IFor the DESERET NEWS.

INFIDELITY.

BY CHARLES W. STAYNER.

CHAPTER X .- Why Biblical Protheir doctrines examined. Infidel historians record the fulfilment of prophecy. Unbelievers struck with its minuteness.

If the prophecies contained in the Scriptures were simply there recorded as predictions not yet fulfilled in any degree, it would even then be our duty as sensible men and women to abstain from denouncing them, until their failure denly called out: in time or manner of fulfilment should become plain to the observer, but when, as in the cases mentioned, a considerable part of Scriptural prophecy has already been fulfilled, and become a matter of history, recorded not only by admirers of the Bible, both Jews and Christians, but by some who scorned to acknowledge revelation in any form, it becomes our positive duty, no matter what may be our prejudices, to investigate the doctrines taught by those men who

announced and recorded the prophecies in question. If these predictions were vague and ambiguous, like those of the ancient Delphic oracle, admitting of various interpretations, they might indeed be regarded as uncertain; but when we consider that not only the events themselves have been predicted, with the time of their fulfilment relatively stated, but in some instances, the very details of their occurrence, and the effects which would be produced on you preach more than I can tel the surrounring peoples, have been minutely described and literally come to pass, we must acknowledge that those prophets were in possession of a gift, for which we cannot account, by any science known even in this the age of scientific excellence. If any one of those men had predicted falsely in a single particular, how quickly would skeptics, on this ground alone, have Turkey because she was so long in pronounced him a fraud, and per- quelling nearly simultaneous rehaps justly too. But when great volts in Bulgaria, Servia, Bosnia, improbabilities are predicted and Herzegovina and Montenegro. But specific particulars given, with as Austria, with 200,000 soldiers, time of fulfilment, and immediate results, and these Bosnia alone, she has probably rethings literally come to pass notwithstanding the previous improblkey. Zach and Szapary, at all ability of their occurrence, it is use- events, now know what Turkish less for us to say the authors of such | provincial insurrections are, and so predictions were not prophets and does Field Marshal Baron Philip seers, but only "poets writing for povich. amusement," neither can we justly call them impostors, nor can the Mr. Earnest Marchemont, of statement of Mr. Pain be correct, West Hill, is not a very experiencwhen he says that they were prob- ed sportsman, but he set a trap, all ably writing in figures about events | the same, for a fox or some other for the principal matters on which hen-roosts. The next morning they prophesied, together with the there was something stirring about conditions referred to in their pre- in the trap. Mr. Marchemont go dictions, were not brought about in | down on his knees and looked in. most instances till after the death "It looks like a rabbit," he said. of the prophets themselves. The and he opened the trap. "But it historical record of the fulfilment doesn't smell exactly like one," he of prophecies found in the Scrip- added, sadly, and when he went tures has not been left to friends to the house Mrs. Marchmont made alone by any means, but haters of him stand in the back yard while religion have done much to furnish she stopped her nose up with blue proof of the Divine origin of those clay and undressed him with the declarations; and in some in- cistern pole. "Each heart knows stances they, infidel writers, its own bitterness best,"Mr. Marchewere so struck by the correct- mont said, when his tailor wonder ness and minute precision of the ed what he wanted an ther fall fulfilment, that they sought to de- suit already for .- Hawkeye. stroy its force, by declaring the prophecies must have been written after the events had transpired. Porphry, a cordial hater of the Christian religion, made that statement nearly 1,600 years ago, but he did not account before he died, for the prophecies which have been fulfilled during the hundreds of years since his death; at all events this statement cannot be made now, for the Scriptures, according to Gibbon, another unbeliever, were gathered from the villages of Judea by an Egyptian king who lived 300 years before the Savior was crucified; hence the Old Testament is of sufficient antiquity to place its existence beyond question with regards to its prophecies, and their fulfilment during the last 2,100 years. The fact is we would have to credit impossibilities and nonsense, besides denying the most palpable facts, in order to evade belief in the divine authority of the Scriptural prophets. Heavenly inspiration is

breathed in their utterances and

righteousness is written upon their

lives, why then should we doubt

them? If an all Brother Brother

## A Quickened Conscience.

An elderly gentleman of benign appearance has of late been distributing religious tracts in the street cars, and yesterday at least one case of quickened conscience was brought to public notice. A young man entered the car, paid his nickle, phets should be credited, and and was handed a tract, headed, "Are you a Sinner?" He turned pale at once, read a few lines, and suddenly called out:

"Yes, I am! I put a bad nickle in the fare-box, but now I'll begin a new life by being honest. Here, driver, change this half-dollar and

I'll pay my fare over again!" The change was given him and he paid, but after riding a block or so he left the car to see a man on the walk. The passengers thought it a wonderful case, and were deeply interested, when the driver sud-

"Hang me, if this 'ere half-dollar isn't bogus!"

So it was. - Detroit Free Press.

### SHORT AND SHARP.

"I wish you would not give me such short weight for my money," said a customer to a grocer who had an outstanding bill against him. "And I wish you wouldn't give me such long wait for mine," replied the grocer.

Probably, at the last dreadful day, when Gabriel sounds his trump, if he doesn't stop once or twice between the blasts and shout, 'General, General! Colonel, I say!" not more than two-fifths of the men in American cemeteries will get up.-Burlington Hawkeye.

A noted sharper, wishing to ingratiate himself with a clergyman, said, "Parson, I should like to hear you." "Well," responded the clergyman, "If you had been where you ought to have been, last Sunday, you would have heard me." "Where was that?" asked the sharper. "In the county jail," was the reply.

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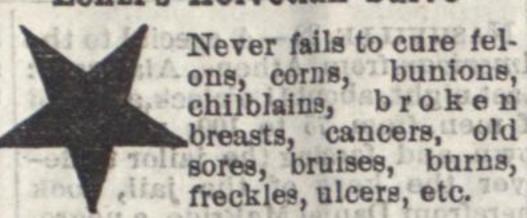
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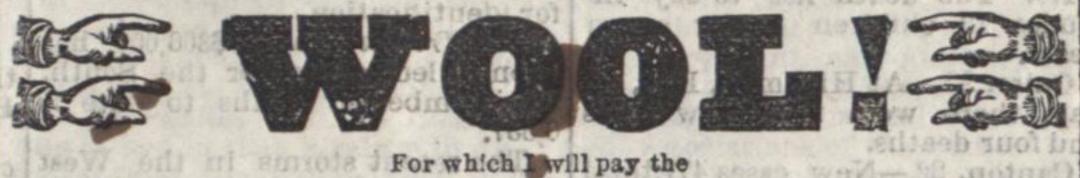
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