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WHOLE No. 213.

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BY E. C. WALKER.

CONTENTS:
Prefutory Note; Introduction; List A

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[As a timely and powerful commentary upon the Chataworth horror, we publish again the poem below. In exquisite verse the poet gives form and life to the inspiration burning in the heart of every good man and woman, the desire and struggle to lesson the suffering and to increase the happiness in this universe of ours.—Eds. [A]

IF I WERE GOD

BY WILL H. KERNAN.

Out through the sweep of the uttermost

spheres—
If I were God!—
Down the dim span of the ullimate years
If I were Ued!—
The luminous files forever should shire,
The passionate roses fame red on the vine,
The golden grapes drip with a delicate win
If I were God!

The song-birds should lift in an evergree bower.

And twitter and trill through an oveningles hour,

If I were God?
And never a leaf in the green lovest gay I day,
the horne from its bough, for no dark, winte;
Nor black, thund rous gtorm should rise wild
on our way,

Never a coffin or cold winding-sheet,
If I were God!
Nor blue myrtles blooming at headste
and feet,

nou rect,

No sad, stricken souls bending down by their
dend

dend
Tokis, the palecorps whencothe spirit hath
fied
While the torn bosom bleeds, and the hot tears
are shed. If I were God1

The fires of friendship should faithfully burn.

burn,

He I were God!

Heart unto heart should unchangingly turn

Never should longings be vile or vain,

Never bo positioned, familie or chain,

Never bo positioned, familie or chain,

Never bo positioned, in the or chain,

Never bo positioned, in the

Never a mortal should come unto harm,
Never a gallows should liff its red arm
Sin should slink far out of fel were God.
Sin should slink far out of secund and of sig
The wrong that is rapturous always to ris
Nor fagot and steelite the symbols of mig
Nor were God.

Valley Falls by the name of the New Era. I have never seen the paper, but from what I can judge from passages quoted in LUCIFER and from the prominent part its editor, Mr. Van Meter, took in the persecution of Lillian Harman and E. C. Walker, that paper (the New Era) does not deserve that name. It should rather be called: The Old, dark Era of Persecution, Bigotry, and Superstition. The New Era is the good time coming! The era of liberty, equality and fraternity, where Reason is supreme.

quality and trace is upreme, Tours for Infidelity and Anarchism, A. A. Sonena.

Define Your Terms,
EDITOR LUCIPER On reading this exhortation in your paper it occurred to exhortation in youtpaper it occurred to me that the following ideas which have long been in my mind might be of some value. The words, "clastity" and "immod-castity," "modesty" and "immod-esty," "decency" and "indecency," and of late "free love" and "free lust" are or late "free love" and "free liter" are in every che's mouth, but how very few attempt to ask even themselves what they mean by them! How commonly the expressions of praise mean only what is conventionally proper, those of blame only wint custom condemnal Now, if we are going to educate others we must first of all clear our own minds of caut. Let me state what these phrases mean to me; and in so doing I believe much aid may be derived from etymology. Chastiy, from castus, signifymology. Chastity, from castics, signify-ing proceeding that the continuous means a voluntary restraint on the exer-cise of the sexual passion, as continuous also does, but it is not so strong a term. Any degree of forbearance is continence Chastity is a degree of forbearance required by some positive law. Now it is clearly a law of nature which forbids the indulgence of the

More a gallow about his fire a resistant was also down, but It is not an atrong a term. It is the duty of the lawyers and the appearance of the properties o

the sexual function is highly so; and twhether it shows itself in the form of wilgar jokes, bawdy stories, or "prurient prudery" it deserves to be considered indecent. Now here again we may remark that the mere presentation of something no matter how revolting is not necessarily indecent. It is essential to the right use of the term that the sense of the clean and beautiful should be shocked without a sufficient object. Scientific discussions of the most horrist ble abuses, such as Elmina is now under arrest for, are not indecent because they aim at doing a practical good which is worth the repugnance they must needs exerte. Now, who is fit to judge whether anything effends him without cause? Clearly, no one but the individual. The natural punishment of indecent people is to be "boycotted." Any other is evidently arbitrary, and it arbitrary, then unjust. Now what is it that breeds disrespect for the sexual function, a feeling unknown to any animal? Marriage. What creates the abuses which have made that function associated in the minds of multitudes with everything disgusting? Marriage. What gives rise to the associated in the sexual function is almost necessarily ovil? Marriage. What gives rise to the associated in the context the account of a sectic training? Marriage. What there is almost necessarily ovil? Marriage. What have rise to the passion for vulgar humor which is the reaction from a sectic training? Marriage. What there is almost necessarily ovil? Marriage. What then is almost necessarily ovil? Marriage. What the free should be left out. Lust means passion without those restraints which love imposes. The essence of these restraints is mutuality. Therefore lust can never as to marriage. To abolish marriage or prostitution, which is merely the obverce of marriage. To abolish marriage would reduce it to a minimum.

American Churacter.

A Spirit More Evil Thun Alcohol.

The authority of learning, the tyranny of science, which Dakounine foresaw, deprecated, and denounced, never found blunter expression than in an article by T. B. Wakeman in the August num-ber of the Freethinkers' Magazine, in which the writer endeavors to prove on scientific grounds alone, that alcohol is an unmitigated ovil, a poison that ought never to be taken into the human system. My knowledge of chemistry and physiology is too limited to enable me to judge of the scientific soundness of the attempted demonstration; but I do know that it is admirably well writto know that it is inimitably went went ten, wonderfully attractive, powerfully plausible, important if true, and therefore worthy of answer by those who alone are competent to answer it if it can be answered. Such an answer I hope to see; and, if it arrives, I shall work it regions by W. Wakangana array. weigh it against Mr. Wakeman's argument, award a verdict for myself, and net upon it for myself,—if I am allowed

But it is plain that, if Mr. Wakeman's party gots into power, no such privilego will be granted me. For, after having asserted most positively that this "ver-dict of science" can be made so manifest that it will become "a personal probibi-tion law, which no person in his senses would violate any more than he would out his own throat," in which case its compulsory enforcement will be entirely unnecessary except upon persons out of their senses. Mr. Wakenian goes on to say that it is the duty of the lawyers (of whom he is one) to see to it that the manufacture, sale, and use of alcohol as a beverage shall be outlawed, pro-

LUCIFER

VALLEY FALLS, KAS., Aug. 26, 287.

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T. E. Palmer, Manning, Iowa,
Kausas City, Mo., Dr. C. Lona Marsters, LIST OF OUR AUTHORIZED AGENTS:

Hiram Crum 1s Dead.

Russas City, Mo., Dr. G. Iona Marsters, satisfy and the property of the proper

Comrade Cook has told, better than any poor words of mine can voice them, of the noble aspirations and worthy doeds of Hiram Crum. It was a high privilege to stand boside his bier and bear testimony to his truth, sagacity, generosity and courage. In outspoken devotion to the cause of Freethought he stood alone at Baxter Springs, but no social ostracism, no freezing isolation no disparity of overwhelming adds against him, had power to make him turn one step aside from what he deemed

the straight path of Duty.

In many ways he was my benefactor; a friend in the storm, a soldier sure to be found at the post of danger. Although he had seen the snows of seventy winters, the roses of seventy Junes, he was too young to die. His heart and his brain were bathed in the warm sun-shine of life's morning, and his departare came with the shock of combined surprise and keenest pain to all who knew him as he was. Frank, rugged, loyal, fearless, this man whose name we write in reveront praise, has lain him down with the harness of duty on, and so he sleeps the sleep that at last comes to each and all. Upon thy grave, my Brother, I humbly lay the acacia of friendship, the asphodel and pine of regret and farewell.

LABOR TOPICS.

Henry Georgo in speaking of the recent "labor convention" at Syracuse, N. Y. is reported to have said, Itwas a remarkable gathering in every respect. There was no wire-pulling in it and everything was orderly and respectable. The two old parties had as well give up and go out of business.

go ont of business.

Such language as this coming from the most noted leader of the labor party, shows, we much fear, either the innocence of ignorance,

from the most noted leader of the labor party, shows, we much fear, either the innocence of ignorance, or the boastful, make-believe confidence of the demagogue. In this estimate of the man we has be misstaken. If it be true that there was no "wire-pulling" in the Syracuse convention this fact is certainly phenomenal in the history of political conventions.

If the writer of this had not been an observer of the workin of political machines for more than thirty years—if he had not seen the rise and fall of new parties that seemed to promise quite as much for the masses, a does the party of Henry George and Dr. McGlynn, he would now look with a more hopeful eye upon the new movement, than is possible for him to do, And as to the old parties giving up and going out of business, the labor champion will find that the old war-horses—the leaders of the well-disciplined Republican and Democratic hosts, will not be so accomodating as to disband their forces at the bidding of the labor orators. Next to the ties that bind the religious devotee to his church the cords that hold not be so accommodating as to dis-band their forces at the bidding of the labor orators. Next to the ties that bind the religious devotee to his church the cords that hold the rank and file of political parties to their allegiance, are the most powerful.

On being asked whether the difference with the Socialists did not have a "dampening effect upon the convention." Mr. George is reported

to have replied:

Not at all. It was the sober indgment of all the delegates that the united labor party could not afford to occupy the same house with the Socialists.

with the Socialist.

While giving the latter credit for high motives and great carnestness in their work in behalf of the masses, it seems to have been the deliberate opinion that the "two electements should work separately."

We shall watch with interest the progress of the "United Labor Party," not because we have hope that much of good can come from parties manipulated by leaders, but chiefly because we think the gradual disintegration of the old parties and their absorption by newer organizations will help to hasten the time when men will lose confidence in leaders, in rulers, in government of man by man. When that time comes no parties will be needed except, as Col. Ingersoll says, a "party to ngitate for the repeal of laws." Localized self-government, with no rulers at all, but instead a few public servants to help restrain evil-doers, and a few boards of arbitration, will be the only government needed.

llut, as frequently stated before, we have absolutely no hope that this glorious result will be reached in this generation, or in the next, and that for the all-sufficient reason that we have not the material out of which the temple of liberty must be built, if ever built. We have neither the builders nor the stones—if we had the builders we would have the material, for the builders and the material for liberty's temple must be one and 'the same. We speak of the 'habor party' and the 'united labor party,' meaning by those terms a party organized to assert and defend the rights and the interests of those who work at productive labor—the hand-workers, mainly; but there is a higher and nobler work even than this of producing the necessities and conveniences of life, viz: the work, the labor of fitting one's soft for the position of a stone in liberty's grand and glorious temple. If this were done to-day, party organizations and heated political campaigns would be of no use—Henry George's and Dr. McGlynn's occupation would be gone.

But that work is a growth—a de-But, as frequently stated before

gone.

But that work is a growth—a development rather than a construction. And here comes in the most discouraging feature of the whole matter. Growth requires time! A true, whole and good man cannot be made, cannot be grown in a day, a year, or even in an ordinary lifetime. Some one has said, "To make a man you must begin with his grandmother!" Like the cookery-book's recipe for dressing haves—first eatch your grandmother! Ah! there's thorub! How can you existed the resteated and grandmother with the resteated your grandmother. Ah! there's thorub! How can you existed the resteated y danger and accessing a vention that formulated the Constitution of the United States.

Circulars have been sent out by "the Commission" (whatever that word may be thanked by entire in a day, a word may be a containing an "address to the people of the United States.

Circulars have been sent out by "the Commission" (whatever that word may be thanked the colls); and the coll in a day of the United States.

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pect a self-poised, self-respecting, self-reliant man when his maternal ancestors, back to Darwin's missing link, were states—slaves to fashion and custom, and worse than all, slaves in their sex-hood and in their maternal functions!

SPECULATION IN LAND.

The opinion, the conviction seems to be growing that speculation in "provisions"—flour, pork, wheat, etc.—is wicked and criminal. If it be wrong to try to get rich by "cornering" the food supply of the country, is it any less wrong to attempt to gain wealth by cornering the supply of land from which all food supplies must come, and upon which all hones must be made? If he is the enemy of mankind who stands between producer and consumer and demands a toll from both, without giving an equivalent therefor, what must we say of the man who stands between the homeless family and their natural right to land enough on which The opinion, the conviction, seems ural right to land enough on which to build a home?

These questions are suggested by

These questions are suggested by seeing in our cotemporary, the Valley Falls New Era, the following advertisement:

"Get a home! Lots amazingly cheap in Vanalister's addition. Will double in value in six months. This property will romain at these figures a short time only. If you want a home, or want property to speculate on, now is your time. Valley Falls is on a tremendous boom, and prices must of necessity on you with a rush."

Advertisements similar to this appear in a very large proportion of the daily and weekly papers now published in Kansas. In some instances, perhaps, these advertisements are honest and truthful as to facts. In many Kansas towns there is a "tremendous boom"—that is, a feverish haste to get hold of eligible lots for homes, for business or for speculative purposes. Such a state of things is certainly much to be regretted,

First, because true homes cannot be built on one, two, or a half dozen town lots of ordinary size. To make a home worthy of the name there must be a sufficient area to enable the owner or occupant to make an independent living by tilling the soil, when other means of subsistence fail. Hence, we would not "boom" a town if we could. We should always advise the seeker for a "home" to go where land is cheap enough to give him room for gardens, orchards, fields and meadows.

Second. To buy and sell land on speculation is a demoralizing occupation, if occupation tean be called. If carried on with one's own money it is the worst kind of gambling, because its tendency is to run up the price of one of the prime necessities of life—the eoil, and thus put it out of the reach of the laboring man and woman. If borrowed capital is used by the speculator, as is often the case, it is even worse than gambling, unless, indeed, the owner of the money coasents to such use of it.

On the other hand however, many if not most of these real es-

On the other hand however, many if not most of these real estate advertisements, instead of telling what is true in regard to the situation, tell that which is absolutely false. By persistently blowing and boasting of his prospects the politician hopes to create a boom that will elect him; also the gambler in real estate, by the most unbushing falsehools, persistently told, expects to create the boom that will enable him to sell at a handsome profit. On the other hand however, many if not most of these real es-

ANOTHER CENTENNIAL

Eleven years ago the people of the United States were called upon to celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of the "Declaration of Independence." This event was honored (?) as we all know, by expensive, ostentatious and vainglorious pageants, ceromonies and praglorious pageauts, ceromonies and ora-tions, at Philadelphia and elsewhere over the whole land. Now, as we learn from our exchanges, a call is made for another centennial celebration. This time it is the anniversary of the succesful close of the labors of the Convention that formulated the Constitution of the United States.

relias by peace and prosperity, endeared to is by tradition and hallowed by experience, thas become the object of our revenants lus by radition and hallowed by expit has become the object of our revand affectionate regard. To it no An inind can be too attentive, and to attentive the present work which was plained in Philadelphia by the atner the devolution, and to return in a development of the proposition of the blessings which they have a too a support of the proposition of th

If such extravagant claims for the document called the Constitution of United States were not so frequently made—if such worship of the opinions of men were not everywhere inculcated upon old as well as young—we might pass this effusion as the wild ravings of some poor lunatic, or at least as the idle vaporings of some ignoramus who never read understandingly a chapter in American history. Take the first sen tence of the above paragraph: "The labors of that day preserved for all time the precious fruits of freedom and self-government." Then read Section 3 of Article IV. of the same constitution:

Article IV. of the same constitution:
"No person held to service or labor in one state under the laws thereof, escaping into another, shall, in consequence of any law or regulation therein, be discharged from such service, or labor, but shall be delivered up on claim of the party to whom such service or labor may be due."

The "precious fruits of freedom and self-government" are the right to govern one's own person, the right to enjoy unmolested, the fruits of one's own labor, and here this section of the constitu-tion of the United States enacts the "fugitive slave law" whereby the slave that escapes from bondage is sent back in chains to his master. Under the fostering care of this revered document—
"this object of our reverential and affectionate regard"—the slave power grew to such enormous proportions that nothing but a most fearful civil war could uproot the evil. It is but sober truth to say that the four years' war, with all its sequelue or consequences, including the slaveries connected with the bonded debt, was the legitimate child of the Constitution. Without the protection given to chattel slavery by the mem tion given to chattel slavery by the mem-bers of the convention whose "labors" are here so highly eulogized, African slavery would doubtless have yielded to the force of enlightened public opinion, as it did in England, without the necessity of resorting to a bloody arbitrament

The constitution whose centennial we are now invited and urged to celebrate, gives to "the Congress" a monopoly of the "power to lay and collect duties, imposts, etc.; to borrow money on the credit of the United States; to coin money," and also gives this legis-lative body the monopoly of about a dozen other "powers" that are usually claimed and exercised by sovereigns or monarchs. It is legitimate to ask, where did these framers of ate to ask, where did these framers of the constitution get their right to grant a monopoly of these powers to a class or body of men to be called "the Con-gress?" If it is answered, "From the people," we again ask, Where do, or where did, the people get this right? Take one or any number of citizens, Smith, Jones, Brown and Robinson, it you please, have they the natural right to claim a monopoly of the power to coin money, regulate commerce, or to sell and give away the public land? Evidently they have no such natural right, and if one man, a dozen men or a thousand men have no such natural right then no specified number of men, whether minority, or majority, can justly claim any such right.

We have said (in a recent issue of Luciren) that the Decharation of Independence was a grand strike in the direction of Individualism—of Anarchiem—but that nearly all that had been gained while fighting under that banner was lost in the constitutional convention. The Declaration claims and asserts individual sovereignty for every citizen; the constitution takes the sovereignty from the citizen and vests it in a "gov-ernment," consisting of rulers called Congressmen, President and Supreme Court.

We report, with all the emphasia we can summon, the framers of the consti-tution were trailors to the principles for the establishment of which the Revolution had been fought to a successful issue. Let any one read the debates in this convention and he will see that the members were ranked in two divisions, or parties, more or less distinctly de fined—one advocated a strong con here one ment with sovereign pow-ers vested in the hands of a fow rulers, while the other party advocated the principle of localized self-government, principle of localized self-government, in which the citizen should be sovereign of his own acts, so long as he did not invade the equal rights of his neighbor, and that instead of a centralized government there should be only an agency

and a few public servants whose duty should be confined to restraining and punishing evil doers. Under this latter plan the duties of the public servants would be few in number and easily understood. There would be no artificial derstood. There would be no artificial or law-made crimes as now, such as "smuggling," counterfeiting, "moon-shining," "obscenity," "blasphemy," perjury, etc., simply because no man has by nature any right to prevent his neighbor from trading, or buying goods where it may please him; no right to compet his neighbor to tell the truth nor to use only such language as he himself may deem pure and chaste to the ears of man or pure and chaste to the ears of man or pious and respectful to the ears of deity.

After many long struggles and heated debates in convention the advocates of Archism—rulership—triumphed; the Anarchists-the Individualists-were compelled to yield. A compromise was agreed upon, which was at least threefourths despotism, or negation of human rights, and only one-fourth freedom, or affirmation of human rights. The Anarchists in that convention deserve much ists in that convention deserve much praise for the gallant fight they made, but if they could have foreseen how disastrous this compromise would prove, as the years should roll on—if they could have known how very sconthis written constitution would become the tomb of Liberty instead of its bulwark, they surely never could have been induced surely never could have been induced to sign their names to that instrument. If they could have foreseen that in less than one century, under the operation of this constitution, the public domain, or the constitution, the public domain, the peoples' birthright, would be given away or alienated into the hands of speculators, native and foreign, to the extent of more than 200,000,000 acres; if they could have known that the exclusive power to coin money and issue legal tender currency, granted to Congress by the constitution, would be used to rob the producing classes to the tune of billions of dollars; if they could have raised the curtain of futurity and have seen the United States rapidly becoming a nation of millionaires and billionaires on the one hand, and starving, desperate paupers and hopeless tramps on the other—could they have seen all this as we see it to-day, as the legitimate outgrowth, the logical result of the workings of this constitutional compromise, does any same man or woman believe that the individualists, the Jeffersonians of that convention would ever have given to that compromise the ganction of their names?

Alexander Hamilton was the ovil cenius of that convention. One of his admirers has said of him, "Never was there a man more adroit in dealing with mankind and beguiling them to his views."

Alas, yes; beguiling doubtless is the proper word! It reminds us forcibly of the scrpent that, in the fable, is said to have "beguiled" old mother Eye! Unfortunately, Thomas Jesserson, the most far-seeing of the Individualists of that ago and time, was absent in France. On his return he and his friends succeeded in getting some Amendments userted in the constitution; amendments that he could they supposed would to a that he and they supposed would, to a good degree at loast, neutralize its despotic features and, perhaps, in time, lead to their abolition or repeal. Prominent among these amendments are Articles I, and IV. The former of these was intended to secure freedom of speech, freedom of the press and the right of peaceable assembly; and the aim of the latter was to prevent "unreasonable searches and seizures." How much these guarantees are regarded to-day, let the history of the so-called Anarchist let the history of the so-called Auarenist triats in Chicago, answer; also, the prosecutions against the freedom of the press under the Comstock postal laws; also the search, seizure and destruction of books, pictures, etc., by this man Comstock and others in the east, and the search and seizure of private and personal property under the in Kausas and elsewhere.

In view of these and other like facts "known and read of all men," have we really any good reason to assemble at Philadelphia or elsewhere, and "return thanks to divine providence for the blessings enjoyed during a century of constitutional government?" H.

CURRENT COMMENTS.
The article of Mr. James in this issue will doubtless shock the prejudices, per-haps we should say, sensibilities, of a large part of our readers. We trust, truly liberal enough, to grant to Mr.
James the same right and privilege that
they doubtless claim for themselves—
the right to express honest thought in

nlain, direct language. Like him wo most important as a basis of all discuszion. Most of the ill-feeling exhibited, in controversy, by so many Inberale, we think is directly traceable to a lack of

Yes, Mr. J ... Better leave out the word "free," in the phrase, "free lust." Lust is an old Anglo-Saxon word, and in its broadest sense means desire; as in the clause, "whatsoever thy soul lusteth As applied to the amative desire or passion the word lust does not necessarily mean anything wrong or debasing. Healthy, normal, amative desire is not an evidence of depravity in human nature ony more than a healthy appetite for food is to be considered an evidence of depravity. Moderate, reasonable, satisfaction or gratification of the amative appetite is not lust--in the bad sense--any more than the moderate, seasonable, prudent, gratification of the appetite for food is gluttony. When mutuality, prudence, reason, justify sexassociation the word "lust,"---in its comusago ... is quite inapplicable; on the contrary, such association is right, proper and commendable, whether blessed by priest or parson, magistrate or judge---or not.

Colorow's scalp ought to be added to the Colorado exhibit at the Kansas City exposi-tion. It would be at once a popular and in-teresting feature.—Kansas City Times.

For the honor of our common numanity we hope that the Times man is mistaken, for once at least. If it be true taken, for once at least. If it be true that "Colorow's scalp would be a popular and interesting feature at the approaching Kansas City exposition," then we prefer to stay away. The man who can deliberately pen such revengeful squibs as from time to time, adorn (?) the editorial columns of the Times, can scarce, the least telester above the lateral squiper. ly himself claim to be evoluted above the plane of savagery.

Two Kansans, one in Chase county and the other in Coffey county, commuted suicides Sunday, ill health being kiven as the cause. This is a rather serious reflection on the plorious climate of Kansas, which is supposed to be a cure for all bodily allments—Ex.

The same copy of the daily paper from which this item is clipped, tells of the suicide of a young lady in Missouri, on the day preceding those mentioned as having occurred in Kansas. It was not ill-health nor jealousy nor love that caused the rash act, in the latter case, but simply aversion to be married to a man she did not love. Take the counman she did not love. Take the country over, it is probably quite safe to say that the suicides of any single week would far exceed the deaths from shot, shell and bayonet in an average battle. This may seem, to the average reader an exaggerated statement, but let such reader observe closely the duly papers for a single week, then let him make due allowance for the suicides that are not of a sensational character and, for that reason, not likely to be quoted beyond the limits of the state or county in which they occur—then make allowance for those that are never reported to the papers at all—if be will do this must acknowledge that our st ment is quite within bounds. ment is quite news columns of the Kansas City Times of yesterday (Aug. 20) mention four cases of suicide, all and each of which were attended with circumstances of a shocking, if not highly sensational charac-

Editor McDonald of the Truth Seeker returns to the defense of those Liberal lecturers who refuse to meetClark Braden in debate. His defense is mainly composed of "testimonials" similar to that we published some time since from the Falls City, Neb., Journal, Two of these testimonials are taken from "Christian" or Campbellite papers; one of these is from the Christian Review and reads as follows:

in addition to the slanderous documents burled like a fire-brand before the public Clark Braden's conduct has been such for some time past that the church has discarded bin and disavowed any followship with him.

Another clipping is from the Winfield (Kan.) Non-Conformist and reads thus: (Ran.) Non-conforms: and route thus:
It is yet to be reported that Clark
Braden was ever received in a community
to second time except in company of the
clicers with jewelry on his wrists.

In this statement our Kansas contem-

porary is in error. Here at Valley Fulls Mr. Braden was received by the Chris-tian community the second time, and without "jewetry on his wriste."

vincing Christians of nearly all denominations that he is the innocent object of persecution, and that the cause of this persecution is simply that no man has yet been found to answer his logic and his facts in debate. Hence we adhere to the opinion already expressed more than once that the only proper and consistent thing for Liberals to do is to meet and vanquish this Christian (folial when-

ever and wherever he throws down the gage of battle. We are glad to see that W. F. Jamieson in last week's Truth Seeker announces his willingness to debate with Braden or any other man that Christians choose to put forward as their champion.

Flashes.

Grace Greenenough writes in the Iron Clad Age: The Constock laws do not conflict with the Liberal work of Ingersoll, Wakeman or Reasburg.

Let a jury of average Christians have either of these men before them on a charge of "obscene" and "disgusting" and see whether or no they will not find a "conflict" between that law and the "Liberal work" of the accused. "Obscenity" did not answer the purpose fully, some Christians did not feel justified in say-Christians did not feel justified in saying that certain books, etc., were obscere, although they might feel "disgusted" by them. Hence the amendment to the N. Y. statutes. And the enemies of Liberty will yet include that word "disgusting" in the national postal statute. The only wise way to kill tyranny is in the land. anny is in the bud.

Has "Emanuel" taken another tack in his warfare against Mrs. Slenkor? Grace G. avers that she recently received Grace G. avers that she recently reconved two packages of the Word. She says: On the margin of one is penciled "Delicious Morceaus." On the other. "E. D. 8. s pet pa-per. I sun going for it soon. E." I conclude from the boldness in sending these "D. M." that the party takes great pride in this publi-cation and bids defiance to law

She adds that she believes these papers came from S. (Mrs. Sleuker.) Sure-ly Grace is green enough if she believes The writer says that he is "going for that papers, that he is going to attack and "expose" it. It would seem that "E." is secretly egging on Grace G. in this bitter and scurrilous artock upon Mrs. Slenker. Or is it possi-ble that G. G. knows who "E." is and is in collusion in this miserable work of persecuting an old woman whose single aim is the betterment of human bodies and minds, especially those of her own No matter if wo do think some of her theories unbased by facts,-that is not the question,-the vital question which is now at issue being her right to correspond with whom she pleases, using such phraseology as is mutually agreeable.

It is not strange, pernaps, that men coll-informed but not acquainted with the actual condition of affairs in this country, should accept as true the statement that here there is no union of Church and State. In the Open Court of the 18th. inst. Prof. Albert Reville, the distinguished French liberal theologian, has an article upon "Separation of Church and State," in which he shows how the question stands in France. In the beginning he assumes that he is addressing readers who are faccustomed to live where Church and State are separated." But what are the facto? Lot us see.

Church property is exempt from ation; this is a subsidy from the State to the Church, indirectly given, but none the loss a subsidy. Many of the States and cities give large sums of money and tracts of land to various denominations for educational and charitable purposes: these are direct subsidies. Chaplains are employed in legislative bodies and public institutions; these Chaplains are all Christian ministers, and hence Christianity is directly taught as the State religion by the use of State funds. the appointment of days of fasting, prayer and praise the president and the governors recognize Christian Theismas the State religion. By the use of the Bible, the singing of hymns and the ut-terance of prayers in the common schools, the State again directly teaches Theism and Christianity at public expense. All laws compelling the use of the oath, and all laws against "blaspliemy" are direct recognitions of the dominant theology as the State religion. The enactment of Sunday laws constitute a further recognition of the popular creed, and directly teach a modern church dogma at the expense of the non-Sabbatarian citizen and to the destruction of equal civic rights. Statute which prevent the admission of the testi-mony of Atheists, or which assume that The simple fact seems to be that the belief of a witness, when an Atheist, Braden finds but little difficulty in conmay affect the credibility of his testimay affect the credibility of his testimony, and which therefore permit the jury to take his belief into considera-tion, and all statutes which make it possible to exclude from public positions sible to exclude from public positions men who do not accept Theism and Christianity, are operative as penalties against so-called unbelief and, as a matter of course, indicate that Church and State are practically one.

Besides these ligatures binding to-

ether the ecclesiastical and the civic ve find that the Indian tribes have been parcelled out to the chief denominations for religious and secular training; that we have a vast and rapidly enlarging body of legislation on "moral" lated questions which is in the intere of the church directly or is being skillfully used by it as a means to accom-plish other and reprehensible ends; that prayers and other religious exercises have come to be a seemingly indispensible part of political conventions, temperance meetings, sessions of benevolent societies, labor organizations, etc., etc. We note also that the patriotic sentiment is made subordinate to the re-ligious feeling and the 30th of May and 4th of July are not observed when they fall on Sunday, but Saturday or Monday is substituted therefor. After this what sensible man or woman who knows these facts can truthfully say that Church and State are separate in this country? † †

Lucien V. Pinney, of the Winsted (Conn.) Press, 18 the bravest editor of a local paper in the United States. His defense of Mrs. Slenker and of the right of Publication and Correspondence is eplendid. "Fig.Leaf Liberslism" in the Press of August 18 is a terribly scathing review of the Truth Seeker and the In-vestigator upon their attitude toward Mrs. Sienker upon the one hand and the "obscenity" statutes upon the other. Al"obscenity" statutes upon the other. Almost overy paragraph drives a logical
nall home with terrific force, while Pinney's satire and sarcasm flash and cut and eat like Damascus steel and vitriol. I am sorry that we have no room for the entire article, but perhaps we shall be able to give some selections form it

Many of the citizens of Topeka are asking for the abolition of the police court. They declare that the U. S. Con-stitution and the State Bill of Rights guarantees to every accused person a trial by Jury, which the existence of the police court renders impossible. They are right Success to their efforts. There seems to be especial and urgent need of a change in Topeka, justice l apparently about the last thing dis-pensed by its police court.

Our young comrade, And. A. Soreng, gives promise of becoming a pithy and logical writer. See "True Anarchism" on first page.....C. L. James has well defined his torms; "Tot's" hint has already borne ripe fruit. The defluition of "lust" is especially good, the best ever given, I think.... Mr. Haskell! the State is not the mother of the Individual; just the reverse of that is the real relation. Barring this flaw, your "American Character" is excellent..... Read Tucker's "A Spirit More Evil than Alcohol" at least twice, and carefully each time....The City Council of Atchison, this State, has given the Lutherans \$50,000 for their college, and the Catholics \$15,000 for their high school and academy. No union of Church and State, ch?.... E. W. Miner is holding a State, ch?....E. W. Miner is holding a protracted discussion on labor issues with the editor of the Axtell (Kas.) Anchor in the columns of that paper Liberly's southern contributor, Tak Kak, is making the columns of that paper very lively, through the opposition he has called out by his extreme egoism Prohibition is the mother of quarrels and fends and riots. In Dodge City recently several persons were kille and wounded in a riot growing out of the appointment of a metropolitan po-lice for enforcement of the prohibitory law.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

First Annual catalogue of the Freethought University, Libersl, Mo. Scott Monitor Publishing House.

The Peoples' Right in Wealth, Reduced to Ss and Cts. Toiler's Tracts
No. 1. By Edward Gordon Clark.
Monograph Publisher, 18 Washington Place, N. Y. City. Price 10 cts.

The Idea of God and the Religious Aspects of Spiritualism. No. 1. of the Echo Library. By J. Whittemore, M. D. Echoes Publishing Co., Hannibal, Mo. Price, 15 cts. For sale here.

Irrefutable arguments these against the assumption that there exists an allpowerful being who is also all good.

The Hazzard Circular. The Pirates The Inzzard Circular. The Plates Plot and the Road to Ruin. By B. S. Heath, Editor of the Cheege Express. Price, 10 cts. For sale here.

Shows clearly how the Money Power

and there is in it much of value even to us who look upon government issuano and centrol of money as one of the most dangerous and destructive of monopo

The Extradition Treaty With The Blondy Czar. A Speech by Rev. Dr. McGlynn, the Famous Catholic Priest New York. With an account of one of the largest mass meetings ever held in New York City; A Letter, by Col. Robert G. Ingersoll; An Open Letter to President Cleveland by a Russian-American; specimen resolutions against Bayard's proposed Treaty with the Bloody Czar of all the Russias.

Price, 5 cts. For sale here, A timely protest against one of the most infamous treaties ever concected in the brains of heartless ministers of

From the office of Secular Thought, Toronto, Canada, we have received the Lantiale

Immortality; Whence, by Ex.Rev. J. H. Burnham; Sabbath or Sunday, Which? Historical Evidence How Sabbath Was Changed to Sunday, containout was Changed to Sunday, containing startling admissions from Sunday observors; Ingersoll on McGlyun; A Reply to Rev. Hugh Johnston's Letter, by Charles Watts. These six Leaflets have from two to eight pages each and are of great value for free distribution, We will send them assorted at 25cts, per 100. Special rates for larger quantities

Col. Ingersoll's Tribute to the late Heury Ward Beecher. Toronto: W. M. Scott. Price; 5 cts; 3 copies for 10 cents

This little pamphlet needs no word; ommendation, for either its subject matter or its naper and press work. We expect to send out many of them.

A Loyal Ode, for 1887, The Jubilee Year of Her Majesty, Queen Victoria. The Jubilee Prize Poem. Published by the British Association for the Diffus ion of Common Sense. With notes by a workingman,

Price, 5 cts. For sale here.

It is ovident that not all men born in England are snobs and ilunkeys, worshiping abjectly, faces in the dust, a surping anjectry, taces in the dust, at the fect of a piece of common flesh and blood and bone named "Queen."

Our Jubilee poet is keenly satiried oftentimes witty and always truth-telling and entertaining. The foot-notes have reference chiefly to the cost to the British people of the House of Bruns-wick and other titled leeches, and contain many thought-inducing figures and comments.

Physiology.

As I am indicted for circulating physiolog As I am indicated for circulating physiological facely, ideas and opinions through the mail, I may as well be "killed for an old sheep as a lumb," so I am now putting the best of my time and work tate the physiological field. I want to sell all the good books treating on these topics that I can before the state of the 22th On guidants may a will see a Oct. 25th. On another page you will see a portion of the list I wish to circulate specimens of. And in each issue of Lucirui I

mens of. And in each issue of Luctrial I will try and give you some idea of some one of the books.

In this letter I will speak of the last and latest volume I have added to my stock, and I'm inclined to think it one of the most valuable of them all. It is called "A Special nable of them all. It is called "A Special Physiology for Boys" but for short is simply entitled "Fon Bors." It contains a world of valuable information for all persons, young and old, not nirondy sexually and physiologically well educated. I found a mine of useful information in its 300 pages. It is scientific, simple and plain and goes to the bottom and tells it all. It explains the the botton and tells it all. It explains the origin of Bic in plants, hirds, animals and human beings. It teaches sexology in modest, antared and wholesome words and sentences. It teaches boys, men and women to be clean, whole, sound and temperate in all things. The chapter on councis is established the sexual secretarial and the sexual secretarial and the sexual secretarial and the sexual secretarial secretari all things. The chapter on councins is es-pecially interesting. It proves that the doc-trine of Alpha and Diana temperance is the surest rend to health, intelligence and mor-atvirtue. That all expenditure of fire fluids is waste and that vital forces should conserve it, unless it be needed in wisely parenting rished-for children.

The book is written by Mrs. E. R. Shep. The book is written by Mrs. E. R. Shep-herd and indersed and approved of by the best professors of anatomy and physicl-ogy, and it is also well and profucely illus-trated. If I have nover before done a good act, the recommendation of this one book I consider worth more to humanity than the outcome of some lives. Price \$2.00, Elmina.

Son's Day, Aug. 14, 287.

The Necessary Work.

Dear Editors of the Light-Bearer: I glad-ly express an appreciation of your truly re-formatory paper by offering a brevity or two

worked for the contraction of the currency and thus ruined debtors as a class, wrocked business and sent millions of houset laborers out to tramp.

Greenbackers will rejoice in this resistance

which you are aiming to slimulate. The Truth Secker must shun the solecism of freethought aristocracy, popular sociarism, or fall into the shadow of smaller sheets susaming more practical standards. I think this idea of education in othics of true, free Wa idea of education in othics of true, free life, as a measure for producing power and character to acquire liberty and retain it, is correct. The monaures should be extensive; should be operating in every place where a club can be formed, and be culturing strength of body and mind to change cus toms and features of society, as well as opinions, to just and rational forms. The Open Contract was all explained public wild surjectives. Court has well explained public opinion; and r council mend while habits and neares en-It cannot mend while habits and usage sus-tain law and literature in favoring only ox-pressions of its false side; for there is a truor side, silenced by hope of favors, by all grades of cowardice and hypocrisy, and by mach vainglory. This duplicity, death in life, is the chrome merbidness that fraud, fear and soul-hunger have settled on the inhabitants, and the condition needs integral eduaction, around just standards sustained by
all lovers of liberty. While majorities of such
lovers carry the duplicity, essaying to work
for justice, but doing so in tyrauny's paths
and ways for the sour old mess of popular
pottage, their example redounds to tyrauny
and damages liberty—for example is the tutor of mitative masses, in spite of precept
and hard experience. So the few brave, single-eyed Liberals have the shirked burdens
on their hands; but must not falter, the right and soul-hunger have settled on the inhabiton their hands; but must not falter, the right should be reaching among the stupid lievers in current southment and us approval-purchased followers, and specula-tors on their blindness. Wide, patient, sau-itary culture must nurse into vital force the courage scourged to submission by lone reader, the treason and shame of shar-ing to-day's cheating pagear t and fame? Faithfully, M. E. Tillorson.

Vineland, N. J.

The Offending Article.

Mesers, Harman & Walker: I have been reading the article for publishing which you were arrested, and if the story is true, of which I have no doubt, for I have known soveral similar cases—it ought to be pubacveral similar cases—it ought to be pub-lished in every paper in the Union, and all such husbands ought to be heavily fixed or imprisoned as a warning to others; and if any court convicts you for publishing the story, judge and jury ought to be fixed or imprisoned.

imprisoned.
Our marriage laws would disgrace beather nations. They are and ever have been made by men to enslave women who have no vote nor voice in making them. The moment a woman is married sho and her husband become one and that one is the husband. The wife loses her right to her own person. wife loses her right to her own person, the right to her generative organs, the right to say when or how often she will become a mother, and becomes the sexual slave of her "ford and master," and thousands have each flye to fitnen feeble, tunwicome children, forced upon them when their choice would be only two or three children of love with sound bodies and minds.

five to fiftnen feebte, unwelcome contacting forced upon them when their choice would be only two or three children of love with sound bodies and minds.

All the money the wife corns goes into the pockets of the husband; and if he treats here were so cruelly site must stay and boar it till she dies, for if she should flee for safely to other shelier site has nothing to go with. If she would petition for a divorce she has no money to do it; and besides the world is after her with its slop-backets of seandat, and her fate is generally worse than death; her own sox instead of pitying and defending her are suanly her book batter persecutors.

Elmina has written conching on this subject,—and it is needed, when worn-out wives are sending all over the country for vaseline, Comstook syringes and other preventives, because they have more unwelcome children than they have health to care for,—and because of such writings the slouth bounds of these rotten mockeries of popular morality have had her in prison and now have her under bond as they have you, for obscenity. But heep "sallf upper hip" and do not be discouraged. You are giving your lives to hury the rotten charches in chilvien, to awaken and improve your roce and usher in the erro of universal brotherhood, and whether you are convicted or neopitied your persecution by the church will do more to advance your gorious cause than all your willings could do it ton years. There has never been any improvement in the world without matries and suffering, nor ever will be, so long as any power remains in the currency and leased are those who dure to stand in the front of the battle and give their lives to the glorious cause of human progress. The time has come for plain dealing on all questions of reform and especially the sexual question, for abase in that direction is filling the world with frail, miscratle specimens of humanity, half of which die herore they are forly. Then
To blood of the martyre can never be lost, A world saved from lear they are forly. Then
To blood of

Yours, J. HACKEB,

Berlin, N. J.

27 By mistake, the address of Slonker was omitted from "Elmin vertisement" on fourth page. A as before, at Snowville, Va. eusabhA eusabhA

Lineured in the Kansas Home Company of Topeka, July 27. On Aug. 4. I met with loss by storm. Aug. 13 I was paid in full to my satisfaction.

WM. ARMSTEAD. T. P. Farley, Agt.

A MARVEL OF ELOQUENCE AND BEAUTY.

COLONEL INGERSOLL'S Tribate to Heary Ward Beecher. Frice, 5 cts. Turce copies for 19 cts. Address this office,

THE POLITICIAN'S PRAYER. By a democrablican republicant.
Our father—whether in heaven or hell Wo hardly know—
Look down in the property of the white or suppliestions swell,
Thy giffs bestow.

Give us the counting of the votes Election day; for none of our men turn their coats, flut send the opposition boats Salt river way.

Let slander, malice, fear and fraud, This autumn fail! But if such tricks should be abroad, lixpose our enemies, () lord! Let our's prevail.

If base repeaters cheat the polls,
Their crimes betray!
Strike terror to their guilty souls!
But write their numes on Mercy's rolls
Who voto our way.

Gire us by honest means success
In all the fight,
But if, misled by bilter stress,
We save the state through crockedness,
Lord, make it right.

We must, O father, must succeed— This is thy cause, O help us in our hour of need The pockets of the rich to bleed, That we may windicate our creed, And make thy laws.

But if the people should decide
Against our case,
Let mainth of cyll me belide;
Let me find favor with the other side,
And get a place.
F. W. CLARKE

Found in Melbourne (Aus.) Liberator.

Victoria's Jubilee.

This is the closing portion of "My Address the Queen," written and published in the cibourne (Australia) Liberator, by its editor, Gov. Joseph Symes.—Ens. L.]

You have given us princes and princesses, princes and princesses born in your house, and princes and princesses bought with our money or lured from foreign lands. In thy name British soldiers and sailors have made war and robbed and pillaged in all parts of the world, and conquered nations and doposed princes, and exterminated the enemies of thy throne. O, great princess, who would not foar theel The wretched Dyak prides himself on one human skull that he has severed from its owner's trunk, and the North American Indian glories in a few paltry scalps deftly severed from his enemies' crania. But what are these to the millions of skulls of Britain's fees which thou hast slain during thy rule of fifty years! How thy enemies must turn pale as bleached skeletons thomselves, as they behold, in imagination, the ghastly pyramid of human bones thou hast raised during thy reign of PROPOUNDEST PEACE! Lake death upon the pale horse hast thou ridden amongst thy enemies, and broken the nations into shivers by thy scepter of

Dread sovereign! thy name strikes terror into all the foes of thy empire. Like the fabled god the Christians worship, thou art girt round about with serried ranks of slaves to do thy bidding; with horrible engines of war that vomit hell-fire and shots such as hell mover knew. Thy empire is upheld by those; its peoples crouch before thee in fear and terror, and "grin horribly a ghastly smile" to colebrate thy jubilee! All hail, Victorial

"Great goddess how terrible art thou!"
Thy power rules Great Britain, where
the bitter cries of ten thousand povertystricken homes rise up day and night against thee. But in vain. From deep and sullen mines, from uncultivated fields left to the proy of vermin, from the sea coast, from the shipping, from ghastly canal boats, from factories and workshops where human nature festers and rots, from hovels and slums within gunshot of thy palaces; from the down-trodden millions of Irish in all parts of the world; from expatriated and starving, hopoless Highlanders; from the uncounted millions of India; from the uncounted millions of India; from every quarter of the world, up goes the cry of despair and the impotent curses of ungoally wretches against thee and thy rule. But all in vain. Thou hast the power, and thine is the glory of keeping the serfs in awe and ruling them with a rod of trou.

Who heeds the cry of anguish while thou art safe and happy? Those cries are but music in thine cars, for they speak thy power and greatness. The wretches know that the prison, the lash, the swort, the bayonet and firearms would soon bring them to their senses, were they to act as well as cry!

Thou art safe, dear lady! The cant

bring them to their senses, were they to not as well as cry.

Thou art safe, dear lady! The cant of the churches, the hypocrisy of the priesis; the cant of the newspapers; the cant of parliaments; the cant of thy shadows, the petty rulers who exercise thy power; the cant of the Sanday school; the cant of popular hierature—are all thine. Thus are devoted to thee—as they would be to any asurper or converge that supersolad, these

all thine. They are devoted to thee—as they would be to any usurper or conqueror that superseded thee.

Rule on, Victoria. Enjoy thy fill of throne and crown; drink deep of the adulations of thy slaves during the jubilee year; shut out the ghastly facts of thy empire and the lies by which it is sustained. The end cometh, vengeance now tarrieth, but will make haste to glut itself bye-and-bye, Not in your day, goddess. Your crown will last your time. The empire of fraud and cant will not collapse in your day. You will live the rest of your span in peace, and go to your grave—nay, manusoleum—in a good old age. But after that ——? All hail.

FREE PLATFORM.

An Appeal.

Dear Eds. of Lucifer: I hope that every thinker in the U.S. will now come to the front and show his or her colors by contributing something toward paying the expense of Mrs. Slenker and yourselves, in the coming suits. How many centuries more mus we poor Liberals endure the maltreatment we poor Liberals endure the mattreatmens of these hypocritical, pure-mixided followers of the "meek and lowly?" I wonder if some of them are not ashamed of "God's" way of "multiplying and replenishing the earth"? Who made the sexual organs obscene? Undoubtedly the old canting priests of the half civilized terms who believed and practiced doubtedly the old canting priests of the hair civilized sges, who believed and practiced solf-martyrdom by self-inflicted pain, and this same heathen idea is taught to-day by nearly all of our dearly beloved Christian brethren. "The greater the trials" here below, the brighter the crown and sweeter the glory "over there, just over there." The so-colled itentien (and they are no more brother or tilelyters, then our goodly-good heathen or idolaters than our goody-good praying folks here in America; do precisely praying folias here in American de precises y the same thing and for the same purpose of gaining favor with their gods,—drown their little prattling babes, burn their widows throw themselves before the car of Juggernaut, crucify themselves in every possible manner,—all to gain another chance for the mainer,—at to gain another chance for the smiles of Heaven. Here a thousand ways are taken by the non-members to gain favor with the church. They help build our God-houses,—or Joss temples, they should be called,—subscribe to help pay the preaches and but matter the Sangley school, that er, and help sustain the Sunday school that their and our little bright-eyed boys and their and our inthe bright-eyed toys and girls may be educated in the ways of "Gawd." I know many of our strongest Liberals who are subscribing by the year to pay the preacher and to help spread the gospel, who could not be induced to give a dime to help Sister Elmina in her hour of treath beauth the above the Chistorian. troule, brought on her by this Christian government, because she dared to labor in government, because she dared to labor in her own way for the salvation of man from the aurse of licentionsess that is stamping out the physical and mental marrow of our race faster than alcohol, tobacco, and all other vices put together. Shame on such weak-kneed, pusillanimous Liberals! Yes, Messrs, Editors, your and Elmian's battles are ours; and now let every Liberal, every lover of the race, of Freethought, send on \$1.00, or focts, or even 25cts, if able to pay no more, and we shall soon have a defense fund which will, at least, make us respectable. which will, at least, make us respectable. This battle has to be fought, the same as the one for the independence of our country, one for the independence of our country, (not much independence just now.) Liberty can only be retained by sternal vigilance and keeping the powderdry.

Yours truly,

D. C. SETMOUR.

Milionvale, Kas.

"Sanctification."

Of course preachers must never be criticized. And they take such good care not to be, we can only express our opinions where they never hear of them, but even that is

they never hear of them, but even that is better than saying nothing.

A noted evangelist is visiting our town who deals out a very superior quality of religion. It must be so as it is very expensive and "takes" well. How very different from the old free salvation, without money and with-out price, is this late invention of tabernucle services, kept up in this case at a daily expense of \$25.00!

his powers really are I cannot say, but he is one of the most illogical, un-reasonable, egotistical, theological bores now deluding the people.

In his daily religious instructions, consist-ing of questions and blackboard exercises, to an outsider it looked as though there was danger in expressing an opinion either way. In one case a lady answered a direct quest ion by saying she had never felt a doubt as ton by saying she had never felt a doubt as to her own conversion. Ho immediately likened her—in a rather coarse story—to a Christian he had known who boasted of having been in gospel harness for forty years but whe, according to this noted divine, "had never done anything but break the back straps." I failed to see the point or application, but was pleased to hear the lady ask cation, but was pleased to hear the lady ask with some spirit whether they were to "answer according to their own convictions or not." Which was a pertinent question, as he scores them if they express a doubt as to a knowledge of their own salvation.

This wise man of God divides the whole world into two classes—"fools and Christ.

world into two classes—"fools and Christ-ians"--(non-Christians need not feel inians"--(non-Christians need not feel insulted.) Besides, as well as I can understand, he knocks out the foundation on which nine tenths, or more, of the Christians have built their hopes of heaven. Won't they be surprised when they reach the "mystic beyond" to find that their conversions, honest lives of prayer and praise to God, do not gain their admittance to the Heavenly kingdom? Jesus taught the multitude in parables, "less they be converted and their sins forgiven." His faithful follower is also preaching something that the multitude may see but not perceive, hear but not understard." He calls it "sanctification," a mysterious, incomprehensible, condition, reached only by divers other myscation," a mysterious, incomprehensible, condition, reached only by divers other mysterious, and vague conditions or experiences, of which conversion is but one. Yet in this indefinite thing lies the only chance of salvation for a sinful world.

When Jesus was addressed as "good master," he said, "Why calest thou me good? There is none good but one, that is God." Yet this man proudly beasts of his purity, sweetness, goodness and perfection. With Paul he says, "I know nothing against my-

self,"(Revised version, to fit the case.) Only sert, "(hevised version, to it the case.) Only those possessing this knowledge will ever reach Heaven. As there are many Bible passages opposing this "sanctified holy" idea." I am forced to conclude that these Methodates are "perverting the Scriptures and picking out only such parts as suit them." As this man fills up his time mostly with his own praises, condemnation of nearly every one else, plous ejaculations, and ly every one else, joins ejaculations, and funny stories, (some of which border closely on the broad or valgar) we are led to ask, what is his power or the power which prostrates hundreds at his feet, sets them to groauing and weeping in agony, then shout-ing and singing for joy, and sometimes changes the course of their whole future lives?

The same that in all religions and all ages The same that it all religions and all ages has caused people to do all manner of things,—give up their best and highest hopes and pleasures; inflict the most horrible torture on themselves and each other; accrifice their own and the lives of those nearest and dearest to them. It was through religious zeal and devotion that Hindoo mothers them their belies into the second mothers threw their babies into the sacred mothers threw their univers into the sacred river, widows willingly burned themselves alive with their dead husbands, and men and women threw themselves under the whoels of inggernant. Whatever the difference in kind and degree, the aum and ultimate object is the same, viz: the final salvation and happiness of the soul.

O, but they are ignorant heathens! don't fask ws to do such droadful things. True, but they are just as firm in the belief that God asks them to do these things as you are that he commands you to be haptized and compel your children to be; besides othand compol your children to be; besides other forms that are considered sacred by the orthodox churches. He asks you to make every seventh day a dreary, joyless one for every child of Nature who has a spark of natural gaiety and vivacity, with healthy desires for active exercise and recreation. He asks you to devote this day as well as a portion of every other to praising and thanking tion of every other to praising and thanking him for-what? creating vast numbers of people "all to glorify him," and a red-hot place in which to burn them forever and ev-er if they don't happen to experience this metamorphosis that is going to save your litmetamorphosis that is going to save your lit-tie soul. He a-ks you to believe and accopt as a guide a book full of lies, contradictions and vagarios; a book in no precept or example equal to our present generally accepted idea of morality and right. He asks you to submit your will in all things to him (or the preach-er) stiffs your reason, doubts and ensettions er,) stifle your reason, doubts and questions Don't think, read, talk or investigate. believe and continue to unceasingly thank food for whatever comes. Pray for what you want, but he knows best and should he send sickness, poverty, misery or death, don't complain, for "he doeth all things wall!"

And after all, what is the reward? John describes the heavenly place as a great cube describes the heavenly place as a great cube, mentioning, among other things, some very disagreeable beasts. Our wise preacher said "the hosannas of the saints would be like many Niagaras." It would be too noisy to enjoy the singing even if it was harmonious, which I doubt, as it takes a sight of practice to profess over your to perfect one voice.

When my orthodox friends ascribe to igwhen my ormotox friends "ascention to ignorance, superstition, or the devil all the absurd coremonies and atrocities of other people, they should investigate this significant fact, that, as we progress in civilization and enlightenment, the demands of the Gods grow less selfish and exacting; they ask fover ascrifices, forms and observances. We er sacrifices, forms and observances. We are slowly learning that the way to serve God is to deal justly with our followmen. Does it not all clearly indicate that the time Does it not all clearly indicate that the time will come when man's highest duties will be to secure to every human being perfect justice, freedom and happiness? When "No pent-up theory contracts our powers, The boundless universe is ours."

The boundless universe is ours."

If this belief consigns me to hell I am ready to go there. We will have good company, as all the greatest philosophers, scholars and scientists have been sent there. They will no doubt invent some way to put out the fires, and make it habitable. Perhaps they have already done it. For how dim has grown the reflection from the flames of hell that has always formed the background

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