truth, when we find honest, intelligent men who come to it differ so very widely in their opinions respecting God, man, duty and truth generally? We can only rationally conclude that as a standard the book is of no use.

So far is the Bible from being pure, that unless a person is familiar with it he must carefully scan what he is about to read, lest he bring the blush of shame to the face of his hearers. The Bible is an armory, where the honest may equip themselves for the true warfare, and where the murderer may find weapons to destroy. It is a mine containing gold and worthless rock, true riches and heaps of rubbish. It is a mixture of good and bad, wisdom and folly, old wives' fables and old men's reasons, Jewish prejudices and everlasting truths. It is a sea into which men cast the net and draw to shore both good and bad; and they should be wise enough to keep the good, and throw the bad away.

Men have made the Bible an idol; the ministers of the different churches are its priests, who have enthroned it; while the multitude have bowed and worshipped, offering their time, talents, and even reason, a sacrifice to this paper god. Those who cannot worship this idol, who will not bow the knee to this image, are denounced and treated as the vilest wretches. But error cannot always rule, neither can falsehood be forever triumphant. Dislike it as the fogies may, the time has come when everything must be examined. There is nothing that can escape the strictest scrutiny, however old, sacred or firmly rooted it may be; though its foundations lie deep in the rubbish of ages, there are those who will dig and discover whether it rests on sand or rock; though its head reach the clouds, there are daring spirits who will mount as the eagle and examine its top-stone. Tremble, thou old gray-headed lie, thou pagan fable, thou unmanly superstition, for though enshrined in the Holy of Holies, the day is approaching, the hour that shall drag thee to light and expose thy hidden deformities to thy blinded worshippers.

The flood is rising that shall sweep away thy temple, and leave not a trace behind.

It is well that this scrutinizing spirit should be abroad. It is time that every door was opened, not excepting the church door, and reason invited to walk in. Truth fears

not a microscope; but the glance of a true man's eye is sufficient to blast a lie. In all countries dogmas are taught which are regarded as too sacred for rational investigation; and the consequence is that men are made the dupes of the superstitious and crafty, allowing their eyes to be closed, when in fact they have most need of them; and thus become the slaves of childish fears and wild delusions, which, like phantoms, revel in the darksome night, but disappear in the light of reason.

This land is filled with Bible slaves, with men and women whose minds were poisoned in their youth with the religious notion that the Bible is the word of God. This superstition is the mother of all the others. The whole dirty brood was hatched in this nest. An Irish lad was asked to describe a snake. He said: "A snake is all head but his tail." The Bible is the head of Christianity, all the rest is tail. Take away the notion that the Bible is the word of God, and Christianity is a ladder without any rungs. The Truth Seekers of the world occupy the vantage ground of criticism in this matter, and they do not purpose to abandon it. They will not compromise. They demand complete and unconditional surrender of the dogma that the Bible is the word of God. Nothing else will satisfy them, and nothing else will answer the demands of honesty and truth. Let us begin a new crusade, a new anti-slavery movement, and never cease our work until the foolish superstition that the Bible is divine be dethroned. Nothing good in the book can be harmed. All we ask is that the truth shall be told about it, and not a lie. There is no word of God in any book upon this earth, and to teach children that the Bible is God's word is to plant a falsehood in their minds.

The man behind the pulpit is the fellow that we are after; we must force him to show his hand. Let us make the Christian minister confess to the world that he is preaching a dead god, or a living one who is unworthy of the respect and loyalty of decent men and women. If a minister tells me that "God is love," I want him to prove it. If he tells me that the Lord God of the Old Testament is a God of love, I tell him to his face that he states a falsehood, and he knows it. Now, then, the question for us to consider is this: If the Christian does not find his God in the Bible, where

does he find him? We wish it distinctly understood that this fight is not of our making. For hundreds of years the Christian church has declared that the Bible is the word of God, and that this book contains the divine revelation to man. The Christian church must defend this declaration. If it has the evidence to sustain its assertion, we wish to see it. I challenge the Christian church to prove its declaration, and I do not hesitate to say that it cannot do it.

Is he a man, that thou shouldst style thy worshipping place His house; thy hired Sunday talker His minister, and a volume written by men blinder than thyself His word? Open thy eyes and be amazed at thy folly; the Indian in the wild might teach thee a worthier religion. When thy little sect has vanished from the earth and its name is all unknown, even to thyself; when the Bible has perished and the name of Jesus is lost to every dweller on this planet, then true religion will be fresh as the dew, beautiful as the morning, blessing all people everywhere.

Sects and Bibles are things of yesterday, and will disappear to-morrow; but freedom, truth, love, uprightness belong to the soul, existed ages before a book of any kind was written, are inculcated by people of all climes, are recognized by all religions; they are the natural product of the soil which underlies them all, and they shall spring up and be green and fruitful forever. True religion knows no sects or parties, no priests or thirty-nine articulated creeds. It does not believe that all truth is shut up in a book, big or little; but looks for light within, without. It does not go with a dark lantern to look for truth in a mummy pit, among the withered, dusty, cobwebbed dead; but is out in the sunshine gathering the flowers that our universal Mother has strewed on every hand. True religion needs no splendid temples, no grand display, no mitred priest, no silk-gowned, lawn-sleeved bishop, no black-coated minister; it needs no gorgeous altar, no silver crucifix, no silk-tasselled pulpit, no holy days, holy sacraments or holy houses. All it needs is noble, upright souls; men and women who will seek for truth as for hidden treasure, and when found, and her voice heard, will obey her requirements at all hazards. In these it lives and flourishes in unfading verdure, in eternal bloom. It teaches us to develop the man within us nobly, fearlessly and harmoniously, to manifest our religion

by a pure and holy life; and then points us in the future to a realm where progress is forever possible. This is the "religion that can give sweetest pleasure while we live"; and this "religion can supply solid comfort when we die." Its flower has no thorn, and its honey no poison.

P.S.—Quite a Journey.

Now, reader, I hope you feel none the worse after your long journey. You see we have been to the Garden of Eden, where the mud man and rib woman were made, and we have been to the land of Nod, where the mud man's son Cain got his wife. Then we took a trip to the antipodes and had a pleasant time with the heathen, and we found them very nice people, as they live more natural lives than the Christians do in our country, and they are not so much adulterated with religion and education, and they have just as good a system of taking care of the sick and helpless as those professing Christians have. We then took a tour to see heaven and hell, and to investigate their managers. After this we made a nice tour through the animal and vegetable kingdoms, where we gained much knowledge, and we then spent a short time in the spirit world investigating what a spirit was. This we found very interesting. We then had a little time to listen to a Truth Seeker's funeral address, which we more than enjoyed, as it was the first of the kind that we had ever heard. Before arriving home we saw quite a game played for truth between the Orthodox Christians and the Infidels, and to my surprise the Christians did not score one inning, for the simple reason that they did not have the foundation of their argument founded on facts of truth.

Now, I must say that I owe homage to the author of this book for taking me out to see the world and to increase my knowledge. Yes, and the author took this journey to advertise the truth, and to destroy false religion, to deliver men from the bondage of error, and to speed the time when Truth and Love, twin sisters, shall be recognized and accepted by all

people, and I hope this book will have the tendency to bring this about. I now send it forth without fear, knowing whatever is true in it cannot but live, and whatever is false will deservedly die.

Yours respectfully,

J. A. CAMPBELL.

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