

tific truths without the assistance of the bible.

Those who teach the people the arts and sciences, and the gospel of liberty, intelligence, education and humanity, are the greatest benefactors the world has ever known. The scarecrow of eternal punishment is the ball and chain of the Christian religion. Civilization exists today, not because of the Christian religion, but in spite of it.

**TO THE PROMOTERS:**

I have concluded to head the second tract with this question: "Has Christianity or Science Promoted Civilization?"

Make the third tract answer this: "Is the Bible or Science Most Reliable?" Helps on the third tract will be very welcome during December, and helps on the fourth tract, "Gods and Religions Compared with Science," during January. I have not the books needed to post me on this subject, and would heartily appreciate any helps on the fourth tract by those who have such works. I want that tract to especially show that the main features of Christianity were pilfered from earlier religions and philosophers. I need quotations or references for proof.

ELIZA MOWRY BLIVEN, Sec.  
Brooklyn, Conn.

**Tobacco.**

Until the discovery of America, the tobacco plant was unknown to Europeans. The sailors who accompanied Columbus noticed the native Indians puffing smoke from their mouths and nostrils and soon learned that this arose from smoking the dried leaves of the tobacco plant. It appears that the ancient American race used tobacco in all the modes in which it is now used by man. The Aztecs of Mexico smoked it in highly ornamented pipes of silver, and other natives formed the leaves into rolls and smoked them as the modern cigar is smoked.

In the course of time a quantity of tobacco was brought to Portugal, and in 1560 Jean Nicot, the French Ambassador, brought some of it with him to France. In 1586 Sir Walter Raleigh introduced it into England, having become acquainted with its use in Virginia.

Within thirty years after its introduction into England, its use had become so common and such enormous sums were expended in obtaining it, that King James, in the quaint style of that time said: "It is a custome loathsome to the eye, hateful to the nose, harmful to the brain, dangerous to the lungs, and in the black, stinking fume thereof nearest resembling the horrible stygian smoke of the pit that is bottomless".

Various accounts are given of tobacco, but the most probable one is that it is so called from the Indian tabacos, the name applied by the Caribs to the pipe in which they smoked the leaves of the plant and hence came to be applied to be the plant itself.

**No Loss.**

EDITOR TORCH OF REASON:

I send you enclosed one dollar to make good the loss of Emil F. Reudebusch's subscription. I am glad he quit. A moral cripple like him is certainly no ornament to our ranks. That kind of "Liberals" do a great deal more harm than good to the cause of humanity. I am such a "bigot" myself that I insist that a person has no moral right to misuse even his own life, body or brain, although he may not interfere with the rights of others. He is, however, injuring others by the bad example he sets.

The poor fellow don't feel at home in good company and says "it's altogether too pure for him," meant as irony, no doubt, but unconsciously he only states the simple fact. A pig always enjoys the mudhole.

Admiring your moral courage in standing up for the real, true principles of right living, and wishing yourself, the University and the whole family great success, I remain, sincerely yours,

B. L. HJERMSTAD, D. D. S.

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