

year we have confined our work in moral philosophy to short lectures and readings from such excellent works as Susan Wixon's "Right Living," Maxims of Washington, etc., but we hope next year to make elements of moral philosophy one of the regular branches of the preparatory course and the conduct of students part of the test for graduation.

Our industrial department must be started as soon as we are in the new building. Of course it takes much labor and some money to construct the necessary buildings and get the apparatus, but Secularists, we are capable of no higher, more philanthropic work than teaching our young Freethinkers to be, not only mentally strong and free, and morally good and true, but physically good for something. The world is moving rapidly, and those who keep up and become good and useful citizens, must be educated to work.

There is a glorious future for our school and for those who will take our places in this work of checking the evil tide of ignorance and superstition when we are gone, if each will but "act well his part".

For the Torch of Reason.

Light on Bible History.

BY D. PRIESTLEY.

The Christian Herald of March 8th has an article with the above title, consisting mostly of an extract from Dr. Sayce, the great Christian explorer and special pleader, "whose explorations and writings have shed a flood of light upon the pages of holy writ". Dr. Sayce says that Dr. Narrilla has discovered the site of the land of Goshen. Also that Prof. Petrie's excavations at Tel-ed-Defuch have uncovered the very bricks alluded to by Jeremiah. These explorers also say they have found the word Israelite. Dr. Sayce says the discovery of the tablets of Tel-el-Amorna has indirectly had an important bearing on the history of the exodus: "They have proved that Moses lived in a literary age, and that it would have been little short of a miracle if he had not known how to write."

They have not proved that Moses lived at all. There is nothing on the monuments about Jacob, Joseph, Moses, or about the Israelites. All these explorers have hunted Egypt as with a fine-tooth comb, and not a trace of an Israelite has been found. All the pictures, in bible dictionaries and Sunday-school literature, of the Egyptian monuments and inscriptions are simply a blind. Why did not Dr. Sayce say that Moses, being educated as a priest, it would have been a miracle if he had not known how to make snakes out of sticks and lice out of dirt?

Mr. Bennett, recent pastor of the Methodist church at Newburg, said that Dr. Sayce had found the names of Jacob and Joseph on the monuments, but he noted that each name had an "l" at the end, which is supposed to be a title of honor. We must remember that the ancient Hebrew alphabet had no vowels, and that these names are supposed to have been transferred into Egyptian hieroglyphics. Then we would have Y-k-b-l spells Jacob, and Y-s-f-l spells Joseph. After all the great learning, labor and expense, the success of these erudite explorers in finding corroborative proof to identify Bible mythology with history, is the same as the boy's progress in catching mice. The boy said he was doing well—when he got the one he was after and two more he would have three.

Dr. Sayce affirms, "It would be antecedently improbable that any reference at all would be made on the monuments of Egypt to the descendants of Jacob." That is theological logic. It was improbable that we should find any evidence of the existence of the Israelites in Egypt; hence, the fact that we find no such evidence proves that the Israelites were there. Then, of course, if we should ever find evidence that they were there it would prove that they were not there!

What a blessed thing it is that our holy religion can be established by the absence of proof! Because if it required any fact or reasonable evidence it could not be established at all. "Blessed are they who have not seen and yet have believed."

The learned and erudite explorers are not agreed as to when the children of Jacob went into Egypt, when they came out, or how long they staid there. The Hebrew chronology makes their sojourn 430 years, the Septaugint 215 years, and the monuments do not mention them at all. They not only cannot tell what kings were reigning during the time, but they are unable to fix the dynasty. But, thank the Lord! they have found Egypt, the land of Goshen and some bricks, and Dr. Dawson THINKS he has located the place where Moses cut the Red Sea in two with a stick, and if the exploration funds do not play out they will find some sand where Moses put the Egyptian he had murdered, and some bulrushes, which will prove the story of the hiding of the infant Moses.

Let us watch and pray.

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