

broadened by the study of the sciences they become gentle and kind and where brotherly love has sway, war is unknown; robbery, dishonesty, intemperance, violence, and lust are things not necessary to be forbidden; property is secure; life is valued for the good that may be done in this life; poverty is not known; sickness is overcome; childhood is made bright and happy instead of darkened by ghost stories; old age is honored and made bright, receiving the homage otherwise wasted on gods and angels; woman is made the equal of man instead of his slave, and man becomes a self-reliant, improvable and improving creature of nature instead of a cringing coward or an avaricious hypocrite. The Secular virtues which some Christians have were taught by pagan philosophers long before Christianity was thought of. Fathers and mothers loved their children thousands of years before the gospel-writers copied the golden rule and claimed it as one of Christ's sayings; but although Christianity came with the degrading doctrines of faith, intolerance, and blood atonement, yet the father's and mother's love could not be blotted out. In spite of the words ascribed to Jehovah's son that, "If any man come to me and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he can not be my disciple," in spite of these horrible words and in spite of the fact that homes have been broken up, sons and daughters ostracised, and fathers and mothers abhorred on account of this religion of Christ, in spite of the fact that today people who could and would save the world from its poverty, ignorance, and crime, are standing aloof from each other instead of uniting, the great principles of fraternal and parental love still remain, and we believe that these great Secular thoughts are growing as the minds of men develop and will at last displace the old doctrines of hate. Friends of humanity, be not deceived by names or professions. Set the genuine infidelity known as Secularism beside the belief in gods and devils, and the myths of a heaven and a hell; set it beside the doctrine of the innocent suffering for the guilty; set it beside the doctrines which for nineteen hundred years have blocked the wheels of science and progress at every turn, and then choose between the two.

Belief doesn't keep men from fighting, for a christian declared the other day, that he would whip a gentleman who happened to inform him that he was telling a lie; and when informed that he was forgetting his boasts for christianity he said that he would fight for his religion.

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