

we will not reverence or respect the so-called holy traditions of the Christian or any other religion; to do that is to strike sort in battle and give the enemy an advantage to which he is not entitled. We will not compromise after the manner of the modernists by using religious terms in a new sense of our own.

That it is the policy of the atheists to conduct an aggressive propaganda campaign against the forces of religion, not only in America but throughout the world, in proportion to the extent the atheists will finance the campaign, is tersely outlined by Mr. Smith, speaking for the Association, in the following manner:

It will be the policy of the association to send representatives abroad to conduct atheistic propaganda and to expose the true nature of the prevalent religions, especially Christianity. One representative could undo the work of scores of missionaries, and a few thousand dollars would more than offset as many millions spent by the churches. We will do all we can to prevent our renown men in foreign lands from being imbued with the philosophy of the Christian religion. In this country we expect the sternest opposition in the south.

The atheists are great at calculating, but they are poor judges of true Christianity and true religion. For after all when the superficiality and skin-deep religious coloring has given way, and the self-seeker who has been using religion as a cloak for personal ends, has had his mask torn off, there still remain the great spiritual truths, the spiritual springs eternal, that source from which religion has sprung. Down through the ages these truths have come in various forms and by various means, performing their miracles, made visible in the transformation of men who drank from the fountain of spiritual truths. Saul of Tarsus, a vainglorious villain of an ancient period, is still testifying to the utility of combating spiritual truths.

Atheism, militant, may succeed in discrediting religion by the aid of those who confess religion, yet prostitute every principle of spiritual truth by their conduct; it may succeed in engendering more hate and intolerance; it may cause more wars and more human suffering, but eventually it will have done true religion a service of vast magnitude. This service atheism will have rendered when men, through its militancy, shall have learned to distinguish spiritual nobility as a thing apart from hypocrisy and found the courage to hold the latter responsible for most of the conflicts between nations, the thing that has made from spiritual things a vehicle to human suffering and caused religion to stand responsible for the erection of the altars upon which millions have been wantonly sacrificed.

The world's religious hypocrisy will furnish the atheists their weapon for attack. The hypocrite in the church is the strongly entrenched traitor in the realm of religion who has sold out to the organized forces that have declared war. He has furnished the ammunition and will eventually be selling the man-power and contribute the intellect necessary to engineer the war of atheism.

The atheists' war, as Mr. Smith argues, is to be fought upon the ground that religion has failed to show its mettle as an institution sustaining human happiness, putting it pointedly in this language:

We believe that religion has had a fair chance to show its mettle, but it has proved altogether adamant to the call of human reason, having degraded itself by its inhuman stifling of the best ideas of mankind. I do not know if, when he approved our application to be incorporated, Supreme Court

Justice Ford realized he was conferring a great boon on humanity.

The conceit of the organizers is plain. That is their weakness, but the authority conferred is going to make it possible for them to proceed with their propaganda as given out in the information furnished by the quoted preceptor:

The circulation of atheistic literature will naturally be one of our principal objects. Cheap editions of the work of the great free thinkers will be published and placed within the reach of everybody. Meetings will be held regularly in this city (New York) and in local branches which are being formed in practically every state to propagate our doctrines and beliefs. State organizers and national lecturers will be placed in the field.

Another contending factional force is accordingly in the field, making a bid for public attention. It can hold no promise for peace and tolerance, hence it is not conducive to domestic tranquility. The man who worships God according to the dictates of his conscience is the enemy of the atheist, at least his religion is, and as the two are inseparable, there can hardly be a distinction.

Meanwhile the business of good citizenship, which cannot exist without a true feeling of brotherly love and respect, is being sadly neglected.

America's spiritual armor has been rusting in the closet long enough. There is need for a little more militant action in defense of the priceless principles of tolerant citizenship. As things are now, these principles are beginning to appear sadly in need of protection against those who use a pretext of loyalty as a means to get by with nefarious schemes which gradually are rendering the common bond in American citizenship a farce with tears behind the shades.

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