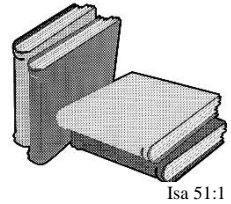


The Rock and Pit

*Look unto the rock whence ye are hewn,
and to the hole of the pit whence ye are digged.*



Isa 51:1

Selections from the Christian's heritage in print,
collected by Dean Brown

Issue 941C

Its Primeval Reverence for the Holy Scriptures

His (Timothy Dwight) preaching, for a considerable time after he became president of the college (Yale, in 1795) was more particularly directed to establish the truth of Christianity against the popular infidel cavils (to fault unnecessarily, trivial objections) of the day.

The political events of the latter half of the last century (late 1700s) including, especially, the Revolution, had been, in some respects, exceedingly adverse to the progress of mortality and religion; and in addition to this, the writings of Hume and Voltaire and others of the same school, had been widely spread through the country; the consequence of which was, that a large portion of young men in the higher, as well as the lower, circles of society were skeptical in regard to the claims of Christianity.

Here President Dwight planted his battery (i.e., of symbolic cannons), and for years worked it with a giant's hand. Probably the effects of his preaching, in correcting and purifying public sentiment, was never felt more strongly than during this period; and perhaps there was no other individual to whom the country was, and still is, so deeply indebted as himself, for the return, in some measure, to its primeval [original] reverence for the Holy Scriptures.

The Life of Timothy Dwight, President of Yale College,
1845, William B. Sprague¹
reprinted by Puritan Reprints 2007

¹ Sprague was educated at Yale, graduating in 1815. For 40 years he ministered at the Second Presbyterian Church in Albany, N.Y. He published many books, some biographies. His major work was his *Annals of the American Pulpit*, 9 vols. The three volumes on Presbyterians start with a short history of the church for 1688 through 1850, but mostly contains a chronological arrangement of hundreds of minister's biographies contributed by others. It has been reprinted by Solid Ground Christian Books.