

To the Promoters of Scientific Wisdom.

By Eliza Mowry Bliven.

I will now show what kind of helps I want, but this must not restrict any who prefer a different line of argument, or can propose a wiser treatment of the subject; the more variety the better. Think beyond me and thus lead me to think better, deeper and wiser, that the tracts may be excelsior. I invite criticisms and suggestions to improve this. Probably there are other arguments that should be introduced, and some of these must be abbreviated and others left out, for they are too long. I think we should introduce no arguments in this tract that belong in the others, or only one brief argument, and then refer the reader to a following tract for others in the same line. Make all arguments as terse, clear and undeniable as you can. Use no repetitions and as few long words as possible. Those who have anything to offer towards the first tract after September 20th had better send it direct to me, and send another copy direct to the TORCH if you wish, because it takes so long to get mail back and forth across the continent that it will be too late for me to use unless I have it about October 1st.

OUTLINE FOR TRACT "CAN SINS BE FORGIVEN?"

Sins are acts that bring harm to ourselves or to others. Tracing evils back to their causes shows what are sins, and the relation of sins to punishments proves that sins cannot be forgiven. (Give an example.) Punishments are preventives, hence sins ought not to be forgiven. Teaching the scientific reasons will make people more afraid to sin than bible teaching does. Show how the bible teaching of forgiveness promotes immorality, vices, crimes, diseases, etc. Show how scientific wisdom obliges people to be honest, just, industrious and promoters of the general welfare. Show that sins, which bring harm to others, the bible forbids men to punish. Tract No. 9 will treat of the results.

Science teaches that we must punish the guilty to protect the innocent, and it is unjust to make the innocent suffer for the wrong doings of others. Show some harm resulting from teaching the plan of redemption. Belief in forgiveness leads to self-conceit, intolerance toward others, persecutions, etc., to please God and help him against the undeserving. The bible teaches that God will furnish everything to the believers and protect them from all evils; and belief in miracles leads them to expect an inflowing of everything without much work. Does this agree with the reality? Science teaches that diligence, prudence, judgment, and justice to all is the price of success.

Show what kind of men God

chose and prospered. Such examples led the Jews into like character and leads the young and easily tempted of today into like dishonesty, greed, licentiousness, phariseism, etc. What led to religious wars? Science shows the evil results of wars, both to the victors and the vanquished, studies out their cause, and teaches the preventives of all wars. God ordered the Jews to kill the other races and appropriate their property, lands and wives, though he had made them all. But most of his children did not worship him, because he didn't create them right, or didn't bring them up right, as he could if he was all powerful and all wise. Was he partial? So he chooses a few sinners and forgives them, and curses the rest now, if orthodoxy is true, instead of teaching them why they must stop sinning, as the scientists are doing. What the bible writers attributed to the wrath of God, science has been proving due to natural causes. Science teaches that every criminal act deprives others of their just rights. Note criminal acts in the bible, and their injustices in each case to other men. Also note God's lack of wisdom, power, mercy, justice, etc. (Give the verse.)

The bible contains the scientific wisdom and moral standard of the times when it was written, but the great advancement or evolution of science since, has brought about a much higher standard of morality, and much that people then supposed to be right is now known to be the cause of evil and is regarded as criminal. Should the bible be taught in day schools or Sunday schools? If the young are allowed to read it will it not lead them to be immoral, dishonest, etc., because the patriarchs were immoral, dishonest, and greedy, and yet God chose and blessed them most?

Science teaches our dependence on each other, and man's responsibility for most of his own and others' sufferings and happiness. The bible teaches our dependence on God, and makes God responsible, not man. Science traces all evils back to their causes, and teaches the sure punishment for every sin, and worse punishment the longer we continue sinning. Religion teaches that man may sin till almost the last moment of life and then be forgiven and blessed through all eternity, no matter how much harm he has done, or how many he has lead into sin and caused to be ruined. Science teaches the causes of intemperance, social evil, insanity, poverty, etc., and will find out how to alleviate and nearly banish them. Religion says believe and pray and God will remove these evils in his own good time and way. Science is what men have proven by observation, experience, and comparison. Religion is believing what somebody has said God told them, and wor-

shipping him. Would scientific teachings or bible teachings on Sundays most, benefit humanity?

Introducing an example in each argument will wonderfully brighten this up and make it very much more convincing. More than half of these arguments must be left out to make room for the examples, but all those left out can be utilized in the other tracts. Come, try your hand at it, and thus help on this beneficent work to open the eyes of all mankind to the worth of scientific wisdom and the harm of religion.

Can Sins be Forgiven?

By F. M. Van De Bogart.

For the Tract Contest:

A sin is a violation of the laws of nature, and did anyone ever violate one of these laws and escape nature's punishment? If a man were to jump from a four-story building to the ground he would be doing a thing that nature had not intended him to do, and he might pray for the Lord to put on brakes during his entire descent, and yet would he be any better off when he reaches the ground?

If a man indulges in strong drink to excess, he ruins his body and his mind; can any supernatural power place him in the same physical strength and noble manhood that would be enjoyed if he had never touched the vile stuff? And yet we are told that he may repent of all this on his dying day and God will forgive it all and send him to eternal glory while his wife ekes out a miserable existence at the wash-tub and his children, poisoned with drink before they were born, follow the example of their father and go to a drunkard's grave. Are such teachings as this, going to bring better morals into the world, and produce a posterity that the future may be proud of? Would it not be better to teach the inexorable laws of Nature and show the people that however little they may violate one of these laws they are sure to receive their punishment?

Would we not do more for morality by teaching the manner in which sin reacts on the sinner than we would to teach him that he may spend his life in sin, and by his influence drag down many a noble minded young man or young woman to the depths of degradation and on the last day repent and repeat those words, "There shall be more joy in heaven over one sinner that repenteth than over ninety and nine just persons"? Is such teaching as this going to do much for morality in this world?

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