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Religious Problems.

Speaking of religious problems which have to be met by the clergy of today, Rev. Wm. M. Lawrence, pastor of the Second Baptist Church of Chicago...

"Psychology, one phase of the new education which seems to have come to stay, and which teaches that when the brain dies the soul perishes with it, is another problem. Men are rapidly losing interest in the question of immortality, and when approached on the subject do not seem to be interested. If interest is to be aroused in a future state, and men convinced of its existence, mere denial of materialistic teachings will not avail. Facts must be presented. The people want to know what are the facts and the truth."

In this connection the speaker thought that these facts were not being presented, because the ministry is not getting its share of well-educated men.

Good Things From the Pulpit.

Rev. Herbert S. Bigelow, a so-called "Liberal preacher" of Cincinnati, is not out of the theological woods by any means, but occasionally says a good thing for which he deserves credit. Here is an instance:

"Can you show me a single iniquity, since our Bible has been known, which has not been defended by quotations from scripture? The persecutions of the Jews, the depredations of the crusaders, the maintenance of the divine right of kings, the defense of slavery, the defense of capital punishment, opposition to the education of woman, the apology for poverty as a divine institution, and now at last, justification for preaching the gospel of the Prince of Peace out of the mouths of thirteen inch guns—these are some of the crimes that may be laid at the door of the doctrine that men are not to use their own reason, that they are not to trust the light of their own conscience, but that what they find in the Bible must overrule anything which their own common sense may tell them or their own consciences dictate."

Here is another instance:

"A thing is true not because a pope says so, not because a church council so declares it, not because we find it in the Bible, not even because we find it among the words of Jesus. The dictums of the popes, the deliverances of the councils, the books of the Bible, even the words of Jesus must plead their own cause before the tribunal of each man's private judgment and each man's heart."

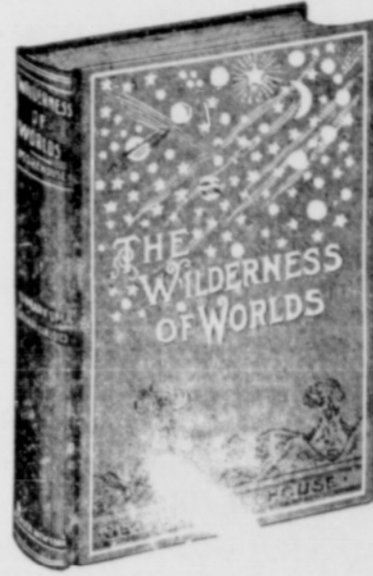
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