

LITTLE TORCHES.

By W. E. Johnson

Q. What are the benefits whereof we are partakers thereby? A. The strengthening and refreshing of our souls by the body and blood of Christ, as our bodies are by the bread and wine.—[Church Catechism.]

There you are, teaching little children to drink grog. No wonder there are sixty thousand men wrecked every year by liquor, when there is a church at every cross-roads and Christians teaching liquor-drinking in their catechisms.

The difference between a good man and a Christian is, that one models after man, the other after the savior.—[Gospel Echo.]

If man is a hopeless sinner of himself, as you say, how can one be good who "models after man"? If a Christian is "different" from a "good man", as you say, then he must be a bad man. Keep on trying, and you may strike the truth, after all.

The same kind father who has put his arms about us in the years that are past will hold us up in the years to come. No emergency can possibly arise in which he will not continue to care for us. Dismal forebodings, therefore, are out of place. We wrong God in supposing that he will ever fail to be our support and our protection.—[Nashville Christian Advocate.]

If your God is so potent to "support" and "protect" his children, will you tell us why he sits back and permits hundreds of thousands of his children in India to starve, for instance? Here is a chance for your God to do some good. Why doesn't he do it?

The world today needs the help of God far more than ever before.—[Christian Intelligencer.]

If I was an omnipotent God, as well as omniscient, I would make a world that did not need help and fixing all the time. What business has a perfect God to make a botch job.

The Bible and Morality.

The Bible cads are constantly cracking up their Bible as the source of morality. They would be equally honest if they proclaimed the nastiest of mud to be the source of all cleanliness. If they have read the Bible they must be aware of that. To give an example: "God" gave Saul's wives into David's bosom, although David had wives before, and was even Saul's own son-in-law. That is a good specimen of Bible morality. And do not forget that it is ascribed to "God," the pretended fountain of all morality. Worse still, and still more disgustingly shocking, "God" took David's wives by-and-by and gave them to Absalom, David's own rebellious and favorite son. Read in proof of

our statement, 2 Sam. xii. 8-12; xvi. 20-22.

Those who would use the Bible in the schools are of two sorts, ignorant people who do not know the stuff the Bible contains; and unprincipled fellows, clergy and others, who wish to push the religion-trade, no matter what immorality and crime may result from their action. Religion has never been moral; it is more destructive to morality than anything else. The Christian "Gods," Father, Son, Ghost, are absolutely irresponsible: they have no duties, but all "rights;" they are under no degree of obligation to anyone. Their subjects have no rights, but all duties; they must do as they are told or be damned. The so-called morality of the Bible is that of the absolute tyrant on the one hand, the most absolute slave on the other. Any whipped and ill-used cur is as moral as the Bible ever made any one, or ever can. Bribery and intimidation, cajolery and terror, are the sole motives offered by the Bible to make people moral; and the only part of man it appeals to is his fear and his greed, his dread of hell, and his hope of an endless supply of lollypop in heaven.—[Liberator.]

Sabbath Desecration.

Just now the people are being treated to a magnificent spectacle at Washington. The Christian police commissioners are arresting every boy caught "desecrating" the Sabbath by selling newspapers on the streets. The "crusade" has been going on for some weeks and several urchins have been arrested and fined. The little chaps would still be in jail, very likely, had not some Infidels come along and paid their fines, much to the disgust of the Christians and their doleful God, who want to make everybody as miserable as possible on Sundays. While the Christians of Washington are carrying on this holy war against the newsboys, there are four hundred Christian saloons under their very noses, licensed by Christians, most of them violating the laws every day in the year. There are also more than one hundred houses of shame doing business with the Christians night and day in that city. Nearly all of these foul dives sell whiskey to the Christians at all hours of day or night without even paying a license fee of any kind.

The Christians claim that the little boys "make too much noise" in calling out their papers. At the same time they ring their noisy church bells till the sick in the hospitals beg for mercy.

But what is the use of trying to make a Christian see the idiocy of all this? Selling papers on Sunday is a sin, and that settles it in their minds. You might as well try to induce a pug dog to take the kinks out of his tail by reasoning with him. W. E. JOHNSON.

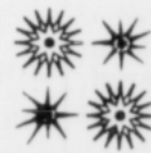
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