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Jesus of Nazereth.

Dr. Whiston, on page 28, of his "Exact Time," declared that 27 discarded books were genuine. Archbishop Wake, also testifies to the same. Bishop Marsh also agrees with the above learned writers. On the other hand many able christians have denied the authenticity of several books that were admitted into the canonical New Testament. Even Luther himself denied the authenticity of Hebrews, James, Jude, and Revelations.

Buckle, in his "History of Civilization," p. 120, says: "The system of morals propounded in the New Testament, contained no maxim which had not been previously enunciated, and that some of the most beautiful passages in the apostolic writings are quotations from pagan authors, is well known to every scholar." But to assert that christianity communicated to man, moral truths previously unknown, argues on the part of the asserter, either gross ignorance or wilful fraud. For evidence of the knowledge of moral truths possessed by barbarous nations, independently of christianity and for the most part previous to its promulgation, compare Mackey's Religious Development, Mure's History of Greek Literature, Prescott's History of Mexico, the works of Sir William Jones, and Mill's History of India.

It is a standing argument with christians in favor of the divine approval which their system of religion has received, that it has spread so largely over the world and that so many millions of human beings have embraced it. According to this criterion, christianity is no more divine than Mohammedanism or Brahmanism and far less so than Buddhism. The last two systems named, existed many centuries before christianity commenced, and have each had far more followers. It is estimated that the Buddhists alone have reached a number ten times as great as all the christians who have lived. Today they number about 400,000,000, three times as many as christians can truthfully claim. If numbers are the test of divinity and truth of the various systems of the world's great religions, christianity will have to stand about fourth in the scale. A comparison of the means by which these different systems of religions have been spread over the world is most damaging to christianity. Brahmanism is the most ancient, but its history has not been bloody. Buddhism has spread without causing the flow of human blood. Mohammedanism has been more aggressive. It has wielded the sword vigorously causing the death of about 1,500,000 persons.

But it is reserved to christianity to bear away the palm in the

struggle for blood. It believes in the efficacy of blood in the salvation of the world, and it has believed in the efficacy of shedding human blood in the spread of its doctrines and power. In christian wars and persecutions it is estimated that 150,000,000 of the unfortunate sons and daughters of men have perished, and that blood enough has been spilt in its name to make a river large enough to float a great fleet of vessels. It has been a most bloody religion; it has devastated the fairest portions of the earth; it has thrown into sadness and gloom whole nations of people; it has suppressed individual rights; it has mercilessly pursued its helpless victims at the secret hour of midnight; it has inflicted upon men, women and children the most cruel tortures human ingenuity could devise; it has crushed liberty of thought and action; it stifled the highest and purest aspirations of the human heart. O, the bloody, cruel devastating, and almost interminable wars and persecutions which for succeeding centuries swept over southern Europe, western Asia, and northern Africa, and all in the name of the mild and amiable Jesus! The student of facts well knows that the history of the Christian church is but a record of wars and persecutions for opinions sake. "Blood, Blood," says Baxter, "stains every page of its history." During the Crusades 60,000,000 lost their lives, not to mention the Spanish inquisition, the massacre of St Bartholomew, the sack of Magdelbury by Tilly, and 45,000 Saxons by Constantine. For fifty generations the church carried the black flag of rapine and murder; thought was a crime and investigation meant death at the hands of a cruel and ignorant priest-hood. Spain under Moorish rule became a rich and prosperous nation, and the most enlightened of Europe, but having been under the rule the Romish church for 400 years, she is to-day one of the most illiterate nations on earth, as well as the most cruel, and if she continues in her present course, will within a few years, be blotted off the map of Europe. Ireland is another example, her sons are exiles, and Italy is represented by a hand organ with a monkey begging for pennies. Mexico furnishes another example of what the church can do when she has the power, and so it has ever been and always will remain so, just as long as people are kept in ignorance and allow the advance agents of another world to do their thinking for them. H. D. BURROWS.

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