

Moses did not talk with God face to face as one man talketh with another, neither did the Lord write upon tablets of stone with his own finger, the ten commandments and give the record to Moses. All such statements of Holy Writ are to be rejected. The command to keep the Sabbath day holy was not the word of an actual, living, speaking Deity; it was only the perception by a philosopher of a principle in nature which it would be well for man to observe, and the "reason" assigned by Moses why the Sabbath should be kept holy, was only a "fanciful" one. It was easier for him to see that the Sabbath ought to be kept than to give other than a "fanciful" reason why it should be.

Thus more and more ground is being given to the infidel by the pretended defenders of the Bible. Compromises without end are being made with objectors. Truly, "Bible Saints" have need to be saved from their modern friends, who grow more and more willing to betray them.

That same Christ before whose judgment seat the teachings of Bible Saints must be brought for revision and correction, according to the *Christian Union*, gave the command for the destruction of the Amalekites; and while He was in the flesh He repeatedly endorsed the teachings of the prophets. Never once did He attempt a revision of the teachings of one of them, so far as we are authorized to state.

If a command to destroy a wicked nation shows "a defective moral judgment," what is to be done with certain predictions and threats of vengeance made by the Savior Himself? The tendency, even among the ultra religious, is either to reject or to neutralize the significance of the plainest and most vital portions of the Scriptures, in response to, and by way of compromise with, infidelity.

FINANCES OF GREAT BRITAIN.

PERSONS having a statistical turn of mind will be interested in the following figures relative to the public debt of Great Britain, which are furnished by the *London Times*. It appears that every man, woman and child in the United Kingdom owes over \$35. The debt of Great Britain is about double that of the United States, and is more than threetimes the amount per capita.

A parliamentary return has just been issued showing at the close of

each financial year from 1836 to 1889 the aggregate gross liabilities of the State, as represented by the nominal funded debt, the estimated capital value of terminable annuities, the unfunded debt, and other liabilities in respect of debt, together with the estimated assets and the aggregate net liabilities and exchequer balances. The return also gives the gross and net expenditure charged on the consolidated fund on account of the national debt and other payments in respect of debt for the same period. The return is a continuation of the return which Sir W. Harcourt obtained in 1887.

At the close of the financial year ended the 5th of January, 1836, the national debt, or, as it is officially described, the aggregate net liabilities of the State, including the nominal amount of funded debt, the estimated value of terminal annuities computed in 3 per cent stock at par, and the unfunded debt, amounted to £845,489,577. In the following year it was reduced by about £400,000, but in 1838 it stood at five millions less, and a gradual decrease of from a million to four millions a year is visible down to 1853, when, for the first time during the present reign the debt was brought below £800,000,000, the actual figures on the fifth of January in that year being £798,962,551. In 1854 it had diminished by nearly ten millions, the amount being calculated in that year to the fifth of April, but in the financial year ended the thirty-first of March, 1855, the outbreak of the Crimean war sent it up ten millions, and in the following year it increased by a further £25,000,000 to a total of £826,002,754, while in 1857 (the year of the Indian mutiny) another £700,000 was added. After this year, however, our finances began to improve, and although at first it was only gradual, yet each year a substantial diminution of the debt was effected. In 1858 it was reduced by four millions, and in each of the two following years it became five millions less; but in 1861, the year in which the revenue estimate of the year was the largest on record up to that time, the debt increased from £812,904,106 to £813,880,323, and in the following year it was only reduced from the latter figure by about £650,000. During the next four years, however, the debt diminished substantially each year, and in 1866—the year of the great commercial panic, curiously enough, when the bank rate was raised to nine per cent—it was reduced by no less than nine millions—the largest reduction in one year during the present reign—and was once more brought below 800 millions, the actual figure being £794,667,096. Since this year nothing abnormal has occurred. With the exception of one year, 1869, when the Abyssian war (which cost £9,000,000) absorbed the whole of the surplus revenue except some £30,000, the debt has been regu-

larly reduced every year until the present year, when to Mr. Goschen is due the credit of bringing it for the first time for many years below 700 millions. The total amount of the debt at the close of the last fiscal year was £693,989,633, or nearly 150 millions less than it was at the commencement of the present reign.

The same return also gives an exhaustive cash account, showing the total issues out of the consolidated fund for the annual service of the debt—in other words, its annual cost for interest and management—and this shows that while the charge in 1836 was £28,659,054, this year it is only £25,836,136, or three millions less.

When we reflect upon the foregoing figures, and in connection with them consider the condition of the bulk of the population of the United Kingdom, and the prospects of a European war, we may well doubt the immediate liquidation of the liabilities of Queen Victoria's country. What grinding of and suffering among the poor the payment of such public debts means, in countries which have no lands for sale, nor other undeveloped resources as we have, cannot be computed; and it would seem that one of the consequences that must follow a European war involving any of the leading Powers, must be national bankruptcy, the repudiation of governmental obligations, and the consequent financial ruin of all whose means are invested in that class of securities.

IOWA DRUGGISTS COMBINING.

THE prohibitory liquor legislation of Iowa is rather stringent in the requirements it exacts from druggists. They must give a bond in the sum of \$1000, not to sell liquor in violation of the law, and must obtain a petition signed by one-third of the freeholders of the precinct, before obtaining a permit, which must be renewed annually.

For the purpose of securing a modification of some of the more stringent features of the liquor law, the druggists of the northern portion of Iowa are organizing the Cedar Valley Pharmaceutical Association, and sending out circulars to all druggists in the State, inviting their co-operation in exacting from candidates for the legislature a pledge that they will assent to a revision of the law.

Each druggist has his circle of friends, and if that guild throughout the State combine in an effort to secure certain modifications of the law, they will probably be able to