

oversight, the Villa Medici in Rome. Later, when his health was sufficiently restored for him to begin the journey, he was sent to Siena. At the end of the year he was allowed to return to his Villa Arcetri near Florence, while residence in Florence remained forbidden till his death. These measures, which made surveillance of Galileo easy and his seclusion much more strict, and from which the Pope, in spite of all the intercession of influential men, was not to be dissuaded, had the undesired result of giving rise to all kinds of stories; for example, that he had already suffered the pains of torture; and with the blindness resulting several years later the rumor was connected that both his eyes had been put out by the hand of the executioner in the prisons of the Inquisition! Pope Urban continued his hatred and persecution even after Galileo's death, which occurred on the 8th of January, 1642, and this may be regarded as further proof that he believed the inuendos of the Jesuits. After the penitent sinner had been refused burial by the Church, the erection of a monument, for which arrangements had been made by friends and pupils, was discontinued by the special wish of the Pope, "because it is not fitting to honor by a monument a heretic sentenced by the Holy See to do penance, and to die before the expiration of his sentence."

The Church had won a great victory, for she had forced a weak, old man, seventy years of age, by all the engines of power at her command, to disown his convictions. There was naturally great rejoicing over it, and in the next fifty years there was poured out over the unbelieving a genuine flood of triumphant refutations of the Copernican system. Certain astronomers, protected and guided by the "star of the wise," found favor before the Papal See! They belonged to the most faithful sons of the Church, and Prof. Scipione Chiaramonti of Pisa raged furiously against Copernicus, Tycho Brahe, Kepler, Galileo and all who opposed Aristotle and Ptolemy.

The Roman Curia in the year 1835, in a new edition of the Index, struck out the works of Copernicus, Kepler, Galileo and other earth-movers, after having previously made several exceptions. It thereby acknowledged that it had not earlier been inspired by the Holy Ghost, add that it no longer regards the belief in the central position of the earth as a preliminary condition of salvation.

**Astronomy Ends Christianity.**

BY T. B. WAKEMAN.

Bruno, Galileo and Servetus ought to make every intelligent person ashamed of Christianity. Modern astronomy makes Christianity vanish like the baseless fabric of the vision it really was and is.

1. The old Heaven, the main

OBJECT of Christianity, vanishes, for there is no "firmament" above us. The earth revolves on its axis 25,000 miles each day and 558 millions of miles around the sun each year, and at the same time the sun moves 300 millions of miles each year towards the also moving northern star, Vega. When Bruno said, "Caela non esse," "The Heavens are not," the old dynasty of God and Pope ended. For, no Heaven, no Hell. The World became the boundless Infinite, without beginning or end. The possibility of a creating personal God vanished with his residence. The Day of Judgment, which "his Son" was to hold 1800 years ago, became absurd. He never ascended to, nor descended from, a NOWHERE, and never can! Bruno's pyre was that of Christianity.

2. And so with the Bible. The notions of a creation, world-deluge, sun-stop, etc., etc., passed into the literature of Ancient Mythology.

3. The New Testament follows suit. The "Father in Heaven" was not. The dove from the "Open Heaven" follows the "materialized" Transfiguration and the Day of Judgment. "The Christ" said that day would surely come to those THEN living. Matt. 24:34. That "Day" was the sum of the New Testament from Matthew to Revelations and ends the whole business, for it is physically UTTERLY impossible.

4. And the church and churches go too, of course; and that nightmare, the Papacy; and the Episcopacy; and the Greek Church horror and all the rest, are swept out by the total collapse of its Heaven. Read the story of Galileo and Mr. Sargent's letter in this Torch, and see how stupid, obstinate and bloody against the truth Christianity was! The healthy, truth-loving man shrinks from it with horror. To continue an exposed illusion is to become a liar.

**Two Ways of Asking a Blessing.**

In a town not a hundred miles from Chicago, a gentleman invited to dinner one day one of the deacons of the church which he attended. Being seated at the table, the guest was asked to offer a blessing, which he did. This proceeding greatly excited the curiosity of the gentleman's little four-year-old, who sat beside the deacon and interviewed him on the subject. "What was that you said?" he began. "It was a blessing on the food we are about to eat," replied the deacon. "A what?" "Why, a blessing. Don't your papa ask a blessing at the table?" "Oh, yes, but he don't say it that way." "How does he say it?" "Why, he sits down and looks at the table and says: 'Goddlemighty, what a dinner!'"

**Cobbler, stick to thy last!**

A shoemaker found fault with an oil-painted slipper in one of the paintings of a celebrated artist, but showed the greatest ignorance in criticising the other parts of the painting. Hence has arisen the oft-quoted saying, Let the cobbler stick to his last, and let every one attend to his own business.

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**DIAMONDS.**

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