

THE LIMITATIONS OF TOLERATION: A DISCUSSION

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649302918

The Limitations of Toleration: A Discussion by Frederic R. Coudert & Robert G. Ingersoll & Stewart L. Woodford

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

**FREDERIC R. COUDERT & ROBERT G.
INGERSOLL & STEWART L. WOODFORD**

THE LIMITATIONS OF TOLERATION: A DISCUSSION

Clark

7111.8663.5.3

THE
LIMITATIONS OF TOLERATION.

A Discussion

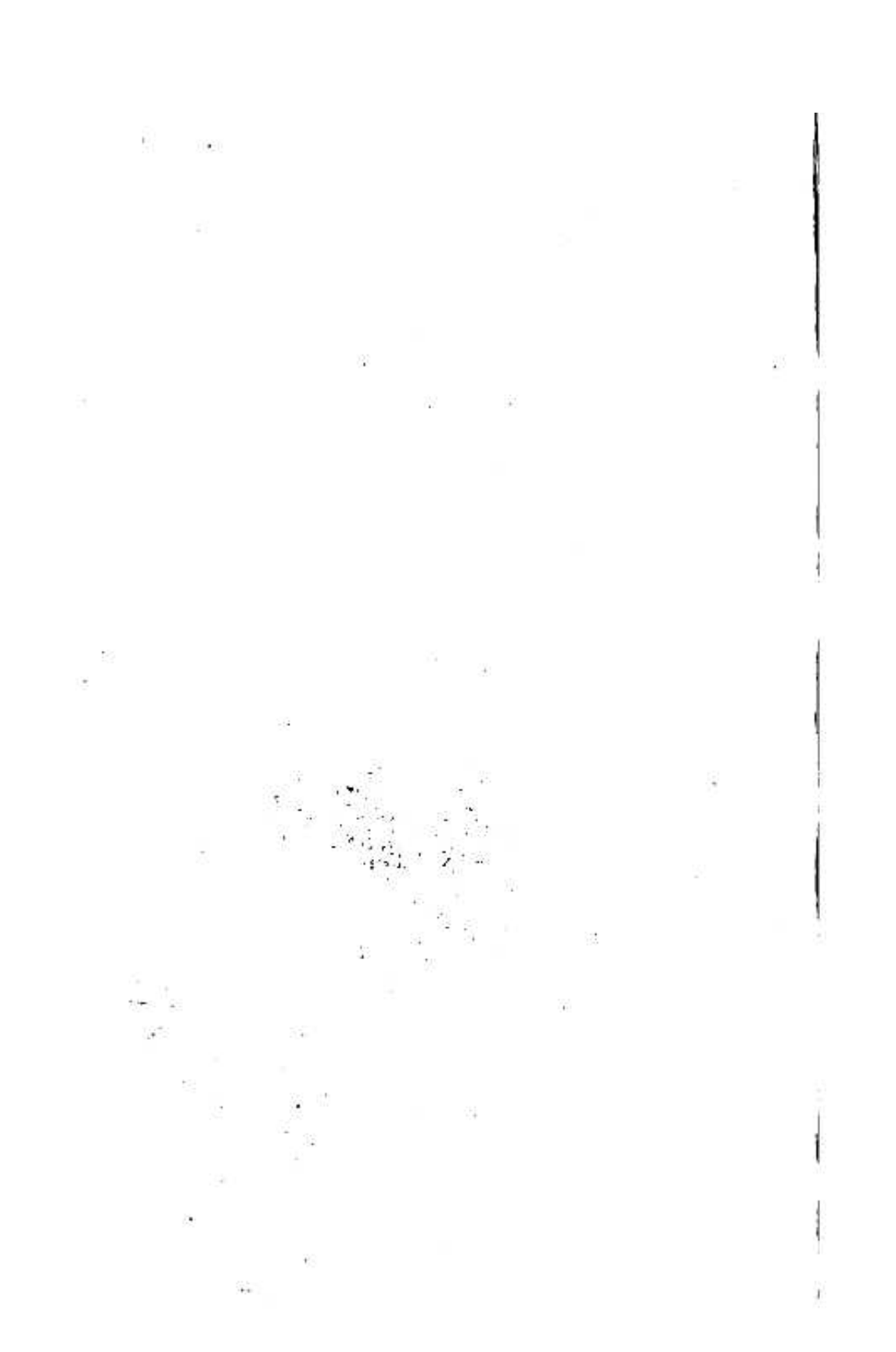
BETWEEN

COL. ROBERT G. INGERSOLL,
HON. FREDERIC R. COUDERT,
EX-GOV. STEWART L. WOODFORD.

Before the Nineteenth Century Club, of New York, at
the Metropolitan Opera House,

STENOGRAPHICALLY REPORTED FOR THE TRUTH SEEKER,
BY L. N. BAKER.

NEW YORK:
THE TRUTH SEEKER COMPANY,
28 LAFAYETTE PLACE.



THE
LIMITATIONS OF TOLERATION
A DISCUSSION

BETWEEN

Col. ROBERT G. INGERSOLL,
Hon. FREDERIC R. COUDERT,
Ex-Gov. STEWART L. WOODFORD.

*Before the Nineteenth Century Club, of New York, at the
Metropolitan Opera House.*

Stenographically reported for the TRUTH SEEKER,
By I. N. BAKER.

NEW YORK:
THE TRUTH SEEKER COMPANY,
28 LAFAYETTE PLACE.

Phil 8663.3.35

HARVARD COLLEGE LIBRARY
FROM
THE BEQUEST OF
EVERT JANSEN WENDELL
1918

Copyrighted, 1889,
BY
THE TRUTH SEEKER COMPANY.

THE LIMITATIONS OF TOLERATION.

The points for discussion, as submitted in advance, were the following propositions :

First. Thought is a necessary natural product—the result of what is called impressions made through the medium of the senses upon the brain, not forgetting the fact of heredity.

Second. No human being is accountable to any being—human or divine—for his thoughts.

Third. Human beings have a certain interest in the thoughts of each other, and one who undertakes to tell his thoughts should be honest.

Fourth. All have an equal right to express their thoughts upon all subjects.

Fifth. For one man to say to another, "I tolerate you," is an assumption of authority—not a disclaimer, but a waiver, of the right to persecute.

Sixth. Each man has the same right to express to the whole world his ideas, that the rest of the world have to express their thoughts to him.

Courtlandt Palmer, Esq., President of the Club, in introducing Mr. Ingersoll, among other things said :

The inspiration of the orator of the evening seems to be that of the great Victor Hugo, who uttered the august saying, "There shall be no slavery of the mind."

When I was in Paris, about a year ago, I visited the tomb of Victor Hugo. It was placed in a recess in the crypt of the Pantheon. Opposite it was the tomb of Jean Jacques Rousseau. Near by, in another recess, was the memorial statue of Voltaire; and I felt, as I looked at these three monuments, that had Colonel Ingersoll been born in France, and had he passed in his long life account, the acclaim of the liberal culture of France would have enlarged that trio into a quartette.

Colonel Ingersoll has appeared in several important debates in print, notably with Judge Jeremiah S. Black, formerly Attorney-General of the United States; lately in the pages of *The North American Review* with the Rev. Dr. Henry M. Field, and last but not least the Right Hon. William E. Gladstone, England's greatest citizen, has taken up the cudgel against him in behalf of his view of Orthodoxy. To-night, I believe for the first time, the colonel has consented to appear in a colloquial discussion. I have now the honor to introduce this distinguished orator.

COLONEL INGERSOLL'S OPENING.

Ladies, Mr. President, and Gentlemen: I am here to-night for the purpose of defending your right to differ with me. I want to convince you that you are under no compulsion to accept my creed; that you are, so far as I am concerned, absolutely free to follow the torch of your reason according to your conscience; and I believe that you are civilized to that degree that you will extend to me the right that you claim for yourselves.

I admit, at the very threshold, that every human being thinks as he must; and the first proposition really is, whether man has the right to think. It will bear but little discussion, for the reason that no man can control his thought. If you think you can, what are you going to think to-morrow? What are you going to think next year? If you can absolutely control your thought, can you stop thinking?

The question is, Has the will any power over the thought? What is thought? It is the result of nature—of the outer world—first upon the senses—those impressions left upon the brain as pictures of things in the outward world, and these pictures are transformed into, or produce, thought; and as long as the doors of the senses are open, thoughts will be produced. Whoever looks at anything in nature, thinks. Whoever hears any sound—or any