

engines, electric motors and lights. We devise telephones, and an endless array of contrivances, all to add to the pleasure or comfort of man. We look hopefully forward for what we expect to accomplish next.

What a contrast to that other view, which puts on the dark garb, and wears the sober face; that sends us to the nunneries and monkeries of the Christian era. Today we build schools and halls of science. Then they built monasteries and dungeons. Today we cherish life and make the most of it. Then they folded hands, counted the beads, and prayed for the call to come which would carry them away to Realms of Imaginary Peace—but which is, as far as I can learn as a student of science, the Peace of Death—the sleep that knows no waking.

Live this life, my young friends, as best you can for your own good and the good of fellow-men, and in the hearts of those that knew you, you will live an immortal life worth endless tiresome ages of harp-twanging in the "Land beyond the skies."

(After an hour of pleasant conversation, the company broke up. Some of the young men left written questions for future discussion.)

Dr. Brown: (Sitting again alone in his study, warming his feet before the fire as was his wont.) Well, well, I wonder if I am doing those boys any good. I wish I could read their minds.

[EDITOR'S NOTE: Any reader wishing to ask the "Old Doctor" a question or express an opinion upon any of the subjects covered by these papers, can address him care of Charles Elton Blanchard, Editor Current Thought, 802 Ansel Ave., Cleveland, Ohio.]

How the World's Saviours Have Cursed It.

One very remarkable fact in human history is the enormous number of saviors that have appeared. No nation or tribe has been without one or more of them. In various ways, physical, spiritual, and moral, they have volunteered (or been supposed to have done so) to save mankind. One has gone about the world killing monsters and vermin, like Hercules, Jack the Giant Killer, St. Patrick and others; another has given laws or a set of ceremonies to a tribe or nation; another has revealed the mind and will of some god; others have performed wonderful miracles; and some have suffered, died and risen again to bless and save mankind.

People who think the tribe of saviors now ended little know the nature of mankind. Only a few days since one of them was killed with many of his followers in

Brazil; and no one knows how soon another may reveal himself, nor in what land he may make his appearance. The demand for saviors is perennial, and the supply seems to keep pace with the demand.

More than 2000 years ago Confucius taught the Chinese his precepts, a set of rules and a system of etiquette, from which they have never dared to depart to this day. The moral teachings of Confucius are as fine and beautiful as could well be imagined; and the Chinese have a far better and more elaborate training in ethics than any other nation, ancient or modern, ever had. But Confucius enthroned ancient men and antique notions; he turned parents into gods and children into slavish, abject worshippers. The result is that China has been for 2000 years a swamp, a stagnant pool, a nation of hard-working, mechanical marionettes or automata, none daring to have an opinion of his own. Only in the past few years has China shown even a desire to advance; and any awakening she has experienced has come from without, and has been at the expense of the Confucian cast-iron system of life.

The Jews, somehow, many centuries back, put their necks into a savage and degrading halter, and they wear it still. Let us take them on their own showing, and say that the mythical Moses gave them their law, their ceremonies and their rites, that the said Moses was their savior; and let us look at the results. Moses bound the Jews hand and foot; made living mummies of them, wrapped round with endless bandages of ceremony and superstition, gummed, glued or cemented with blindest sentiments. The rigid Jew would rather die than disobey his stupid and tyrannical savior, would die rather than eat leavened bread at the Passover time, or eat unkoshered meat at any time. He cannot explain this, he only feels it, blindly feels it, and is powerless; his intellect is absolutely paralyzed in presence of the "duties" imposed upon him by his savage ancestors. And all this he endures in the hope of Salvation!

Look at his history. The Bible romancers have sketched for us what is generally held to be the Jews' real history. Well, after Moses had saved the nation and made it God's own, there ensued 900 years of wild confusion, alternate enslavement, revolt and freedom from foreign domination; then captivity in Babylon for 70 years and enforced residence amongst the hated Gentiles. After their return to Palestine they were conquered and crushed by the Greeks, then by the Romans, and their capital and country destroyed amidst the most frightful slaughter, the remnant being scattered through the Roman empire.

After the destruction of Jerusa-

lem the Jews were again and again most exquisitely punished by the Romans. In later centuries they fell under the malignant curse of the Christians, who for hundreds of years treated them to unheard of barbarities — drowned them, slaughtered them, hanged them, burned them at the stake, and outraged the survivors in every known way.

Verily salvation has damned the Jew to a degree almost unparalleled in human experience. The Jewish law is a veritable millstone around their necks, and they seem quite unconscious of the depth of degradation to which their salvation has reduced them. They, too, though keen in business and not behind other people in literature and in general intellectual ability, find themselves completely paralyzed in presence of their wretched laws and traditions. Their salvation has enslaved them.

But we must come to the fiction called Christ, or the Christ, or Jesus of Nazareth. This fiction is the savior of the Europeans, whom our fathers are said to have taken over, more or less complete, from the Asiatics. For how many centuries before the time of Constantine the fiction called Christ had been honored or worshiped in the Roman empire is not certainly known; but that emperor, early in the fourth century of this era, took Christ under his especial patronage, made him the imperial god, and set his bishops and priests in high posts of honor and power in his government. The Christ of Constantine was not the Galilean peasant, the executed convict, Jesus (if there ever was such a one), but Apollo, the beautiful Grecian god, more or less modified to suit the emperor's purpose.

But no matter whence the God Christ came, or what was his nature or origin, he became the savior of the Roman world; and it is our present business to see how he saved it. Probably the empire, when it fell to Constantine and the Christ, was in its prime; and if there was anything the matter with its constitution or health, the new imperial god was to cure all that in a very short time. The old Paganism was ruthlessly put down to make way for the newly concocted superstition; and the ruthless destruction of Paganism tore the empire itself so badly that it never recovered.

Christ became ruler and savior of the Roman empire, and from that moment the empire began to fail. In a few generations the barbarians conquered Rome and all its possessions; and for the next thousand years Europe became the most wretched portion of the globe. The most splendid civilization of Greece and Rome and their learning and science were buried under heaps of ruins and trampled underfoot by saintly ignorance and pious pride. Never was ignorance so deep amongst all classes since

the dawn of literature; never were morals at a lower ebb in any part of the world; never was the human intellect so bewildered and paralyzed; never was cruelty so firmly enthroned or so active in its distribution of terrors. The Christ had saved Europe, and his salvation was the deepest damnation ever experienced by man. Filth, physical and moral, was everywhere, and everywhere as vile and foul as can be conceived. Christ had saved the empire, and turned it into a huge corpse, in which the priestly maggots swarmed and fattened for centuries. And it is hard indeed to conceive how Europe could ever have arisen from the unutterable degradation of Christ & Co., if the hated Mohammedan scholars had not brought or smuggled into Christendom fragment of the old Grecian and Roman learning and science. Never was damnation so deep as the salvation Christ bestowed upon the Roman empire.

The lesson that naturally rises from this rapid and partial sketch is that saviors of mankind, in the religious sense, can never save; that they rob man of the only possible elements of salvation—his own virtue and self-reliance. Trust in another may be the proper thing for babies and imbeciles of all types; but manhood is self-reliant, self-saving. No savior ever saved a man without damning and spoiling him; nor ever can. A mental or moral superior is the worst of all possible tyrants, and to submit to him is to become the lowest slave. A saved man is such a slave that he fears his own thoughts and opinions; fears to use his senses or his reason, fears to hold any opinion that he has not been commanded to hold, and he dreads the rejection of the most absurd dogma he has been taught to believe necessary to his salvation.

Nothing can exceed the degradation of the man in a state of salvation. He persuades himself that he believes impossible things, and is afraid to know that he does not believe them. He fears to think upon the saving dogmas, lest he should be damned for behaving like a rational being. He has been taught that his savior will save none but the most arrant fools, and that the most perfect folly is the highest possible wisdom.

Nor is that all. The saved man, the Christ's lackey or slave, is fully persuaded that it is his duty to hate and to injure his neighbor who despises his religion or his shade of the same religion which he shares with that neighbor. He slanders him, murders his character, and is only restrained by the police from murdering him, too, for rejecting the vile slavery in which he himself wallows. The saved man will either bring all men down to his own level, or murder them if he has the power.

I have indicated but a few of the evils and horrors of salvation, or the results issuing from the setting up of saviors. Saviors have been man's greatest curse; and the worst of saviors and salvations are those called Christ and Christian. They destroy all intelligence, all civilization and all morals where they have unlimited sway. It is our duty to do what we can to destroy the salvation schemes, and set men free from "the bondage of corruption".—[Jos. Symes, in Liberator.]