

**CHRISTIANITY, SCIENCE, AND
INFIDELITY: A SERIES OF LETTERS
VINDICATING THE RECEIVED TRUTHS OF
OUR COMMON FAITH, SHOWING THE
FOLLIES AND ABSURDITIES OF ATHEISM**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649548170

Christianity, Science, and Infidelity: A Series of Letters Vindicating the Received Truths of Our Common Faith, Showing the Follies and Absurdities of Atheism by W. Hillier & Henry Varley

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

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W. HILLIER & HENRY VARLEY

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CHRISTIANITY, SCIENCE AND INFIDELITY:

A Series of Letters Vindicating the received
Truths of our Common Faith,

SHOWING THE FOLLIES AND ABSURDITIES OF ATHEISM.

BY

REV. W. HILLIER, MUs. DOG.

WINGRAVE MANSE, AYLESBURY, BUCKS.

*WITH A PREFATORY RECOMMENDATION BY
THE REV. HENRY VARLEY.*

Second Edition.

LONDON:

JAMES NISBET & CO., 21 BERNERS STREET.

MDCCLXXXV.

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TO
GEORGE W. E. RUSSELL, ESQ., M.A.,
M.P. FOR AYLESBURY,

AS AN HUMBLE TOKEN OF ESTEEM

AND ADMIRATION FOR HIS

BRILLIANT TALENTS, AND HIS NOBLE FAMILY'S
PHILANTHROPY,

This Volume is most respectfully dedicated

BY THE AUTHOR.

PREFATORY RECOMMENDATION.

It is with great pleasure that I express my deep sense of the value of your "Series of Letters."

In a clear and popular form they successfully show "the follies and absurdities of Atheism," and give testimony that cannot fail to be helpful to those who are defending "revealed truth" from the lawless reasonings of men who, "not liking to retain God in their knowledge, are given over to a reprobate mind" (a mind void of judgment, *margin*)—Rom. i. 28.

There is so much cogency in the "argument of design," that I am glad you have given such intelligent and graphic prominence to the subject. Of course it will be said, "this testimony is old." *Surely, and the older the more forcible.* I have a great respect for standard institutions such as Sunlight, a Yard Measure, a Straight Line, the Right, the Truth, the Bible, &c. These great factors have successfully controverted Atheism in the past, and

not only are they as fresh as in the hour when God said "Let there be light," but they are as powerful as ever to overthrow iniquity and infidelity.

It is high time that the poisonous principles of the Bradlaugh school were exposed, labelled, and exploded, and you have done good service by your timely efforts towards this desirable result. Resolute and unflinching opposition to Mr. Bradlaugh's coarse and blasphemous utterances is an immediate necessity; and the censorship now existing in regard to his speeches and writings is doing much to show his admirers and followers that he dare not, with the eyes of the nation looking on, utter the brazen calumnies against Christianity that have made him so notorious in the past.

Mr. Bradlaugh dare no longer, by gross misrepresentation, deceive his hearers and readers concerning the character and teachings of Christ Jesus Our Lord. No longer dare he, by subtle reasonings, charge upon Christianity the iniquity committed by some of those who, professing to be its friends, were enemies of truth and righteousness. This, Mr. Bradlaugh has done in the past, and has thus been guilty of the worst form of slander. He has caricatured the truth of Christ, and then held it up to the contemptuous scorn of crowded audiences, who were blinded by his lawless sophistry. Thou-

sands of self-denying men, who have spent their lives in promoting the common weal of their fellows, both for time and eternity, have been held up by him to ridicule because they had not the audacity to affirm that man is a mere animal whose end is "to die as a dog."

Making capital out of the ignorance and prejudice of his hearers, and affecting a knowledge of the Bible that he does not possess, Mr. Bradlaugh has caused an amount of social mischief and unbelief that is simply deplorable, and no time must be lost in opposing with energy the infidel leaven that threatens to corrupt the masses of our country.

I, for one, promise Mr. Bradlaugh stern rebuke, exposure, and unsparing criticism, until he ceases to shock the moral sense of his fellow-men by his abominable teachings and utterances.

As an illustration of the sophistry of these teachers, I may add that Mrs. Besant, when at Manchester a few weeks since, quoted to a lady the passage in Ecclesiastes, chap. iii. 19: "For that which befallerh the sons of men befallerh beasts—as the one dieth, so dieth the other; yea, they have all one breath, so that a man hath no pre-eminence above a beast; for all is vanity; all go unto one place, and all turn to dust again." This was given by Mrs. Besant as a triumphant vindication from

the Bible itself of her atheistic principles. I happened to be appealed to concerning this incident, and the difficulty caused in the mind of the lady. Of course, I simply said, Read on! The next sentence is, "Who knoweth *the spirit* of man that goeth upward (is ascending), and the spirit of the beast that goeth downward to the earth."

Mrs. Besant could not but know the context, and be aware that in the *part* of the passage she quoted the allusion was to the body, which, in common with all animal substances, returns to dust, whilst that part of the passage which she so adroitly hid completely cut the ground from under her own feet. What a contemptible spirit of deception this reveals! Well is it written—

"Hear the just law, the judgment of the skies :
He that hates truth shall be the dupe of lies ;
And he that will be cheated, at the last
Delusion strong as death shall bind him fast."

That your efforts to spread the knowledge of truth may be crowned with abundant success, is the hearty desire of your sincere friend,

HENRY VARLEY.

NOTTING HILL, LONDON, W.

PREFACE.

COURTEOUS READER,—These Letters were occasioned by the election of Mr. Charles Bradlaugh, M.P.; and their author, in publishing them, desired that they might exercise a counteracting influence to the evils resulting from the discussions in the House of Commons and in the country over the election of an avowed Atheist.

In the writing of these Letters, the following celebrated authors have been laid under contribution :—Archbishop Thomson, the Duke of Argyll, Bishop Watson, Lord Brougham, Baron Humboldt, Rt. Hon. W. E. Gladstone, Sir William Hamilton, Sir John Herschell, Sir Isaac Newton, Dr. Brewer, Dr. Campbell, Dr. Carpenter, Dr. Carlisle, Dr. Chalmers, Dr. Sexton, Dr. Cooke, Dr. Cornwell, Dr. Cowdy, Dr. Cumming, Dr. Dick, Dr. Doddridge, Dr. Dwight, Dr. Graham, Dr. Hengstenberg, Dr. Hodge, Dr. Huxley, Dr. Latham, Dr. Paley, Dr. Parker, Dr. Priestley, Dr. Reid, Dr. Van Oosterzee, Dr. Wilson, Dr. Wayland, Dr. Whewell, Matthew