

Called to Preach the Truth!

BY T. B. WAKEMAN.

Rev. J. P. Bland's noteworthy Articles on "The Gospel of Evolution," in the Boston Investigator of July 28, came to this "conclusion of the whole matter":—

"Since we now clearly see our earthly goal, and see, too, the main conditions on which its attaining depends, our chief duty lies in bringing this knowledge home to men, and in doing our best to persuade them to obey it. And any religion which rises to the level of today's truth, must in some way voice these things and seek to make them flesh and spirit."

That Earthly goal is described in these words:

"I should like you to bear in mind that life's real and only supreme problem is simply and solely this: How can we ALL live so as to experience as much as possible of rational and honorable happiness, and as little as possible of any thing else? And the solving of this problem lies in first pointing out the causes on which this happiness depends, and next in seeking to control these causes so as to lead them to yield it."

In his statements of what the "causes" and conditions of rational and honorable happiness really are, he seems to lay emphasis upon providing to be born well; to be nourished and trained well; to be educated so as to meet our environment well; and, lastly, to expend our lives in meeting it effectively and pleasantly. If we err in these inferences let us be corrected, but till then, we venture to ask, as to all of them—WHY?

Can any individual attain this rational and honorable happiness of himself, by himself and for himself "alone"? Evidently not. "Man is not, but in society." As a social animal his Egoistic happiness is dominated by his relations to others, and his actions and emotions, which must consequently be for the welfare and general progress of others, or they end in worse than nothing for himself. This being so, the learned Professor might well have advised his future son-in-law in the story, that instead of giving up "the Ministry" as a profession, he prepare himself for the new Ministry, on the basis of Science and Humanity, instead of theology. There is ample need of a Ministry of that kind, which it would seem that Mr. Bland himself has now happily entered upon.

In the same Investigator, of July 28, Mr. Daniel K. Tenney, than whom there could not be a better judge, confirms us in this view, and describes the need of this new ministry and mission, thus:

"Declarations from the pulpits of churches of doctrines and principles, based upon Truth, would

certainly better promote both education and morals, than the puerile nonsense at present prevailing there. But the Clergy are not ready for that reform yet, and no one stands ready to supply the deficiency. Scientists and scholars dare not yet publicly attempt it." The apparent hope of Mr. Tenney is, that "Theological drivel cannot subsist forever." Therefore the "clergy themselves are very gradually approaching the goal of common sense and will get there in due[?] time."

We ask seriously, is it the best that can be done for Humanity to wait until the Clergy gradually evolve into "common sense," and actually discover that they and the Human Race are living and are to live in and for this world?

No! The progress of mankind can never wait for the Clergy to convert themselves. They are too turtle-like to expect them to lead unless there are coals close behind them or on their backs. The Scientists and Liberals are comparatively a few, but they are the drivers and leaders of the rest of the world. Only as the people at large are educated, aroused and led by them, will the Clergy advance into the higher Ministry of the Religion of Science and Humanity. The Theological students who find the Truth about Evolution to be as stated in Mr. Bland's Gospel of Evolution, should go right forward to fit themselves to become educated and worthy exponents before the people of that Gospel of Evolution, and not wait for the "Turtle" Clergy to crawl up to the work in the course of ages. If in the meantime you have to take refuge "behind the bar" as a lawyer, or as a doctor or teacher, or to take to any other calling as a means of living, do it, but always with the reserve that your "call to the ministry" was, to you, the highest, truest and the real ministry—the service of the True and Good to Man. If you do this not, how can you ever achieve "the rational and honorable happiness? Will you not feel yourself a traitor to the highest duty, every time you dare to think? See how the Christian and Mormon Missionaries go out without money or knowledge to die or fulfil the commands of a stupid and inhuman fanaticism!

In Sociology we learn that the will of man is the supplement and complement of the laws of Nature. That which does not act and grow and hustle, DIES. Humanity is at this moment calling for thousands of young men and women fit, able and willing to replace "the pulpit drivel" of heaven-mirage nonsense with the true knowledge and inspiration of Science and Humanity. That is the meaning of the "Ingersoll Chair" in the Liberal University, Oregon—L. U. O [I set free]. That is why that chair is supported by the Ingersoll family and by the

leading Liberals of Europe and America. Let this University become a Beacon Light of the Earthly Paradise! Did you ever feel a drift, a "call" to the old ministry? Now that is a surer call to the new—to replace error, fraud and falsehood by the actual realization of the True, the Good, the Noble! Do you think that you can turn back after putting "your hands to the plow," or that you will not find a devil in all the universe to meet you if you do? If for personal and egoistic motives you have deserted and proven false to the highest, the noblest of life in your day and generation, will not that Devil of Remorse find his home in your heart?

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