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A MAGAZINE OF GOOD CITIZENSHIP

THE STATE SHOULD NEVER BE MADE
A PARTY IN RELIGIOUS DISPUTES

THE origin of man is an exceedingly absorbing study, but the average man, with a healthy outlook on life, should, figuratively speaking, be more interested in erecting the structure of the future than in being content with sifting the dust of ages past and gone. The unending conflict between atheism and all religions can never terminate in victory for any religious belief through a verdict obtained by the aid of secular laws. The sages of all the ages have recorded their views. Where the contenders have been able to involve the temporal state the trail of controversy is spattered with blood. Fortunately the modern world has for a long time been regarding the matter as a subject of individual opinion and belief and not a question affecting the safety and security of the state or the individual pursuit of happiness. Hectic public discussion in newspapers and periodicals will not settle the matter, and punitive legislation or enactments restricting individual freedom of thought and expression are questionable alternatives tending to establish precedents favoring intolerance and creating means of justification for ruthless attempts of suppression, means by which a temporary majority may destroy the inalienable rights of a law-abiding majority.

The true spiritual religion has come down through the ages in the face of every kind of opposition. It has survived every form of antagonism, irrespective of the position of the temporary powers of state. The religious contenders who advocate constant vigilance against union of church and state should be careful lest they themselves become guilty of involving the state in a question in which religion is an issue. Pitting creed against creed and belief against belief is un-American and not in keeping with the doctrine of freedom and religious liberty to which America has been solemnly dedicated.

JULY, 1925

PORTLAND, OREGON