

Christianity, Churchianity, and Humanity.

(Concluded from 3d page.)

broken, being as malleable as lead." The art of mixing painters' colors, of a brilliancy and durability which no mixer of paints in this age can rival, was known four thousand years ago. In the art of engineering, we of this age "are but pigmy imitators of long-silent races," says Buel, a Christian writer. The science of mathematics had been perfected by the pagans long before Christ. Euclid has never been excelled by any Christian mathematician. The ancient Egyptians were familiar with the science of astronomy, as also the ancient Mexicans and Peruvians were well skilled in astronomy, architecture, painting and sculpture. Literature, likewise, had attained a very high degree of proficiency with the pagan nations. Poetry, rhetoric, oratory and grammar had been perfected by the pagan Greeks and Romans.

3. MORALITY.—History speaks of the purest of morals taught by pagan teachers. Honesty, probity and sexual purity were extolled by scores of ethical teachers centuries before Christ. Pythagoras (550 B. C.) taught temperance and pointed out its great advantages. He praised virtue and condemned vice. "To wives," says Charles Rollins, a Christian historian, "he recommended the virtues of their sex, chastity; to the youth, profound respect for their parents, and convinced the ladies that their true ornament was, not fine clothes, but unspotted virtue." "His maxims of morality," says Rollins (vol. 2, p. 560) "were admirable to render men like God". In fact, all the moral precepts now included in the Christian creeds were taught by diverse pagan priests and philosophers long before Christ's time. In morals Christ taught nothing new. Egyptian morals taught the soul, in its defense before Osiris, to say: "I have not been idle; I have not been intoxicated; I have not told secrets; I have not told falsehoods; I have not caused tears; I have given food to the hungry, drink to the thirsty and clothes to the naked." What more admirable could be taught the young?

4. WOMAN'S EQUALITY WITH MAN.—There is not a civilized nation on earth, Christian or pagan, that puts woman on an equality with man. The Christian religion specifically denies woman an equality with man. The bible declares that Eve, who desired to become wise, incurred the curse of God by eating the forbidden fruit. For that sin, the eating of an apple, God said: "I will greatly multiply thy sorrows and thy conceptions; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee." Christ did not revoke this cruel

mandate, neither did he denounce polygamy, one form of licentiousness, which was common among all the nations of his day, not excepting his own, the Jews, God's chosen people. And later on, Paul, the great apostle to whom the Christians of all times and places look for their authority in church ordinances and doctrines, said: "Wives submit yourselves unto your husbands as it is fit in the Lord" (Gal. iii. 18). "Let the woman learn in silence, with all subjection" (1 Tim. xi. 11). "I suffer not a woman to teach" (1 Tim. xi. 12). "Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands" (1 Peter iii. 1). Thus it has been under bible teaching; women have been held in subjection to man. And today almost the entire Christian church holds woman in servile subjection. She is not allowed to teach, i. e., preach from the pulpit, not allowed to be a priest, deacon, bishop, nor act as a lay delegate in church councils to speak for the church which she more largely represents and keeps alive by her labor and personal sacrifices than most of its male members. In fact, were it not for woman's labors in its behalf the church would die of inanition.

The fact is, as history informs us, that woman has elevated herself to her present status in spite of the church. Every move she has made in conjunction with the more liberal and broad-minded men toward an equality with man, the church has opposed and appealed to the bible for its authority to do so.

Christianity, like all other forms of religion, is conservative in its nature and essence. It entrenches itself behind the bulwarks of dogmas, faiths, tenets and creeds that have been established by a "thus saith the Lord," and from that entrenchment priestcraft has fulminated its anathemas upon the Free-thinkers, which, like a shell of gun cotton, has exploded its brimstone missiles of hellfire, frightening the timid souls who have not yet learned to think for themselves or have not the courage to express their opinions. Such tactics is Churchianity, called Christianity. It is the slow evolving of man's higher capabilities, the unfolding of his intellectual powers, contending against the intolerance of priestcraft, that is leading him on to a higher civilization. It is his Humanity that is battering down the walls of Churchianity. W. Y. B.

A man is a coward who will not hear both sides—Wendell Phillips.

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