THE TORCH OF REASON, SILVERTON, OREGON, NOVEMBER 22, E. M. 300 (1900.)

mailing. U. Liberty -t, In

interrupted work, to acquire unlimited knowledge, to solve perplexing mysteries-in a word, to and ever.

know; only this is certain, that our ble, as we have seen, to maintain help is needed in this world at that this belief is innate or instincpresent, while, as regards the fu- tive in man. On the other hand, ture, good work here is the best a belief in all-pervading spiritual preparation for complete fruition agencies seems to be universal, and hereafter.

ideal, and the effort to realize that in God has been used by many ideal will be the noblest and most satisfactory occupation of every individual intelligence. The end can be attained only by learning and obeying the eternal laws of nature, as these are demonstrated through the discoveries of Science. -"The Christ Myth."

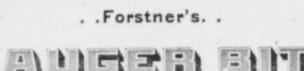
Man More Merciful Than HIs God.

This Texas Tornado was a terrible affair. Whole towns have been wiped out. Miles of country have been devasted. Hundred of vessels have been wrecked. Thousands of houses have been destroyed. does this bear on the belief in the A multitude of people have been immortality of the soul?" Men have perished in ruined. Women with children hundreds. in their arms have been drowned clear belief of this kind, but arguor crushed to death. The very graves have been turned up, and the buried corpses swept out to sea. Darkness completed the terror of the scene, and the most superstitious may well have thought that the Day of Judgment was at hand. The damage amounts to millions of pounds. But what is that beside the horror, the agony, the sufferings of the killed, and the awful cause for anxiety because the permisery of many of the survivors who move about in a strange world without wife or child or friend? scale. This is the worst bitterness of such a catastrophe. Galveston. Of course it was. How by some as highly irreligious, but could it be expected to withstand he who denounces them is bound the storm? But that hospital was to show why it is more irreligious presumably full of the sick and to explain the origin of man as a perhaps the dying. One would distinct species by descent from think that providence might have some lower form, through the laws made an exception in this case. of variation and natural selection, Hospitals are not to be fired on in than to explain the birth of the inbesieged cities; but when provi- dividual through the laws of ordidence lets loose the artillery of nary reproduction. heaven, nothing is sacred; every- both of the species and of the indithing is overwhelmed in a blind vidual, are equally parts of that fury. ic efforts to help the injured; that result of blind chance. The un- thing. the surviving citizeus strove to derstanding revolts at such a consave their fellow men and women, clusion, whether or not we are able and that the sympathy of America to believe that every slight variais hastening to the relief of the homeless and destitute. All that is good. It gives a happy thrill to every tender heart. But does it not show that man is more merci- have all been ordained for some ful than his God?-[Freethinker.

The Belief in God not Innate,

The belief in God has often been love and learn and enjoy forever advanced as not only the greatest, but the most complete of all the Whether all this is to be our distinctions of man and the lower privelege we do not, and cannot animals. It is, however, impossi-Carpenter apparently follows from a consid-So long as human beings live erable advance in man's reason, and suffer and enjoy in this, the and from a still greater advance in only world open to our present his faculties of imagination, curiknowledge, the BROTHERHOOD OF osity and wonder. I am aware MAN will be the highest possible that the assumed instinctive belief persons as an argument for his existence. But this is a rash argument, as we should thus be compelled to believe in the existence of many cruel and malignant spirits, only a little more powerful than Single bit, man, for the belief in them is far more general than in a beneficent Address, deity. The idea of a universal and beneficent creator does not seem to arise in the mind of man until he has been elevated by long-contin-SAMPLE ued culture.

He who believes in the advancement of man from some low organized form will naturally ask, "How The barbarous races of man, as Sir J. Lubbock has shown, possess no ments derived from the primeval beliefs of savages are, as we have just seen, of little or no avail. Few persons feel any anxiety from the impossibility of determining at what precise period in the development of the individual, from the first trace of a minute germinal vesicle, man becomes an immortal being; and there is no greater iod cannot possibly be determined in the gradually ascending organic I am aware that the conclusions arrived at in this work [The De-"A hospital was blown down" at scent of Man] will be denounced The birth, grand sequence of events which gress. We read that doctors made hero- our minds refuse to accept as the tion of structure, the union of each pair in marriage, the dissemination of each seed, and other such events special purpose.-[Darwin.



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