

Torch of Reason

UNIVERSAL MENTAL LIBERTY.

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THURSDAY... DECEMBER 31, E. M. 296.

The World is Waiting.

We believe that the only heaven and hell there is, is right here on earth. What shall we do? Shall we allow the heaven to be swallowed up by the hell, so that the ancients who are here now represented by us, their offspring, will be obliged to undergo the tortures of an earthly hell, or shall we unite to better our conditions, and withdraw our support from the old systems of priestly robbery and servitude, and the scheming, unreasoning elements of greed which are literally and truly lining this hell with the skulls of the innocent?

One of the worst things we can hear in public, and we have heard it all our lives, is something like this: "I don't believe I have any thing to say and I beg to be excused." There are too many who beg to be excused and the world is patiently waiting, for those who are doing nothing but being excused. O, friends don't wait for others. See how much needs to be done. Let us all work for what we believe to be right and true. Don't be afraid of losing a few dollars. Money earned by being a coward is dearly earned. Talk with your friends! Advocate your views! Reason! Get others to think! You will be happier than the coward with his millions.

Is The Bible Infallible?

If geology is true, and we have no reason to dispute it, the world was not created in six days with all the animals and plants and man in the image of a perfect being called God. It's a shame how some of the lambs of the upper fold wiggle and twist to make this foolish heathen account agree with science but the more they wiggle the deeper they sink into the quagmire of decaying error. Some of

them say that the six days spoken of mean long periods of time, but this is a miserable subterfuge, for in the ten commandments, supposed to have been written by the same author, we find these words: "Six days shalt thou labor and do all thy work: but the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maid-servant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it."

This is proof positive that six literal days is meant and according to science this is impossible and therefore the book called the Holy Bible is not infallible and we have the right to reject whatever does not accord with our reason. Ah! yes, it is not only a right, it is our duty to reject these gross errors which have gnawed at the vitals and corrupted the life blood of our civilization ever since civilization began.

Is Man Immortal?

If an infidel should tell a good christian friend that when he died, he died like a horse or a cow, and that that was the end of him, the poor christian would waste much of his mental force praying for the conversion of the awful infidel; but although it is disputed in other parts of God's (?) word, listen to this from one of the inspired ones:

[ECCLESIASTES III 18-22]

18. I said in my heart concerning the estate of the sons of men, that God might manifest them, and that they might see that they themselves are beasts.

19. For that which befalleth the sons of men befalleth beasts; even one thing befalleth them: as the one dieth, so dieth the other; yea, they have all one breath; so that a man hath no pre-eminence above a beast; for all is vanity.

20. All go unto one place; all are of the dust, and all turn to dust again.

21. Who knoweth the spirit of man that goeth upward, and the spirit of the beast that goeth downward to the earth?

22. Wherefore I perceive that there is nothing better, than that a man should rejoice in his own works; for that is his portion: for who shall bring him to see what shall be after him?

The Mind.

There seems to be two common ideas of what mind is and the two questions arise; is mind something which leaves the body and returns at will, or is it simply a force or energy of the brain and only has

expression through the action of the brain? When we die and the brain decays does the mind cease to exist? What is the mind? Can it exist separate from the brain or not?

This is a much debated question and we can only give our ideas and show the proof which is satisfactory to our minds and we realize that no matter which side of the question we take, the other side will declare themselves on a higher plain and that they can see better than we, but we must all remember that mere assertion of being on a higher plane is no argument and is the old, worn out last resort of defeated reason. Let us reason together. I believe that the mind is not a thing that can exist separate from the body, either now or after our brain ceases to act.

The only way we learn about the objects around us is by their attributes, and so in studying the mind, the best way is to study its attributes, its powers, its manifestations.

The brain acts or manifests itself in three ways, in knowing, in feeling and in willing; for example, if I learn that a friend has broken his arm I feel sorry for the poor fellow and determine to visit him and see if I can do anything to help him in his trouble. In these acts the three manifestations are shown i. e., I know of his broken limb; I feel sorry; I will go to see him. Then knowing, feeling and willing are the different things of which the brain is capable and the knowing the feeling and the willing all together is the mind and we have been taught to use the word mind where we should use the word brain. Then, if knowing, feeling, and willing constitute the sum total of the mind, it is impossible for the mind to exist outside of the brain for we can see at once that neither knowing, feeling or willing can exist as objects, more than running, singing or talking. What an absurdity it would be to claim that our walking and singing exist after we are dead; but no more so than that the action of our brains can run around stark naked either here or in some happy hunting ground beyond the skies.

Deluded Revivalists.

At the last meeting of the Campbellite revivalist in this City we were made sad by his vain attempts to give reasons for the faith that he claims to possess, and although we believe he did much good for the Cause of Mental Liberty by showing up the infidelity in the other protestant churches, yet this good was all without intention.

It seems that as the adventists teach that which in his estimation is contrary to certain passages of the word of God they are infidels. He claims that the bible teaches that

"Jesus is king." Now the adventists claim that the bible teaches that "Jesus is to be king."

This is infidelity and is making skeptics and hindering the great work of the Campbellites i. e., true

Then the methodist's infidelity was shown to be doing much harm, and the Baptists and other denominations each in turn received the awful name of infidel.

One of the strongest points brought out was the thought that the bible is not taken by the other churches as sufficient, but they have creeds which is infidelity in itself for the bible teaches that, "If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book." Now the creeds of these churches are additions to the bible and therefore all protestant churches excepting the Campbellites are infidels. Of course such reasoning is sufficient to make some people think that his creed is the right one; and surely no one can dispute that the belief in the bible as the word of a god, in baptism by immersion being essential to salvation, in the Campbellites being the only true Church etc. etc. is creedism of the worst stamp.

Webster says that a creed is a definite summary of what is believed; especially a summary of Christian belief. Now if our Campbellite friends will think, and think hard for a few minutes, they will see that the only people who haven't any creed are those who haven't any religion and surely Secularists are the only people who haven't any thing like what is properly called religion. The secularists are agnostic in regard to gods, holy books, sons of gods etc. So they really have no Christian belief and are therefore free from the creeds that keep good people from uniting and killing the (d)evil that is in the world.

The adventists could quote scripture and prove that all other denominations are infidelic. The Catholics could quote scripture and show that the Catholic Church is the only true church and so on though the whole category. The fact is, my deluded Christian friends, the bible was written by different authors and can not be proven to be the word of a god. There are many contradictions in this book and people never can agree as to its meaning as long as they look at it as coming from one infallible author. When good people out grow their childish play of fighting over an old book, they will accomplish something worthy of a civilized people.

O, how silly it is to be fighting over this old book that was written or copied by men as ignorant of our modern needs as they were of steam, electricity and the printing press. Young friends you don't know how ignorant and foolish you appear

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