

The Wrath of God and His Children.

Concluded from 4th page.
ample teaches cruelty and who cruelly punishes for the very things he has taught, and adding insult to injury by continually whining about his own purity and righteousness.

If what the preacher said about Christianity and Infidelity had been applied to the good and bad people it would have been much more logical. He likened a Christian to the palm tree and the hypocrites in the church to the palmetto tree. Hypocrites everywhere are counterfeits and all good, honest men and women, in the church or not, are like the palm.

The better price for real estate among Christians was urged as an incentive to turn to Jesus, but as far as we were concerned it fell short of its mark. Then the great usefulness of aged Christians and the awful condition of aged Infidels was brought forward, but Silverton can name very many happy, old, silver-haired Infidels that are indeed like the sheltering palm tree to their friends; and so this last shot lost its force also.

Many of the very best life-long Infidels are claimed as Christians after they are dead, however, and thus many people are deceived.

To conclude, we will say that the man who tried to preach last Sunday night in the M. E. church of this city is, according to his own word of mouth, a believer in gods, devils, miracles, heaven, hell, and much more anti-scientific nonsense of the ancient, heathen Jews.

But to return to our main subject. The idea of God's wrath was taught by a rude people who did not know that wrath is heathenish and a relic of our brute ancestors. Wrath is a name given to a species of fits that the human family is gradually outgrowing, and it is safe to say that no person is really and truly eligible to the high office of parent or teacher until he or she has graduated in the much neglected branch of self-control.

The Real Redeemer.

We are taught from the pulpit that man was originally pure and perfect in all his parts, that he violated the command of God, fell from his high estate, and that to regain his lost condition, it became necessary for another to assume man's

guilt, suffer, and even die for him on a cross; and that all who accept such redemption are released from the sins of the first pair, and through the merits of that atoning blood are fitted to inherit eternal life.

Philosophers assert, on the contrary, that man came into being occupying a very low plane of knowledge; that his progress upward was slow and toilsome, extending through millions of years before he learned the value of fire and the means of preserving it. That commencing with this little spark of probably accidentally acquired knowledge, he has added to it from age to age, little by little, one slight advance forming a stepping stone to another, until he has reached his present exalted position.

If the philosophers are correct, then is not the pulpit in error as regards its claims? And is not education, instead of the blood of an innocent person, the real redeemer of the race? And do we not owe our great advancement during the last hundred years to the fact that a new era was opened in the history of the world when the American state governments ceased to pay tribute to the church and inaugurated a system of common school education, where the poorest can be taught the rudiments of knowledge at public expense?

In all those countries where the church still holds sway; where the priest and pulpit are supported by the governments, education is limited to the few, and very slight progress has been made in learning and in real knowledge. The priests who are the real educators in such countries, strive to so instruct as to perpetuate power in the hands of the clergy, while the physical needs of the people are almost wholly neglected.

Without elaborating a subject capable of infinite expansion, does not common sense suggest that the American people, and the world as well, should take a lesson from experience, let the pulpit with its antiquated notions, go to the dogs if it will, and increase the effort to educate and enlarge the mind and free it from false inculcations by a class of worthless teachers, whose greatest effort has been to protract their own power by claiming "God wills it?"—[Progressive Thinker.

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