Dwight Bobbins did not have a by Almighty God?" said Bob. very redoubtable appearance. It "Oh, yes, every word of it is inappeared doubtful if he could spired." a brand from the burning.

in the rear of him; namely, the He means that we shall seek after almost, though not quite, Rev. the truth." William Theophilus Pippins. He "And, if we don't find it by readwas a student, and had not yet ing the commentaries of ignorant been ordained. He was the exact men, we must go to hell. I think model of a "theologue." His hair that's a queer kind of a God." was long, his cheeks thin, his eyes "But the really essential parts watery and guarded by green of the Bible can be understood," spectacles. His suit was the sober said Bobbins. "It's only the livery of black. He wore a dingy scientific and historic parts that need dress-coat buttoned tightly around explaining. For instance, love thy his spare form. His pants were neighbor as thyself. Isn't that rather too short, and his gaiters plain enough?" wore a silk hat that had probably say geometry is inspired?" winters. It was somewhat weather- know as I can explain 'that. beaten and a little out of style. Things that we can comprehend we all learned commentaries on the need inspiration for what we can't Bible, explanations of difficult comprehend." passages, and harmonies of the "Well, let us stick a pin there," laid upon the table, and the student went back and brought another pile. He then stood ready to open and read any passage that might be indicated by his solemn leader.

"I am a humble candle of the Lord. I hope to be able to give you some light," said Bobbins.

"Proceed," said Robert. "I, too, am an anxious seeker after light." "I want to go back to the creation of the world,"said Bobbins. "We

must begin with the foundation."

"That's right," said Ingersoll. "I'm quite curious about that. I want to know, for instance, how it happened that there were days and nights before the sun itself was made."

"Oh, I can easily explain that!" said Bobbins. "You know this was a kind of picture or panorama that passed before Moses."

"I didn't know that," said Ingersoll. "The Bible don't say so."

"I know that, but the commentaries do. They are got up by the best scholars of the church, and they show just what the bible means. We couldn't understand it, of course, without."

"Are the commentaries inspired?" asked Bob.

"Oh, no, they are not inspired; but they explain things very naturally. The bible doesn't seem near so wonderful after you've read them. It's much easier to believe

On the whole, the Rev. Timothy "The Bible you say, is inspired

wrestle very successfully with the "And yet the book that God infidel. Perhaps, however, he had wrote, who is all-wise and all-powersome pebbles tucked about him ful, can't be understood until we somewhere, with which eventually have read a set of commentaries by to crush the towering Goliah. At men as fallible as ourselves. Now, any rate there was every appear- if God can't reveal himself, who ance of sincerity about him, and has every instrumentality at comwithout doubt he expected to pluck mand, I don't give much for man's help."

The heavy artillery brought up "Oh, that is his way of working.

rather too big. I suppose they were "Certainly," said Bob. That's a present to him from some true. We know it by our reason. benevolent church society, the cast- It don't need inspiration any more off clothing of some rich deacon. He than mathematics. Why don't you

seen about ten summers and eleven "Well," said Bobbins. "I don't His arms were loaded with books, don't need inspiration for. We

Gospels. He had a Bible in the said Bob. "We don't need in-Hebrew and a Testament in the speration for what we can compre-Greek. All these were carefully hend by our natural reason, but for things that we can't comprehend. Now, for things that we can't comprehend, how is inspiration going to help us?"

> "Why, by showing to our reason"—

"Hold on, man," said Bob. "You have already said that what is plain to reason doesn't need inspiration. If what is called inspiration appeals to our reason, and convinces it, then by that very fact it is not inspiration it is simply nature."

Bobbins was bothered, no mistake. He requested Theophilus to hand him a big book. He pored over it for a while, wiped the prespiration

"I have it now. Inspiration proves itself by a miracle."

"A miracle!" said Bob. "What is a miracls?"

"Something that is above and beyond nature, like the sun and moon standing still."

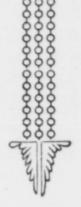
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