

the race will count as nothing! Thus Anarchy and God and the Devil triumph!

Now, if the hypothesis, with these plausible theological consequences was really a scientific "theory," that is, the true law, solution and future of our earth and race, we should try to parry these interpretations and make the best of the inevitable. We should try to make Heroism hereditary and prepare our long-off successors to go down with the smile of defiance, flying the flag of Humanity.

But if the real facts and laws show that man has received, and has been born on this earth, as his permanent home, and that it is so guaranteed by the eternal laws and equivalency of the changes of the universe, let us feel and talk and act accordingly. Let us make of human duties, and the human heaven to which they lead, our highest object and good—the triumph of our life, which may be one useful and beautiful, delighted because delighting blossom in the endless life of our ever-advancing race.

Travels: Apollo and Nymphs on the Shore.

BY T. B. WAKEMAN.

SEASIDE, Ore.—The sea and land! We were born of the two—part one and part the other, but the larger part water, salt water, too. So we hail the ocean with delight and leave it with regret. Here on the shore before noon, the married and elder bathers are leaving, but the younger bloods stay and play on, so as to make the rollers a delight to each other. That is well, too, for them. We have said how a summer trip to sea and mountains should be made a bridal trip each and every year to the married; but to the unmarried young men and maidens, let it be a useful revelation of each to the other, of character and mind, temper and grace, beauty and charm. Their disposition comes out pretty surely on the exigences and management of vacation travel; and in ever so many ways at the home life where all may know. But the sea, the glorious sea, only reveals the living statue. "Never buy a pig in a poke," should apply to matrimony and mating as well as to other and less important bargains. In old Sparta and Greece, health, strength and beauty were the great concern, and the needful revelations were made by slightly draped figures of the dance and athletics. And so far it seemed to work well—and sometime may not play come again?

But with us dress is not simply drapery to adorn, but like the Diplomat's language, "the art to conceal." Yet in the mountains and in the sea those wondrously exquisite living statutes come to the surface as they are, or only

slightly fitted and shaded with the drapery that reveals the form as it is. And those statutes are realized too in the exercises of camp and excursion, wave and boat. Thus are best gained and shown the beauty and grace, the mind and heart, the temper and character, with which only the strong and healthy, the skillful and courageous can gracefully and usefully, sweetly and fondly combine. So may best be secured the joy and success in the continuance of life.

This is the common-sense and practical answer to the advocates of Stirpiculture, who seem to imagine that refined and earnest people cannot see how to make each generation a better one, unless they are mated or bred like cattle. When love ceases to be blind, because unblindfolded, Eros may be trusted to find his Psyche, and both their heaven on earth.

Hark! that bell says, "get ready for dinner." Away all scamper, to see who can eat the most, if not best; who can snooze the soundest, or retail the most delicious sentimentalities among the whispering pines—until the broad bright sun calls then to see him float again beyond the western twilight on the breast of the burning sea. Yet it seemed that Apollo and the nymphs had emigrated from the old world, only to reappear incarnated in the youths and maids who play with the rollers of the Pacific

Religion in Court.

The question of the efficacy of prayer, the affirmative of which is strenuously contended for by religionists, and scoffed at by unbelievers, may be judicially determined soon by a Pennsylvania Judge—though his decision will convince neither the preachers nor the skeptics. A Pennsylvania preacher at a public service prayed for the destruction of a distillery located near his church, and two days later it was struck by lightning, and consumed by "fire from heaven." All the church people contended, or at least assumed, that this was a visitation of Divine vengeance upon the wrecked distillery, in direct answer to prayer. Taking the preacher at his own theory, the distiller has sued him for damages to the extent of the loss, alleging that except for this "fervent, effectual prayer of the righteous" man, which called the Almighty's attention to the distillery, it would not have been singled out as a victim of Divine displeasure. The preacher is in a quandary; if he denies that his prayer had anything to do with the result, he abandons one of the important tenets of his faith and profession; while if he acknowledges that the Lord acted in direct response to his urgent appeal, and this theory is believed by the court, he will be mulcted in damages.—Portland Evening Telegram.

A Beautiful Thought.

EDITOR TORCH OF REASON:

The present Boxer complications in China is continually bringing to light such loving Christian sentiment as that credited to Bishop Cranston, who is quoted as saying that "it is worth any amount in bloodshed or any amount of money to make the Chinese true and intelligent Christians."

What a beautiful thought. The Christians, armed with fire and sword, are forcing their religion upon Humanity. But there is nothing new about this, for thus it has ever been. The hands of Christianity are red with blood, a stain which no amount of washing can eliminate. Wherever Christianity has gained a foothold bloodshed has invariably followed; its victims are allowed to choose between two things, accept or be exterminated. This they call civilization but rightly named it is Christian Barbarism.

The Bible says, "believe or be damned," and Christians as a rule seem to consider themselves authorized to do the damning.

R. L.

Free From Priest-rule.

EDITOR TORCH OF REASON:

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E. D. SECREST,
Randolph, Kansas.

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