

have made conditions such that now there are enough who see the truth to form a nucleus. We will unite here in the west. We will establish a school. We will publish to the world the truth and send it by living epistles. Investigation will then soon become popular, a revolution of thought take place, and victory will be ours. Secularist, do you believe in the harmonizing of our race? Do you believe that by doing away with creedism, men now strangers or enemies will become friends and brothers? Is there any shorter or better method of uniting mankind than the one we have undertaken? Think of the possibilities, yes, the actual results, if we succeed! And, if you think our plan is not an idle dream, go through, or over, or under, or around every obstacle and come and help us.

Effect of Preachers' Opposition.

(CONTINUED FROM THIRD PAGE.)
any unkind remarks about him. They will even go so far as to acknowledge that he was a good man, at least that he meant well. Some of them, from the more Liberal denominations, as the Unitarians, will even come out and hold up Thomas Paine as a sample of truthfulness; and such preachers as the Rev. Copeland, of Salem, will in time compel other ministers to come forward and acknowledge Paine's worth; for the Lord's elect are getting pliable enough to adjust themselves to present conditions, and the Christian religion itself is subject to evolution, and no matter how tenaciously the churches try to stem the current of evolution, they are gradually being dragged along by its irresistible force.

HARRY FRICKER.
Portland, Ore.

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Immortality or Annihilation?

A baby knows little. Brain-cells and body, received from parents, multiply as plants grow, from nutritious food. Intelligence grows with brain-growth. Thought, conscience, memory, all knowledge, are activities of living brain cells, growing and decaying with the brain. Largest, healthy, cultured brains, with finest convolutions, think and know most. Intoxicants, unhealthy foods, narcotics, inactivity, diseases, destroy nutrition of the blood; then body and brain weaken and die. By choice we use certain parts of the brain, and thus exercised, these parts grow; hence, development corresponds to character.

The brains of all animals and insects, in quantity and quality, correspond with their intelligence; the intellect-part in man as far exceeds these as his thought-capacity, variety of activities, keener enjoyment and suffering exceed theirs. Aggregation of organs, brain, etc., in correct order and favorable conditions of chemical elements, produce life-activity with consciousness that can see, hear, reason, propagate. The organs giving out, destroys this balance of activity, life. Death ends nourishment, circulation, brain-activity, mind or soul; disintegrating, other forms of life evolve from the lifeless atoms.

Intelligence is the highest form of activity yet evolved, and requires exact adjustment of the finest, most complicated aggregation of materials. Hence wisdom is rare. All intelligence is transient, instead of everywhere present and eternal, as generally believed. Materials and forces are unintelligent; always have been; with time and space they are immortal. Their combinations are transient, including mineral, plant, animal, man, all life-activities, intelligence, soul. Soulless nature evolved man by chemical combination. Man by choice evolves soul through his surroundings, activities, nourishment; and destroys soul by starvation.

Each plant, insect, animal, man, propagates its kind; sometimes sleeps; but when either dies it decays and never resurrects. Spring's resurrection awakens live plants from sleep. Dead seeds never sprout. Man is born, lives and dies as animals, differing only in development and abilities. He knew nothing before birth and can know nothing after death. Eccles. ix. 5-10 contradicts Matt. xxv. 46. No visible soul departs at death. Invisible, bodyless, eyeless, brainless souls could not recognize friends, enjoy, learn, know anything. Our desires and enjoyments are bodily-sense gratifications. No body, no enjoyment. Monotonous, changeless, helpless, compulsory, eternal living? Horrible!

At eighty, health, happiness, faileth; tired, surfeited, worn out, death, eternity's peace, annihilates all. We choose from nature's exhaustless treasure-house of beneficals and hurtfuls, according to our knowledge of results, and make life a heaven or a hell. Rewards and punishments are transient, or life-long, according to our virtuous or sinful doings. We do nothing deserving everlasting bliss or endless torment. Scientists cannot find heaven, hell, nor bodyless souls. Desires are not realities. Death-bed visions are flightiness. Immortality is "orthodox soothing-syrup" for all losses. Reunions would disappoint. What cruel, heartless happiness if millions shrieked in torment! Spiritualism suits imaginative dreamers, easily "gulled" by free-love seducers, slight-of-hand mysticisms in darkened rooms, and mesmeric magnetism of strong will power over weak, superstitious minds. Dearth of good results proves its fallacy. Science will teach what prenatal influences will breed best brain-germs; what surroundings and foods evolve wisest, longest, happiest lives.

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