

I Am The Lord, I Change Not.

The Old testament contains numerous accounts which do not seem to me to be in strict accordance with the above text. If we take the scriptures and our own experience for evidence we are led to believe that God, instead of being unchangeable, is in many cases decidedly the opposite.

It is evident that the Lord designed that Adam's wife should be found among the animals, and that the failure to find one there necessitated the surgical operation, which was an after-thought, thus indicating that the Lord deviated from his first intentions.

Then we read, "And it repented the Lord, that he had made man on the earth." (Gen. vi-6.) Yet we read in (Num. xxiii-19.) that he never repents. Therefore if he repented he must have changed his mind, for he caused the flood in order to change for the better the dwelling place of man.

In 2nd, Kings xx-17, he told Hezekiah to put his house in order, that he should die and not live. But the Lord changed his mind and added 15 years unto his days, notwithstanding his assertion, "I am the Lord I change not." In those days, Gideon with the aid of a sheep skin was able to get a great deal of information from the Lord. In those days the Lord would perform miracles for the most ignorant barbarian. If a 19th century philosopher should ask for a miracle to be performed, would the Lord do it? If Talmage were lost in a desert would the Lord send food to him by a raven, like he did Elijah?

And the Lord said unto Abraham "Take now thy son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah, and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains of which I will tell thee." (Gen. xxii-2.)

If the Lord should ask for a similar sacrifice to be made now, where is the person who is not a fit subject for the insane asylum or the penitentiary that would do what Abraham did? Yet that request is liable to be made if the text "I am the Lord I change not," is true. E. L. DAVIDSON.

Herbert Spencer.

"Eighty noblemen and gentlemen eminent in literature, science and art" have addressed a letter to Herbert Spencer, asking his permission for the opening of a fund for the purpose of painting his portrait for the British nation. The distinguished philosopher has given his consent. This honor is shown on the completion of his great system of synthetic philosophy.

Such recognition is gratifying to the admirers of Mr. Spencer, especially so when they consider that he has worked half a century under

many disadvantages, and until the last ten or fifteen years almost unnoticed by the kind of people who will now, that his fame is established, vie with one another in speaking his praises. Merely literary men incapable of deep thought and small philosophers who have had little a priori systems of their own to defend and utterly unable to appreciate the method, the research or the philosophic grasp of the great English thinker, have tried to belittle Spencer's work, have of course, exposed his absurdities and completely demolished him again and again, but while these critics have been or are fast being forgotten, Herbert Spencer has steadily grown in reputation and influence until now he is the best known and the most commanding thinker of the age.

Twenty years ago Joseph Cook said that Spencer's star was already touching the Western pine. Mr. Cook was evidently turned around and perhaps mistook the East for the West. His Monday lectures which hundreds of clergymen applauded in Tremont temple are no longer quoted or remembered but Spencer's works are now being read and appreciated as they never were before. They are an imperishable monument to his magnificent achievement in the world of thought. The great agnostic will be remembered as the philosopher of the 19th century. Darwin was the scientific expounder of organic evolution. Spencer is the philosophic expounder of universal evolution. The fame of both is secure. B. F. UNDERWOOD.

Secular Flashes.

To the mass of people nothing is so costly as thought.—Spencer.

Only by varied iteration can alien conceptions be forced on reluctant minds.—Spencer.


"The tender words and loving deeds which we scatter for the hearts which are nearest to us, are immortal seed, that will spring up in everlasting beauty, not only in our own lives, but in the lives of those born after us."—Spurgeon.

If thy brother be ever so highly developed, do not worship him; if among the lowest, do not despise him. If a brother err, pity and help him. If he do good, go thou and do likewise.—Chas. Linton.

Paine's Memorial Service.


At Unity church, Salem, memorial service in honor of Thomas Paine Sunday night January 31. Rev. W. E. Copeland will deliver an oration, and a crayon portrait of the author hero of the revolution will be presented to the church. All Freethinkers are urged to be present at the service.

Yours truly,
REV. W. E. COPELAND, PASTOR.

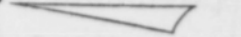
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