

which this part of the lesson was read, that the reader wished to show the many infidels present that he was justified in hating them with a perfect hatred, but let this be as it may I am sure that no true Secularist hates him or his God. We feel sorry for the one and we do not believe the other exists. To us it would be more absurd to believe in such a being as this poor brothers' holy book describes; than it would to believe that an orang-outang lives on the summit of Mt. Hood.

The three thoughts that the preacher wished to impress upon the minds of his hearers were these: There is no escape from God. There is no escape from conscience. There is no escape from our record.

If there is such a being as a god we should judge that the first is true, but a god's existence should first be proven before our friend has the right to make the statement. Millions of men who have had as good opportunities for study as the average preacher have declared that they can find no proof whatever of such a being, but if there is such a being we secularists do not wish to escape him (her or it) and are perfectly willing to take our chances with our Christian brothers who think themselves so much more fortunate than those who do not believe.

In regard to conscience, the emphatic statements that we never can escape it, were, we believe, altogether unfounded. How does he know? If other animal's minds perish why should not man's, but if conscience does continue it is certainly wiser for us to keep it free, than to trust to the cleansing power of anyone's blood to make it white after it has become dirty.

Some of the things that were said in regard to the escape from our record were grand and true, and were purely secular. In fact when our friend left the old bats and owls of antiquity and talked modern common sense we could see the audience brighten up and we thought how grand it would be if all public teachers would leave the old lies and preach living, up-to-date truths.

There is no escape from our record says the preacher. When it is made it is made. You can't change in. In other words it can not be washed away; but listen to the absurd paradox. "Thank God the blood of Jesus washes away all sins and makes us as white as snow."

Dear reader, it seems to us that here is the test of the whole controversy between orthodoxy and infidelity. Is what the preacher says true and is it right?

Would it not be truer and better for public teachers to say, "Your record my dear people up to this moment is made. It can never be changed. You now realize this fact. What is past is past. Make

the best of it. Make restitution for the wrongs you have done the best you can, and from this very moment let your future record be pure and white.

You have the power within yourself to do this and it is for your benefit as well as the benefit of the whole world.

Belief in Jesus is a fraud and a great detriment to all, for it not only furnishes a scape-goat for wrong doers and helps them to continue in their wrong doing, thinking that bye and bye they will saddle it all off on some one else, but the principle of the innocent suffering for the guilty and that there is virtue in mere belief has filled the world with hypocrites, distrust and unhappiness.

When?

When have Infidels founded Inquisitions to torture men into belief?

When has Infidelity afflicted mankind with twelve centuries of woe, most fitly described as "The Dark Ages?"

When has Infidelity carried on religious wars like the "Crusades?"

When has Infidelity slaughtered fifty million people as Mother Church has?

When has Infidels murdered the teachers of our race, as Christianity did Hypatia, Bruno, Vanini, Servetus, and many others?

When have Infidels vented their spite upon the dead by digging up and burning their bodies?

When have Infidels begun, on St. Bartholomew's Day, and massacred seventy thousand of their fellow-men in one week?

When have Infidels persecuted the Jews?

When have Infidels sold "Indulgences?"

When have infidels set up the worship of bones, hairs, rusty nails, "wood for the true cross," and other relics?

When have Infidels decried the use of anæsthetics in obstetrical cases as "an impious attempt to escape the curse" denounced against all women in Genesis iii. 16—?

When have infidels burned holes in Quakers' tongues, and dragged old, bedridden women from their couches and hung them, as witches, on the evidence of little children?

When have Infidels opposed comforts and refinements, such as the introduction of stoves, carpets, chandeliers, violins, and organs in churches?

When has any Freethinker ever characterized fire, marine, and life insurance, and the setting up of lightning rods, as "challenges to God Almighty?"—Anon.

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