

What is the Matter with Matter?

Concluded from 3d page.

which is unthinkable. Equally unthinkable is the notion that the same result may be had from different kinds or elements of matter. It is therefore contrary to the fact, and unthinkable, that protoplasm can come from any chemical elements but C. H. O. N. P. S. It is contrary to the fact and unthinkable that any other substance or combination of elements can have life which is found to be the vital process of protoplasm. Unless matter can be annihilated by the destruction of its properties, it is not conceivable that life can be the resultant of the properties of other matter, or of any other combinations of matter. Every other combination being of different components, having different properties, can give none but different results, never protoplasm or its vital process. There is no possible escape from this conclusion, and it thoroughly takes the bottom out of the old religions. If any one thinks otherwise, let him tell us how.

Since these things are so, why keep up the befogglement, as though any chemical composition or combinations of matter, or hypothetical atom, monad, or ether of matter, could possibly or conceivably have the vital process and properties of the complex and highly complicated proto or bioplasm—CHONPS? Let us stop biologizing or bespooking the Universe. Let us clearly distinguish, as Judge Waite tells us to do, between the ACTIVE properties of inorganic matter and its ultimates, and the LIVING processes of the organic matter found, as far as we now know, ONLY on the surface of our planet, in the form of PROTOPLASM, which is a chemical combination of carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, nitrogen, phosphorus, and sulphur, that is, C. H. O. N. P. S. aforesaid.

Let us try to get the rising generation thoroughly grounded that is EDUCATED on the solid bottom of the scientific solution of the world—on Truth instead of falsehood, to wit:

1. THE NEW WORLD, based on the new heliocentric Astronomy of Copernicus and Bruno.

2. THE NEW LIFE, resting upon the continuity and solidarity of the human race; first summed up by Thomas Paine as "The Religion of Humanity."

3. THE EARTHLY PARADISE, resting upon the evolutionary and cooperating progress of the individual and collective life of each generation of the growing human race.

Instead of a "Mirage Heaven," let us go for far more than its realization, ON EARTH, in every land, in every heart, by every means in our power.

Pious Noise.

BY CHARLES KENT TENNEY.

Should not the quantity, if not the quality, be regulated by church enactment? Just what effect volume and intensity of noise has upon the Christian God in bringing him to a realizing sense of the needs and requirements of his numerous petitioners, who make use of their vocal organs in an unstinted manner in urging their many wants, is a question which was entirely overlooked by our Father when he inspired the writers of his first and only book. It is also a matter which the "Higher Criticism" has entirely neglected, perhaps overlooked, in its attempts to find excuse and explanation for the many absurd and fantastic tales related in this remarkable production of his inspired agents.

What shall be the volume and density of noise used in our efforts at persuasion is, from a Christian standpoint, a most important and serious question. It is one which should not have been left in doubt. In consequence of this omission there are now as many different opinions on this important subject as there are churches and members of church congregations. There is a wide, yawning chasm between the simon-pure, howling variety of Christians at camp meetings or revivals and the outward demonstrations of the meek and gentle Quaker. In some churches, and in nearly all camp or revival meetings, there are those who act as if they thought their Father very deaf, and their vocal demonstrations remind us of the fog horn. Others, whose intentions are equally as good, but whose muscular developments are less robust, remind us of the long-eared animal piping his soothing lay to his absent lady love. Others are still more moderate, like unto the last wail of the dying porker in a Chicago packing house. The vocal demonstrations which come from the rear, especially if at twilight, remind us of the cooing and billing of young and ardent lovers in the absence of the ever-watchful parent of the would-be bride. There are many intermediate grades and varieties, but the last, if not least, remind us of the simpering of some silly old maid mourning the loss of her last chance for matrimony. With few exceptions, all are equally incoherent and mere jumbles of noise, and our Father must have a most remarkable pair of ears if he can make out the various wants of his numerous petitioners from such a Babel of noise. Upon careful reflection we are of the opinion that his hearing has been badly affected by this constant din, and upon this theory the "Higher Criticism" can rationally account for so many unanswered prayers.

Justice to our overworked parent demands that we should lessen his burdens and vexations wherever and whenever possible. Those overtaxed ear drums are wearing out and badly in need of rest. Our good Christian friends should therefore lose no time in determining this important matter, and by its creed settle the exact number, volume and density of atmospheric vibrations necessary to please and persuade the giver of all things. What may be said to him is, of course, of little importance, as to please, according to good Christian doctrine, only a pious noise and a distorted counterance are necessary. As too much or too little may offend, and the mingling of so many nasal twangs must be confusing, as well as irritating, this matter should be fully settled by a church conference, a happy medium reached, and then there could be no excuse for unanswered prayers. The Christians kindly tell us that there is some good in everybody. If so, why not adopt this suggestion by one whom they are good enough to characterize as an infidel, especially as it is made without collusion with the devil, with the kindest of motives, and with a sincere desire to relieve what for a human being would be a very disagreeable and trying position? The soft, sweet notes of a flute are much more soothing than the roll of the kettle drum. The constant, noisy importunities of the child sometimes drives the irritated and exasperated mother to the use of the slipper.

Madison, Wisconsin.

The Missionary Horror.

BY T. B. WAKEMAN.

Now the time has come to consider whether we should not have some Law, National or other, in regard to Foreign Missions. It is a matter that now concerns every citizen—every person in this country, and, in fact, throughout the world. It has become a burning question. And the fact that it is such, is one of the greatest indications of human progress. For it brings the great Nations to seriously consider the great obligations and needed improvements of international and human relations.

It may compel U. S. to see that we can not, as human beings—Democrats and Republicans, allow other peoples to be longer the victims of religious fanatics and commercial pirates. It would be the greatest blessing to mankind should it compel us to introduce human morals and Sociology into international politics. Out of some such necessity we hope to see the inauguration of the "Parliament of Man and the Federation of the World." We are all interested in this Missionary tragedy, because our Republic is

bound to protect its citizens abroad, no matter at what expense of blood or treasure. This means that the Missions are the seeds of war, and we can not allow them to be scattered over the world without regard to the consequences to ourselves and to others. The present facts show a pressing need of some law or understanding by which our Missionaries should know that ours is a Secular Republic: Therefore, when they go abroad to overthrow the religions upon which other governments, laws and morals are founded, they should take their lives in their own hands, and not expect U. S. to declare war with every government that is unwilling to submit to be underhandedly undermined and overthrown by them.

Such a Law, which would free us from the necessity of going into religious wars (for they are practically such), and would certainly relieve us from fearful complications. But better still, it might lead to an international conference of the Peoples, Races and Nations of the World to consider the matters of international intercourse, emigration, trade, tariffs and reciprocity of products. Such a conference might be called by U. S. for the purpose of revising and extending international law and for the mutual understanding and benefit of all.

Such an international conference would have in it representatives from every nation, and, therefore, of every prominent race and religion on the globe; so that all peoples would be indirectly, if not directly regarded in its deliberations. PLANETARY, that is, International Statesmanship, would there have the field of the human Future opened up, and the drift of human events would be changed so that wars, colonies and conquests would become practically impossible.

Now these sad events are the inevitable results of Missions. Those good and innocent people who support them do not intend any such terrible consequences. But, most unfortunately, their Christianity has kept them from any true knowledge of the History and Sociology of the politics and religions of the Human Races. We are now realizing in China what a terrible thing a well-intentioned, but active, ignorance may become. The slightest knowledge of Physiological Psychology and Social Evolution would have shown Missionaries, that from their Past History the Chinese could no more realize and accept the Roman or English Christianity, than a Banyan tree could take the grafts of a Bartlett pear, or the Asiatic buffalo breed with the European horse. No cells or convolutions have been grown in the Chinese brain by which they can possibly understand what those Missionaries are talking about. All appearances to the contrary are