

that time?"

"I don't know, sir."

"Well, we will soon find out, for I am now going to hand you over to the custody of the law."

"Oh, please don't, dear sir! please don't!" he begged. "I have got all the money I stole, and will return it to you if you will not have me arrested."

"Where is the money?"

"In my trunk, in my room."

"Get up and we will go to your room," said Mr. Hughes.

"We three then went to his room, and from the bottom of his trunk he took a large package of notes ranging from one to five dollars, and handed them to Mr. Hughes, with the remark that that was all he had stolen.

"The money was counted, and amounted to nearly four hundred dollars.

"Now, sir," said Mr. Hughes, "society must be protected, and criminals must be punished—so I am going to hand you over to an officer."

"Oh, dear sir, do please take pity on me!" groaned the fellow. "I have given you back all, every cent I took, and I solemnly promise you I will never do wrong again. Please don't have me arrested, sir."

"I will listen to no entreaties," said his master, sternly.

"Well, if I must be arrested, so be it," said Silverton, as he sank down upon a seat and appeared to be humbly resigned to his fate. But that was only a ruse, for the next minute he dashed through the door and ran down the stairs at breakneck speed. I was about to start after him, but Mr. Hughes, who is a kind man at heart, called me back.

"Let him go," he said, "let him go. An arrest would certainly ruin him, and perhaps he will strive henceforth to live an honest life."

This concluded the report of my young deputy, which I filed away among other detective documents, and thought no more of the matter. Three years afterward I arrested a notorious pickpocket, known as "Nimble Charley," and my detective lad, chancing to see him, at once recognized him as Samuel Silverton, of the myterious drawer memory.—Sel.

New ages are begun by new men. Knowledge cannot be obtained in the past; the Jews tried that nineteen hundred years ago and missed the mark. Present truth is clearer and nearer than the past. The entire modern church is looking backward, straining the eyes to perceive the distant perspective, dimmed by the mists of ignorance; it is an evidence of retrogression. Were an Almighty Being to establish a new church, you may be sure that he would wipe out all the religious frauds of the nineteenth century!

Christianity, Churchianity and Humanity.

Christian preachers of today claim that to the teachings of him of whom Moses in the law and the prophets did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph, is due our higher civilization; the greater development of the arts and sciences; a purer morality; and the elevation of women to an equality with man. All this I deny and defy a successful contradiction of this denial. I appeal to history for support of my position. Christianity has been on trial for over eighteen hundred years, certainly a sufficient length of time to establish these claims if, indeed, true. Now to the testimony.

1. THE HIGHER CIVILIZATION.—The civilizations of many peoples prior to the birth of Jesus were progressing finely. Many nations had, at the advent of Jesus, acquired a civilization far superior to the succeeding Christian civilizations for over a thousand years—from about the fourth to the fifteenth centuries—during what is called the Dark Ages, a period when Christianity dominated all Europe and parts of Asia and Africa.

During these deplorable years of wars for opinion's sake, of persecutions for heresy, when crown and crosier were in alliance against man's inalienable right to speak and write his own thoughts—a right that, until those soul-blighting ages, had never been denied to any considerable extent—the pagan world had become more liberal and tolerated all religious opinions—the very essence of civilization. Where toleration is the most general, there is the greatest civilization. Behold that principle at work today. In the countries in which the Christian tenets are the most intense, rigid and binding, civilization is at a standstill or is retrograding. On the other hand, in all those countries where there is the broadest toleration of opinions and the greatest liberty of conscience, is where we find the highest civilization. The most civilized nations are those in which we find the greatest number of Freethinkers—infidels, as Christians, in the abundance of their charity, are pleased to call them.

2. DEVELOPMENT OF THE ARTS AND SCIENCES.—Here again their claims are at variance with the facts. Prior to the birth of Christ the arts and sciences had attained a marvelous degree of perfection. Architecture had made wonderful progress, much of it being the model for this age. The Damascus blade has never been excelled in elasticity and temper. The Arabians, eight centuries ago, produced malleable glass. As early as the time of Christ, glass cups were made "which might be crushed, but not

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