

New Hampshire Secular Union.

The Secularists of New Hampshire have organized, and it is said that they hope to do with their organization in the East what the Oregon State Secular Union is doing in the West.

The second Sunday in August was set as the date for the annual meeting, it coming close to the anniversary of the birth of Col. R. G. Ingersoll—Aug. 11. Officers were elected as follows: President, Anson G. Osgood, Manchester; Vice-president, Marilla M. Ricker, Dover; Secretary, Carl Burrell, Pembroke; Financial Secretary, Wm. B. Wellman, Nashua; Treasurer, F. W. Windrich, Manchester; Executive Committee, Alfred Levan, Jas. E. Chesley, Wm. B. Wellman, Carl Burrell, Marilla M. Ricker, William C. Sturoc, F. C. Reynolds, H. B. rowley, George W. Whittemore.

Several speakers were present at the meeting when the organization was completed. Mr. Burrell, the secretary, spoke on the subject, "Christianity as a Moral Force: Is It or Is It Not?" His remarks were in part as follows:

"I ask every honest, thinking man and woman to answer this question for him or herself—just what are the churches doing today for their members? Are they making them more true, honest, self-sacrificing, brotherly fellow beings, to whom we may safely look for the uplifting of struggling humanity? We cannot say just what God, if there be such a personality, may be doing for Christians. There is certainly not very much that we can see, but, what seems to me to be most important, is what is the church doing for him, and what is he doing for the world?"

"I can not fully sympathise with the destructive element in Free-thought. I would not be so anxious to see Christianity destroyed; I would rather see its mighty, condensed forces turned to some good for the world. I don't know what it may or can do for us in heaven or hell, and I do not care, but I want to do something for the world here and now. I would like to see it do away with some of the hell on earth that we see on every hand; I would like to see it make heaven on earth in every home. And until it does do this, or at least something more than it is doing now on this line, I can not consistently acknowledge that Christianity is a moral force in the world."

Mr. Burrell said at one point in his address that he would sooner employ a non-Christian than a Christian. He found the former more honest, he said. This greatly pleased Mrs. Ricker, who applauded and interrupted him and praised the statement.

Mr. Guild, a gentleman from Lowell, announced his subject as Free-thought's Mission. He praised Free-thought and denounced Christianity as a system which did not permit honest thought.

"Free-thought does not," he said, "pride itself upon its wealth, upon its pomp, upon its retine. It substitutes intelligence for impudence,

manliness for monkery, discovery for concealment, friendship for fak-irage, honesty for saintliness, justice for almsgiving, health for piety, knowledge of facts for faith in lies. It makes woman man's equal instead of his underling (applause from Mrs. Ricker), and it cares for the children instead of praying to angels, and attends to the business of the world we live in instead of aspiring to an imaginary one after we are dead, satisfied that it is good to be good and get good while we are on earth, and that it is a better preparation of our 'souls' for the future than to start for heaven in Noah's ark or Jonah's whale."

The Living Christ.

Concluded from 1st page.

be a unity among the faithful which is now conspicuous by its absence; but the reality which is overshadowed by this phantom authority is the believer himself. The authority for each individual is a creation of his own imagination, and is limited by his own moral and mental development—that is, by his ability to imagine. And these creations are as unlike each other as are their creators. "Every man who worships, worships a conception of his own mind."

The Bible is the only testimony that there was a "historical Christ" and the idea that it is authority because it testifies of Christ, is worthy of a lunatic. The New Testament—what is said about Christ, and what Christ is represented as having said—is the foundation upon which Christianity is built; and if this is subject to criticism, and if criticism decides that the most wonderful and most important parts are untrue; then the living Christ is a creation of the human mind, and man himself is his own authority in religion.

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