

Theology on the *Web.org.uk*

Making Biblical Scholarship Accessible

This document was supplied for free educational purposes. Unless it is in the public domain, it may not be sold for profit or hosted on a webserver without the permission of the copyright holder.

If you find it of help to you and would like to support the ministry of Theology on the Web, please consider using the links below:



Buy me a coffee

<https://www.buymeacoffee.com/theology>



PATREON

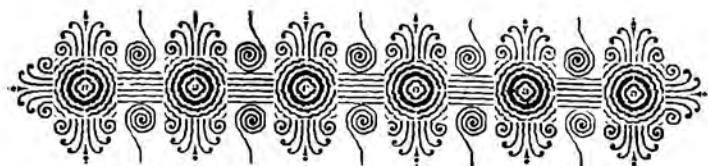
<https://patreon.com/theologyontheweb>

PayPal

<https://paypal.me/robbradshaw>

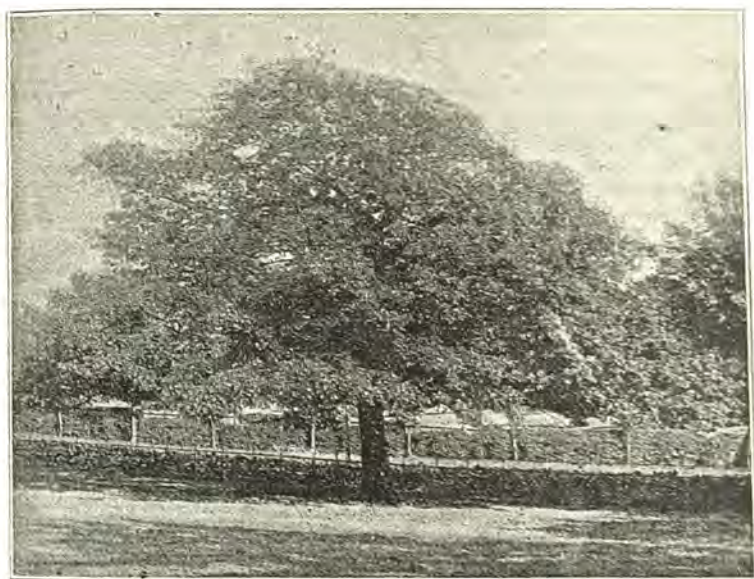
A table of contents for *The Sword and the Trowel* can be found here:

https://biblicalstudies.org.uk/articles_sword-and-the-trowel_01.php



THE
Sword and the Trowel.

MAY, 1897.



"The Question Oak" at "Edlestwood."

O. H. SPURGEON'S IMPROMPTU ANSWERS TO STUDENTS' QUESTIONS.

(Continued from page 161.)



TUDENT'S QUESTION.—*How would you advise us to treat those people who are constantly bringing up their perfectionist views?*

MR. SPURGEON'S ANSWER.—I should let them bring them up, and take no notice of them, if possible. There are many things that are best cured by being let alone, and

the priest commands, he must expiate his transgression in Purgatory,—no objection would have been raised to my distributing them. Or, if the Cards had taught the hideous Mariolatry, promulgated by Mr. Herbert Vaughan, who illegally assumes the rank and title of “His Eminence the Lord Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster,”—in which the Virgin Mary is worshipped impiously as “Mother of God,” “Queen of Heaven,” “Sovereign Mistress of the Universe,” “Refuge of sinners,” “The only Hope of sinners,” “The Peacemaker between sinners and God,” etc.,—I might have distributed any number of them without molestation. But, because they point weary and heavy-laden sinners to Christ *alone* for salvation, my opponents feared lest such Scriptural teaching might undermine and overthrow Romish superstitions and idolatry in the minds of some deluded dupes and slaves of priestcraft. Readers of *The Sword and the Trowel* will probably remember how the intolerant and persecuting principles of Popery were exemplified in the year 1893 by the public burning of the late beloved Pastor’s Sermons in the town of Zahleh, in Syria, and the curse fulminated by the bishop, and publicly read by his priests in all the eight chapels of Zahleh, upon those who received and read them. The bishop in his curse commanded his dupes to “Burn them, burn them, for in them is a deadly poison”; and he was not ashamed to publish his remorseless curse in the Jesuit journal of Beyrout! (*Vide The Sword and the Trowel*, March, 1894.) How long shall the Romish apostasy deceive mankind with its sorceries, and hinder the progress of the gospel of Christ throughout the world? The time of its final overthrow, depicted in *The Revelation* (Chapters xvii. and xviii.) is, I believe, approaching; and may God hasten the day!

I conclude this report with the hope that the Sermons, Illustrated Tracts, and Cards which I have had the pleasure and the privilege of distributing, may awaken attention to Divine things among the people, too many of whom seem wholly immersed in earthly matters; and I pray that God may cause His Heavenly blessing to rest on all those in whose houses and into whose hands they have been placed, and make them instruments for their eternal salvation. The praise of all the good done must be ascribed to God only, for it is He that not only worketh in us both to will and to do, but that worketh by us to make what we do successful.

T. G. OWENS.

A New Use for the Koran.

FOUR hundred and thirty visits have been paid us during March. About 120 of these have been during our excursions to six—more or less distant—towns and villages. A new experience comes with almost every one of these visits. At one place, we had freedom in spiritual things, but did next to nothing medically; a quack doctor had lately visited the neighbourhood, and the people feared to trust me. Usually, however, the opposite is the case; they are ready patients for medicine, but impatient of gospel truth. Their

USUAL LINE OF OPPOSITION

is like this:—“We believe in all the prophets” (144,000, they say); “your gospel is not the true gospel.” “Mohammed and the Koran are all that anyone needs.” “One word from the Koran is equal in value and meaning to a thousand words from any other book.” Or perhaps the objector takes this line:—“You say that Jesus was God; well, then, when God was on earth, there must have been another God ruling in Heaven, which makes two Gods, and proves that you are idolaters.” Their historical ideas are peculiar; for example, they say Jesus was the nephew of Moses,

for Jesus was the Son of Mary (Miriam), and Moses was the brother of Miriam (Mary), therefore clearly Jesus was the nephew of Moses! Job, they believe, was eaten up by worms; and one learned (!) *fokee* was utterly disgusted with the Bible when he read that David besieged Rabbah, which he misread Rubbie (God), and then cast the Book from him as a blasphemous composition.

One of our brethren has done

SPECIALLY GOOD WORK IN DISCUSSIONS,

going down, like Benaiah, into the lion's pit, and dealing with Islam there. He proved from the Koran that Christ must die, for, when speaking of Jesus, it is written, "I will make you to die." Against their assertion that Mohammed is the intercessor, there is a passage which says, "In the *last* day there shall be no intercessor." "That is true," says our friend, "but yet in *this* day Jesus ever liveth to make intercession." Again, Mohammed cannot intercede for others, for he himself was a sinner, for the Koran says, when speaking to Mohammed:—"I will forgive *your* sins," while of Jesus no book, not even the Koran, says that He was a sinner. As to contradictory passages, the Koran again says:—"If you are in doubt, ask the people of the book;" so let us read it together. To a Moslem, who asserts that the whole Bible is *in* the Koran, the missionary holds up the two books side by side (the Koran is only, perhaps, one-fifth the size of the Bible), and shows the statement to be palpably untrue.

On another occasion, discussion will flag or fail altogether, and then we sing a gospel hymn, or we carry on a conversation between ourselves, bringing out the gospel message; or one of us tells a parable, after the manner of the native story-tellers. Thus, while preaching the gospel, and healing the sick, we strive by all means to save some. We long to see the Spirit's convicting and converting power manifested, that the dry bones may live. Our preaching may be crude and simple as the blast of the rams' horns around the walls of Jericho; but, marching on at God's command, we are certain of victory. Meanwhile, dear readers, we still ask your prayers and your help, for mighty is the foe, and "great is the Holy One of Israel in the midst of thee."

Sousse, Tunisia, N. Africa.

T. G. CHURCHER.

Notices of Books.

Any Book reviewed or advertised in this Magazine will be forwarded by Messrs. Passmore and Alabaster on receipt of Postal Order for the published price.

Volume VIII. of *The Christian Pictorial* is fully equal to its seven predecessors; in some respects, it even excels the best of them. The weekly numbers are always welcome visitors, for they bring a portion for everyone in the household; and the half-yearly volumes, in their delicate and dainty covers, are worthy of a permanent place on the library or drawing-room table. The recent leading articles on the atrocities in Crete ought to help to stir up the nation to a sense of the wrong that our fleet has done to the brave

people struggling for their life and liberty.

Everything just now must have some connection with the record reign, so Mr. Henry Frowde has issued, from the Oxford University Press Warehouse, *The Queen's Diamond-Jubilee Bible*, "in sizes and at prices to suit all classes of Her Majesty's subjects." The Bibles contain portraits of the Queen in 1837 and 1897, and also photographic illustrations of the cartoons by Sir Joshua Reynolds representing the seven virtues.