

health nor in sickness; it is not a safe guide for our youth in trying to form temperate, moral characters; it is not a safe guide as a literary study, in the study of astronomy, geology, biology, physiology, history, or geography. In fact, the book with which priests and preachers have fleeced their flocks for ages, is a holy humbug, and their God, with his murdered son and holy mother is another. There are no gods excepting in the poor, weak minds of poor, weak mortals; and the ideas of God and his doings are only the echos reflected to us from an ancient, ignorant priesthood.

For the Torch of Reason.

Delayed Justice.

BY CHARLES KENT TENNEY.

For six thousand years, Eve, our common mother, has been held in detestation and reproach for using her seductive and alluring arts in persuading Adam to partake of the forbidden apple. From that little practice of feminine ways over the guileless and unsuspecting Adam, came sin and death, and the necessity for a hell, on the burning floors of which unbaptized babes are said to forever crawl, and in which to punish all future generations for the wicked act of Adam, in allowing himself to be snared by the bewitching ways of the flesh of his rib into partaking of light refreshment after the hard mental labor of naming the various animals as they passed before him in review. While the result of her influence over the ribless Adam has wrought much misery, in the bringing of death into the world, and the ceaseless roasting of countless millions who knew nothing of their common father's faults, yet there are many things which may be said in Eve's favor, and but for which would have made life upon this earth an endless misery, and from which there could be no possibility of escape.

We do not wish to apologize for Eve for listening to the charming voice of the snake, in the beautiful garden, while she was yet such a young bride, but there are many mitigating circumstances in her case that would not apply to brides of the present day. She never had the loving care of a watchful mother; she never knew what it was for young men to call on her Sunday evenings; nor experienced the peculiar sensation of the old man winding up the clock at ten, as a reminder that it was time to depart; nor the experience of hanging over the front gate for the last word. She was absolutely innocent, and knew no wicked ways, and that "all is not gold which glitters." She had no infancy; she never hunted hen's eggs, played at hide-and-go-seek, jumped rope, read books about good children, or went to Sunday school. She simply jumped from Adam's rib into full womanhood at one bound, and without any exper-

ience in worldly matters. Without father, mother, or Godly priest to advise and counsel her, it is not at all surprising that she fell an easy victim in her first and only flirtation with the good-looking and well-dressed snake.

But Eve builded very much wiser than she knew, and her innocent flirtation with the serpent, and her subsequent persuasion of her young husband to partake of the apple, while it may have brought everlasting punishment in the red-hot flames of hell, yet it prevented far worse misery for the human race by bringing death to its relief. Without death in the world, and assuming it to be six thousand years since the birth of Eve, and that the race would double every fifty years (a very moderate estimate), there would now be living on the earth no less than 7,652,232,943,370,062,831,875,797,961,000,000 human beings struggling for existence; and for every human being now on earth there would then be 5,197,450,970,667,142,479,000,000. Prof. Levasseur of Paris, places the present population at 1,472,230,000. Annual births at 36,793,000, and annual deaths at 32,230,000. Even at this present slight rate of annual increase there are now portions of the earth so densely populated as to make daily existence a very serious problem. Saying nothing about room for animal and vegetable life, and in which to raise food for such a multitude, every particle of the dry land upon the earth's surface would, at present, be covered by a struggling mass of humanity, standing three deep upon each others shoulders, and the number hourly increasing with gigantic strides, without the possibility of any relief. Eve certainly made no mistake when she brought death into the world, and she is entitled to our gratitude, not our curses.

There could be nothing to eat for these people, neither could there be relief by starving to death. There would be all the horrors of hunger, and yet no one could starve to death. No murder could be committed; no one hung, shot, or electrocuted. If one fell into the deep waters of the ocean, he must remain there forever, for he could not die. There could be no relief for any one. The aged and the infant, the decrepid, the blind, the sick, and the weary, must all take their chances with the young and active. To eat one another would do no good, as the one eaten could not die. The weary burden of the aged could not be laid aside, but they must toil on forever, without rest or hope. Surely Eve performed a great service for the race. She may not have known it, but whether premeditated or the result of the thoughtless simplicity of her girlish nature, she is equally entitled to our gratitude.

Let the stock-holders of our University, of which I hope to be one, erect a tablet to her memory, on which shall be inscribed, "Sacred to the memory of our greatest benefactor—our common mother, Eve."

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