

Christian brethren, like little men, and take your medicine. You have held this cup to our lips, now drink ye all of it. Ingersoll is in hell, or your priests and preachers are all a pack of frauds. Well, he'll have "goodie companie." All the philosophers, philanthropists, scientists, and Freethinkers of this and every other age are, or will be, there. Of all the cruel and idiotic ideas on earth, this Christian idea of hell "takes the cake." It takes the whole bakery. The wonder to me is how any sane person, with sense enough to come in when it rains, can swallow it.

I talked with a preacher about this matter, and I asked the "Rev." gent the question heading this article. He squirmed, and replied, "No one is justified in saying that he is." "Then what becomes of the theories of Christianity," I asked, and again the "Rev." evaded, and would not say straight out that he believed Ingersoll is in hell. "Very well," I said, "if Ingersoll isn't in hell, all the rest of us Infidels are safe." The "Rev." said, "According to the Oregonian the grief of the family was inconsolable. That was a good refutation of Ingersoll's denial of the immortality of the soul." I replied, "I was not informed that Ingersoll had ever denied the immortality of the soul. He simply denied having any knowledge of soul or of immortality. There was time enough to talk about souls and immortality when these ideas were demonstrated to be true." But the "Rev." was in a hurry, and could not spare time to discuss the matter further.

It is now in order for the Christians to begin lying about Mr. Ingersoll. He is dead now, and they are safe from his reply. I don't know how they will manage about the "death-bed repentance" business, as Ingersoll died suddenly in his chair, without speaking a word. May be they will claim that he repented mentally, with his last breath. They are as likely to know about that as any of the other absurdities they claim to know. They may get on to it by the "revelation" process. But, more than likely, they will claim that some writings have been dug up out of Ingersoll's private papers, written just a few days before his death, and "to be read after his burial," giving his recantation and repentance, etc., etc.

It will be a terrible "slam" on these "unclean birds of superstition," who have so long been sitting on the fences of expectation waiting for this prey. And to lose the opportunity of picking the bones of Ingersoll, they have so long been whetting their beaks for, will be a gall and wormwood of disappointment. But I guess they will have to "grin and bear it" as best they can. In the mean time the name of Robt. G. Ingersoll will go ringing down the ages as a benefactor of his race.

"And when his summons came to join the innumerable caravan which moves to the pale realms of shade, where each must take his chamber in the silent halls of death, . . . approached his grave as one who wraps the drapery of his couch about him, and lies down to pleasant dreams."

An Agnostic's Tribute to Ingersoll.

Continued from 1st page.

strength. The great man is he who deserves most of his fellow creatures; and he deserves most of his fellow creatures who does most to free the brain of man from the ghosts, the miracles, the superstitions, the belief in the divine rights of tyrants both of church and state, and all other degradations of belief which chain mankind to the barbarisms of the past.

The truly great man is he who is fitted to become the model of an enlightened nation. And no man is fitted to become the model of a nation who is not willing to grant every other man the same rights he demands for himself. This was the great plea of Ingersoll. It is the plea of all Infidels.

Robert Ingersoll was great as an orator, reformer and philosopher, a lawyer, poet, humorist, wit, critic, and as a master of the English language; but he will be remembered chiefly as an Infidel—the grandest word of the nineteenth century—the name which invites hate from bigotry and prejudice, and praise from common sense and reason. Infidelity is a word but little understood. In reality, it means the opposite of "fidelity"—that is, unfaithfulness. That man who is unfaithful to another man's belief is infidel to it. We are all infidels to each other—Catholic to Methodist, and Methodist to Catholic, Presbyterian to Jew, and Jew to Baptist, etc. Creeds and religions which oppose each other, are as much infidel to each other as the Liberal thought and science of today, which oppose all creeds and religions resting upon the supernatural. Infidelity as generally regarded is any system of thought in opposition to organized superstition, and in this country, particularly the Christian superstition.

To advance a step beyond its prerogatives is the church's idea of infidelity. He who aspires or dares to know something different or more than theologians is an infidel. He who discloses principles in nature which antagonize the geology, the astronomy, the myths and fables of the Bible is an infidel. He who exposes to the uneducated the dogmas and beliefs which do not accord with facts in nature, and which are out of harmony with the existing reality of things, is an infidel.

There have been great men in the world; great as artists, great as military chieftains, great as diplomats, great as founders of creeds, great as poets and great as saints, but the great grand men of the world have been the great Infidels of the world—the great scientists chiefly—the men who in the face of death exposed the falsehood, the bigotry, the hypocrisy and mercenary motives

Continued on 5th page.

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