

Be Not Hypocrites.

If there could be a book opened or a voice spoken that could assure us without the shadow of a doubt that the theories which the Liberals are advocating are correct, you would hear thousands, perhaps millions, exclaim, "yes, I always did believe it, but was afraid to say so because it was unpopular." Not long since I heard a most excellent woman say: "I never in all my life had any desire to join a church." Now, this thinking much and saying little is retarding the progress of Freethought—keeping "Truth" in the dark. The same spirit brought on the late war. There were enough true-hearted Union men in the South to have averted the terrible consequences of secession, if they had not been afraid to express themselves.

"How I admire the man who speaks his mind,
And panders to no party, scheme or sect;
Who unto all is generous and kind,
Yet fraud and error ever doth reject.
Who holds no false, deceptive views of life,
Nor preaches what in practice he forgets;
Who would not wage a war of petty strife,
Nor yet express unmeaning, vain regrets.
Who is too proud to act a servile part,
Or lend himself a tool in other's hands;
Who fears no fear; no deep, designing art,
But by himself alone undaunted stands;
Who shuns deceit as he would pestilence,
And thrives and triumphs by his good sense."

I am well pleased with the way the Liberals are expressing themselves, so far as I have read lately. It is so in accordance with my views. I am so opposed to mud-slinging. I think it so much better to show people what is right, than to be always showing them their errors in a sarcastic way, which always encourages a bitter feeling and is conducive to bad results. The Christians would be more likely to read Freethought literature if our ideas were expressed in as refined language as the truth will permit. Truth compels me to admit that we want less faith and more of what I call true religion, in this world. We want to practice that which will make us better men and women.

It is not my will that I do not adhere to the popular side of the question; I love popularity, but cannot sacrifice my honest convictions for what it is worth. I go to church sometimes, and I love to hear the ministers sing the praises of everything which is noble and pure, but do not like to hear them try to change the mind of their god, when they pray for the remission of sins, for the "president of the United States and all others in authority." They know as well as I do that the bible says we are not heard for our much speaking, for our heavenly father knoweth what we need before we ask him;

and the Pharisees prayed in the synagogues and at the corners of the street, "that they may be seen and heard." They know full well that Christ condemned all this, and yet they stand or kneel and do that which God has commanded them not to do. A sincere desire of the heart is an irresistible thing, but it would be unnecessary to speak it out in so many words, even if there were a personal god to hear and answer prayers, for "we are not heard for our much speaking."

That we may all be guided by the TORCH OF REASON, is the wish of a sincere friend. MRS. R. A. BELL, Texas.

The Age of the Earth and Life.

Professor Thomson, Lord Kelvin, has lectured lately on the "Age of the Earth." We follow the report in the London Daily Mail, June 3d. The Christians should gather abundant comfort from his views, as no doubt they will. "You dare to say," the Godly may exclaim, "that the earth has been peopled with life for 1,000,000 or 1,000,000,000 years! Here is Lord Kelvin telling us that the earth has not been the abode of life for more than thirty millions of years! There, now! That's just what the bible teaches! We learn from God's most holy word that the first life was created not quite 6,000 years ago; and there isn't any great difference between 30,000,000 and 6,000, especially if you reckon time as the Lord himself does—on day as a thousand years and vice versa." No doubt this argument will be used by the Christians. It is no more absurd than the rest of their arguing.

Lord Kelvin rather spoils the comfort he afforded the Christian by making the ungodly and unscriptural statement that the earth was in a molten state for a very long period before it was cool enough to solidify. It seems a pity he could not tell the Victoria Institute people that science exactly echoed the first two chapters of Genesis. Never mind! The Christian advocate can easily make it appear that the lecturer really did confirm "Moses" in every particular. There is nothing a fanatic cannot do to bolster up his creed and holy windy whims; as for honesty—well, the Christian advocate and evidence-monger is much like the Yankee politician, who told his audience, "I ain't much for eddication, I know; but for honesty I beat the very devil, I do."

There is one excuse for Christian want of candor and common honesty, and that is, his case is so baseless and bad that he would spoil it completely if he were honest and candid about it. There is no truth to be urged in favor of the Christian religion; if there was, no doubt it would be produced.—The Liberator.

Organic Evolution.

In a different sense of the word "evolution" is applied to the theory of the origin of organs and of species by divergence and by development. This theory teaches that all forms of life now existing, or which have existed, on the earth have sprung from common stock, which has undergone changes in a multitude of ways and under varied conditions, the forces and the influences producing such change being known as the "factors of organic evolution." All characters and attributes of species and of groups have developed with changing conditions of life. The homologies among animals are the result of common descent. The differences are due to various influences, chief among these being competition in the struggle for existence between individuals and between species, whereby those best adapted to their surroundings lived and reproduced their kind.

This theory is now the central axis of all biological investigation in all its branches, from ethics to histology, from anthropology to bacteriology. In the light of this theory every peculiarity of structure, every character or quality of individual or of species, has a meaning and a cause. It is the work of the investigator to find this meaning as well as to record the fact. "One of the noblest lessons left to the world" by Darwin is this, Mr. Frank Cramer tells us,—"this, which to him amounted to a profound, almost religious, conviction, that every nature, no matter how insignificant, every stripe of color, every tint of flowers, the length of an orchid's nectary, unusual height in a plant, all the infinite variety of apparently insignificant things, is full of significance. For him it was an historical record, the revelation of a cause, the lurking-place of a principle."

According to the theory of evolution every structure of today finds its meaning in some condition of the past. The inside of an animal tells what it really is; for it bears the record of heredity. The outside of an animal tells where its ancestors have been; for it bears record of concessions to environment. Similarity in essential structure is known as homology. By the theory of evolution, homology, wherever it is found, is proof of blood relationship.—David Starr Jordan, in the Arena.

ELMER HARDESTY,
Attorney at Law.

Will practice in all courts of the state. Special attention given to collections and notary work.
Room 3, WOLF BLOCK.
SILVERTON, OREGON.

N. Jerman, J. H. Lyons.

**JERMAN & LYONS,
PAINTERS.**

House, sign and carriage painting. Paper-hanging and interior decoration a specialty. Charges reasonable. Work guaranteed.

SILVERTON...

**Barber
Shop**

... Artistic Work

When you want a...
Good Smooth Shave

Or a First-Class.....
Hair-Cut

—CALL ON—

E. E. TAYLOR.

*** *

SILVERTON, - - - - - OREGON

Silverton . . .

**LIVERY
FEED AND
SALE STABLE**

Cor. Water and Lewis Streets.

Double Rigs and Saddle Horses always on hand at the lowest prices. A corral connected with the barn for loose stock. Information regarding any kind of stock promptly attended to, by person or letter. Horses Boarded and Fed on reasonable terms.

N. J. HARDESTY.

GOOD BOOKS

At Reduced Prices

We can furnish the following books well bound in cloth; good print, standard sizes, for the extremely low price of 60 cents each, postage 10 cents. Don't fail to take advantage of this offer.

- Origin of Species.....Chas. Darwin
- Descent of Man....." "
- First Principles..... Herbert Spencer
- Data of Ethics..... " "
- Emerson's Essays
- Sartor Resartus..... Thomas Carlyle
- History French Revolution " "
- Discourses of Epictetus
- Past and Present..... Thomas Carlyle
- Hypatia..... Chas. Kingly
- Autobiography of Benj. Franklin
- Fifteen Decisive Battles of the World..... E. C. Creasy
- Tennyson's Poems
- Shelley's Poems
- Longfellow's Poems
- Pope's Poems
- Milton's Poems
- Hood's Poems
- Burns' Poems
- Robert Browning's Poems
- Byron's Poems
- Shakespeare's Poems

Address,
JONES' BOOK STORE,

291 ALDER ST. PORTLAND, OREGON.

Wanted—An Idea

Who can think of some simple thing to patent? Protect your ideas: they may bring you wealth. Write JOHN WEDDERBURN & CO., Patent Attorneys, Washington, D. C., for their \$1.00 prize offer and new list of one thousand inventions wanted.