

The Survival of The Fittest.

It is evident that the belief and teaching of those principles that are of the most practical value to mankind is the true religion, if religion it may be called. Now if we can discover what that belief and teaching is, what a great boon to humanity it will be and how foolish we would be not to accept it.

It is a self-evident truth that to try to believe in a lie or what is contrary to our reason is an injury, and therefore men ought not to be forced, nor try to believe anything excepting the truth. Things that are not proven should not be taught as true, but things that are proven to be scientific facts should be taught instead of the unproven theories of theology. There is no fact more patent than that the world is growing better and wiser as the years go by, and a firm belief in humanity and its growth toward perfectibility is a belief that is a great benefit to us and one that is founded on facts. And again: in order to grow wiser and better people must practice those virtues that will assist in our evolution to higher and better types. This is true morality. Then the true religion consists in a firm belief in, and sympathy for, humanity, in the teachings of scientific, demonstrable truths, and true morality. This is all pertaining to this world and we call it Secularism.

This is the true religion, and the nearer Christianity comes to pure Secularism the better it is, and when the churches become truth-seekers instead of preventing investigation except in a narrow groove cut by priests of long ago; when they disrobe themselves of the mysterious; when they cultivate reason and judgement instead of their childlike fantasy; when their endeavors are confined to bringing about better conditions instead of getting people to believe in spirits and miracles; when talent counts more with them than the ability to successfully play the hypocrite; then and not till then will the orthodox churches begin to grow, instead of retrograding as they are at present.

In all nature the highest types are not in the majority at first. Human beings struggled with the cave lion, the cave hyena and the cave bear, and so it is with the highest types of thought, they must struggle against the older and lower ideas, but if the century just closing is any criterion the next hundred years will witness a most wonderful victory of man's best thoughts over the ghosts, gods and devils that snarl and growl as they are driven back into their caves of a superstitious and ignorant age.

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Quacks and Quacks.

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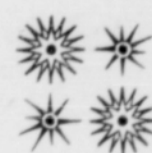
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