Sunday Reading.

Modern Infidelity.

In the early ages of Christianity its votaries were tortured and slain by fire, sword, wild beasts, stones, whips, hot lead, boiling oil, &c. And, to the disgrace of the present age, we are constrained by truth to acknowledge that these instruments of cruelty are still in use in many places, and that by an institution professing to be *the* church.

But, in the most civilized lands, infidelity has assumed a more pleasing, and more dangerous aspect. It has no objection to churches and ministers, sermons, songs, and prayers. It delights in morality, both active and passive, but it is at war with holiness. It has no faith in deep, heart-felt contrition for sin,—no love for that sort of conversion which makes men a new creature,—no patience with that cross-living which absorbs the soul and separates the believer from the world. It willingly tolerates the form of godliness, but denies the power.

This we pronounce to be by far the most dangerous dress which unbelief has ever worn. To ask a person to willingly throw away his Bible, and renounce the Saviour is to startle him. It is well known that abandonment of all religion is [illegible] it is to present him with the dreary prospect of perdition. Colossal proclamations forego; eternal torments he cannot endure. Reputation, property, and many life itself must be yielded rather than the interest in the Atonement.

But when infidelity puts on the garb of liberality, and sings sweetly about mercy, love, the effect is [illegible]. There is a deeply seated desire in every heart to get to Heaven without little cost as possible. A pseudo-christianity [illegible] would suit the practicability of many, who willingly pursues to the Hill, and finally obtains admittance into the New Jerusalem. But "friendship with the world is enmity with God." No unreasonable sacrifices are demanded, it is true, but the relation of all who are accepted must be earnest, soul-pervading,—self-denying. And that infidelity which teaches the contrary will ruin as just as certainly as the infidelity which would lead us to deny the Lord that bought us—"God is a Spirit, and they that worship him, must worship him in Spirit and in truth."

THE RUM-SELLER'S DEBT.

[illegible] mother took her son to [illegible] whose influence [illegible] the [illegible] rupted boyhood, as he left the home of God, with a weeping mother's blessing on his head that [illegible] back to be [illegible] [illegible] forego; eternal torments he cannot endure. Reputation, property, and many life itself must be yielded rather than the interest in the Atonement.

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