

assumption, but only says: "Point to me a single fact."

Mr. Johnson almost finds the real flaw in Mr. Tenney's article when he says, "To say that everything is God, is to say that you do not know what God is," etc. After accounting for the phenomena of nature without a supreme power, Mr. Tenney's conclusion regarding the supreme power is entirely superfluous. To say that all power constitutes the supreme power, is to negate the idea of a supreme power, because that idea presupposes the existence of subordinate powers.

J. H. MORRIS.

Root, Hog, or Die.

EDITOR TORCH OF REASON:

The Campbellites of Silverton appear to be quite a shrewd lot. If, under the plea of "rooting out that awful curse" which is in Silverton, they can bleed their outside sister churches and their members for the upbuilding of their own interests in Silverton, they will do a good stroke of financiering for themselves at others' expense. Sharp dodge, that.

I have read of a lot of Christian religionists, who, in "ye olden time," denounced one Faust, as an emissary of the devil, with a big D, and tried to "root out an awful blight" of that day, known as the art of printing. But that especial blight to Christian tomfoolery appears to be living yet and don't appear to be rooted out any to speak of.

And these Silverton Campbellites will prove no exception. They may bolster up their own local society some and weaken others, and furnish some amusement for sinful souls outside the "ark of safety, but Secularism in Silverton will be alive and flourishing when the rooting of these doughty Campbellites has faded into a dim tradition of half forgotten memories.

F. S. M.

TURNER, NOV. 19, 298.

The Natural Origin of Life.

[Concluded from 1st page.]

satisfactorily answered. There is the universal life of creation visible in the heaving bosom of the ebbing sea, the flow of the majestic river, the activity of the silent forces which support on their Atlas shoulders this globe of ours; that scintillates in the stars as it rolls them on their vast revolutions; that pulsates in the waves of light and heat and sends the vibrating magnetic current on its swift pathway. An all-pervading life is seen in the wild storm, with its brow begirt with red lightnings, and its hoarse voice of thunder; in all the ceaseless changes of the inorganic world. If this universal life is concentrated and unitized, a living organism is the result. If we rightly study the origin of life in its vegetable or an-

imal forms, we must begin at its dawn in the lowest living beings, and observe its affinities. The lowest form of life is a simple mass of jelly floating in the waves of the sea, devoid of all organs whatever, devoid almost of structure, being little more than a mass of crystalline cells. It is closely, very closely allied to the mineral, and is so simple in its structure as seemingly to be propagated without parentage, simply by spontaneous development.

Such is the first specialization of universal life above the crystal. There is no impassable chasm to be passed by one leap, but the smoothest transition, and without scarcely any change in the governing laws. The principles of crystallization still remain, and the cellular mass is but a higher order of crystallization.—[Arcana of Nature.

Did We Have to Have Help?

How religion makes humbugs of men! When the American fleet knocked the Spanish fleet to pieces off Santiago, and hundreds of Spaniards were shot to death or roasted alive in their ships, a Yankee man of God traced the Almighty's hand in what he was pleased to call a "bloodless victory." Now we have President McKinley himself, who is, we believe, a Methodist, talking in a similar fashion. "The faith of a Christian nation," he said at Cedar Rapids, "recognizes the hand of Almighty God in the ordeal we have passed through. The divine favor seemed manifest everywhere." President McKinley forgets that Spain is a Christian nation, too, and far more so than the United States, whose constitution does not recognize any religious establishment. He also forgets that it was a comparatively easy job to lick the Spaniards, and it would have taken a great deal more of the hand of Almighty God to enable America to lick a first class naval power.

Is it not really a very poor compliment to the United States, with its seventy millions of people and its vast resources, that it wasn't quite sure of licking poor Spain without supernatural assistance? When it is put in that way, every American will regard the compliment as an insult. We have the highest respect and affection for our American cousins, and we don't like to see them belittled by their own pious politicians.—London Freethinker.

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