

## SCIENTIFIC WISDOM.

TRACT NO. 1.

### Can Sins be Forgiven?

**S**INS are acts which bring harm upon ourselves or others. No harm, no sin. The harm is punishment. Each sin makes some one less useful, happy, good, healthy or prosperous. Diminishing the surrounding good harms ourselves.

Science traces evils back to their causes. Teach the people the causes of diseases, miseries, all evils, and they will stop sinning for fear of these sure punishments. Mother, school, laws, experience, history, teach punishments. Child or man not taught "the fatal chain of action and consequence" continues his self-gratifying follies. To forgive is to release from punishment. Can forgiveness restore the drunkard's ruined brain, lost time, injury done to wife and children, the murdered man, those ruined by bad example? For eleventh hour repentance religion promises forgiveness with eternal happiness; but "not heaven i self upon the past hath power". Nature never forgives sins. "The penalty of a misdeed treads on the heels of a transgressor."

Promising forgiveness tempts men to think they can escape punishment, so they sin more. Teaching the sure punishment for every sin makes men moral, healthy, wise. Punishments are enforcements and preventives, so sins ought not to be forgiven. Each cause of evil discovered makes a new moral law. Thus the moral code is ever improving.

Christians are trying to follow four moral codes: believing the bible perfect, the semi-barbarian code of Moses, of 4,000 years ago, the king's code of Solomon, the forgiveness code of Christ, 1800 years old, and the up-to-date equal-rights code of science.

The god of Moses ordered men to lie, steal and murder. Read Jacob's thefts; the lies of Rachel, Sarah, Abraham, and David. Jews slaughtered whole nations in wars by God's command, for plunder, lands, slaves, mistresses. (See Numbers xxxi.) All-wise? He repents thirty times. Just? He blesses one race and curses all others. Merciful? He sends plagues, floods, wars, diseases. (Read Lev. xxvi, 27-29) Al mighty? Devil, to create millions without wisdom enough to do right!

Bible examples tempt believers into dishonesty, injustice, greed, wars, expecting God's blessing. Thus the pious cashier robs the bank. To breed immoral thoughts, read Judges xix and xxi, and numerous chapters about harlots, polygamy, concubines, whoredom. No wonder ministers and bible readers seduce women.

Will reading the Old Testament teach children honesty, morality? Should schoolteachers define all words used in the bible? All other schoolbooks bear explanation throughout. Teachers and mothers should study the whole bible before recommending it. Solomon's code robbed the people. Kings, monopolists, political rings, free lovers, liquor dealers, follow that. To enrich themselves they impoverish others. Christ's code of miracles and forgiveness is blind to nature's laws and punishments.

Science abolishes wars and vices by contrasting results with arbitration and morality.

Would scientific teaching, on Sundays, or bible teaching, most promote morality and happiness?

TO THE PROMOTORS OF SCIENTIFIC WISDOM: begun and continued.

The long-delayed tract is before you. If you like it, help me use it. But we must not expect to conquer the whole world by the first shot. If your fifty copies reach only one who is bright enough to be convinced, and thus you win only one new member, half the other readers may be made a little uneasy, a little in doubt about their bible and god being perfect, and some of them will be led to think and talk in a line they never thought about before. Thus the tract will accomplish its mission. This contains but a chicken's peep for science; but in the course of twelve tracts it must develop into a lusty, full-grown crow.

Evolution is a slow, persistent plodder. If each of the twelve tracts win you one member, each new member and new tract helping you win the next, there will be enough by the end of the year to carry on scientific Sunday meetings, and have enough half-hearted doubters for a fair audience. Then education by lessons and lectures can be

Probably this tract is not nearly as good as if compiled by those more capable, but as they did not undertake it we must do the best we can with this. I am going to use this tract in Connecticut, and perhaps in Rhode Island, in the following way. First, subscribe my dollar for the year's tracts. My fifty each month I will distribute in my own town. My husband will subscribe also. He can distribute in the other towns. By inquiry and searching the Free-thought papers, I think I can obtain something of a list of Unbelievers in other towns of Connecticut. I will send to each a copy of the tract, also an Enrollment Blank, and a copy of the paper, "Enrollment of Promoters of Scientific Wisdom" (hereafter, for brevity, I shall call that the Guide) and enclose with these three papers this note:

"If you like this tract, will you send me ten cents for fifty copies and distribute them? and may I have your name on the enclosed blank? Please send me the ad-

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