

OUR ENGLISH CO-WORKER.

Those who did not hear Geo. W. Foote of England, during his recent visit to America missed a treat indeed. He is one of the foremost thinkers and orators of our age. He is not egotistical, but devotes his whole energy to the cause. He does not brag on his persecutions as many do who have been in jail and although he spent a year in Holloway jail in England for "blasphemy," he refrained from mentioning it in his lecture in America until requested to do so by Judge C. B. Waite. He said it must not be supposed that he has forgotten it or that he intends to let the Christians forget it. He said he was charged in his indictment (for which he paid) with being instigated by the Devil and bringing the Christian religion into disbelief and contempt. "Imagine," said Mr. Foote, "anyone bringing the multiplication table into disbelief and contempt! The multiplication table will stand criticism and the Christian religion will not." He said if he were instigated by the devil and laboring for him, he would be much pleased to make the acquaintance of his employer and in fact would rather breakfast with the devil the next morning than with any minister he ever met, as the devil is given credit for being a very wise and learned being while it is always the fool of the family who enters the ministry.

When Mr. Foote entered his cell the first object that met his gaze was an immense bible which completely covered the stand on which it lay. "What," he thought, "you here? I am to spend a part of my life here for knowing too much of you already and now I have twelve months in which to delve still deeper into your imbecility."

Upon his release from jail at the expiration of his term, he resumed the publication of the Freethinker in which he printed cartoons, and as the first copy came from his printer he put it into an envelope, drove to the residence of the judge who sentenced him, and left the paper with his card and his compliments. This is the last of blasphemy laws in England, and Mr. Foote deserves great credit for his untiring work in freeing the oppressed. He is president of the British Secular Society and successor of the grand Charles Bradlaugh. Let us all hope that we may have the pleasure of meeting him on American soil again. P. W. GEER.

JESUS OF NAZARETH.

All the data the world has concerning Jesus of Nazareth, is found in four books called the Gospel of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John; and unfortunately there is such an amount of uncertainty as to the reliability of these narratives that a cloud of doubt hangs over the entire story. The books disagree

in so many important particulars, there is so much diversity of opinion as to who were their authors, and as to the periods of time when they were written, that they stand greatly in need of confirmation. Christian writers admit that they were not written till from thirty to sixty years after the death of Jesus, and some believe the time still longer. There is no proof that they were known to be in existence till well along in the second century. Irenæus is the first writer who is known to have called attention to them and he died in the early part of the third century. It will be observed that in none of the gospels is the authorship claimed by the supposed writer, nor can it be shown by what authority the book of Matthew is accredited to Matthew, of Mark to Mark, and so with the others.

H. D. BURROWS.

To be able to discern that what is true is true, and that what is false is false—that is the mark and character of intelligence.—R. W. Emerson.

There is no alleviation for the sufferings of mankind except veracity of thought and action, and the resolute facing of the world as it is when the garment of make-believe by which pious hands have hidden its uglier features is stripped off.—T. H. Huxley.

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