

Torch of Reason

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The Result.

Robert G. Ingersoll says that science is the true savior of the world, and we are not able to find any fault with this statement. Now if we think this is true, it is possible that others may get to thinking the same, and, if all should be converted to the religion of our lord and savior Science, what would be the result?

To one who is ignorant of the great civilizing, refining and moral influence of science, this savior is crucified and the old Scribe and Pharisee religion of ignorant, orthodox forms and ceremonies is let loose to destroy the happiness of other victims of its superstition and greed.

But although our savior is crucified in the minds of thousands, it still lives and will soon be followed by more devotees than all the false gods, messiahs and prophets put together.

It is said by christians that there are more bibles printed than any other book, and this is used as an argument that christianity is making great progress, but we must remember that the bible is composed of many books, and that there is probably no set of books that is so little read as this history of heathen doings. The majority of christians do not read the bible. They read a verse here and there, but many of them do not know what absurdities this holy word of their god contains. And again, we must remember that thousands of these books are sent to heathens who can not read, and when they do become able to read it, they do not understand it as their civilized brothers in Christ do, or the followers of our savior Science.

The bible of Science is composed of many books also, but they are not and could not be published in one volume for it would be altogether too large a book and there are additional chapters being added every day. What a grand bible we have! Records of the foundations of the earth, that cast in the shade the purile accounts of Genesis! Songs of truth and praise to the starry heavens that, compared with the wild wonder-

ings of a heathen king's psalms, are sublime! Instruction in the science of health that so far surpass the supposed casting out of imaginary devils by the great physician of Galilee, that one is lost in wonder at the stupidity of those who still trust in the healing power of his magic.

O, the beauties of Nature that this Saviour of Science reveals! Words can not express the happiness that it will bring to the world if we can only learn to live in harmony with its teachings!

When we think of the results of christianity, when we realize that religion makes enemies, when we remember that every step forward has been in spite of the christian church and not with its aid, when we realize that now the greatest discoveries of modern time are hampered and ridiculed by the followers of Jesus, we feel almost disgusted with the human family; but when we look into the school rooms of our land and see that the different volumes of the great bible of science are there, when we know that one who has a good knowledge of science can put to flight a host of its enemies and when we look out upon this battle that is now raging and see the young manly men and brave women ready to enlist in our ranks, ready to fight the good fight of knowledge, of truth and humanity, we can not help thinking that the result will be victory for our glorious cause.

And who can tell what one who is fully converted to this religion of Secularism may do? O, brothers and sisters in the cause of human happiness, let us overcome our timidity, our indifference, our selfishness, and reach out our hand; and if we have but the ability to touch the hem of the garment of our savior we may become instruments in the hands of truth which may lead many into the light of a happy life.

Our Holy Brother.

When we write in self-defense it is necessary to say somethings that may sound harsh to those who do not understand the harshness of the attack, but whatever is said let it be understood that it is done in order to defend what we consider the truth and right and that we are ever ready to grasp the hand of our adversary as a friend, acknowledge any mistakes that we have committed and to freely forgive even without the asking, any injury that has been done. The time has come however when we do claim the right to call things by their right name in defending our work and as one of the opposers of Free-thought chose in his sermon of last Sunday, to grossly misrepresent a "certain paper published not over 1000 miles from here" we hereby assert and will endeavor to show that his statements were mere chaff and productive of much evil.

He (our holy brother) said that

in some states this certain paper (not over a 1000 miles from here) would be suppressed by law, but does this prove that it would be right. Our brother who considers himself redeemed by the blood of Jesus would be roasted and eaten in some places perhaps, but surely we do not believe that this would be what ought to be done. We have no doubt however that this spirit of persecution would stop our paper here in Oregon if our poor misguided brother had his way.

This holy brother (who is not over 1000 miles from here) says that as a guardian of the morals of the community, he feels it his duty to try and check the evils of the aforesaid certain paper, not that he would insult the intelligence of the adults present by mentioning it, but for the sake of the children; and then follows the old illustration of children eating poisonous toadstools thinking, in their ignorance, that they were mushrooms. Now, as far as his being the guardian of public morals is concerned, we are sure that the people are very glad of his help in this line, but we are quite sure that many of the very best and most moral people would be pleased if he would draw his ideas from a book as pure as the aforesaid certain paper is. Dear reader, honest true, don't you think that any paper that is published within 1000 miles of this city is as moral as the holy book from which our brother teaches every Sunday. Read them through carefully, using the highest faculty of your intellect, and we are sure that you will see that those who teach the infallibility of the bible are making a mistake which is doing far more to lower the moral standard and to degrade our young than all other causes combined.

In regard to insulting the intelligence of the adults, it might be well to say that no refined, high-minded person would be insulted to have read in their hearing the "certain paper," but that, if some portions of this holy man's holy book was read, his audience would leave him talking to empty seats, and if he should send some of this moral (?) book to his friends he could be arrested for sending obscene literature through the mail. The most poisonous fungus we know of is this hybrid toadstool of obscenity and superstition. It was also said that this "certain paper" had committed the unpardonable sin (against the holy ghost.) But let us suppose that there isn't any holy ghost and then all is right again with the exception that our dear brother has committed a grievous sin against his fellow men by teaching such an awful bug-a-boo story. There is no reason to support such blighting, vindictive, immoral doctrines as is taught from the orthodox platform, and if our deluded brother wishes to be truly moral we advise him to "leave the poor old stranded wreck and pull for the shore."

We know how hard it is after we have preached and prayed and told our religious experience in public to come out and say we have been mistaken, that our reason was overcome by our emotions; but we hope and believe that we will soon have a great revival of common sense and people will learn that there is nothing so immoral as these falsehoods taught in the name of a mythical god.

Morality or Immorality?

There are many people who, on account of their desire to continue in certain social irregularities hate the christian church and many of these social lepers have the audacity to judge all Free-thought work by their own rotten standard, and, by deception or the heretofore carelessness of freethought societies they have often wormed themselves into positions of honor and trust, which have as often become positions of dishonor and distrust. A character of this kind is to be pitied and if possible converted to Secularism, but although they may have talent, although they may be polite and although they may appear very energetic and willing to sacrifice for what they call liberty they never can affiliate with that class of people who believe in building up pure, happy homes and saving our youth from the unhappiness of the lawless; and so it is not because we hate those who are making mistakes that we claim that we must have a moral standard for the Secular Union, but because we can not organize and build up a society without it.

There are papers now printed that claim to be Freehought publications which are a disgrace to the name and we do not wonder that our work does not advance as it ought when such trash is published and cunningly used by our enemies.

We have before us an article from the pen of one claiming to be a Freethinker that is equal to the obscenity of the christian's bible, an article that no decent parent or teacher would like to use as a lesson for their boys and girls, and unless we debar such principles and the people who advocate them from our society or convert them to decency before allowing them to join, we can never have a solid, active, progressive organization.

This, then, is what we propose to do, to establish our union on a solid moral foundation and thus give all parties a chance. Those who are already moral and interested in our work will rally around our grand standard; the boys and girls who are soon to take our places may join our ranks without being ruined by evil associates and their doctrines; those who are going down the unhappy incline of wrong-doing may "right about face" and become converted (changed) to the true, unselfish religion of Humanity; and those who are bound to stay with their vomit will have the opportunity to organize a society of their own and to continue in their foolishness, until their minds and bodies are so corrupt that they are only fit to join the ranks of the Salvation Army which will always have plenty of their dirty work to do, unless the better elements of society unite and purify the fountain-head of thought by the teachings of a pure morality.