

REFLECTED RAYS.

A Bible trust, it is reported, is about being formed to advance the price of God's holy word. Truth would be conserved and the poor would be enriched by a successful trust in that direction.—[Ex.]

At a dinner of the Literary Society, Lord Houghton once said, with reference to a statue that had been lately found near Athens, that when the Demarch telegraphed to the lord mayor of London, "Phidias recovered," the latter replied: "Glad to hear it, but I didn't know he had been ill."

Six or eight great Chicago pulpit orators are called by the New England gods at higher salaries. If these clerical gentlemen are of any value in the world, it would be manifest in the moral scale of the east, and in a corresponding lowering of the religious temperature in the Chicago pews; but it will require some delicate instrument to detect the difference.—[Ex.]

Missionaries Excluded.

Delightful news comes from the Soudan in Africa. The British, under Gen. Kitchener, lately regained control of that vast empire bounding Egypt on the south, which was wrested from them a few years ago with the loss of Gen. Gordon and his army. Gen. Kitchener has issued orders, said to be approved by the home government, prohibiting missionaries, either Catholic or Protestant, from entering the territory or in any manner interfering with the established religion, which is Mohammedan.

Attempts at Christian propaganda against the wishes of the people should not be tolerated anywhere. The faith of Mohammed rescued all the countries where it has been introduced from idolatry, and it has saved the people from drunkenness, and many of the vices common to Christian countries. But it is said they allow polygamy. And they, in reply, say prostitution is unknown among them save in the great seaports visited by Christians.

Until we can reform our own social code, we should be silent in regard to that of the half-civilized nations. Reforms should commence at home, and spread by example, not by legal mandate.—[Progressive Thinker.]

A little more corruption infused into a bad egg would break the shell; and for that reason General Kitchener, commander of the English forces in Abyssinia, discourages the infusing of modern Christian ideas into the minds of the Soudanese. He raises the question whether the Christian missionaries

do not exert a harmful influence upon the natives; they breed discontent and stir up insurrections. Early in the present century, the English government endeavored to prohibit missionaries from working in India; it was then said it would be better for a shipload of devils to come to India than a single missionary.—[Flaming Sword.]

Bloody Hand of Religion.

Religion has placed its bloody hand upon every age, every land and every people, where its dominion has been possible of establishment. It would require an eloquence impossible of attainment to adequately describe the ravages of this monster. Yet let an Ingersoll speak:

"The sword of the church was unsheathed, and the world was at the mercy of ignorant and infuriated priests, whose eyes feasted on the agonies they inflicted. Acting, as they believed, under the command of God, stimulated by the hope of infinite reward in another world, hating heretics with every drop of their beastial blood, savage beyond description, merciless beyond conception, these infamous priests, in a kind of frenzied joy, leaped upon the helpless victims of their rage. They crushed their bones in iron boots, tore their quivering flesh with iron hooks and pincers, cut off their lips and eyelids, pulled out their nails and into the bleeding quick thrust needles, tore out their tongues, extinguished their eyes, stretched them upon racks, flayed them alive, crucified them with their heads downward, exposed them to wild beasts, burned them at the stake, mocked their cries and groans, ravished their wives, robbed their children, and then prayed God to finish the holy work in hell."—[F. W. Snow, in Investigator.]

A Fact and an Underlying Thought.

A Jewish newspaper organ, "The Voice," reviewing the question, "Does the doctrine of eternal damnation lead to insanity?" replies: "Judaism never believed and never taught the horrible, unreasonable doctrine of 'eternal damnation,' hence 'religious insanity' has been and is unknown among the Jews."

While the Jewish statement is an unquestionable fact as regards non-insanity among the Jews, there is a thought underlying the narration worth considering. It is claimed by churchmen that Christianity is an offshoot from Judaism. If so, where did they get their endless damnation theory? Do we hear the answer? "From Roman mythology, from whence came the entire Christian creed, with slight additions, changes in names, etc., borrowed from other countries."—[Ex.]

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