

Torch of Reason

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The World's Account with Christianity.

We believe in giving credit for everything that is honestly deserved, and this short editorial will be an endeavor to show how the world's account with Christianity stands; and if we are obliged, in justice, to credit it with some very valuable items, our Liberal friends must be liberal with us and overlook what to them may seem erroneous.

We will place to its credit the following items: It has given many children exercise in reading. It has been the means of bringing out much beautiful music. It has had meetings regularly, which have given many people much enjoyment. It has published much useful history and made known to the world many things that might now be hidden beneath the debris of ages. It has established many schools that have been far better than none. It has established hospitals where many have been saved from sickness, pain and death. Why, the very falsity of Christianity has aroused thought and spurred humanity on when in a weak and undeveloped state and kept it continually on the move so that it has not been entirely destroyed or become stagnant. This also, we suppose, should be placed to its credit if we believe with Pope that "whatever is, is right." Perhaps others who love the "meek and lowly one" better than we do could find other things to place on the credit side of the account, but we will now proceed to post the debtor side.

Christianity for years prevented people from reading, and today the very best and most scientific works

of the greatest philosophers of our time are closed books to thousands who would be made happy by reading them. Christianity has polluted the beautiful stream of music, by throwing into its crystal fountain vile, meaningless and absurd doctrines, and utilized the musical genius that might have been used for better things. Christianity has had its regular meetings, and while many have been made happy for a season, it has been the happiness of those, whom the holy book says, say in their hearts there is no god, and while a few have enjoyed the ideas taught, many have learned to pretend, and the vast majority have been made sad. Christianity has published much history, but it has been so mixed with Christian myth, and it has forced so many from giving a true record of past events, that it has proven a hindrance rather than a help to the value of honest history. Christianity has delved deep into the earth and discovered objects of antiquity, but only to put its own label thereon and to fill its devotees with superstition and fear, in order to prevent them from exercising freedom of thought. Christianity has established schools, not to educate or to cultivate the faculties, but to make Christians, and no greater enemy to our public schools and the sciences there taught can be found than the theological nonsense dished us to the poor victims of Christian schools. Christianity has established hospitals, but instead of devoting the undivided thought to restoring the patient to health, he has been tortured by talks about the great mysteries of gods and devils, and the healing balm of salvation for his immortal soul. What is thought of a man who keeps a hotel in order to rob travelers? but purely Christian hospitals are established to gain followers and support for the priesthood, not for the love of mankind. Then we must place here on the debtor side the millions who were murdered by the church in the great inquisition, the old grandmas who died because the holy book says "thou shalt not suffer a witch to live," those who were lost in the crusades, those who have sacrificed their lives in the many Christian wars, those who have worse than lost their lives—the religious lunatics, the unestimated evil it has produced by worrying certain types of mind until the victims were unfit for the secular duties of life, the vast numbers of hypocrites it has produced, the many lives lost to the world by confinement in nunneries, monasteries, etc., the vast sums of money wasted in teaching the heathen the wonders and mysteries, the contention and hate of the brothers and sisters of the most intellectual race, the weaklings born of fanatical parents, the opposition to science, and, finally, the almost complete blocking of the wheels of progress and civilization, which leaves the men and women of this generation thousands of years behind what they should be in physical, mental and moral strength.

Balance the account and you will find that Christianity has been the

most expensive and damaging enterprise that the world has ever engaged in, and it must be clear to every thinking mind that to save the world from ignorance, superstition and fear, the causes of our unhappiness, we must drop our accounts with gods, devils, angels, heaven, hell and mythical saviors, and enter more largely into the business of attending to things we are more fit for. Let us enter an account with Humanity, with Science, with Progress, with everything pertaining to this life, and soon the world will be rich in prosperity and happiness.

Qualification of Civil Officers.

We are now free from the excitement that ordinarily accompanies a political campaign. This freedom is restful. We may the more calmly examine a subject about which Christians should be concerned, viz: the kind of men who should only be in civil office, and therefore who should be nominated and elected. In the discussion we assume that ours is a Christian nation, i. e., founded by Christian men upon Christian principles, men who intended to lay the foundation deep upon the law of God the supreme; a nation composed largely of Christian people who believe that the Christian religion is the only true religion, and that the divine law should be the rule by which all governmental laws should be enacted and enforced. As each state is a part of the national government the principle applies to every state as well as the Federal government. From the above assumption it follows that only such men as are possessed of the proper qualifications should be in civil office. This truth is expressly declared by the Author of government thus: "He that ruleth over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God;" and in the fuller description thus: "Provide (choose) out of all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness." These declarations are indices of the mind of the divine lawgiver as revealed all through his written law. A cursory analysis will show that the only kind of men that should be put into office are:

1. Citizens, not foreigners or aliens, "from among all the people."
2. "Able men"—men of ability, well qualified intellectually and by education.
3. Religious men, not atheists, or infidels, freethinkers, or agnostics or foes of Christianity but "such as fear God." This is what he requires; and in the bible everywhere the "fear of God" or the "fear of the Lord" is taken for religion or piety, and so of course it includes Christian morality.
4. "Men of truth," i. e., men who love the truth and "whose word is as good as their oath"—men upon whom we can depend in all circumstances.
5. "Hating covetousness;" i. e., Christian men who do not seek the office but accept it and perform its duties not for the salary or its profits in any way, but for the highest good of all the people.

Now, if we have stated the truth properly it follows:

1. That only good men or those possessed of proper qualifications should be eligible to office.
2. That only such should be nominated to office.

3. That if others be nominated Christian citizens should not vote for them; and

4. If none but wicked men be nominated, Christians should not go to the polls. This would be their testimony against the nomination of unworthy candidates. To obey God is better than to please men who are only politicians. And every noble and honorable man should have too much self-respect to give his ballot for a low-down politician merely because he is the nominee of "our party".

Moreover, if only good men were nominated and elected to office, we would have better laws, better administrations, less crime, a greatly improved condition of society, and more real prosperity in the State. Besides, as Christians and all who believe that the divine law should be our rule in civil action, are in the majority, they should unite in their efforts and nominate and elect good men such as the divine Lawgiver requires. And let it be remembered that politicians know very well that Christians and men of well known Christian morality make the best and most reliable officers in every department; therefore, politicians would show their patriotism (perhaps they have some) by seeking the election of good men, well known men of undoubted Christian character who would have no higher object as officers than the good of the commonwealth and the best interests of the city; for as a fundamental proposition it may be safely said that no man can be depended upon in office who is devoid of a religious conscience; nor have municipal leagues or reformers of whatever kind any right to expect reformation so long as the law of the "Ruler over the nations" is disregarded and ungodly men continue to be eligible to office.—[The Occident.

The above only echoes the sentiments of many people, and if they get the power, as they certainly are trying to do, no one but Christians will be allowed to vote. Some of these people honestly think that one can't be a good man or woman without being a Christian. We must correct this false idea before it is too late, or we Secularists and all who do not worship at the shrine of Mary's Pet Lamb will be deprived of every political and religious right. It seems to us that no sane person could disagree with the writer as to our officers being citizens, able men, intellectual men, men of truth, men whose word is as good as any body's oath, men upon whom we can depend, men who hate covetousness and hypocrisy, and men who do not seek office, but accept it and perform its duties, not for the salary, but for the highest good of all the people. But to debar Atheists, Infidels, Freethinkers and Agnostics would rob us of the services of some of the best officers that ever served the people.

Freethinking citizens of this great republic, we must be awake or history will repeat itself and fair Liberty will only be rescued by a struggle that will cause the earth to tremble and the veil in the temple to be rent asunder.