THE DECLINE OF RELIGIOUS BELIEF.

To the Editor,

Sir—My letter on the subject was in your issue of July 3 was written under a misapprehension, and I hasten to make the amende honorable. The misapprehension was, as I believe, the following: upon serious consideration of the very full report of the professors' address contained in your issue of Thursday of last week, I wrote merely giving a review of certain current views, only to say afterwards that he denounced with the most intense feeling, and not at all unusual, to see a University professor expounding high principles in a way which struck the uninitiated is propagated by those who are not competent to speak. I wish to express my regret at having written (quite unintentionally) misrepresented the professor, and beg to thank him for his artistic address—I am &c.

A BELIEVER IN HELL.

Sir—"A Believer in Hell" seems to be very much in vogue now. The meaning of the word is or whence it comes, or anything connected with it at all. He signs himself as a "believer in an unalterable eternity of fire, called hell, filled with malignant spirits of horrid shape, in which are reserved the most exquisitely torments for those who have been dissiping to God in their mortal state," etc., etc., "What did Christ teach?"

The all-powerful man of today believes our own little creed made by the father of our faith and all the other religions and Gospel as set out in the Bible as mBlake, and not worthy to be considered. The ancient world, the New Testament, the Old Testament is the Hebrew word, "Scole." The word is translated hell, properly, as an error. We are all of us, called soul, the same as the old Saxon word, "belly," the covered receptacle of the dead, where the god of earth and heaven is together and one, the same as the ancient one. The dead, no such absurd idea as that of a place reserved for the wicked. We are often not associated with it. In the English language we have words which convey the same meaning, viz., "hell," cover book; "helmet," covering the head, &c., all derived from the same root. Can we wonder at the degrading attendances at our churches when a theory so horrible as "hell tormentors" is put before them? Rather than believe such a doctrine most men reject God from their creed, and take refuge in the calm of rationalism. "One whole touching of the heathen in regard to the destiny of the wicked is summed up in four words which, "We know as much as ever were associated with it."

Paul gives the explanation in Romans xi. 23:—"The wages of sin is death." Other testimonies, Isaiah, on 35; Job, xx., 48; Psalm, xxxvii., 20; Isa. xxvii., 16. "Hell" means, some think, the fire in the verses of the Bible, and the prevailing and popular idea of a place of torment is borrowed from the same. Also the Romans, and Greeks. I am &c.

Clarence Park, July 1, 1893.

EDUCATION AND THE CHURCHES.

From Professor Jethro Brown:—"I am reluctantly prepared to confess my own misapprehension. The misapprehension was, as the following will show. In another section of the press a paragraph was published, with the above title, from which it appeared (to me at least) that Professor Jethro Brown quoted approvingly certain views opposed to Christian teaching. On reading the very full report of the professor's address contained in your issue of Thursday of last week, I wrote merely giving a review of certain current views, only to say afterwards that he denounced with the most intense feeling, and not at all unusual, to see a University professor expounding high principles in a way which struck the uninitiated as propagated by those who are not competent to speak. I wish to express my regret at having written (quite unintentionally) misrepresented the professor, and beg to thank him for his artistic address—I am &c.

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