

A CHAMPION OF ORTHODOXY THUS REPLIES  
RELIGION.

SIR,

A Correspondent on the above subject in your paper of last week, styling himself "Layman," should have been *honest*, and styled himself a "Socinian" (a nickname for an Atheist).

He has acted like all cowards act,—first misrepresent the opinions of their opponents and then abuse them. Being a Layman (so called), I venture to answer your Correspondent "*according to his folly*," and challenge him to a public discussion, at any time and place, and defy him to disprove the following propositions:—

That the Bible, fairly interpreted, teaches the following to be the revealed will of God, and *experience* proves its truth :

1. That there are three persons, yet but one God.
2. That there is a future state of happiness and misery, eternal in its nature, and increasing as to its effects, let that happiness or misery arise from what cause it may.
3. That Satan (or the Devil) first deceived our first parents, and from that time to the present reigns in the hearts of all who have not repented and believed on Christ.

4. That all mankind are born in sin, possessed of a fallen nature, which leads them to love sin and hate God. This hatred is manifested by all without distinction, high and low—your Correspondent not excepted.

5. That infants are not admitted into Paradise because of their *innocence* by nature but by *grace*—"Christ died for them," therefore, baptized or unbaptized, if they die in infancy, in whatever clime, "*they sleep in Jesus*."

6. That an atonement for sin was necessary. That *Christ* was, by his Divine nature joined to the human, a fit sacrifice; and His death and resurrection confirms His power—and having atoned for the sins of the whole world, He ascended upon high, and ever liveth to intercede for us. The instruments God used to accomplish His purposes have nothing to do with the atonement made. The Jews were as much the *murderers* of our Saviour as though God's design had been overturned, "*but our God turned it into a blessing*." Christ could have died for us in some other way had the Jews received *Him*, for "*without shedding of blood is no remission*."

7. That repentance towards God, and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, from Adam to now, have ever been followed with a consciousness of sins forgiven, a heart renewed in righteousness and true holiness, and a hope of eternal rest and power, through the in-dwelling Spirit of God, to live unspotted from the world, doing good in their day and generation—proving by their life and conversation that they "seek a city which hath foundations whose builder and maker is God;" and when death comes triumph over it, and die in hopes of a blissful immortality.

That there are many who teach otherwise we admit, but who are they? Papists, who deny the Scriptures to be the rule of our lives; Puseyites, who are "bastards of the Pope of Rome;" and Protestants

(shame on the laws which compel us) are compelled to keep them—they are spiritual thieves and murderers of the souls of men—common highwaymen and murderers are angels when compared to them; Unitarians or Socinians, who misquote and mistranslate Scripture, devil like, in order to establish their unholy creed, viz., “to live a devil and die a saint;” Antinomians, who hope to be saved through a process they call “election,” a scheme concocted in the infernal regions, and sent into the world to deceive mankind.

But all true Protestants of whatever name, and their name is Legion—Methodists over 2,000,000, with chapel accommodation for 12,000,000; Independents, 1,000,000, with chapel accommodation for 4,000,000; not to mention Baptists, Evangelical Churchmen, and others, who, with the immortal Chillingworth, cry out, “*The Bible and the Bible alone is the religion of Protestants.*”

Yours, &c.,

Oct. 9, 1865.

B. STICKLAND.

### C.'s REJOINDER.

SIR,

Your Correspondent, Mr. B. Stickland, fearfully denounces all those who do not happen to entertain the same religious opinions as himself. My letter which you were kind enough to insert in your impression of the 7th, has sorely grieved him. It is well he has not the power of the inquisitors of old, or I might have suffered for my “heresy” some fine morning at Smithfield or on Tower Hill. He evidently questions my sincerity, for, says he, had I “been honest” I should have styled myself a “Socinian, a nickname for Atheist,” but I am “like all cowards,” I “misrepresent and then abuse;” yet he “will answer me according to my folly,” and “challenge me to public discussion,” when he will “defy me to disprove” *his* views. Bravo, Mr. Stickland! He evidently does not want your readers to think *him* “a coward,” yet how mightily Pharaasaical. He produces some half dozen of what he calls “propositions,” and adds, that those who “teach otherwise” are “Papists who deny the Scriptures, Puseyites who are bastards of the Pope, spiritual thieves, and murderers of the souls of men!” “Common highwaymen and murderers are angels compared to them; Unitarians and Socinians, who misquote and mistranslate Scripture, devil-like, in order to establish their unholy creed,” viz., “to live a devil and die a saint.” “Antinomians, who hope to be saved by election, a scheme concocted in the infernal regions,” &c., &c., &c.!

One would certainly conclude by this that Mr. S. is on terms of great intimacy with his satanic majesty, as he appears to be quite *au fait* with him, and his “infernal regions.” I decidedly admit *his* superior knowledge in *this* respect.

“But,” adds Mr. S. “all true Protestants,” such as he is, of course, “think otherwise,” &c., &c.

Now, in the name of common sense, what *reason* is there in all his denunciations. Has our great teacher, Christ, who Mr. S. *professes* to serve, ever given him the shadow of such a creed as is contained in his seven propositions? Compare Mr. Stickland’s letter and creed with Christ’s Sermon on the Mount, and mark the contrast! Oh, Mr. S., “first cast the beam out of thine own eye,” &c.