

they have no use for prayer; they being deadly enemies, cannot both occupy the same space at the same time, consequently the more you may have of the one the less you will need or require of the other. I see that Brother Macdonald of the Truth Seeker gives you a nice send off in your grand Liberal enterprise movement. Wishing you all the success that is possible. Believe me yours truly.

JOEL M. BERRY.

The True Gospel.

"I cherish these words of the Martyr President as a message from the dead. They are to me an authority equal to and beyond the testimony of prophet, priest or potentate, for they carry their own proof on their face—plain as axioms of geometry:

"During the twenty years that I have been in public life, almost eighteen of it in the congress of the United States, I have tried to do one thing. Whether I was mistaken or otherwise, it has been the plan of my life to follow my convictions, at whatever personal cost to myself. I have represented for many years a district in congress whose approbation I greatly desired; but though it may seem, perhaps, a little egotistical to say it, I yet desired still more the approbation of one person, and his name was Garfield. He is the only man that I am compelled to sleep with, and eat with, and live with, and die with, and if I could not have his approbation, I should have had companionship."

JAMES A. GARFIELD.

The mortal man who voiced this sentiment spoke out of the fullness of his mind a meaning as noble as could be inspired by Virtue's self, were she a veritable individual.

He who respects not himself is not qualified to respect others. He who has no convictions of his own is unfit to select from the convictions of anyone. He who denies his own reason and suffers himself to be led by legends contrary to his experience, deserves the disappointments in reserve for idiots.

Whatever one may accept of others' teachings, he ought first to analyze and understand them. To swallow down instruction at a gulp will give mental dyspepsia, or something worse. To feed on ideas that prevail in society because they are the fashionable food, is to betray your own palate and stomach.

We not only want to build our house of good material, but to raise it on a foundation that we know is firm.

It will not do to build on some one's else say-so, for we do not know who will not lie, or who cannot be fooled.

It will not do to build on some one's name, for wonderful names

may be given to those who have no worth.

It will not do to build on some church, for who will guarantee the church's integrity?

It will not do to build on a cunningly-devised creed, for what has assent to mystical phrases to do with making character?

It will not do to build upon a book for who shall be the voucher for the book's authenticity? Not one known only in the book.

Take no authorities for truth, for truth alone is authority.

It is unsafe to implicitly trust another's knowledge and intentions. It is most shallow to predicate your own wisdom on another's ignorance. It is stupidity to try to defend your own proposition by your antagonist's ignorance. He that says he cannot answer the other fellow's objections, but neither can the other fellow answer him, unwittingly gives his own cause away.

I do not propose to live on the failings of professors of religion. There is abundance of such fodder, but the quality is detestable. And professors of religion who presume to fatten on the errors of the secular people will find no lack of vile soup ready served for a vicious taste. But it won't assimilate with healthy flesh. To cry, "thou fool!" is not evidence, and to retort, "if I'm a fool, you are another," is not argument.

No amount of mystery will ever redeem man from folly.

What the world wants is common sense and that lived up to. The simpler you say a truth, the readier it will be grasped.

The machinery of theology has ground more minds into chaos than there are stars in the sky.

The expected approval of the gods is not the most exalted reason for any performance.

He who stands ready to go ahead, assured that he is right, regardless of consequences to himself, in this world or any other, is superior to the servile subjects of the mightiest monarchy.

He who knows the truth, is by the truth made free. He bows before no scepter, and need kneel to no throne. His mind his kingdom is, and his heart is an imperial palace.

Be self-centered and bid defiance to all external powers. Nature's needs are the largest laws.

A man must be on the most intimate terms with himself. His respect of himself is of more worth to him than the commendation of any lord in the universe; his consciousness of his own merit is a shield against all the demons in pandemonium.

It becomes us best to make the most of what we are, where we are, now that we are, and not forget our nature and circumstances in trying to be something other than human, in an element outside of this earth, in a time we know not of.

The business of man on earth is to be a man betimes. In yearning to be an angel in heaven he becomes a misanthrope in his own home.

Our country is a republic. It was so made because our fathers defied despotism; it is so kept because the sons love liberty more than they esteem empire.

Having seceded from the kingdoms of earth, why should we be ambitious for allegiance to a kingdom of heaven? Having repudiated the throne in politics, let us not perpetuate it in religion.

Those who regard not traditions add mythologies may respect some of those who do for their humanity's sake, esteeming their hearts as better than their heads; also, let those who believe what they own they can't prove, not despise those who are skeptical of incompatible doctrines; for, being therein true to themselves, they are less likely to be false to others.

It is not altogether on his belief in traditions and testaments, nor by his faith in Christs and creeds, that the religionist shapes his life; if it were, the earth might be more a vale of tears than the saints used to sing of. When there was more religion and less science in the world than there is to-day, there was also much more misery.

The temples that the true thinker would build are homes for the people, mills for the manufacture of their comforts, and schools for instructing their minds.

There are two things, at least, that we may know and not mistake—1st, negatively, a Supreme Architect of the Universe does not stand in need of our building him a shebang; 2nd, positively, intoxicating liquor is a bane to mankind.

Let us then devote ourselves, not to divinity, but to humanity. Let us build for the welfare of our fellow citizens rather than for the worship of foreign conceits.

"My conscience is my crown,
Contented thoughts my rest;
My heart is happy in itself;
My bliss is in my breast."

JOHN PRESCOTT GUILD.

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