THE DECLINE OF RELIGIOUS BELIEF.

To the Editor.
Sir—Professor Jethro Brown recently fell among the number of candidates for conclave, the whole school of materialists of that date—men like Wallace, Lodge, Crookes, Morell, Lombros, Klapp, &c.—have denounced the 'star-dust-evolution-out-of-nothing' creed, and become naturalists, and the multiplication of the newer terms and skills in the non-critical Brown school for their mental obtuseness. The steps of the sceptics in the last demonstration are on the theory and origin of matter, which all entities do not even foreshadow any knowledge of the nature of the all-pervading, all-controlling, life-principle: a fact. True, most of the great ones mentioned have only got so far as 'philosophy' to trug religious; but, as honest men, they were convinced to pull down with both hands their old structures of 'finality' as based upon mere physical science. As to the frequency of that a few clergy man is afraid to preach about the Bible. It is true there is a small minority who tremble to speak anything in the Bible that might offend the susceptibilities of their social or scientific friends; but the majority of clergyman, Protestant or Catholic, are not so. The former are more religious professionals—'wolves in sheep's clothing'—people who flock, but have care for nothing. It is true some of the thunders of the ancient prophets were directly aimed against the people, who misled the people by withholding the truth. The instruments by which they delivered would doubtless have been echoed against the one or the other or both. But it is certain that all sincere Bible students as a rule regard the Millenarian hell, in the punishment of the wicked, the destruction of all, and the destruction of the works of a wicked world, rather than a reasonable, a natural, and a fruitful life for the rugged life of the righteous.

CHEES. T. NIXON.

EDUCATION AND THE CHURCHES.

From the Times:—Allow me to thank Professor Jethro Brown for his cour tesy in offering a free hand to me, which he gives the dispenser for which I appeal. Many a time I have expressed my appreciation of the author's leading article in the Register of Friday. 'A high standard of education is necessary; scholarship is indispensable, and devoted to duty,' is our common aim. For education will not have been fruitful of service to emphasize this goal of education, and for the free and unreserved access of the community to the responsibility and to do all that in his work to assist the cause and the welfare of our people andCommonwealth.'

When Dr. Douglas Masson, the Australian astronomer, returns from the observations with which he has been engaged in the instrument, March 12, he will, before proceeding to Eng land, visit the United States to tour about the Commonwealth.

—Dr. Masson.

LIFE IN THE TROPICS.

AN IMPORTANT INSTITUTE.

OPENED AT TOWNSVILLE.

Brisbane, June 30.

The Institute of Tropical Medicine at Townsville was opened by Lord Noon (Sir William McGregory) yesterday. Professor Stuart, the medical officer of the institute, described the objects of the institute and gave an account of the progress of the work. He was accompanied by the Governor, the Premier, and several members of the University professors, and a number of other prominent citizens. The institute is to be housed in a magnificent building, which is to be erected at the cost of £15,000. The institute is to be open to the public, and will be under the direction of Professor Stuart, who is to be appointed the scientific head of the institute. The institute is to be opened to the public on the 1st of July, and will be open from 9 a.m. to 12 noon and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on weekdays. The institute is to be equipped with the latest apparatus and is to be of the highest standard. The institute is to be the first of its kind in the country, and is to be a great step forward in the study of tropical medicine.