

Throw Away the Crutches.

(Continued from 4th page)

gulfed him." "What a brute he was!" exclaimed Col. Ingersoll, and the exclamation was echoed by all present. "Yes," said Mr. Beecher, shaking the long, white hair back from his forehead, and pointing his finger at Ingersoll, "yes, Col. Ingersoll, and you are the man. The human soul is lame, but Christianity gives crutches to it to pass the highway of life. It is your teaching that knocks the crutches from under it and leaves a helpless and rudderless wreck in the slough of Despond. If robbing the human soul of its only support on this earth—religion—be your profession, why, ply it to your heart's content. It requires an architect to erect a building; an incendiary can reduce it to ashes."

The writer doesn't give Mr. Ingersoll's reply, and no doubt a good Christian would suppose that Ingersoll was completely crushed. We think it would take better reasoning than Mr. Beecher gave to the little party to crush any reasonable man. Look at what Mr. Beecher said the first thing! He said he didn't have anything to say and then went on and tried to put Mr. Ingersoll in a ridiculous position. He simply lied to begin with (priestly trick), then he was personal, which is impolite when in company, and especially when personal to another's disadvantage. The writer draws on one's imagination in speaking of Mr. Beecher drawing himself to an erect position, and shaking back his long, white hair. We don't understand that long, white hair has any more to do with the question than a wig or Mr. Ingersoll's bald head. But now we are through the hypocritical crust, let us examine the argument.

Mr. Ingersoll is represented as strong and healthy, while Christians are represented as lame and with crutches. This tallies one for our side. In actual life a strong bully would be, as Mr. Ingersoll said, a brute to act so, but instead of being a bully, even in religious matters, Mr. Ingersoll is known by all who know him to be fair and honest. He would not take advantage of a weak antagonist. It would be better to represent him as kindly showing the poor cripple how to walk without his crutches and thus become strong and manly. When Mr. Ingersoll knocks the crutches of superstition from under a poor, weak Christian, he does not let him fall into a cesspool, but rather onto the smooth, clean, grass-covered terra firma of common sense.

Mr. Beecher's attempt was as weak as his figure of speech where he speaks of knocking the crutches from under a man's soul and leaving it without a rudder.

The statement that religion is the only support for the human soul (i.e. intellect) is a mistake of Mr. Beecher's, and as to the profession of robbing it of its artificial crutch-

es, there certainly could be no nobler calling.

It requires an architect to build a building, even if it be an idiotic or insane asylum, but it requires genius like Robert G. Ingersoll's to make it unnecessary to have such buildings. Let us throw away our crutches as soon as possible and walk erect.

Fined for not Keeping Thanksgiving.

Not recently, indeed, has any person been fined for a reason of this nature, but such a thing is not unknown in the history of the United States; and the fact that it has occurred in the past suggests the thought that a recurrence of the same is entirely possible, if not probable. For history repeats itself, and as this incident shows, a regard for feast and fast days of governmental appointment tends naturally to find expression, when fully developed, in an enforced observance of such days by legal prescription. The following is from the Waterbury American, and gives the record of the prosecution as it was set down at the time, ninety years ago:

"Waterbury, Nov. 26th, A. D. 1807, at evening, personally appeared David Beecher, Seymour Tyler, Freeman B. Hine, and Harvey Paine, and acknowledged before me, the subscribing authority, that they were guilty of a breach of a certain statute law, entitled an act to enforce the observance of days of public fasting and thanksgiving, by attending to servile labor and recreation, by chopping, shooting, hunting, etc., on the 26th day of November, it being a day appointed by the governor of this state to be observed as a day of public thanksgiving throughout this state.

"Wherefore it is considered and adjudged by this court that the said David Beecher, Seymour Tyler, Freeman B. Hine and Harvey Paine, each of them, pay a fine of \$1.25 to Ashley Scott, town treasurer, for the benefit of the town of Waterbury, where said offense was committed.

"FREDERICK HOTCHKISS,
"Justice of Peace."

—[American Sentinel.

University Fund.

The amount given in this fund is actual cash paid in, regardless of what has been promised:

Previously acknowledged,	\$554.55
J. G. Francis, Oregon	1.50
F. VanHoeter, Oregon	1.00
John S. Holman, Illinois	1.00
M. Otis, Oregon	1.00

MATERIAL, ETC.

Previously acknowledged,	\$254.50
E. W. Ross, (lumber)	10.00

Not to agree with my opinion is counted by Bigotry as the most heinous crime of which any person can be guilty.—[Sentinel

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