

## The Abuse of Christianity

Very often in the prosecution of criminal designs it becomes necessary for their successful accomplishment, for men to assume some disguise which may conceal their real intentions.

The universal respect which religion claims, even from those who avow themselves unbelievers in its doctrine, is often used to advantage by individuals of the most detested private character; and the testimonials of a minister often accompany a heart whose every feeling is black as death.

If asked, why is it that so much inimical to the spirit of christianity, exhibits itself in the conduct of professed christians? Why that bitter personal and denominational abuse which is so often to be found in journals which style themselves advocates of christianity? Thoughts that can issue only from hearts overflowing with rancorous hate, and not only all courtesy is disregarded, but common decency & oppression is forgotten, language is used & habits employed, which would stultify those children of vice to be found in the dark alleys of the most dens by thorough cities, whose mind girt with doctrines never conceived an idea of their Creator; or whose name never rang in their ears only in an oath.

That such is sometimes the conduct of those who are called christians, is a fact

evident to every one, it needs no proof.  
Unless such things degrade the impartial  
reader's opinions of the Christian religion  
he must detect the wolf through his  
disguise.

During the late years we had many  
examples of the influence of religion used  
for base purposes in the conduct of many  
of the Northern clergy. In which the Rev.  
Gentlemen, Beecher, Gardiner and a host  
of smaller creatures gathered their congregations  
about them, and preached - if  
such we must call it - as if commercial  
men from the regions of Pandemonium  
for the purpose of looting the feelings of those  
so unfortunate as to hear them, into furious  
hate towards the people of the South; to  
cause their minds to boil with rampant  
madness as the billow roars of the  
ocean, when the Subterranean fires  
kindle up some island sleeping calmly  
beneath its placid waters, and taught  
them that such was the religion of  
him who preached peace on earth and  
good will amongst all mankind.