

as now known, are neutralized or not applied to the conduct and purposes of life in either feeling, intellect or action.

Take the common instance; the helio-centric or Copernican Astronomy. No University now dares to teach the contrary, yet that discovery and its consequences has been almost entirely limited to the Special Science of Astronomy. The sun still "rises and sets," the soul still goes to Heaven or Hell as of old and all knowledge is limited and used, and life is inspired and lived, and aspirations and motives for the future are measured, according to the old Astronomy, or NOT AT ALL.

The law of Equivalent Correlation, is the great discovery of the Physical Sciences, but its consequences as to our conception of "God and The World," are not and dare not be taken, outside of a Liberal University, because of theological and metaphysical assumptions. Where such assumptions actually or silently prevail, and neutralize the new science and its conclusions which would replace them by the known truth, no complete, fearless emancipation, no really enlightening and human education is possible.

The Board of Trustees and Faculty of the Liberal University of Oregon feel called, therefore, to realize, by all of the means in their power, a true University as its name LIBERAL implies: That is, an Institution where, in the end, all branches of learning may be thoroughly taught; and where primarily the Scientific instead of the Theological Solution of the world and of man, and of his lot, fate and future, will make the clearing knowledge that gives freedom. That knowledge is taught as that of most worth, and the basis and condition of all Special Sciences and of their applications and uses. We ask all Liberal people to consider whether it should not be the delight and privilege of every free man and woman to make sure that such an Institute is sustained by all of the means and patronage in their power.

A Prayer to the Revisors of the Presbyterian Creed.

On our first page will be found Dr. Paul Carus' Admonition to the Presbyterians, who are about to consider the revision of their creed or "Confession of Faith."

It may be said: Is that our business? or, can it be other than an impertinence for Liberals and outsiders to say anything about it? The answer is that the Presbyterians, in numbers and in influence are an important part of the more advanced peoples of Europe and North America, and by their education and missions they are no small item in the world's future. Therefore the motto: Homo sum;

humani nihil a me alienum puto, "I am a man; nothing human I think foreign to me;" could hardly have a more forceful application.

For the same reason the Presbyterians ought not to be indifferent to the Liberal and outside world. As human beings, the time has past when either can consider the others as enemies, or indifferent to each other. The Revision is to take effect on this planet, and be a benefit or an injury to all of us—even to the whole human race. The injunction, to "Regard the interests of Humanity" is the highest obligation resting upon human beings. It rests upon those who do aught that will effect the future of mankind. Nothing can effect that future more deeply than the legislation which will modify the religious views of a large and active portion of the human community.

The first thing therefore, we cannot fail to do, and they must allow us to do, is to congratulate them, with all our hearts, upon their undertaking this work. Things are not as they were before A. D., 1600. Times change, and all people must grow to enlarged conceptions of their own religions; and if in the end they should grow into such enlarged and general conceptions of a religion, that they lead to a religious or higher life and Union of the civilized and enlightened people of the world! where is the human being who would not rejoice?

As Dr. Carus gently points out, and as Col. Ingersoll used to throw out with the vengeance of a just indignation, that Presbyterians retained WORD-TRADITIONS in their creed which were INHUMAN and an opprobrium to the human race.

Presbyterians! The prayer of every human heart to you is, that these old and cruel relics of barbarous ages may be dropped, and may be replaced by the true, human and progressive feelings, concepts and ideas which prophesy a Heaven for the future of mankind, whether upon this earth, or, as you may prefer to say, in some, to us unknown "Celestial Mansion." That is the fundamental sentiment.

Then next, can you disregard the prayer of the intellect and science of the world? That says, "The only wisdom is in Truth." Let that allegiance to truth be stated as the final test by which all traditions, books, and ideas, are to be measured, construed, realized, modified, and all lives conducted.

That is not a new prayer. When the Pastor Robinson dismissed the Pilgrim Fathers to the new world, was not his prayer, in substance, the above? He prayed against "a PERIOD in religion." He exhorted to let "new truth shine from God's word," to be "compared with OTHER SCRIPTURES of TRUTH!" We pray you to let this sacred injunction of

the old word to the new, be fulfilled by your labors now.

Unless your labors are thus crowned by the blessed outcome of Science and Humanity, that is, of Truth and Love, now, how can they but fail hereafter? The world that is, must and will be the foundation of the future. We pray you to recognize it. The world of Ptolemy and its "firmaments" and "spheres" and "mansions," and all that they implied, are hopelessly gone—gone forever! Teach us to adjust our lives and fate to the new world and its new Human Era!—Then will you succeed. The young educated people will come to you. They will come to help you to open the gate to the new, the grander Heaven, grander than it was ever in the heart, or "revelation" of the old world to even dream.

It is to the highest interest and good of all to heed the substance of this prayer. Then indeed, the intelligent young men and women will come to you, else they CAN NOT, unless they become incarnate falsehoods—the most horrid fate that can befall a human being.

They will stand, as one stood 46 years ago on that Princeton Campus at the end of a college course, gazing into the starry-depths, made intelligent by the Astronomy and Science of this Era. And the question came: "Does the Confession of Faith describe or belong to this new infinite and glorious world? Does it describe and indicate the lot, fate and future of man therein? The answer was No! a thousand times No!" Then he said; "It is better to die than to lie. The sentiments, hopes and obligations of the old religion must fail, or find reality to sustain them in this new world. In and by that they must be interpreted. My Alma Mater has proved the church to be impossible to any honest man. The childish nursery of its garden of Eden has become a prison to be opened out into the garden of the whole earth. Into that greater Garden and Church of the World has my Alma Mater, by teaching me Scientific truth, called me to live and work, and thither, and not to the Theological Seminary, must I go."

Thousands of honest and talented young men are repeating these thoughts, asking these questions and waiting upon you, Presbyterians! for the answer. They only, and not the ignorant, stupid and cowardly, can save our old Church by making it a blessing to the world.

Victory and Moore's Release!

All Liberals and friends of a Free Press will be pleased to learn that U. S. Judge Evans has sustained the Demurrer to the indictment agt. Charles C. Moore and James E. Hughes, the publishers of the Blue Grass Blade at Lexing-

ton, Ky. The ground of the decision is that the article in question relative to the Virgin Mary was not obscene. It was simply a free way of illustrating the absurdities of "the Nativity," and might, under the old laws have been called blasphemous. We congratulate the accused on this result of the persecution against them, an account of which appears in the Blade for October 14. Editor Moore deserves our gratitude for two victories for free thought and a free press. In a former case he succeeded in having it held that blasphemy was not an indictable offense under our American law. And now it is held that free exposures and ridicule of theological stories and dogmas for Freethought purposes are not indictable. The language of the discussion is left by the law to be a measure of the writer's sense of decency, good taste and respect for the feelings of others. That leaves all to consider whether, as a general thing, Liberal writings and discussions will not be more effective, if that measure is carefully regarded.

Humbugging the Heathen.

In the first Christian newspaper published in China there is an "Essay on Heaven" for the instruction of China. It is the missionary's idea of Paradise arranged to tempt the Mongolian; and, indeed, it is very much on a plane with that of the negro with his "golden stairs" to be ascended in "dem golden slippers." After quoting Revelations, the Christian's appeal to the heathen Chinese reads as follows: "All the cities of the world are built of earth, or bricks, or stone, or wood. Has anyone ever heard of a city of silver and gold? Has anyone ever seen a pagoda that was roofed with golden tiles? Anyone who should see such a building would be surprised at its cost. But in the City of Heaven the houses themselves are not only made of gold, but even the roads are paved with it; the houses are roofed with it; the city is full of it. Everything is of the most precious gold." Nevertheless, the chosen consent to linger on this brick and mortar and wooden world! And when they are hard-pressed with rebellious natives, they do not call in the All-powerful of whom they preach, but rely on soldiers with carnal weapons, and some of whom are not Christians at all. Is not this playing the great Mission rather low?—[Freethinker, London, England.]

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