

many in their infidelity, and begetting doubts in others.

"Unlike H. L. Hastings, Ingersoll wrote no books, and upon no one does his mantle fall as an Infidel lecturer. While he made many skeptics, it is not in the nature of doubt and unbelief to inspire its votaries to active laborious effort to make proselytes. Infidels can scoff at the Bible and religion, but not one in ten thousand has either benevolent zeal, or actual earnest convictions, sufficient to devote his life to its dark, doubtful, damnable theories.

"During a generation, England has furnished a single Bradlaugh, and America an Ingersoll, to devote their life's work to Infidelity. Neither have left any active disciples to carry on their work of unbelief. It is personal Divinity Himself that raises up and sends laborers into His vineyard, burdened with earnest faith, holy zeal, and inspiring love, to win disciples for Jesus, in turn inspiring them with the same hallowed faith, and love and labor in their Master's cause. In our benevolent work of blessing our fellows, when a standard bearer falls in battle, there are others to take and hold up the gospel banner till the work is done, and parting clouds shall reveal the coming Christ."

But few words in explanation are necessary.

Mr. Hastings's anti-Infidel publications like the false theories of other religions may have "reached into millions of copies," but what does that prove? We read one of his "publications"—a little leaflet. It was a series of "Nuts for Infidels to Crack," and perhaps one of the most foolish things on which we were ever induced to waste time. The main point in the tract was the question: "Which was first, the egg or the hen?" This is one of the silliest things for an educated(?) man to ask and one of the easiest for a scientist to answer.

To compare Mr. Hastings to Robert G. Ingersoll is very absurd, but to lie about our dead hero is worse than absurd—it is criminal. Notice how the good man of God flatters his defenceless victim before he makes the fatal stab in the dark. The story of Jesus Christ showed him to be (if he was anything but a myth) "a bitter, scoffing unbeliever, who confirmed many in their Infidelity and begat doubts in others." He was the greatest enemy the established churches of his time had, and the greatest difference between Ingersoll and the Christian writer's Jesus was that Ingersoll knew more, had better opportunities and lived in an age when people were freer to think. Mr. Hastings and his Pharisee followers were scourged in their synagogues, and no wonder they endeavor to crucify this modern savior, who, unlike Jesus, made no pretensions of Messiahship and performed no slight of hand.

"Ingersoll wrote no books," says this "child of a king." What a lie! One of the most beautiful works we ever read was written by this matchless orator, statesman, philanthropist and author. If this Christian falsehood was launched upon the world through ignorance, so much

the worse. One who remains in ignorance in order to lie about a great and good man is committing a double crime, and surely any one who wishes to know that Robert G. Ingersoll wrote books can easily find out that he wrote many volumes. These volumes prove beyond a shadow of a doubt that the writer did not secure his high position in the minds of the thinking people through his oratory, but rather through the truths that he knew and spoke, and truly "no man ever spake (or wrote) as this man."

The true religion—the religion of Science and Humanity—is a matter of evolution. There were many clam-like animals in the world before those with feathers and hair were evolved, and many an ape-like creature "ere man learned to hew the shaft, and lay the architrave, and spread the roof above them." And Infidels are beginning to do something beside "scoff at the Bible and religion," and more than "one in ten thousand" are already beginning to have "benevolent zeal and actual earnest convictions sufficient to devote their whole lives" to its bright, saving and blessing theories. These people are called Secularists and are actually building a Freethought University at Silverton, Ore. And it would be well for those whom the "personal Divinity Himself has raised up and sent into his vineyard, burdened with earnest faith, holy zeal and inspiring love," to be a little more careful about making false statements, for that manner of warfare may not always bear as good fruit for their master's cause as it has in the dark past. For the time is coming, and now is, that, when an Infidel standard-bearer falls in battle, there are others to take up and hold up the banner of TRUTH and RIGHT till the work is done, and the parting clouds shall reveal that the real Christ who has been continually crucified, and the one whom we should adore, pray to and love, is HUMANITY itself.

#### THE SMARTNESS OF GOD.

The ancient peoples thought their gods very smart and bragged very much about their ability to make and break things. Jehovah, the god of the Jews and adopted god of the Christians, was a wonderfully smart one. But under the teachings of Secularism it is no credit to human beings to be smart; it is their good fortune and nothing to brag about. If it were possible for a god to exist and have a son, it would still be impossible for them, if they were all powerful and full of love, to allow the human race to stumble along in its darkness and sin as it has for all these centuries.

There is no god, for if a thing exist that has the power to do good

Continued on 8th page.

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