

**"The Mutilated Bible."**

Jer. 36-23.

Sermon by Rev. F. Allison Currier, M. A., preached in the Woodstock Free Baptist church, Sunday, January 1st, 1905.

When a man reads his bible he had better have his knife in his pocket.

Judah had sinned as deeply as Israel and had less excuse for it; Jeremiah had preached to them in vain, and as a last resort God commanded him to write out his sermons, and have them read at the feast gatherings of the people with the hope that constantly hearing they might at last heed. So Jeremiah dictated God's message to Baruch, her scribe, who wrote it as dictated, all that long train of calamities that was to befall them if they did not repent.

On a rest feast day in Jerusalem, Baruch read the book to the assembled people, and the prince heard of it and he had to read it again to the princes, and then the king heard about it and he sent for it and had his servant Jehudi read it to him. It was winter and the king was sitting before his fire place and he listened as the scribe read the message of God to him and to his people; but the scribe had read but three or four pages when the king angrily snatched the scroll from the hand of his scribe and with his knife began to cut it leaves apart and throw them into the fire. It had been read to a great many people but he would see to it that it be read to no more.

Poor fool to think that the hand that wrote the book once could not write it twice. The ashes were scarcely cold in the hearth of king Jehoiakim before the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah commanding him to write again, word for word the message which had been burned, and to add this additional threat, that because the king had burned the first message, therefore no son of his should ever sit on the throne of David, and his dead body should be left unburied in the field, like the carcass of a dead animal, exposed to the heat of the day and the frost of the night. That is the punishment God sent upon one man who used his penknife on his holy word, because he did not like what it said, and one would think that one such warning should have been enough, but not so, it seems almost to have become a fad—this using the pen knife on the Bible and cutting out everything that does not suit. And I am sorry to say that some ministers, who are supposed to be the preachers and defenders of God's holy word are getting very reckless in the way they use their knives.

The Babylonians came over from the Euphrates valley fierce as hungry jackals and like a scourge of African locusts for number; they tore down the walls and burned the city into ashes and carried away the men who were not to feeble to work and the girls who were not to old to weep, and the murdered carcass of the wicked king who had burned the sacred word was dumped out in the field, outside the ruined walls and left there exposed to the heat of the day and the frost of the night until the offense of it became too great; then they tied a rope to it and dragged it to where they had dug a hole and there to use the words of scripture "they buried him, with the burial of an ass." All because he had dared cut out one book from the Bible—and what do you think shall befall these men today who have cut out the Pentateuch and Joshua, and Judges and Kings and Chronicles and Job and Psalms and Isaiah and Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Daniel and Jonah, and half of the rest?

In face of them and glaring at them like a flaming sword stands that warning of God, almost the last words that God spoke to man: "And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book."

Now I have something to say about this Book upon which these critics are using their penknives. I always feel like apologizing to this Book in undertaking to defend it, it always seems to me too much like a man bracing himself against a mountain to hold it in place. But I was moved to prepare this sermon from the fact that there are a good many persons in this town, who never read their Bible without their penknives in hand. (God have mercy on the men who taught them how to use them) and from having read an address by the late Dr. Hasting, some statements of which I have incorporated with this sermon.

There are a good many christians who have so far lost their faith as to declare that what they call the "new doctrine" will eventually overthrow the Bible. That must be a joke. Why I can take you back nearly 3000 years to the days of Anaximander and Heraclitus and Anaxagoras, and others and give you the modern higher criticism and the same evolutionary theories we have to day. If you don't believe it read them for yourselves.

A hundred years ago we had a revival of the same thing in Tom Paine's "Age of Reason." An eminent divine delivering a lecture before a society of Free Thinkers, not long since, said, "gentlemen, I want to know if I understand the theories of Higher Criticism rightly. I will state what I think you mean by it." After reading for about a quarter of an hour, he said, "gentlemen are those the views you hold?" They said they were.

"Well," replied the speaker "do you know what I have been reading? I have been read-

ing word for word out of Tom Paine's "Age of Reason." That book that Paine tried to recall and suppress, when he was brought face to face with eternity and God revealed to him the terrors of the judgment he tried to suppress that book, but he could not, and that is the doctrine that has been rigged up in a new suit, and called The New Doctrine, Surely it is a joke.

And christians are afraid that this old ghost that appears every few hundred years dressed up in a different kind of garb so that the church won't know her, and shakes her head at the church and mutters a lot of senseless moonshine about the Bible not being God's word, and that the miracles never were performed and that our foreparents were monkeys are afraid that these mutterings of the old Wizard are going to upset the Bible. It will have just about as much effect on it as shooting boiled pease at Gibraltar.

One of the first things that these gentlemen of the sharp pen knives have cut out is:

I. The Miraculous! Pierson says—The foes of Christianity have wit and wisdom enough to see that they may as well give up the fight, unless they can break down the evidence of miracles. Let them allow that but one miraculous work has been wrought, and there is a fatal breach in their wall of defence, for if one miracle has been wrought others may have been—if miraculous works why not miraculous words; and where is the use of attacking a religion that is buttressed at one end with prophecy and at the other end with miracles? So all the ingenuity of infidels with all the weapons of wit and wisdom, and science and ignorance have been directed against the miracles.

No one doubts but the idea in trying to disprove miracles is to prove that Jesus was not divine.

If Jesus had lived on this earth 33 years and performed no miracles they would have said that he was not divine or he would have performed miracles, and now that he has performed miracles they say that he was not the Son of God.—Consistency surely.

If Jesus did not work miracles then he was not the Son of God, for the Prophets declared that when the Messiah came, he would work wonders and miracles. So if you reason away the miracles, you at the same time reason away the Divinity of Jesus Christ.

II. Scientific—Another handful of leaves which they have cut from the Holy Book is the scientific part. They say the science of the Bible is incorrect.

I wish some one would point out to me one of these scientific errors. They tell us the Bible is full of them. Why don't they point out at least one of them?

One hundred years ago the French School of Science had 60 scientific errors against the Bible. They rubbed out one after another until they have rubbed out the whole lot. Remember that Moses wrote more than 3000 years ago and he did not set out to write scientific books and yet it is strange that although he dealt with scientific subjects he made no mistakes.

Go to the Hindoo and he will tell you that what makes it rain is a big elephant, squirting water through his trunk, that the earth rests on the backs of elephants with their tails turned out, and their feet rest on the shell of an immense tortoise, and the toroise on the coil of a great serpent, and that earthquakes are caused by the elephants shaking themselves. Go to the Chinese and they will tell you that an eclipse is caused by an immense sea dragon, swelling the water of the ocean, and they beat on old drum heads to scare him away lest the moon would be drowned. There is science for you—lots of science if you want it.

Suppose the Bible had taught such science as Plato and Kepler, the mightiest scientists of their time, who hath taught that the earth was a living creature; or that the milky way was only the road across which the great sun God drove his furious steeds. Suppose the Bible had taught, as contemporary writers taught, that there were fishes in the sea with horses heads, or that thunder was caused by Jupiter, or that the tides were caused by a mighty sea monster, who twice every day swallowed down the sea and twice every day threw it up again?

Who was it that kept such science as that out of this Holy Book. I'd like some higher critic to tell me that. If the Bible is not a scientific book, I would like to ask with Hastings, why is it that we have no science except when we have the Bible. There is not a scientific book, worth two cents a pound at the paper mill, except where the Bible has gone.

Not scientific, because it says that the human race began in the Garden of Eden with Adam and Eve, whereas science teaches that we started from monkeys and have progressed until we have gotten to where we are today. Well a monkey ought to progress about as fast in one place as in another. Forty years ago you could buy a man in the Fiji Islands for 7 dollars and you could work him as hard as you liked and beat him to your heart's content and then kill him and eat him, if he was not steeped in tobacco.

Now it has been just as long since they were monkeys as it is since we were monkeys. You go to the Fiji Islands now, and you can't buy a man for seven million dollars and if you could you would not dare kill him, nor ill treat him. What has made the difference? One thousand churches in which the book is taught has made the transformation and half a century ago the men who could tear human flesh in pieces and devour it are now preaching the gospel. It is not evolution that has done it, but regeneration and it does not take a million, million years to do it either.

It was no harder for God to make a man and a woman at the first than it was to make two monkeys.

These evolutionists have just as hard a time as we to account for the beginning of things, and a little harder. One says birds begin with the egg. But where did he get that first egg to start with? There must have been two birds before that egg! We have

something to go back to—"In the beginning God created."

Science has been the laughingstock of the ages, the second century laughed at the science of the first century, the third laughed at the second, the twentieth at the nineteenth and the twenty-first will laugh at us. To my mind he is a very unwise man who rejects the Bible because it does not harmonize with some nebulous scientific theory that will live about as long as he will himself.

And here is another great fall of leaves.

III. The Historical Records. The Bible is an "Old Curiosity Shop" to a great many people. They say its historical statements are not accurate. Here is one of their mighty arguments. In Isaiah 20 it tells us that Sargon was the king of Assyria at the time that Ashdod was taken, and for a thousand years historians have declared that there never was a king in Assyria with any such name, and therefore the Bible statement was not true. We hear nothing about it now. We might wonder at the silence if we did not know that quite recent excavations have told us that Sargon was king of Assyria from 721 to 702, that he was the father of Senacherib and that he carried on great wars for fifteen years, his conquest extending from Babylon in the east to Armenia in the north, and as far south as Egypt. In the year 712 he took Ashdod, in accordance with the scripture record.

And there were eight immense boxes in one of the New York docks a few weeks ago awaiting transportation to the University of Pennsylvania. These boxes contained 150,000 tablets from the library of Sargon, king of Assyria, which Prof. Uilspucht dug up from the ruins at Nippur. It was a very unkind thing for the Prof. to do, for it has shut the critics mouths so suddenly that their jaws have snapped. But accidents will happen.

If any of you ever go to Philadelphia go into the university and have a look at the library.

Some one says "the book of Jonah was not written by the person whose name it bears because it is written with the third personal pronoun, and that the book is not historically correct because Ninevah did not exist at the time that the Bible says Jonah was sent to preach against it. I suppose no one ever wrote the incidents of his own life using the personal pronoun "he."

"I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving: I will pay that that I have vowed." That reads to me very much like the first person.

Did Ninevah exist at that time? There might be some excuse for Jonah not knowing geography but one can hardly conceive that God did not know.

What are the facts? According to the accepted chronology Ninevah was builded by Nimrod more than 2000 years before the Christian era, and destroyed by the Babylonians in 606, B. C., and Jonah was sent to preach against it in 862, 256 years before its destruction. Ninevah then was at the height of its power and magnificence at the time the prophet Jonah was sent to call the city to repentance. And so great a city was it that there were 120,000 infants in it so small that they could not tell the right hand from the left, and much cattle besides.

And here is another thing that these modern Jehoakims have used their pen knives in.

IV. The Inspiration of the Bible. They would give one the impression that the holy scripture was given to us in some such manner as the Sybelline leaves were collected, or in the way that Mahomet wrote his visions on old bones that he kept in an old trunk and that every scribe who copied any part of the holy scripture could leave out or change or add to them just as he pleased.

If there was one thing the Jews revered more than another, it was the holy scriptures, and according to Philo and Josephus they would suffer any torture and even burn at the stake rather than change even a single word or letter of them. A law was passed by them decreeing that he who should be so bold as to change the scripture in even the most trifling matter, should be guilty of the most awful sin that it was possible for a man to commit. So careful were they to correctly preserve the sacred text that when a new copy was written not only did they count the number of words, but the very letters themselves to see that not even a letter had been added or left out. If any mistake had been made do you not suppose that it would have been detected for it was read continually in the public gatherings and many knew all the scriptures by heart.

Infidels say:—Do you suppose that if God was to give a revelation to this world, that he would give it to a mere handful of Jews living on the shores of the Mediterranean? Why did he not give it to the Chinese? There are 400,000,000 of them. Sure enough why did he not give it to them? If he had given it to the Chinese how would you ever have learned to read it? There are 40,000 different characters to learn before you could read it.

"Why did he not give it to the Assyrians? Why did he not? For more than 1000 years there had not been a man on the earth who could read the Assyrian language, and there are 800 characters in it."

"Why did he not give it to the Egyptians? For more than 1000 years there has not been a man on this earth who could read a single line of their literature, though there are acres of it scribbled on the walls and palaces of Egypt today."

But God gave his revelation to the Hebrews with twenty-two letters in their alphabet, that a child could learn in an hour, and there has never been a day when that language or that alphabet has been forgotten. God sent the revelation of his will down channels through which he could send it, and the light of God has shone down through the ages, whilst the wisdom of the world goes out in darkness.

People talk about the dark ages and what happened then. Tell me when were the "dark ages?" "When you get outside the

light of God's word the ages are just as dark today as they were 2000 years ago. You go into Central Africa; you go into any country where the Bible does not shed its light and you will find it just as dismal and just as devilish as it ever was in any ages that are passed. You go to China, and opposite the rich man's fish pond you will read on a board "please do not drown girls here." They drown a girl like a blind pup in spite of all Confucius teaches and it was only fifteen years ago (1889) that a law was passed forbidding a woman killing her own daughter. You go anywhere outside of the light of God's word and you will find this same darkness and cruelty and sin."

Some one has asked why God did not give us his revelation in a shorter form instead of so large a book. God has given us his revelation in a small book that we can read through in a few days. The largest book that Paul ever wrote is a ten page tract. Men write big books, and no one ever reads them, but the Bible is made up of fifty-six small books, any one of which a man can read in two hours. It did not take these men long to write, for they knew what they were writing about.

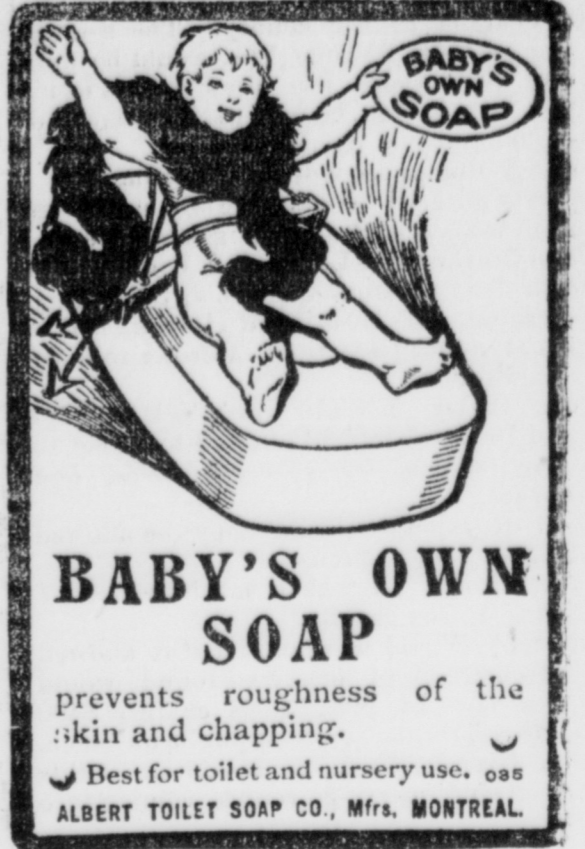
In the Chinese encyclopedia there are 6000 volumes and 18 volumes of Index. It would take you twenty years to learn to read and then after you had read these 6000 volumes, what would you have learned about God—simply this that it is right to worship your grandfather and your grandmother. In the British museum is an encyclopedia of Tibetan Buddhism. There are 225 volumes of it, and each volume is two feet long and six inches thick, heavy enough to kill you if it fell on you. But God has given us a better book that is made up of small books, that can be read through in an hour or ten minutes, and they contain the revelation of the eternal God to us.

And the writers of these books knew what they were writing about. They testified things which they knew. John does not say "That which we have dreamed, or guessed, or imagined declare we unto you," but "That which was from the beginning, which we have heard which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled of the Word of God." That was what they declared. They testified that they saw Christ in his life and death; that they saw him after the resurrection, and felt his hands and feet, and saw the nail prints and the spear wounds. They knew these things because they had seen them. That's why.

Jehoiakin thought he could destroy God's judgments upon him by destroying the record of them, and wicked men think they can escape the judgment which the book threatens against sin and sinners, by destroying the Bible. If they did destroy the Bible the judgment for sin would overtake them as surely as before.

Let us take this precious book as God's holy, infallible revelation of Himself to us, and our lives will be strong and blessed here, and our joy hereafter be complete and eternal rest.

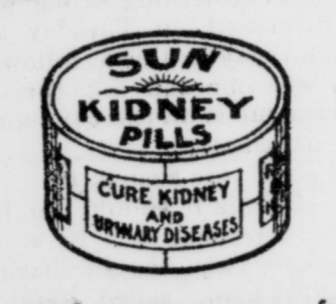
"The foolish woman," said a physician, "spends six weeks with the needle making Christmas presents for her friends so as to reduce the cost and then spends \$50 for doctor's bills as the result of her labors. The wise woman takes \$20 and buys all she needs, thus saving her time, her temper, her health and \$30 in cold cash."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.



**BABY'S OWN SOAP**  
prevents roughness of the skin and chapping.  
Best for toilet and nursery use. cas  
ALBERT TOILET SOAP CO., Mfrs. MONTREAL.

**BRISTOL WOODWORKING FACTORY**  
Having Repaired and Replaced Machinery, is ready to do First-Class Work at lowest possible prices.  
—MANUFACTURERS OF—  
**DOORS SASH MOULDINGS HOUSE FINISH SHEATHING ETC. STAIR WORK.**  
Prices to suit the times. Estimates given. Orders promptly executed. Write or call.  
**JOHN J. HAYWARD, BRISTOL, N. B.**

**BEANS, PORK, TEA, SUGAR, and FLOUR.**  
**MEN'S HEAVY CLOTHING**  
**Crain Bros.' New Store, East Florenceville.**  
Come and see us. We will make prices to suit you.  
Yours truly, **CRAIN BROS.**

**Women with Weak Kidneys**  
suffer agony; yet often never realize what causes the trouble. The sharp shooting pains in the back, the dull ache across the loins, the throbbing headaches, the sleepless nights, loss of appetite, sallow skin—all are signs of dangerous kidney trouble.  
  
have saved many a woman from hopeless suffering. They instantly check the ravages of Kidney Disease, soothe the pain, stop headaches and backaches—make roses bloom in pale cheeks, and enable one to regain health and strength. **SUN KIDNEY PILLS** never fail.  
ALL DEALERS. 50c A BOX.

**MUSICAL HEADQUARTERS.**  
**Pianos**  
Mason & Risch, Bell, Dominion, Karn.  
**Organs**  
Bell, Dominion, Karn.  
**Sewing Machines**  
The New Williams  
Viols, Mandolins, Harmonicas, Banjos, Accordions. A full line of first-class strings always in stock.  
**C. R. WATSON, Agent,**  
Woodstock, N. B.

**GETTING READY**  
for a Christmas drive? How about your rig? Have you done anything to give it a Christmas look? How about the harness? Will it stand inspection? And how about the lap robe? Aren't you ashamed to go out with that old thing any more? Why not treat yourself! A new **ROBE OR WHIP** will be something that you will find useful as well as ornamental. The cost will not be an impediment if you buy it here.  
**FRANK L. ATHERTON**  
(At the Sign of the White Horse)  
King Street, Woodstock.  
**BEATS ALL PREVIOUS RECORDS.**  
Since the establishment 10 years ago, the attendance at the **FREDERICTON BUSINESS COLLEGE** has been steadily on the increase. The number registering this term is away in advance of all previous years. This is the best testimonial we can place before the public. Send for Free Catalogue. Address **W. J. OSBORNE, Fredericton, N. B.**

**To Cure a Cold in One Day** Cures Grip in Two Days.  
Take **Laxative Bromo Quinine Tablets.** on every box. 25c.  
Seven Million boxes sold in past 12 months. This signature, *E. W. Groves*