

Christian Civilization.

The quantity of "Christianity" now passing current in the world, is shown in the demand of the "allied powers" for the heads of eleven Chinese princes, as part of the price to be paid for damages by the recent uprising against foreigners in that country. These allied powers include all the great powers of earth, and they all pose as Christian nations, and are universally recognized as such. Whatever may be said of the expediency or propriety of such a demand, from a world's political standpoint, it is surely not Christianity. If such a demand had been made by Turkey or China or Persia, or any professedly antichristian power, it would have been shocking to the senses of all "Christendom." But the war spirit that is crowning the century in its expiring years, is fast changing civilization into gilded barbarism. Christianity says, "Recompense to no man evil for evil" (Rom. 12:17), but "overcome evil with good" (verse 21). Any other principle, whatever its necessity, or supposed necessity, in the civil government of a sinful world, is not Christianity; and, therefore, Christians cannot legitimately have any part in it.—Signs of the Times.

The Bible, the bludgeon and the bottle are the best ensignia of the modern Mammon-ruled civilization. If any other emblems of our polite and pious savagery should be chosen, let them be the prayer-book, the padlock and the pistol; or else, the cross, the cup and the cord. Creed, and feed—or drink—, curse these times, as they have all times since men made gods to fear and beer to queer. The Bible blesses the whole wild row. The "powers that be are ordained of God," and "the king beareth not the sword in vain." Christ came not to send peace, but a sword; and Moses ordered the Israelites to make a yearly feast of whatsoever their souls lusted after to celebrate the conquest of Canan. So it was steel, and steal, and reel; in the legal dispensation, and so it is in the gospel civilization—Only, hew, and brew, and cheat, and eat and drink; but, don't dare think—all for God's glory! The war Christian explains that the Prince of Peace made a Golden Rule for slaves, and a Steel Rule for kings; that they should do God's vengeance and swipe the vituals, while the meek and lowly toilers ought to be thankful for the bones and crusts.

A Bad Rule.

The Most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever He will, and setteth over it the basest of men.—[Bible.]
According to the Bible, The Most High is a Bad Lot, and He is responsible for all the evil govern-

ment. It won't do for a Bibleist to say, men do the evil of their own wicked will, with the Lord's permission, when they are set to rule by the Lord's own election because they are base. "Is there evil in the city and the Lord has not done it?" "I form the light and I create the darkness, I do the good and also the evil; I the Lord, do all these things."

From the Investigator.

A Change of Brains.

BY JAMES L. DOWNING.

I never, from my childhood days,
Wished for a change of heart;
My own has served me faithfully,—
Why should we ever part?
But I would wish that clergymen
Might have a change of brains,
And teach that baseless faith cannot
"Wash out our guilty stains."

Yes, I would have religionists
Resign their false belief,
And not to poor men be unjust,
But offer them relief:
They need to know the penalties
Of crossing Nature's laws,
That way to cure an evil is,—
Avoid its primal cause.

To Science all are debtors for
The most of truth we know;
Her teachings go far deeper, too,
Than "sacred" books can show:
It proves we cannot estimate
How many thousand years
Mankind has dwelt upon the earth,
In ignorance and tears.

For centuries truth seekers were
Not treated as they'd ought,
But burnt by faithist's faggots
For teaching their free thought:
The world has grown more liberal,
By logic's earnestness;
In Reason's Age we voice our thoughts,
Or print them with a press.
Dunstable, Mass.

A Psalm of Life.

BY HENRY W. LONGFELLOW.

Tell me not, in mournful numbers,
"Life is but an empty dream!"
For the soul is dead that slumbers,
And things are not what they seem.
Life is real! Life is earnest!
And the grave is not its goal;
"Dust thou art, to dust returnest,"
Was not spoken of the soul.

Not enjoyment, and not sorrow,
Is our destined end or way;
But to act, that each to-morrow
Find us farther than to-day.
Art is long, and Time is fleeting,
And our hearts, though stout and brave,
Still, like muffled drums, are beating
Funeral marches to the grave,
In the world's broad field of battle,
In the bivouac of Life,
Be not like dumb, driven cattle,
Be a hero in the strife!

Trust no Future, how'er pleasant,
Let the dead Past bury its dead!
Act,—act in the living present,
Heart within and God o'erhead!
Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime,
And, departing, leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of Time.

Footprints, that perhaps another,
Sailing o'er life's solemn main,
A forlorn and shipwrecked brother,
Seeing, shall take heart again.

Let us, then, be up and doing,
With a heart for any fate;
Still achieving, still pursuing,
Lear to labor and to wait.



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