

for the Torch of Reason.

**The Religion of the Future.**

BY ELIZA MOWRY BLIVEN.

Ingersoll and Paine were Agnostics. They had cast aside the Bible and miracle-working Gods, but they did not know but there was a future life and some kind of intelligence which governed the universe.

We can not free the world from superstitious, religious worship, and the multitude of errors which these cause, till we and our followers become thorough, moral ATHEISTS, and teach why there is no God, no devil, no spirits and no future life. All there is everywhere consists of tangible realities and their physical forces; the most wonderful and complicated of all being life, the human brain and its activities, or intelligence.

Thought, reason, intelligence, are activities of live brain cells. Knowledge, happiness, and all our arts result from use of our physical senses and brain. When we die, the blood stops flowing, the brain stops acting, and we can not sense anything nor know anything.

The inferior brains of animals and insects give them intelligence of an inferior kind. But there are no brains superior to those of mankind, hence no divine, nor spiritual, nor all-wise intelligence.

Every atom in the universe always has existed and always will. Not one atom could be made out of nothing. The form can be changed from solid, to liquid or gas, and changed back; and millions of combinations are made and changed by the forces which are properties of each kind of atom, and of each combination; but these are not creative power, nor intelligence.

Those forces, like the atoms, always have been and always will be, because they could not be otherwise. They are the unalterable physical laws. Some are beneficial to man and some are injurious. They were not made for man, but man selects from among them, as do all animals and insects.

When people are CONVINCED that there is NO INTELLIGENCE outside of live, active BRAIN, then all religious worship, prayer, and superstition will drop; man will respect man; morality will be based on the relations of man to man; man will value his own brain, health and opportunities; and the study of hygiene, nature, politics and philanthropy will take the place of theology. What an impetus to Science that will be! When these subjects are studied and taught in all churches, and thought exchanges on subjects take the place of prayer-meetings, every church will be a Scientific school each Sunday, and crowded with eager learners, for all will want to know how to make the most of themselves and of their opportunities during this

life, and each will respect the ones who know the most and do the best, and teach wisdom to others. People will be rated then, not by what they profess to believe, but by how they live and the kind of examples they set in their dealings with their fellow-men.

Those who believe in a supernatural intelligence, or God, are apt to consider themselves so inferior and comparatively incapable, that all great undertakings and reforms are left for their God to do. Hence, as there is no God, this work does not get done. But when they know there is no intelligence beyond the human, they will rate themselves as capable of matching others; then competition will develop abilities and self dependence, promoting progress and reforms in rich abundance.

The religion for this world is the Religion of Humanity, founded on Scientific, Moral ATHEISM.

Brooklyn, Conn.

For the Torch of Reason.

**Neither Fictitious Nor Novel.**

BY D. E.

For obvious reasons the real names are disguised, but the facts are as stated below in this article.

Two gentlemen chanced to be riding along the road together this morning, December 29, 1899, when one of them remarked: "I paid A B eight hundred dollars for his farm last week, and yesterday I met him in town and he asked me to give him two dollars. He said he had been drinking and gambling and had spent and lost it all."

"Yes," said his companion, "that is the way it goes. Two years ago my brother was riding home from town drunk, one night, when in some way he fell behind the horses' heels and was caught and held there until they, taking fright, ran away and kicked him to death along the road. Blood and brains were found along the highway for half a mile and on the wagon wheel."

To drink and get drunk when you like may be the right thing, but it is dangerous. To take a glass with a friend now and then may be social, but who knows where it will end? To touch not, taste not, handle not may seem un-social and stingy, but it is safe. And it pays in the long run to take some pains to be on the safe side.

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Dr. J. H. Greer, the author, is a practicing physician in Chicago, is Professor of Genito-Urinary Diseases in the College of Medicine and Surgery, Physician-in-Chief to the Harvard Medical Institute, and has written many works of value to the profession and public.

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