

Scientific Wisdom.

Helps toward the Tract, "False Claims of Christianity—Science Promotes Civilization."—By Mrs. M. M. Turner.

"There are fundamental ideas upon which the social edifice is built,—pivotal ideas about which the social world turns. In each of these a thousand others germinate; and the thousand are wrong if the one is wrong. The following are examples of these erroneous fundamental, pivotal ideas, which have become stock notions of the people: 'Caesars and Napoleon's are civilizers; royalty is related to God; the creator made some to be served and others to serve; standard belief is more important than standard character; morality divorced from religion is dangerous.'

"Any social structure founded upon such alone is a monstrosity.

"The best possible character results largely from a careful study of our relations to others, from a right understanding of all our relations which are interwoven everywhere among men, in all phases and departments of life." These relations are taught by science, not theology.

"Instruction in pure human ethics, divorced from religion, becomes a study of the relations which exist among men in this real world. Religion is a system of beliefs and hopes. Ethics is a system of principles of conduct for man as a social being in this life; its realm is eternally a realm of actualities."—[Popular Science Monthly.

When?

Whenever the barriers of priest-craft in this country or the world are a thing of the past, then, and not until then, will all humanity realize the freedom and good for which this world is intended. Let the good work toward liberty and freedom go on until that time is reached. I am now 52 years of age and I hope I may live to see that time.

With good wishes for the TORCH OF REASON and the Liberal University.

EX-CATHOLIC.

Results of the Study of Nature.

Those who wish to study nature must take experience for their guide; this, and this only, can enable them to dive into her secrets and to unravel by degrees the frequently imperceptible woof of those slender causes of which she avails herself to operate the greatest phenomena; by the aid of experience man often discovers in her new properties, perceives modes of action entirely unknown to the ages which have preceded him; those effects which his grandfathers contemplated as marvelous; which they regarded as supernatural efforts, looked upon as

miracles, have become familiar to him in the present day; and at this moment contemplated as simple and natural consequences of which he comprehends the mechanism and the cause. Man, in fathoming nature, has arrived at discovering the true cause of earthquakes, of the periodic motions of the sea, of subterranean conflagrations, of meteors, of the electrical fluid, the whole of which were considered by his ancestors, and still so by the ignorant as indubitable signs of heaven's wrath. His posterity, in following up, in rectifying the experience already made, will go still further and discover effects and causes which are totally veiled from present eyes. The united efforts of the human species will one day perhaps penetrate even the sanctuary of nature and throw into light many of those mysteries which, up to the present time, she seems to have refused to all of his researches.

In contemplating man under his true aspect, in quitting authority to follow experience, in laying aside error to consult reason, in submitting everything to physical laws, from which his imagination has vainly exerted its utmost power to withdraw them; it will be found that the phenomena of the moral world follow exactly the same general rules as the physical, and that the greater part of those astonishing effects which ignorance, aided by his prejudices, makes him consider as inexplicable and as wonderful, are natural consequences flowing from simple causes.—[Baron D'Holbach's System of Nature.

Five Serial Stories.

Five strong serial stories are announced for publication in the Youth's Companion during 1898. They are: "The Freshman," a romance of college life, by Jesse L. Williams; "The Gold Fields of the Yukon," a story of placer mining in Alaska, by Irving Andrews; "Frieda Fairfax, Writer," the story of a girl who wanted to do newspaper work, by Marguerite Tracy; "The Story of a Bee Farm," by Edith A. Fairfield; and "The Making of Zimri Bunker," a rousing tale of heroic deeds in Nantucket during the war of 1812, by William J. Long. These stories make up only a small part of the good things that will be spread before the readers of the Companion during 1898. Present readers of the Companion who renew their subscriptions, and new subscribers will receive a beautiful calendar printed in twelve colors and embossed in gold. The paper will be sent free to new subscribers every week from the time the subscription is received to January, 1898; then for a full year to January, 1899. An illustrated prospectus will be sent free to any one addressing

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William Carr, of Liberty, Mo., who murdered his child and was sentenced to be hanged Dec. 17, was converted immediately after his arrest and assured of forgiveness from heaven, so that he was enabled to die in the sure and certain hope of a glorious resurrection.—[Ex.

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