

Scientific Wisdom.

TRACT NUMBER TWO.

DOES CHRISTIANITY OR SCIENCE PROMOTE CIVILIZATION?

RELIGION deals with worship, supernatural power, miracles, prayers and future life. Science deals with facts, human abilities and this life. School books teach facts, hence are scientific. Negro slaves had religion. Schools and self-dependence teach them science. Is Christianity or science civilizing them?

Miracles will not cook, plant, build, clothe or heal. People do scientific work six days. On Sunday tired mill operatives do home work, clean up, visit, drink; religion forbids harmless out-door pleasures, museums, reading-rooms and practical instruction, which science says they need for health, happiness and development.

Christianity teaches self-sacrifice, and sinfulness of worldly pleasures, tempting from worship, forfeiting heaven's everlasting happiness. Christianity also teaches that earthly pleasures and possessions are fleeting; toil and disease are inflicted to teach dependence on God; death is the gateway to paradise or to perdition; "many are called, but few are chosen"; obey the bible, fill spare time with church work, and "no harm shall come nigh thy dwelling."

"From one erroneous idea ten thousand others germinate and become stock notions of the people." These church teachings mislead millions into distrust of scientific teachings, retarding reform, development, civilization. Science teaches that lightning, drouth and all natural evils harm pious and unbelievers alike; most other evils, diseases and poverty, are due to ignorance, which mankind should overcome. Labor and economy provide "for the morrow", necessities, health and enjoyments. Harmless pleasures and possessions are realities; bible promises may be air castles. Christians fear death, instinct and facts outweighing religion. "Justice, integrity, humanity, and the other virtues, have been developed 'by the practice of comradeship' through long centuries of social life." "Not trusty" ruins business, homes, government.

Civilization is evolution from ignorant, lawless savagery into orderly co-operation for the general welfare, "multiplying the means of culture, enjoyment, progress and achievement." The world-renowned civilization of pagan Greece and Rome far surpassed that of God-chosen Jerusalem, when science promoted industries, culture and morality. Wars destroyed these and brutalized mankind. Christianity overspread Europe. "The scarecrow of eternal punishment was the ball and chain of Christianity" by which priests and kings tyrannized people into submission, poverty, ignorance, toil, self-sacrifice, to fatten themselves with wealth, power, luxury, surfeiting, etc. For 1300 years, through the Dark Ages, Christianity's bloody wars, fiendish persecutions and the Inquisition kept science and civilization bound. Luther, Galileo and others exposed some church fallacies; science revived; civilization advanced. Modern civilization is due to free schools, printing, inventions, discoveries, statesmanship, arbitration and all that brings culture of mental and moral abilities, bringing hygienic enjoyment, recompense for labor, and obliging people to regard the rights of others. Christians condemn swearing, unbelief and Sunday recreation more than intemperance, tobacco, and vote-selling. Which harm most?

Science teaches salvation from real sins.

Then and Now.

SEPTEMBER 15, 1682.

"YE AGED AND BELOVED MR. JOHN HIGGINSON.—There be now at sea a ship called the Welcome which has on board a hundred or more of the heretics and malignants called Quakers with W. Penn, who is the chief scamp, at the head of them. The general court has accordingly given secret orders to Master Malachi Huscott of the brig Porpoise to waylay the said Welcome sliely, as near the Cape of Cod as may be, and make captive the said Penn and his ungodly crew, so that the Lord may be glorified and not mocked, on the soil of this new country, with the heathen worship of these people.

"Much spoil can be made by selling the whole lot to Barbadoes where slaves fetch good prices in rum and sugar, and we shall not only do the Lord great service by punishing the wicked, but shall make great good for his ministers and people.

"Master Huscott feels hopeful, and I will set down the news when

the ship comes back.

"Yours in ye bowels of Christ,
"Rev. COTTON MATHER."

Such was Christianity 200 years ago, and the church is full of such tyrants today, especially among the clergy.—[Freethought Ideal.

Youthful Philosophy.

A little child having been told that she must not play on Sunday, and all the toys being put away, sat down and watched the kitten playing with its tail. Then she reproved pussy for playing on Sunday, when the mother said: "It is not wrong for pussy to play with its tail, my dear; God gives it its tail to play with." Then the child, clasping her chubby little hands as in prayer, cried: "O Dod, dive me a tail to play with on Sunday!"

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