

BOOK NOTICES.

SINAI AND OLYMPUS. By A Texas Pagan. Illustrated (comic) by Ryan Walker. Published by the Truthseeker Co. Pp. 115; paper cover. Price, 50 cents.

Here is a pleasant way of studying theology or mythology, sacred and profane. The subjects are so serious that the "Pagan" author has had to call in Ryan Walker, the up-to-date comic artist, to enable every story, however tragic, serious or confounding, to end with a laugh. This cheerful result, therefore, makes it the exceptional book on the awful subject, and by far the healthiest. It will prove equally a beneficial relief to theologians and laymen. This Pagan has been more than fair in allowing to Hebrews and Christians the credit of all the "Divine Fictions" which are now perfectly well known to have been taken by them from Chaldea, Persia and the East, and so to be in themselves thoroughly "profane" in their origin; such as the Creation, Fall, Flood, etc., and Satan, the Atonement, etc., to say nothing of Job, Jonah and Solomon. Nor is he wanting in views which would make the fame and fortune of some learned German professor.

For instance, this sample: The "Apostle John was banished to the Isle of Patmos for "religious insanity." In his homesickness he invents his picture of the "New Jerusalem" to relieve his longing for the city he had left, and as he knew of no place from whence it could come, it must be from the "firmament" above.—Now, instead of "John," read the Christian world in its religious craze, and you have the key to its foolish life and more foolish hopes of a "New Jerusalem."

Send us 50 cents and we will send you the book, and you may, better than old Lucian, have two laughs—the old and the new, the profane and the sacred.

CHARLES C. MOORE AND "THE BLUE GRASS BLADE."

BEHIND THE BARS; 31498. By Charles C. Moore, Ex-Precacher and Convict, Editor of the Blue Grass Blade, Lexington, Ky. Pp. 308; with his portrait, \$1.50.

What ought to be done with Charles C. Moore, the editor of the Blue Grass Blade? He is a puzzle. For he is a personification of contradiction. He loves freedom, has never hurt any one, and yet can't, because he won't, keep out of prison. He thinks he is a Free-thinker, but has remorseless ridicule for the unfortunate person who don't think as he does. He wants every one to be free to do as he will, yet he is a stalwart teetotal "prohibitionist." He is cocksure that he is not a "freelover," but publishes some "kiss and tell" tales,

about himself, that would make a freelover blush with shame. He leads the world in using the new date of the Era of Science and Man, 300, instead of the old Christian Era, 1900, and yet constantly brags that he is a "Heathen"; which, evolutionally, means that he cannot be a "Liberal", or a New Era man at all, but an old-time fossil, who existed even before Christianity! He pitches into leading Liberals, like Col. Ingersoll and Charles Watts, for giving him up. But what could they do with or for this modern ancient, and ancient modern, who lives in his own circle and won't be straightened out?

Reader, we must do something to solve this incarnated puzzle, because he is getting dangerous. He has been in prison more than several times already for "freedom of speech," and the last news is that he is under arrest and is shaping his course that way again. He describes prison life as a sort of luxury; and President McKinley, finding that he was "in" two years for nothing, cut down his term to six months. But the contradictory Moore, once a Christian minister, still remains a Christian as to passive resistance. He puts out this Autobiographic prison book, and through his Blue Grass Blade scatters his wit like oil of vitriol on Kentucky Christians, and when they take to the sword of the "spirits" and of the Comstock law, he acts upon their old saw, "Resist not evil, but whosoever shall smite thee on one cheek, turn to him the other also," etc., and refused to employ counsel or defend itself! Now, this may do for Moore, if he likes it. But it may be death to the sincere friends of Freedom of Speech and of the Press. The laws are what they, in practice, are construed to be; especially laws on these subjects. A chain of Christian legal precedents for "obscenity," when they really mean blasphemy, is the most dangerous chain on LIBERTY that can be formed. All Liberals, Free-thinkers and Sons of Liberty are, in their own defence, bound to see that Moore is not locked up again for expressions which are perfectly innocent, or only laughable in this Secular Republic and our Age of the world.

Communicate with Dr. E. B. Foote, Jr., 120 Lexington avenue, N. Y. City, to secure a defence for Moore, and send us \$1.50 for a copy of Moore's Prison Book and Autobiography, "Behind the Bars, or No. 31498." For funny and yet instructive serio-comic realism, it can't be beat. T. B. W.

Errors.

In last Torch, March 8, in Mr. Wakeman's Bruno speech, page 5, middle of first column, read TELESCOPE, instead of microscope; page 3, near top of second column, read IT MIGHT INDUCE, instead of induced.

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*Dr. Leonard has consented to take this chair until some one can be found to fill it permanently.

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