A Christian Lady's Criticism of Robert G. Ingersoll, and Our Answer.

EDITOR TORCH OF REASON:

"The King of Death," by R. G. Ingersoll, is a misnomer, as, according to the sense of the article, the title should have been, not the Ruler, but the "Conqueror of Death." As the wife of an old friend of Mr. Ingersoll's-Gen. Geo. E. Spencer, U. S. Senator from Alabama, I have frequently, at his social receptions, debated with Mr. Ingersoll, not because I cause, in ethics, as well as in reto accepted standards, wrong.

As the widow of Gen. Spencer, I find myself again confronted by an dead R. G. Ingersoll; for while, acit finds its expression in formmatter—and I am unable to substantiate what species of matter follows the changing of this earthly command, "Love thy neighbor as physical form, I must, for the sake of convenience, accept the term, the material death or change of R. G. Ingersoll.

permit me to take up the printed which attaining, becomes betthoughts of Mr. Ingersoll, which, terment of all the world and the well worded, as were his usual acceptance of the brotherhood of in witchcraft is a fact, but there thoughts, have not yet changed man. In this weak, faulty effort are no witches. The belief in their material form.

"I come to establish the law." He life for their highest homage. was too just to have accepted, had the offering been made, the suspension in his favor of any law, and far too intelligent to have believed that any law of any well-regulated machine could be, by any machinist, for an instant suspended without disturbing, not only the harmonious working of that machine, her imaginary acquaintance with a but also disturbing the machine it- Jew who is supposed to have lived self. Therefore, he worked with some two thousand years ago, we the laws, not against them. That kindly offer her a few suggestions rehe cured the sick and performed lative to her ideas of the above-menthe various acts attributed to him, tioned saviors. We think that Mr. must have truth-fact-as the Ingersoll's name for Jesus, "King of basis of such acts, is more proven Death," is better than "Conqueror than any facts of or in any other of Death," for, while Jesus rules historical record. For, despite the quite a kingdom of subjects who terrible crimes committed by unin- are "over there" in thought instead telligence under the name of Chris- of using their mental force here tianity, and following the leader- where it is needed, he never conship of the various Christian sects, quered death in any way. The Christianity and belief in Christ priests, years after Christ is suphave lived. While the various posed to have lived (even taking other religious teachers, holding Christian statistics as evidence) their followers who claim wonderful deeds as the corner-stones of teachings; and if anyone will think, their various other religions, while he or she will not fail to see that the believers therein may number Christ himself had but very little more than the Christians, yet when to do with the acts or doctrines atbrought in contact with the Chris- tributed to him. They were taken tian (so-called) countries and laws, from other older religious teachings, finding themselves opposed to an put into Christ's dead mouth and average higher intelligence, are have been used by the priests to generally influenced by this intelli- keep up their confidence game ever gence, only the higher surmounts since. the lower.

Christ did not exist, that the ac- that he was too just for so and so; cepted date of his birth is the ac- but when we consider the accounts cepted dating of the governing as priests' stories, the whole thing countries of a world, is an argu- loses its reality, the whole scheme ment which needs no statement of salvation drops to pieces and we other than the fact. That Christ begin to look for something better. millions of men's lives attest. His performing the other acts attributed self-named mission was the con- to him, there is not the slightest quering of death as it refers to a proof. bettering of life, and his greatest the Lord thy God with thy whole historians. If Bancroft would give heart," etc., was immediately de- the traditions of the races of men as fined by "the second is like unto real history, he would be ignored by wished to differ from him, but be- the first-and thy neighbor as thyself." This was part and parcel of the world. That such a people as the ligious ideas, I believe that Mr. practical morality, the intelligent Mormons exist and that one Joseph Ingersoll's premise was, according ministry, of the greatest teacher Smith was a leader among them at that ever sought to raise mankind.

means? But all know the regard incorrect premise of the materially for one's own comfort, the effort for ple, can be easily believed; but that one's own advance, the protection cording to my ideas, if spirit exists, of one's own life and property, followers claimed he did; that he which come under the nomenclature of instinct, so inherent is this -the love of self; therefore the thyself."

many discouragements and much failure, still persistently is man Asking pardon for this prelude, striving for the betterment of self, 1. Christ never claimed the do- character made historians like Joing of miracles. His assertion was, sephus and Renan single out his

> A believer in Jesus Christ, MRS. GEORGE E. SPENCER.

> > OUR ANSWER.

With due respect for the Christian lady, whose real acquaintance with modern saviors like Robert G. Ingersoll, saves her from more than wrote the account of his life and

Our friend says that Christ claim-

Much as the Cosmist declares ed so and so, that he said so and so, worshipped, loved, imitated, In regard to his curing the sick and

Religious traditions are not concommandment, "Thou shalt love sidered authentic history by modern every intelligent student in the one time is good history. That he For who knows what love of God was mobbed and believed to be a great prophet by thousands of peohe found such plates of gold as his performed wonderful miracles; that God revealed to him that polygamy is the proper thing, etc., etc., is too absurd to entertain, and is not considered good history, excepting by Imperfectly, persistently, with the religious fanatics-his followers. The fact that belief in Joseph Smith has lived is no proof that Mormonism is really true. And so it is with Christ and Christianity. That many men for many years believed is the worship of that Christ whose Christ as a divine being does not even prove that he ever existed. And again, we must never forget that it pleased the great rulers, who fn the early days accepted this "religion of love," to force this belief upon the doubters and their innocent babes, by the cruel agencies of dungeon, rack and fire.

To be sure, when lowly people come in contact with our "Christian nations," their own crude superstitions are often laid aside, and by the great influence of Secularism, which is in our country in spite of its superstitions, they are broadened—raised to a higher plane of life. They do not necessarily become Christians, however, in this their passage from darkness to light. The Religion of Science and Humanity does it all. Christianity, in urging the "snake stories" onto the poor heathen, only hinders his progress, but, of course, whether he ever believes the old stuff or not, Christianity always takes the credit for his civilization.

We have not always taken Christ's birth as a starting point in our dating. That was forced upon the world urder severe penalty by a Christian ruler. Secularists now use the burning of Bruno as their starting point, but that does not prove that Bruno was

Jesus may have been a great teacher for his time, but the words

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