

Lying Spirit.

Scene:—Heaven, the home of eternal bliss; "the foundation of its walls garnished with all manner of precious stones; each of its twelve gates a pearl; its streets pure gold, as it were transparent glass; in the midst a throne, around about which is a rainbow, like an emerald; before the throne a sea of glass like crystal; out of the throne proceeds a river of water of life clear as crystal; seven lamps of fire burning before the throne; around about the throne are twenty-four seats, upon which are seated twenty-four elders, clothed in white raiments, and on their heads crowns of gold." On the throne is seated the Lord of heaven and earth, "to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone; and all the hosts of heaven standing by him, on his right hand and on his left."

The Lord God speaks: "Who shall persuade Ahab, that he may go up and fall at Ramoth-Gilead?"

One said in this manner, and another said in that manner.

Then a spirit came forth, "his hair was white as snow, his eyes were as a flame of fire; and his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace. He had in his right hand seven stars." He stood before the Lord and said: "I will persuade him."

The Lord God: "Wherewith?"

The Spirit: "I will go forth and I will be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets."

The Lord God: "Thou shalt persuade him and prevail also. Go forth and do so."

Ahab, king of Israel, persuaded by the lying spirit in the mouths of his prophets, went up to take Ramoth-Gilead from the king of Syria and fell in the fight, as the Lord God desired. From Revelation and I Kings, chapter 22.

From this abode of blissful magnificence, "where there is no need of the sun, neither of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God lightens it," the omnipotent God hurled his cruel, unjust curse, which bathes each new-born babe of all lands and for all time in the sin imputed to Adam. Because so poor a creature of the dust, dared to disobey him, the "Great I Am" has made each babe liable to the eternal torture of hell.

This God of the Hebrew Bible, this God of the Lying Spirit and omnipotent cruelty and revenge, [but who does not really exist] is he whom the various denominations are trying to make the Oriental people worship, a worship that excludes the ordered, organized, purifying and unifying truths of Science.

The governments of the so-called Christian nations should take into serious consideration the claims of

Science, to be the true civilizing power of the earth.

"Truth alone is cosmopolitan, and in Science alone does Truth reside." M. M. T.

How to Increase Liberalism.

Editor Torch of Reason:—

An article in the last Torch, "How to make Liberalism grow," is the inspiration of this writing; not that Liberalism is not growing, for it is, and it has made a large growth during my day. How to increase its rate of growth, I take to be the question.

Anything that grows must have food to grow on, or some sort of assimilative pabulum. Liberalism, Secularism, Freethought, call it what you will, lives and grows on thoughts, ideas and knowledge. It is a self-perpetuating process, not only living and growing by what it feeds on, but at the same time producing a supply of pabulum for others. It is a perpetual motion, which not only generates its own power, but produces a surplus to move other machinery.

I think the principal cause of the present slow growth of Liberalism is lack of leadership and organization. With a prospect of support, leadership will become a desirable profession, and the rest will grow. And the number of persons who are "always ready to be known as Liberals" and to give good and sound reasons for being such on every reasonable occasion, will be vastly multiplied.

As it is now, all Liberals are suspected, if not known, and as a rule, the very suspicion costs them more than it would to help support a society with a local lecturer, for Christianity is a born coward, attacking only the weak and defenceless, but keeping shy of those with the power and disposition to return blow for blow. Persecution is the only argument that Christians know, and they never war in the open.

My ideas on this matter may be a bit "woozy," but that's the way it looks to me.

Thought Exchange societies with instructive lectures and social entertainment features will build up schools and improve conditions, the local societies becoming spheres of influence for Liberal publications and schools. Q.

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