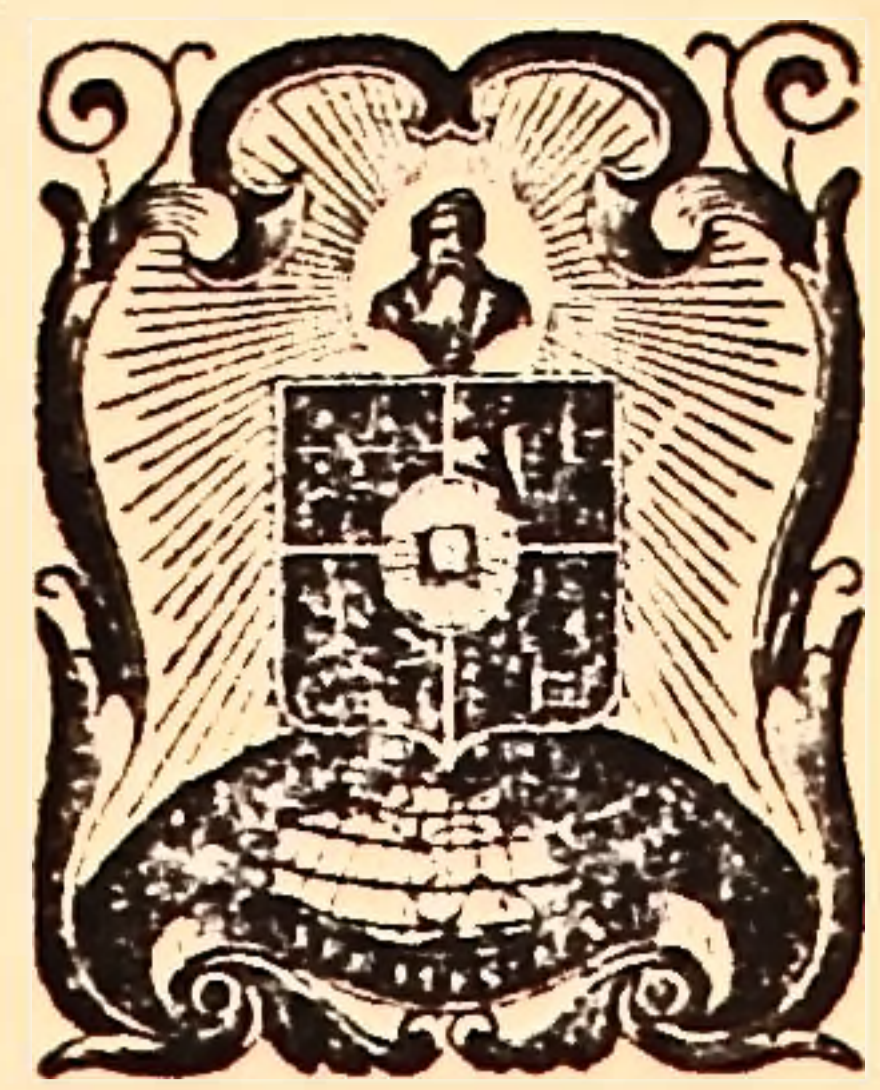


THE SPIRITUALISTIC
FREE PRESS;
 OR,
 JOURNAL OF THE GREAT ORGANIZATION.
 A NEWSPAPER ISSUED FORTNIGHTLY,



WHICH WILL CONTAIN SPIRITUAL AND TEMPORAL FACTS, AND DESCRIBE THE PRINCIPLES AND DOCTRINES OF THE GREAT ORGANIZATION.

No. 7, Vol. 1.

SATURDAY, JUNE 2, 1860.

PRICE 1D.

THE ARGUMENTS WHICH INFIDELS BRING FORWARD AGAINST THE BIBLE ON ACCOUNT OF ITS TEACHINGS, WHICH NONE WHO READ CAN DENY.

ALTHOUGH the religious world condemns infidels, atheists, and deists, yet they would sooner come in contact with any of that class of people than with the spiritualists, or the members of the Great Organization; for, though they have difficulty in overthrowing the arguments of infidels, yet the religionists ultimately confound the infidel, because the infidel, seeing that the scriptures are corrupt and contradictory, and not knowing how they were corrupted and made to appear so absurd, they condemn the scriptures altogether, ignore religion and repudiate Christianity; while spiritualists, or believers in divine revelation, only ignore and repudiate the corrupt part of the scriptures, believing in the holy and inspired, and original part of the scriptures, acknowledging a Just Almighty God, and firmly believing in Christianity as founded by Christ. Hence we are enabled to beat both the religionists and the infidels with their own weapons, by fearlessly proclaiming the existence of a God and purity of religion to the face of the infidel: and by proving to the religionists that the scriptures are corrupt, oppressive and immoral in their teachings, and that the Bible sets these things forth, as we shall here shew.

First.—God made one man, Adam, and gave him the fruit of every tree for meat. (Gen. i. 29). But God forbade him from eating of the fruit of one tree. (Gen. ii. 17). And prevented him from eating the fruit of another. (Gen. iii. 22 to 24). God gave man a desire to eat of the fruit of the forbidden tree, and then made a serpent which was more subtle than any beast of the field. (Gen. iii. 1). To tempt man to eat God made the fruit pleasing to the eyes as good for food, and as desirable to make one wise. (Gen. iii. 6). Man accordingly eat the fruit, and God cursed the earth, it having only offended him by bearing the tree which God himself had placed there. (Gen. iii. 17) God's voice walked in the garden in the cool of the day. (Gen. iii. 8). Though God is not affected by heat or cold, and although there is only one God, God told the other Gods that Adam might eat of the tree of life, and become as one of us. (Gen. iii. 22). So the bible teaches that God punishes man for endeavouring to become more like himself. God is no respecter of persons, yet he respected Abel but despised Cain; and Cain killed Abel, and God banished him out of his presence, and put a mark upon him lest any other man should find him and kill him, knowing that no other man was upon the earth but Adam, and no other female but Eve; yet Cain fled to the land of Nod, and took him a wife. (Gen. iv. 4, 5, and following verses). God is not a man that he should grieve or repent, yet it repented him that he had made man, and grieved him at his heart. (Gen. vi. 4 to 6). After God had missioned Moses to warn Pharaoh, God sought to kill him, but failed. (Ex. iv. 24). God is said to be everywhere, omnipresent and omniscient but he could not be in Tarshish, for Jonah fled there out of his presence. (Jonah i. 3). God permits his chosen

people to steal women, and rob them of their virtue, and then let them go where they will. (Deu. xxi. 10 to 14). Now God asked Moses to let him alone, that his wrath might wax hot, but Moses rebuked God, showing him what the people might say against him; and through Moses's remonstrances God repented him of the evil He had thought to do unto his people. (Exodus, xxxii. 9 to 14.) A thief, a murderer, and an adulterer was the man whom God chose after his own heart, and God said that this man had obeyed him and walked in his ways all the days of his life, and done only that which was right in God's eyes. (1 Kings, xiv. 18.) The above passages are sufficient in themselves to show up the absurd teachings of the Bible, though many others could be found more pernicious, more immoral, and more oppressive, yet all are set forth as the words, works, and ways of a wise, just, and merciful God. Can we wonder that with such teachings represented in the Bible as they are to emanate from an all-wise God, that Infidelity should exist, or that religion, founded on such absurdities, should be repudiated and rejected. It is useless to say that the Bible does not contain such teachings, for we have given chapter and verse shewing where they may be found; and it is also useless to say that the passages do not mean what they say, but want a spiritual meaning given to them. We would ask, of what use is a book which does not mean what its pages contain in print? Hundreds of other passages could be given, which sets forth the injustice, cruelty, and oppression of God, which we, however, ignore and repudiate, believing such to be the corruptions as inserted by man, as proved by Divine revelation, while we firmly believe in *all* the *holy* inspired truths of the Bible, as instructed by Divine revelation, ignoring only that which is oppressive, immoral, and absurd, much of which can be found in the Bible.

Correspondence

Our correspondents are respectfully informed that all letters which may be wished to appear under the above head must be forwarded on or before the Thursday in the week following the date of the publication of the last issue, and that such letters must be legibly and briefly written on one side of the paper only, so that we may give as much original matter as possible and, at the same time, facilitate the compositor's work, by thus laying before him the copy plainly written on one side only. We wish our correspondents to cooperate with us in these respects. All letters which are of real interest and instruction, even if not in accordance with our opinions, shall be inserted, but we cannot undertake to return rejected manuscripts. Letters and correspondence for the Editor must be sent by the above-mentioned period in each week, addressed to the Editor, at Mr. J. G. H. Brown's, Great Alfred-street, Nottingham, or to Mr. Hackett's, Borough Printing Offices, Maypole Yard, Nottingham. Communications not prepaid will neither be taken in or attended to.

Passages of Scripture proving that the sectarian denominations act in opposition to real Christianity, and that the doctrines of Divine revelation of modern date and those propagated by Christ and his Apostles are one and the same.

To the Editor of the Spiritualistic Free Press.

SIR,—Your fearless exposition of the corruption of the Scriptures will no doubt cause many hitherto, unthinking and careless readers to examine them, with more interest. It is no wonder at all that man, through interested motives should have done so. Can we find an element in God's creation, to which man has free access, which is not corrupted? Three out of the four natural elements, the Almighty has thought fit to retain the prerogative of disposing of by His own immediate administration—that is, the heat and light of the sun; the atmospheric air, and the rain; "but the earth hath He given to the children of man." And the latter element being the only one within the power of man to tamper with. He has not failed to take every advantage of the benevolence of his Creator. Thus we see that, although the Scriptures declare that "the earth is the Lord's" (Psalm xxiv.), yet one class of men are denied the right of a foot of it, except he pays a tax to another class—and almost every production of the earth is thus corrupted, that is, taxed, monopolised, and adulterated. The word of the Lord was given like the natural elements, pure at its first issue. But if we could ransack the creation we should find that every element, article, precept, and ordinance which man could tamper with, has been corrupted, changed, altered, or adulterated.

English laws are acknowledged to be Christian laws; but I will show that the laws of both church and state of all nations are anti-christian. In the first place, then, they have changed the ordinance, that is, the whole order of the church. (Isaiah, xxiv. 5.) The church should rule the state, or it cannot be recognised in the kingdom of Christ. But now, the states rule the churches, and in consequence of this reversion the laws of both are become blended together, and are an abomination to God. Christ, when upon earth, taught his disciples and followers to observe the following precepts, most of which are to be found in the 5th, 6th, and 7th chapters of Matthew, and a few of which I shall name, and show how they are kept by professed Christians at the present time. If any reader will trouble himself to examine the references he will at once see that the whole system of modern Christianity is contrary to the apostolic order. Here, then, is the mystery of iniquity on the Antichrist, which Paul said in his day had already begun to work. (2 Thess. ii. 7; 1 John, iv. 3.) The Scriptures teach thus, "Thou shalt not lend to thy brother upon usury." (Deut. xxiii. 19.) Modern Christianity in church and state act contrary—Scripture, "Love your enemies;" modern Christianity says, "Kill them." Scripture, "Swear not at all" (Matthew, v. 34); modern Christianity, "Swear on the throne, in law courts, and in the church." "From him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away (Matt. v. 34). Thou shalt not lend a horse and cart to thy brother. In modern-made churches now, "the priests teach for hire," see Micah, iii, 11. Brothers goeth to law with brother (1 Cor. vi, 1.). They lay up treasures on earth (Matthew, vi. 19). They use vain repetitions, and make long prayers (Matt. vi, 57). They do not forgive their debtors (Matt vi, 12) and yet say this prayer. They call Christ Lord, Lord, and do not the things which He says (Luke, vi, 46). They invite the rich to their feasts (Luke xiv, 12). They call men lords and right rev. fathers in the church (Matthew, xxiii, 8 and 9). They baptise persons before they believe (Acts, viii, 12 to 37). They call bricks and mortar a church; they call the Lord's supper eucharist; and give it in the morning instead of night, and also cut the bread into square pieces (Luke. xxii, 19). They endeavour to outvie each other in finery, sactioning the wearing of ornaments of gold and silver in their places of worship, all which is condemned by the apostles (see 1 Peter, iii, 3). They have built fonts in churches and cisterns in chapels to baptize in, in order to escape the scandal of the cross. Thus we might traverse, I believe, the New Testament, and prove every precept, law, and ordinance, of both state and church (although set up in imitation thereof), to be directly opposed to the principles of the apostolic order of the Church of Christ. The people pray, "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth." But, before this can be, all worldly rule, with all iniquity, must be overthrown (see Psalm ii. 3, 9, 10; also Psalm cxlix, 7, 8, 9; also Psalm cii, 13 to 18.) This last quotation shows that there is a set time

to favour Zion, and that it was written for the generations to come.

Now, we beg to remind such of our brethren as cannot or will not believe in modern Divine revelation, that the doctrines and principles it teaches, and those which Christ taught are one and the same; and whoever rejects one rejects the other. They both breathe forth justice, mercy, and charity; but eternal torment breathes forth neither of these. Therefore, we implore our sectarian brethren, who trust in Scripture history for their authority, not to be deceived, nor to substitute the writings of the apostles, for immediate revelation, for the apostles never sanctioned any church authority which did not emanate from that source. This connecting chain of inspiration being wholly broken, men have usurped the Divine authority, or rather lost it. Therefore, as the Bible declares that the vision was for an appointed time, and at the end it would speak, we must look for its return among those who profess to have seen something, and not to the sects who repudiate the belief in visions, or who prophecy out of their own hearts, and have seen nothing. (See Ezekiel, xiii, 8.)

I have given the Scripture references, Sir, in order to prove positively that they condemn the systems of every denomination, while they agree with every principle which modern Divine revelation teaches.

If you can consistently insert this in the *Free Press* I shall write, perhaps, again on the subject, but I am afraid it is too lengthy.

I remain, dear Sir, with due respect,
Yours, &c.,

T. F. HOLMES.

Brandon, Suffolk.

To the Editor of the *Spiritualistic Free Press*,

Manchester, May 20, 1860.

SIR,—I beg to hand you the annexed paragraph, taken from the *Liverpool Mercury*, and doubt not but it will be both interesting as well as satisfactory to a many of your readers to know at least that one important passage in the New Testament has been wrongly translated:—

*Copy.—Discovery of an Ancient Biblical Manuscript.—*In Mr. Mayer's Museum at Liverpool, are a great number of Egyptian, Coptic, and Greek Papyri, relating to various subjects, historical and religious. Mr. Mayer has entrusted the unrolling of these to Dr. Simonides, who has found three leaves of a Papyrus scroll containing the 19th chapter of the Gospel according to Saint Matthew, written in Greek uncial characters, the reading of which will show that that part of the 24th verse relating to the passing of the camel through the eye of a needle, has been a wrong reading of the Greek text; the date of the manuscript has every appearance, as the form of letter and other rules which are used as guides to pallographists indicate, of belonging to the first century after Christ, which is older than any other christian document known to exist.—Mr. Mayer is about to publish the original writing in *fac simile*, with an English translation.

J. B.

Manchester.

ANCIENT AND MODERN PROPHECY.

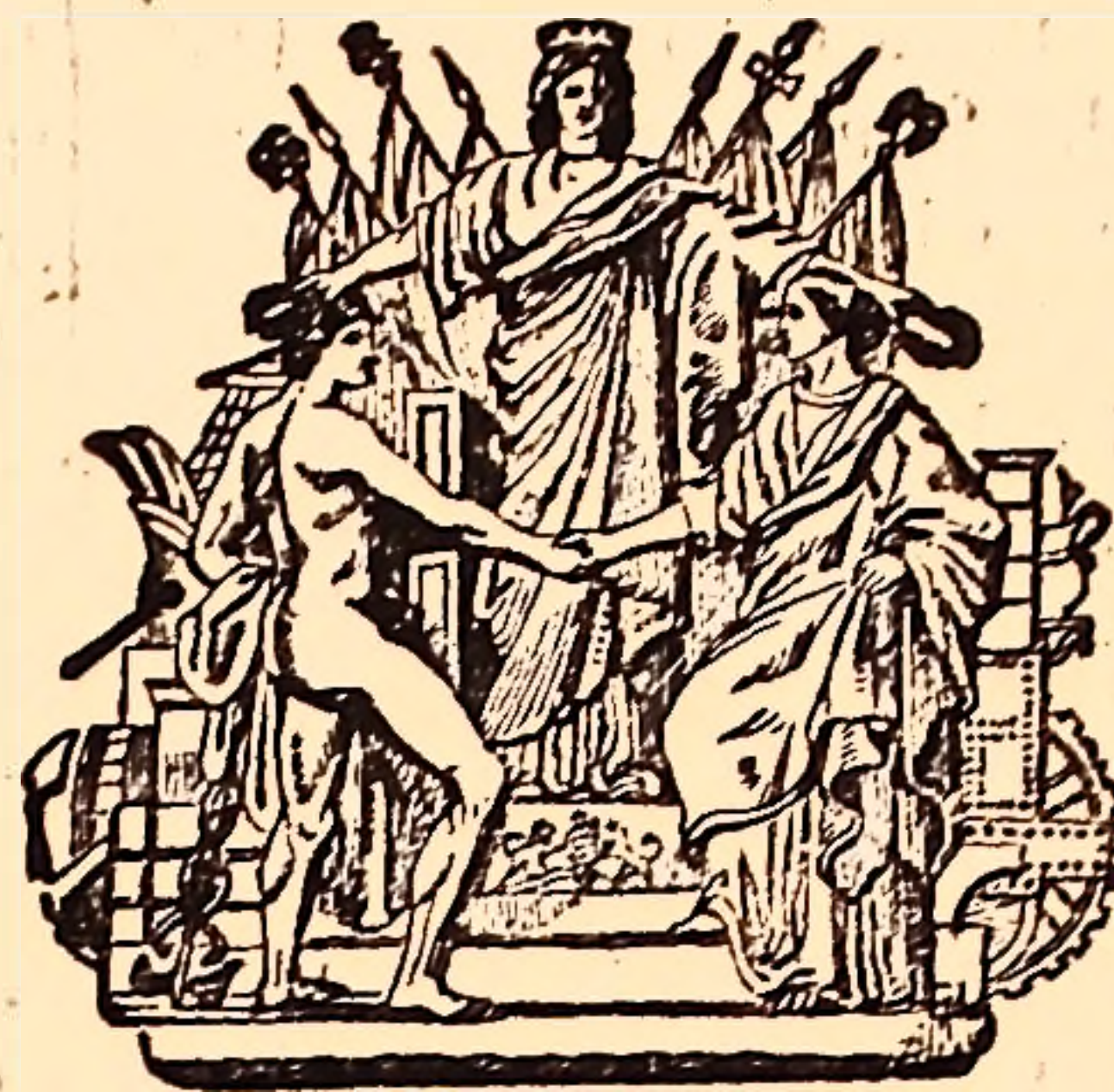
P. D., Manchester.—In my former articles there were several misprints, which more or less injured the same; but there is a mistake in the last edition which I cannot allow to pass unnoticed. It will have been produced by hurry or indistinct writing. In the third paragraph was printed—"...." this first sign must necessarily appear before the end of 1860." This passage ought to be read as follows—"...." this first sign must necessarily appear before the end of the winter 1860-61. The sign of the general bud and blossom.... before the close of the next winter"

A short time ago a remarkable book came under my notice, of which I intend giving a few passages in confirmation of the prophecies of Brown. It is called "The World's Doom," and was edited above sixty-five years ago, in the year, 1795. At that time, a man named Richard Brothers, in London, attracted much attention by a wonderful spirit of prophecy. His prophecies must have emanated from a rather low source, as there is much ambition, much wrong, and even a good deal of nonsense in them. However they contain much which has come to pass, principally in reference to the war which was at that time raging between this country and France. I quote the following passages from the book:—"Again I was in a vision, and saw London a scene of confusion. It was effected on a sudden; all the people were armed, and appeared quite furious.... and saw a large river run through London coloured with human blood."

"It is more than twenty months since I first wrote to the king, queen, and minister of state, to inform them of many things which would come to pass.... I beseeched them in the most earnest and respectful language not to join in the war on any account whatever, or even encourage it.... The aspect of the war was delusive, the encouragements of success that it held out to princes were deceitful, but those encouragements were permitted to bring many nations under the judgment of God. For a

short time God will permit England to succeed in the acquisition of delusive conquest, but it is the better, the more effectual, and more unperceptible to human foresight, to accomplish his judgment on her.... Is the Government, the parliament, the clergy, and people, so insensible to the blessings of peace, as to prefer to support a war which, in its consequences, is designed to throw down for ever the English monarchy; and, from the confusion it will make throughout the country, involve about every family of wealth in beggary and death!.... A little time longer, and England will be so much entangled as not to be able to go forward without feeling the pains of that colonial conquest which is to be the cause of her death; never to retire without falling under that foreign blow which will break the empire in pieces, and throw herself down on the ground, from whence she is never to rise up any more."

These extracts are most interesting prophecies, for they distinctly say that the events at the eve of which we are now standing, are only the consequences of the great wars against France and Napoleon I; and this perfectly agrees with what we have been told so repeatedly, that the present emperor will revenge upon us the misfortunes of his uncle, whose pet he was. At the same time the passages confirm our prophecies which state—that England will be left comparatively defenceless on account of her colonial difficulties, and that at that juncture the French will strike that blow from which this country will but narrowly escape. The work mentioned consists of two strong volumes, which, however, in addition to the above passages, contain scarcely anything of value, except a sequel of spiritual precepts and rules.



IF THE SECTARIAN RELIGIONISTS REALLY BELIEVE THE SCRIPTURES, HOW DARE THEY COMPUTE THE EVILS OF THE WORLD TO HAVE ORIGINATED FROM A BEING CALLED THE DEVIL?

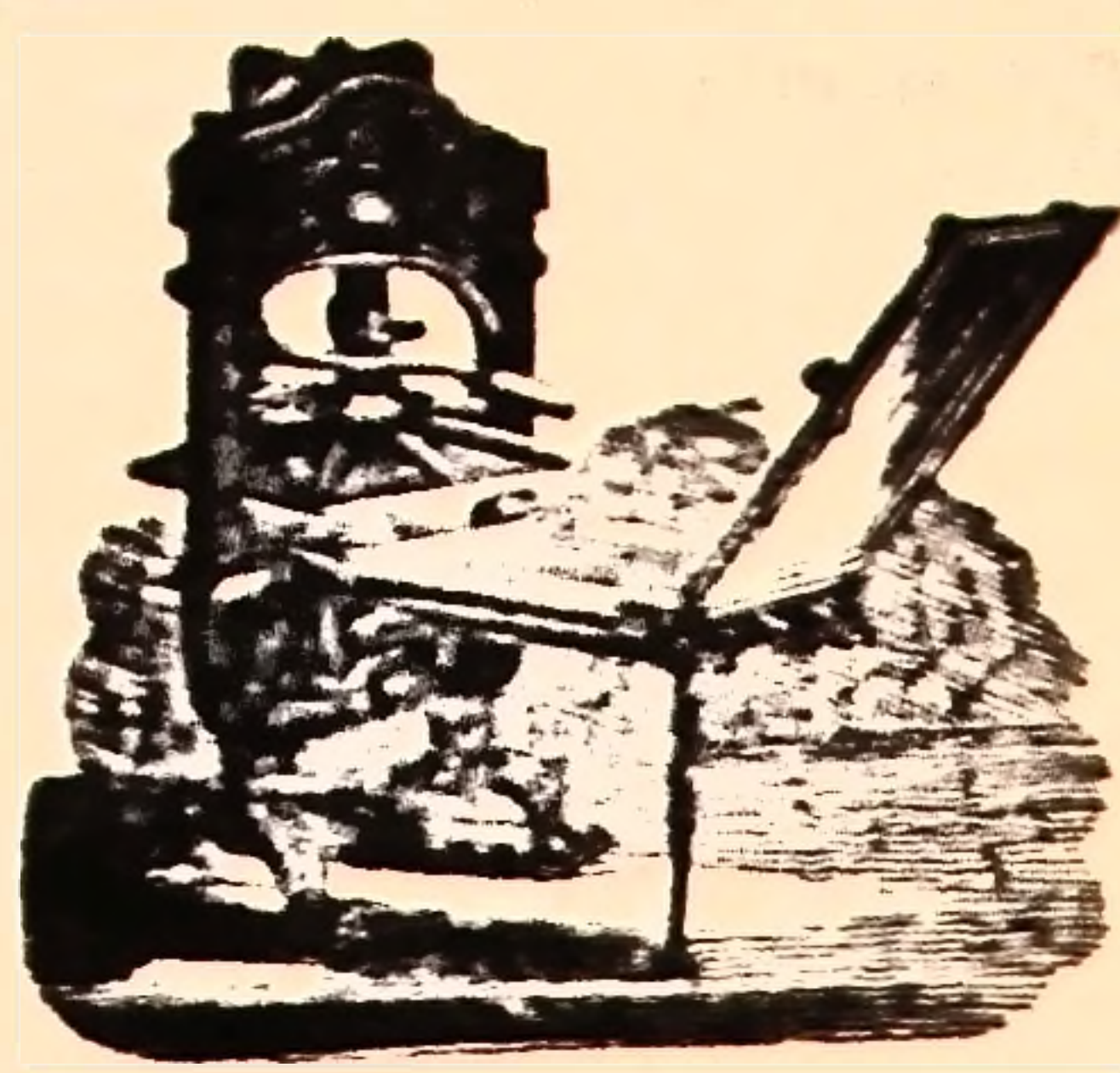
Let the professors of Christianity read from the 5th to the 7th verse of the 45th chapter of Isaiah, in which it is stated repeatedly that God hath said there is no God but me, and that He alone is the Lord, and that He formed the darkness and made the light. He makes peace and creates evil, and says, I, the Lord, do all these things. Now, if these be the pure words of God, as the religious professors avow they are, and which we unhesitatingly affirm, being, as we are, believers in Divine revelation, let me ask the clergy and professors of every sect and denomination, how such a God could permit the existence of a being whom the religionists represent to have more power than even God himself? They not only believe that God permits the existence of such a being, but they also believe that He, God, created this monster, and then gave him power to thwart his own Divine will; and if God be really the author and creator of all things, He must have created the devil? But, although this devil is frequently mentioned in the Scriptures, and so much feared and revered by the people until the rising generations of every age are actually taught to fear the devil instead of God, whom they are instructed to worship and serve solely through fright and fear of this devil and eternal torment, not because they choose good rather than evil, but because they fear the consequences resulting from evil, and the meeting with the devil, with whom they are continually threatened, yet the Scriptures nowhere give any origin of a definite character of such devil. At the conclusion of the creation the Lord is represented to have beheld all things which he had made, and pronounced them very good—planting trees, shrubs, vegetation; making man and beast; and to the man, who was to till the ground, he gave a woman, as a helpmate, made from Adam's rib, taken from him whilst asleep; they were then placed in the garden of Eden, and were permitted to eat of every tree but the tree of knowledge of good and evil, and the tree of life, and the man

and woman appeared to be inclined to obey God's instructions, but here we find the first introduction or origin of the devil in the form of a serpent, which was one of the creatures God had made, and we are told how that serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. (Genesis, iii, 1.) So it is evident that God made this serpent, and as God is the author of all things, he gave this serpent power to beguile the woman that she might disobey and thwart his will; and thus the earth, and all creation, and all generations of mankind were cursed for ever by that God who created them, and who instigated the crime for which he cursed them. But this is only a faint idea of the origin of such devil, although in no other part of the Scriptures is there any account of how he originated given. In the book of Revelations he is represented as a great red dragon, who had a host of angels, and great power, and the dragon and his angels fought against Michael and his angels; but the dragon and his angels was cast out of heaven and bound in chains of darkness to the judgment-day. In the book of Jude he is represented as being at the head of a host of angels who rebelled against God, and keeping not their first estate they were cast out of heaven and reserved in chains of darkness to the judgment-day.

Now, if this devil came upon earth at the time of the creation, the war in heaven must have been before the creation; and, if so, we would ask—How it is that the devil and the great archangel Michael could dispute about the body of Moses, who did not live until six thousand years after the history of the creation, as it is purported; but turn scripture which way you will, no definite origin can be found for the said devil. Therefore he is nothing more than an imaginary being, invented by the craft and duplicity of man in bygone ages, who dispersed him in fancy throughout the scriptures on purpose to terrify the people into submission, and reliance upon their teachings; and hence, they have made this devil bear all the guilt of their selfish and oppressive acts, until the people believe that this devil is going about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour, and that he is able to overthrow and thwart the decrees of that God who is all-powerful, all-wise, and all-just; and though they acknowledge these to be the attributes of God, yet they believe also that a devil, who can divide God's power, still exists. But to all such I would say, read the Bible, and, notwithstanding its corruptions, they will find that there is but one God only, who hath said, beside me there is no God; I know not any; I make peace, and I create evil; I, the Lord, do all these things. Therefore, God, being the author, creator, and ruler of all things, no power can exist in direct opposition to his own divine will, but he permits the evils to exist to shew forth the good; and all creatures, however profane they may be, are equally performing his divine will and works for a wise end known only to himself. Hence God does not punish man for his sins committed in the flesh, but they are judged whilst on earth, and punish each other in their progress through the spheres of immortality by giving and receiving reproaches from those and to those whom they injured whilst living. Thus they eventually become purified and fitted for the presence of their Maker, which glorious object was attained for all by the shedding of the Redeemer's blood. Therefore, the existence of a devil, as the author of sin, and the enemy of man, is a delusive invention, for God suffers no power to exist which can divide his own; and those who throw their sin and guilt upon the devil, though only imaginary, console themselves that they have him to blame for all their tyranny, hypocrisy, cruelty, and deception; but their consciences will tell them that the evil is in their own hearts and actions, and they are gifted with wisdom and understanding to check it if they will. Hence, God permits the evil to exist to shew forth the good, and woe be to those who shall treat his instruments with scorn or derision, whether they be used by him to shew forth evil or good.

AN OBSERVER OF DIVINE REVELATION.

May 24, 1860.



THE
Spiritualistic Free Press,

SATURDAY, JUNE 2, 1860.

WHAT ARE THE CAUSES OF THE CALAMITIES AS FORETOLD TO FALL UPON THE EARTH, AS SHEWN IN ANCIENT AND MODERN PROPHECY.

If we search the prophetic portion of the scriptures, we shall find that every judgment that God has sent on any portion of the earth, in any age, has been sent through the tyranny and oppression which existed amongst the rulers and teachers of the people, and if we study that portion of ancient prophecy which is not fulfilled, we shall also find that tyranny, oppression, and hypocrisy will be the causes for which the calamities will fall upon the earth during the last days of this dispensation, as foretold by all the ancient prophets and confirmed by Christ himself, from the prophet Isaiah right through to the last of the ancient prophets; destruction and tribulations are held out to the oppressors and opposers of God's will, works, and people, and the prophets declare that in the latter days the preachers who teach for hire and make long prayers in superfluous language, with eloquence of speech, telling lies in hypocrisy, pretending to lean upon the Lord, saying is not the Lord amongst us and none evil can come upon us. Modern prophecy also foretells that prior to the last great day, marvellous calamities shall fall upon the earth through the tyranny and oppression, hypocrisy and delusion of those who rule and teach; it also shews that this oppression and hypocrisy have arisen through the corruption of the scriptures, and hence priestcraft has called the people's minds into submission to all impious laws and ordinances imposed upon them, and submit themselves to be frightened into the most degrading subjection, through the threats of eternal torment in hell-fire and brimstone with the devil and his angels, a being, and a state of suffering invented by the craft and ingenuity of designing men, under which the people are compelled to toil in wretchedness, misery, and want, while their rulers and teachers live in luxury and idleness, and teach the people to believe that it is God's will that they should be so, and that they the people should be contented. It is these sufferings

which in all ages has caused the people to cry aloud to God, who has heard their cries and avenged their wrongs, and even now modern prophecy declares in the following prophetic poem that the Lord still listens to the voice of his oppressed people, and the angel declares—

REVEALED POEM.

1856.

The Lord hears the cries which ascend from each nation,
His anger is kindled the tyrants shall find,
For the wrongs they have heaped on his helpless creation,
Their power shall be scattered, like chaff in the wind.

From the east to the west, all shall feel his displeasure,
His will and his power acknowledged shall be;
His wrath and his vengeance shall fall without measure,
On all who shall scoff at his holy decree.

Can Britain say Lord thy decrees have been heeded,
Our people are happy, contented, and free,
We give to the poor, where'er it be needed,
Relieve their distresses and glorify thee.

Their wants all condemn thee, thy riches acknowledge,
Thy laws are all grinding, thy people are slaves;
The chains of oppression which hold them in bondage,
Deprives them of rest, till they sleep in their graves.

Then war and destruction shall fall on each nation,
Which holds back the promise of Christ sent from God;
Who purchased his creatures eternal salvation,
And wash'd out their sins with his precious blood.

And lo! he will come and establish his kingdom,
His saints and his martyrs around him shall stand;
His laws will bespeak love, friendship, and freedom,
And man shall be equal all over the land.

Then poverty, crime, vexation, and folly,
With every evil mankind doth endure;
Shall flee from the earth, for the Lord he is holy,
His laws are all justice, his people are pure.

And then no more threats of eternal damnation,
The people all happy, henceforward shall sing
Their praises to Christ, who has wrought their salvation,
And fall down and worship their Saviour and King.

Hosanna to Jesus, the greatest of Princes,
All evils are vanquished, thy people are free;
The world now convinc'd of his mercy and kindness,
Will worship and praise him in sweet unity.

This strange but extraordinary poem was revealed in 1856, in presence of several persons of a sceptical and prejudiced turn of mind, who did not believe that the poems which had before been published were revealed, but that they were made up at different times; but on

this particular occasion we were about completing our third series on the Russian war, and on asking whether any further revelation was necessary to be published in that pamphlet, in answer to that question the above beautiful poem was revealed, and read off before copying, and re-read to be copied, to the astonishment of all present, as may be seen in the pamphlet named, and other works before issued; and now let the opposers of Divine Revelation and modern prophecy study well the solemn language and warnings as contained in the above lines, and search scripture for ancient prophecy, and they will then learn that the same means now exist by which God warns the people in these days even as in the days of old, thus proving that God is the same yesterday, to-day, and for ever, and that he has not changed towards man, but man has changed, and have neglected their own welfare, and have laid aside and repudiated divine revelation, and have persecuted those who possess such gifts; but God is still making his divine decrees known, and the world will hereafter see and acknowledge that he alone is the Lord, and that his will shall be done on earth as it is in heaven.

THE VOICE OF CALUMNY, AS RAISED AGAINST THE PROPAGATORS OF TRUTH, BY PREJUDICED UNBELIEVERS, NOW, AS IN THE DAYS OF CHRIST AND HIS APOSTLES.

Ever since the issue of the first pamphlet by the Nottingham Spiritual Circle, the voice of slander and calumny have been raised against the members of the Circle and their Medium. And as the successive works have been issued from 1855, down to the present period, calumny and abuse have increased for no other reason than that the said pamphlets exposed oppression, denounced hypocrisy and priestcraft, with the delusions that have resulted through the corruptions of the scriptures, and because the rights and privileges of man are advocated through all the works. Nottingham especially has manifested this want of charity, and investigation by its people, thus confirming the old proverb which declares that a prophet hath no honor in his own country, but since the issue of the Spiritualistic Free Press, the voice of slander and the symptoms of ill feeling against the paper and its supporters have been more loud and more visible solely on account of the fearless exposures and denunciations of delusion which have appeared successively in its columns. Whenever a subscriber places a copy of the Free Press in the hands of a manufacturer or an employer, or a religionist of any sect or denomination, they on perusing it, reject and ridicule all its contents, but the religionists are not satisfied with rejecting it only, but because its columns expose the absurd and immoral teachings of the scriptures, they who profess to be charitable towards their fellow creatures, and to pity their failings, unhesitatingly say that the author of such papers and books ought to be taken to the public market place, and with the papers and books burnt to ashes; such is the charity of the religious professors towards those who do not think as they think, and believe as they profess to believe. Such expressions have been communicated to us by hundreds of persons who have conversed with religious professors of different denominations upon our cause, and even we ourselves have

been told to our faces by religious professors of great pretensions, that we ought to be burnt or stoned to death for blaspheming, but when we have called upon such accusers to prove the blasphemy of our works, or to show that they encourage vice, immorality, or injustice of any kind, they have shrugged up their shoulders and shrunk from further conversation, merely stating that they want nothing but the scriptures for their guide, nor will they listen to any further argument.

Such, then, is the charitable treatment the propagators of truth meet with generally at the hands of religious professors, and from the self-interested and worldly minded; and such is the ignorance and depravity of the great masses of the people through early tuition, that in all ages up to the present, whenever a man or party of men have stood forward to proclaim the rights and alleviate the conditions of the people such person or persons are certain to meet with the ill-treatment, scorn, abuse, and opposition of the very people they are labouring to benefit. So it is with us, who are endeavouring to enlighten the minds of the people and better their condition, contempt, scorn, and ridicule is our only reward from a prejudiced and ignorant people. So it was with Christ and his apostles; they were maltreated by the very persons they endeavoured to benefit, and were put to death for proclaiming the same truths which we, the Spiritual Circle, are now endeavouring to spread; and the same spirit is now abroad amongst the people as in the days of Christ. They ignore, ridicule, and persecute us as they did Christ, and would put us to death if the law was now as in the days of Christ. But thanks be to God, it is otherwise; so we shall not heed what may be said against us, knowing that they cannot injure our persons, as Heaven has promised us protection, and this Divine promise is held forth to every faithful member of the Organization. So let us continue to proclaim the truths of Divine revelation, and rely upon the promises of God.

THE VISITATION OF THE TWELVE LOCALITIES.

We notified in a former impression of this journal that we should give an account of the progress and results in each of the places named, and up to the present time. We have the pleasure to announce that seven of the localities have been successfully visited. Nottingham, the first locality which was opened early in January, its results are already known. The next six—namely, York, Lincoln, Tattersall, Norwich, Cambridge, and London, have all been visited, and the reports given of each place by the members who visited them were most favourable. They were kindly received and treated, and requested to visit each place again when convenient; and no opposition was offered at any of the places, but every assistance was held forth to them at their next visit. So far, all has passed off favourably, and has proved the truth of Divine revelation. Swindon, Hereford, and Shrewsbury are now about to be visited, and the member will start for Swindon on Monday next, the 4th of June, 1860, and will take with him the banners, which will be displayed in the above-named places, and the lecture, which has been delivered at each place, he will take with him in print, which will enable him to read it with greater effect. As this letter is now printed, and is of the greatest importance, it can now be had from Mr. J. G. H. BROWN, Great Alfred-street, Nottingham, at 1d. each, or sent post free to any address at 10d. per dozen, thirteen to the dozen, so that every member may know what has been propagated through each of the twelve localities. Thus far having given the results of the labours of the Circle in visiting the distant places, and as there are five more places yet to visit, and the expenses connected with it great, we earnestly solicit our members, friends, and believers in divine revelation, to lend their aid to assist the members to complete this great object.

NOTICE TO THE ENROLLED MEMBERS AND CORRESPONDING AGENTS IN EACH LOCALITY.

We respectfully request all persons who have been cured from diseases by the Spiritual prescriptions from Mr. Brown of Nottingham, whose cases have not yet been published, that they will furnish their names, with the nature of the diseases from which they have been cured, to the corresponding agent of the Great Organization residing in each locality, so that he may send a list of the cures done by the prescriptions so applied for by such agent in each locality, so that they may be published, and other afflicted persons receive benefit from the same source. We have received one long long list of cures from the Isle of Wight from Mr. Gregory, our corresponding agent, residing there; and these cures, effected under his notice, will be published as soon as we receive a list of the cures effected in the other localities.

NOTICE TO OUR MANCHESTER SUBSCRIBERS.

The "Spiritualistic Free Press" can in future be obtained at Mr. Corrigan's, printer, stationer, &c., 35, Shude-hill, Manchester.

Notices to Correspondents.

L. L. D., Cambridge Student—We are not surprised at your denying that the scriptures are corrupt, but you have not attempted to deny or confute any statement contained upon the slip you refer to, and your unbelief will not prove yourself, your system, or your bible right; neither will it prove English Ecclesiastical history, or Baxter's Comprehensive Bible wrong. Those works prove that the scriptures are corrupt, and shew that the clergy are aware of their corruption, and confirm divine revelation, which declare that there is not an original copy of the ancient prophets or apostolic writings now in existence.

J. W., Stockport—Your belief in the trinity, or in three Gods, is contrary to scripture and to real Christianity, and while you believe so, you deny the bible, which you profess to believe. The first commandment declares—"Thou shalt have no other God but me"; and in the 45th chapter of Isaiah, God says:—"I am the Lord, beside me there is no God; I know not any." Therefore, if this be true, all they who believe in three Gods are idolaters, and idolaters are an abomination to God; and Christ nowhere set himself forth as a part of the Godhead, or that he was God, that he invariably had come to do the will of God his father which was in heaven, and who sent him to do his will.

H. M., Sutton.—Your question respecting the rich man and Lazarus is already sufficiently answered in the "Scriptural Magazine." It is nothing more than a parable spoken by Christ, the principles of which contains useful instruction to man, although many of the words have been corrupted in this instance as well as others.

J. L., Leicester.—As a proof that the scriptures are not now in their original state, we refer you to the letter on the ancient MSS from our Manchester correspondent, in another column of this journal.

J. C., Quorndon, and J. B., Manchester.—In our next impression startling revelations will be contained, shewing the doctrines, principles, and precepts which modern divine revelation teach, and pointing out the evils which the enrolled members of the Great Organization are instructed to denounce and expose, and which must be overthrown before the era of universal love and happiness can be established.

NOTICE.

Our members and friends are respectfully informed that, in a short time hence, an extraordinary but instructive trance-vision, as experienced by the medium, Mr. J. G. H. Brown, will be described in full in the columns of this journal, and as it concerns the future interest of all persons connected with the cause, we shall give it as it really occurred in minute detail, and its importance, we trust, will be observed, and not doubted or disregarded.

Advertisements.

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The above Works, with others as advertised on the wrappers thereof, can only be had from J. G. H. BROWN, Great Alfred Street, Nottingham.

Printed and Published for the Nottingham Spiritual Circle by S. E. HACKETT, Maypole Yard, Nottingham, and can be had only from the Repository for Spiritual Works from Mr. J. G. H. BROWN, Great Alfred Street, Nottingham, where all communications for the Editor must be addressed.