

INTRODUCTION

the West," this edition has been brought out at a considerable loss, as also will be a select and incomplete edition of Crowley's work. But those who, possessing the spiritual and mental qualities of their poorer brethren—if a parsonic term be admissible—possess also slightly better-lined pockets, I would recommend to obtain a copy of the six-shilling edition of "The Star in the West" and the more expensive editions of Mr. Crowley's works. This is their duty to a pioneer of human progress.

Robert Taylor, the famous surgeon, scholar, sceptic, and "infidel," once asked to be remembered as "the man who loved Truth more than he feared death; and hated Christianity more than he loved life." In the writings of Aleister Crowley we have more eloquently, if less tersely, expressed, the same idea; and we see how a truly mystic and poetic soul, which has drunk of the waters of knowledge, cannot but revolt at the fantastics and hypocrisies history, past and present, associates with the religion of the Nazarene, the creed of the Galilean serpent. Than this, a lover of human freedom should need no greater introduction. It is in order that one who has dared to take this unconventional path, with full knowledge of the consequences, and has proven his possession of a vigorous and diverting polemic skill, should be cheered on his way