

There was a comparative lull. Then, the wind seemed to take the vessel, as if in grim sport, and bear it right toward the promontory's point, beyond which there was a sufficient calm to permit the boats to be launched.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

No Evidence.

EDITOR TORCH OF REASON:

Was there ever a beginning and will there ever be an end of this universe, and what was the cause of all being? These are questions that have at all ages puzzled the investigating mind of man. As it is impossible for us to conceive of the smallest particle of matter to be changed into nothing, so it is impossible for us to conceive of a time when nothing existed, and that all we now see should at any time have been made out of nothing, therefore something must have existed from eternity and always will exist. This great cause of all being must be unlimited and unbounded. It must be both cause and effect itself. Man's total ignorance gave rise to the belief in superior beings, such as Gods, Goddesses, and good and evil spirits. This belief we find with the majority of people of all nations, among the civilized as well as the most savage and barbarous. These beings are supposed to be almighty, all wise and omnipresent. They are believed to have created this universe out of nothing at some certain time, and are now ruling it and the affairs of man after their own free will. It is also believed that a person's soul or spirit can be separated from his body when dead, and that these beings have somewhere prepared a place for these souls to live forever, while the body decays. Some people even believe that there are two different places for the souls; the one to be a place of happiness and reward for those who have pleased these superior beings by their ways of living here on earth, and the other a place of everlasting pain, sorrow and punishment for those who have failed to do so. Therefore men sacrifice and pray, by which they imagine to please these beings and gain their favor. But of all the millions of men who believe these stories there is not one that has ever seen one of these beings, or that has any other evidence of their existence whatever. Nor has anybody ever seen the soul or spirit of a person separated from the body and continue to live after death.

These stories are produced by human imagination and merely believed and carried over from generation to generation, and man has no evidence whatever of their truth. We therefore have no cause to fear any pain or punishment in any future life, nor can we expect any enjoyment or happiness after death.

The place and time to be happy and make happiness is here and now, and man must bear the consequences of his own actions.

Some people assert that the belief in at least one of these Gods is necessary for the welfare of the human race, as our laws, the duties of man towards man, were founded upon this belief. This is a mistake; our laws arise from necessity and are of human origin, therefore it is important for man to know himself and the position he occupies, so that he may judge what is right and wrong for him to do.

Ohio. RUDOLPH SCHNEIDER.

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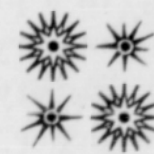
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