

try anything in the world, and evidence for and against. It was a long and serious and profound study, and, using the same principles of evidence in this religious matter as I always do in secular matters, I have come to the decision that the Bible is a supernatural book, that it has come from God, and that the only safety for the human race is to follow its teachings." "Judge, that will do. Go back again to your pillow of dust on the banks of the Ohio." Next I put upon the witness stand a president of the United States—John Quincy Adams. "President Adams, what have you to say about the Bible and Christianity?" The president replies: "I have for many years made it a practice to read through the Bible once a year. My custom is to read four or five chapters every morning immediately after rising from my bed. It employs about an hour of my time and seems to me the most suitable manner of beginning the day. In what light soever we regard the Bible, whether with reference to revelation, to history or to morality, it is an invaluable and inexhaustible mine of knowledge and virtue." "Chancellor Kent, what do you think of the Bible?" Answer: "No other book ever addressed itself so authoritatively and so pathetically to the judgment and moral sense of mankind." "Edmund Burke, what do you think of the Bible?" Answer: "I have read the Bible, morning, noon and night and have ever since been the happier and the better man for such reading."

Sentence of Infidelity

Young men of America, come out of the circle of infidels—mostly made up of cranks and imbeciles—into the company of intellectual giants and turn your back on an infidelity which destroys body and soul.

Ah, infidelity, stand up and take thy sentence! In the presence of God, angels and men, stand up, thou monster! Thy lip blasted with blasphemy, thy cheek scarred with uncleanness, thy breath foul with the corruption of the ages! Stand up, satyr, filthy goat, buzzard of the nations, leper of the centuries! Stand up, thou monster, infidelity! Part man, part panther, part reptile, part dragon, stand up and take thy sentence! Thy hands red with the blood in which thou hast washed, thy feet crimson with the human gore through which thou hast waded, stand up and take thy sentence! Down with thee to the pit and sup on the sobs and groans of those thou hast destroyed and let thy music be the everlasting misereere of those whom thou hast damned! I brand the forehead of infidelity with all the crimes of self-immolation for the last century on the part of those who had their reason.

My friends, if ever your life, through its abrasions and its molestations, should seem to be unbearable, and you are tempted to quit it by your own behest, do not consider yourself as worse than others. Christ himself was tempted to cast himself from the roof of the temple, but as he resisted so resist ye. Christ came to medicine all wounds. In your trouble I prescribe life instead of death. People who have had it worse than you will ever have it have gone songfully on their way. Remember that God keeps the chronology of your life with as much precision as he keeps the chronology of nations, your grave as well as your cradle.

Rewards of Christianity.

Why was it that at midnight, just at midnight, the destroying angel struck the blow that set the Israelites free from bondage? The 480 years were up at 12 o'clock that night. The 480 years were not up at 11, and 1 o'clock would have been tardy and too late. The 480 years were up at 12 o'clock, and the destroying angel struck the blow, and Israel was free. And God knows just the hour when it is time to lead you up from earthly bondage. By his grace, make not the worst of things, but the best of them. If you must take the pills, do not chew them. Your everlasting rewards will accord with your earthly perturbations, just as Caius gave to Agrippa a chain of gold as heavy as had been a chain of iron. For the asking you may have the same grace that was given the Italian martyr, Algerius, who down in the darkest of dungeons dated his letters from "the delectable orchard of the Leonine prison." And remember that this brief life is surrounded by a rim—a very thin but very important rim—and close up to that rim is a great eternity, and you had better keep out of it until God breaks that rim and separates this from that. To get rid of the sorrows of earth do not rush into greater sorrows. To get rid of a

swarm of summer insects, keep your door a

There is a sorrowless world, and it is so radiant that the noonday sun is only the lowest doorstep, and the aurea that lights up our northern heavens, confounding astronomers as to what it can be, is the waving of the banners of the procession come to take the conquerors home from church militant to church triumphant, and you and I have 10,000 reasons for wanting to go there, but we will never get there either by self-immolation or impurity. All our sins slain by Christ who came to do that thing, we want to go in at just the time divinely arranged, and from a couch divinely spread, and then the clang of the sepulchral gates behind us will be overpowered by the clang of the opening of the solid pearl before us. O God, whatever others may choose, give me a Christian's life, a Christian's death, a Christian's burial, a Christian's immortality!

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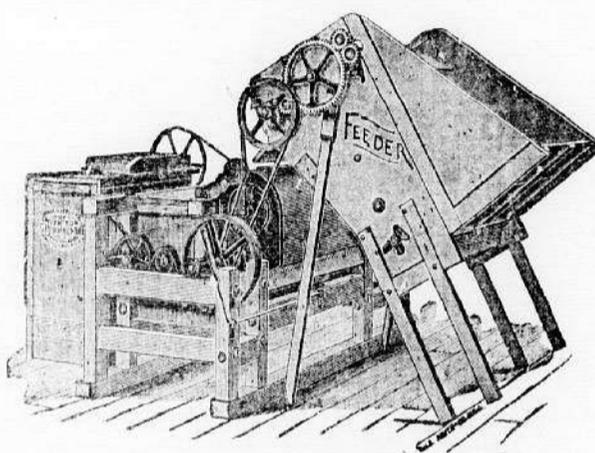
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