

preservation of justice; and yet how often it becomes the upholder of oppression, and the heart sinks beneath its blow. I will follow this man, until he is compelled to yield his victim; and, if he injures her, then I will kill him. Do you hear that, Gooch? You shall not escape me, though you sail round the whole globe. She shall be mine, for she is my life. If you touch her, I will sheathe this knife in your heart. You cannot always be as safe as you are now. You cannot always find fools and bigots to defend you and flout justice."

"I shall pray for you," said the deacon. "I see that you are in a very bad state of mind. I wish you would read this tract, 'let not your angry passions rise.' Remember the text, 'blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.' I am afraid you will lose that inheritance. However, 'long as the lamp holds out to burn, the vilest sinner may return.'"

"What a saintly disposition you have," said Sockdolliger. "so soft and lamb-like! How gladly you would convert all these poor sinners!

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

Miracles And Miracle Workers.

Every system of supernatural religion with which we have been acquainted, has had its marvels and miracles but like many other of its silly and fabulous teachings, the miracles of christainity are at the present day fast falling into disrepute. People begin to ask, "did a god have a hand in working any of these miracles?" When we remember that the miraculous is the impossible and anything within the realm of the possible is no miracle and that miracles can be wrought only in the minds of the ignorant and those desiring such fabulous silly teaching, it is imposible for us to conclude that an all-wise infinite god has ever been engaged in the miracle racket.

Many men have claimed with gods assistance, to have worked miracles, but it has been the policy of the church to keep the people ignorant of any, only those recorded in the new testament, because if the masses come to know that the same miracles which Christ performed has been performed by many others; they would only have a par value with the rest. Long before the birth of Christ and for many years after every country and city had its prophets and miracle workers. The ignorant masses regarded them with awe, because they believed that they were assisted by some unseen and mysterious power.

We will now introduce one of the greatest miracle workers in the world; Bishop Wait says that he was one of the most remarkable characters in history. This was Apollonius. He lived in the time of Christ and performed great wond-

ers. I will not in a short article like this have space to say in detail what I would like to about this remarkable man. I will only give a few instances and pass on to the next. While in Rome at one time he was accused of treason; at the trial the accuser came forward with a roll of parchment in his hand upon which the accusation was supposed to have been written, but when it was unrolled it was a blank peice of paper; not a word nor sentence nor character of any kind was on it. The accuser had probably picked up the wrong roll. On another occasion when he was a hundred years old, he was again thrown into prison at Rome. One of the prisoners asked him when he would get his liberty. "To-morrow" said he, "if it depends upon the Judge; this moment if it depends upon myself," and to show them that he was not fooling them he drew himself out of his irons, then put them back again. When summoned before the tribual Domitian was so struck with the answers of Apollonius that he said, "I acquit you of the crime with which you are charged, but you must remain until I have a talk with you." According to the testimony of Vospicus, Eusebius, and Marcellus, the people of Tyana his birthplace worshiped Apollonius as a god for more than four hundred years. Eunapius in the fifth century said Apollonius was not so much of a philosopher as something between a god and a man, and that Philostratus ought to have entitled his "History of Apollonius." "The Descent of God upon Earth." He was worshiped by both Christians and heathens.

But a true comparison between Christ and other men who have had divine honors paid them, and who have worked miracles, would have a tendency to make Christians weak in the knees. If those who put so much confidence in the miracles of Christ would inform themselves that history gives accounts of hundreds of miracle workers they would come to understand that none of them were ever performed by divine assistance. Moses and Aaron were considered expert in this branch of business, and they tried to show Pharaoh some of their slight-of-hand performances. Pharaoh laughed at their arrogance and superstition and said, "your hocus-pocus tricks aint worth a pinch of snuff, over here in Egypt. Why I have some second-class magicians that can do anything you can, and not lay any claim to divine assistance." So Moses and Aaron turned all the waters of Egypt into blood. Now it don't say how long they stayed that way, neither does it say who turned them back to water again, but it does say that Pharaoh's magicians turned them into blood also, and as John Peck says, they got a great deal better blood and more of it from the same water, al-

though Moses and Aaron had worked it over once. Then they brought forth the frogs, and the magicians did the same, and as Peck says, they were bigger frogs and better jumpers than Moses and Aaron made. Now what I would like to have some one explain is this, why is it that we have none of these wonderful performances nowadays; the laws of nature are the same to-day as they always were. Irenaeus affirms that all true disciples of Christ wrought miracles, cast out devils, and had knowlege of future events. But we hear of nothing of the kind to-day. What is wrong? Are there no true disciples now, or have they lost faith in the miracle hallucination? The truth is this: could we know all of the wonderful and mysterious things that have been written and taught by the early fathers, miracles could not be put upon the market to-day for one cent on the dollar, and as the race advances, and people begin to think and reason for themselves, all systems of supernatural religions will decline and people will only have confidence in the real and natural. They will then begin to see that the miraculous birth of christ, his resurrection and ascension, and the miracles are all outside of the natural and beyond the limits of reason and cannot therefore be true.

—JOEL M. BERRY.

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