

For the Torch of Reason.

**The War God's Method.**

BY MRS. M. M. TURNER.

"There came out a fire from the Lord and consumed 250 men." "Now they that died in the plague were 14,700." "The Lord sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, and much people of Israel died." "The Lord thy God will send the hornet among them, until they that are left . . . be destroyed." "And all the men shall stone him with stones that he die." "I will also send the teeth of beasts upon them, with poison of serpents of the dust." "The Lord cast down great stones from heaven upon them." "The sun stood still, and the moon stayed, until the people had avenged themselves upon their enemies." "The Lord make thee a curse and an oath among thy people, when the Lord doth make thy thigh to rot, etc."

The Jews had to get possession of the land promised to them by their God (as a possession to be held forever), by conquest, by wars almost of extermination. "Smite every male with the edge of the sword." "Thou shalt save alive nothing that breatheth." "Thou shalt utterly destroy them." "And Joshua did unto them as the Lord bade him, he houghed their horses and burnt their chariots with fire." "Kill every male among the little ones, and all the women; . . . but all the virgins keep alive for yourselves." "The Lord delivered the Canaanites and the Perrizzites into their hands and they slew 10,000." "Cursed be he that keepeth back his sword from blood."

Having been theologically trained in his youth, and believing that the above quotations from the Bible are the works and commands of God, it is not to be wondered at that the Rev. R. L. Wright, in a sermon preached in Baltimore, Md., in June, 1899, should say, "God has in every age of the world used war as one of his sterner methods for the advancement of his cause."

"God do move in a misterious way His wonders to perform." as the old darkey quoted.

Theologians claim that this God is omniscient and omnipotent. That he called into being, by word of mouth and out of nothing, the numberless suns "that strew the field of night," vast nebulous masses, comets and swarming meteors. That he peopled the earth with its various nations. Being responsible to nothing, his will is the sole and arbitrary law of the mighty forces of the universe. Residing in the blissful home he made for himself, with the angels "he created to adore and enjoy him," he has, through all the ages, century after century, used bloody, cruel horrid war, replete with human sufferings of body and mind, at his own whim and caprice, "to advance his cause."

The ways of peace and happiness were open to him.

And the end is not yet. The Rev. Mr. Wright, who might have been a thorough worker in the dungeons of the inquisition (one of God's methods), says further, "I believe there is yet a mission for the gun. . . . The Christian world has yet to reckon with Turkey. . . . There is ground to believe that before we have universal peace, we shall have almost universal war, and that God will so move the armies on the great checker-board of the world's history, that when the struggle is over the Anglo-Saxon race shall dominate the world, and Christ's religion shall be supreme and save it."

God's method of war has put its blood and agony-stained stamp upon every period of human life. For nearly 2,000 years the Christian religion has afflicted the world. Yet it is not saved! Theologians still proclaim the "curse and wrath of God," and the trooping of un-saved souls to hell.

Children are now even taught to sing in the Sunday Schools:

"Far, far away, in heathen darkness dwelling, Millions of souls may be forever lost."

The Rev. Mr. Wright seems to be unconscious of the work of science, of the proved and verified knowledge of the uniform laws of the universe, which is, in itself, virtue, destined to do away with theological factions and superstition; to purify, organize, and unite the families of the earth; and by the terribly destructive weapons the knowledge of the laws of nature enable her to make, to put a stop to war—the cruel murder of man by his brother man.

The "God explosion," with his servant the cannon, will prove to be the strongest allies of peace.

In times of peace, reason and knowledge flourish and build up moral and physical strength, so that man can face the universe and redeem himself; while faith, in the unproved, sneaks away and hides itself in the ignorance from whence it came.

The doctrine of development has come to be the scientific view of life. The more that view is brought home to the mass, the stronger will be the foundations of the state, and the more rapidly and happily will the stages which separate us from a condition of perfect social health be accomplished.

Disorders, physical and moral; the decay of our organs, and, consequently, that of our intellect; the necessity of death, in order that the imperceptible portion of that eternal principle which composed our being should revert to the general mass, and be added to the means of sustaining the succeeding generation of conformations; the slow but sure reunion of our remains with the mouldering crust of ruins which covers the surface of the earth—are these signs of immortality?—[Ex.

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