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TWO RELIGIOUS VIEWS

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In the last few years what may be called a new school of religious thought has been coming into being in this country. Although still largely unnamed and unorganized, in some form this new school is rapidly coming to be the settled conviction of many people. While not openly and militantly antagonistic the the dogmas of the old forms of established Christian belief, in effect it denies the soundness of these dogmas. It may be interesting to compare this new school of religious thought with the ideas of the older Christian organizations.

Very briefly stated in secular, not religious terms, the fundamental beliefs of practically all organized Christian churches are that God created man a perfect being, placed him in the Garden of Eden, and gave him certain specific commands to guide his conduct. That notwithstanding his perfection, almost man's first act was to disobey the command of God. That as punishment for this disobedience God condemned this man and all his descendants to eternal torture in hell after death. That after thousands of years, when the human family had increased to hundreds of millions, God relented in His judgment to the extent that He sent His only begotten Son, who was with him in Heaven, to the earth to become a propitiation for the multiplying sins of men. That this Son took on himself the form of a babe, was born of a woman, grew to manhood, manifested many of the attributes and powers of divinity, was crucified by his religious enemies and returned to His divine Father in Heaven. That thereafter all persons who willingly accept this Son as their Lord and Savior shall be pardoned of their sins and at their death ascend into heaven and become a part of the family of God. All who do not so accept the Son shall still be subject to condemnation to eternal suffering after death.

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The religious understanding of this newer school, above referred to, briefly stated in the same secular terms, is that all life upon the earth started in a very primitive, physical form, but that it had been made active by the presence in it of an infinitesimal part of the Divine life; that, in short, there is no other life but the life of God. That in the primitive man there was present this Divine element which not only animated him but has been working in man's organism to cleanse, purify and elevate the grosser elements into which it was placed and to unfold and enlarge the attributes of the spark of the Divine life that was present in the first manifestation of his life. That in man, as in all other forms of life, although the process of bringing the individual to perfection is a slow one, eventually these divine elements in him will be so enlarged and strengthened as to dwarf and control all grosser attributs of his being and so purify and elevate them that he will come to be a spiritual, a divine man. That because of the presence of this divine life in them, all men are immortal as the life of God everywhere is immortal.

To the objection that man does not now manifest many of the attributes of divinity those who entertain this newer belief answer that with the passage of time there are growing manifestations of the wisdom and power of God present in the lives of men; that the apparent slowness of this development is in part, at least, accounted for by the fact that in this life we only observe the development that takes place during the first fifty to one hundred years of man's existence; that this is a brief period in which to develop an individual from the rudimentary condition in which the babe comes into the world into the unfolded, godly man which he is designed eventually to become. That we cannot follow this process of unfoldment after the individual passes beyond our vision through death; could we do so we should see an increasing manifestation of the divine nature in men and should find in this manifestation proof of the truth of the statement of the Bible as to Jesus, that "He is the first born of many brethren."

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It is a part of this belief that God not only loves all men but having blessed them all by the bestowal upon them of a part of His life, He watches over all, guards and sustains this life in all the multitude of evil and repulsive experiences through which most physical men pass in the process of working out the lower nature, and finally brings all into the divine life through this process of purification.

This spiritual evolution of man is to be differentiated from what is ordinarily understood as to evolution by the fact that the evolution of science deals primarily with the development of his latent powers that finally unfold and expand into the spiritual or godly man. They regard this process as a part of a universal plan by which God purifies His creation and that it is fixed and as certain to take place in every individual as all the other laws of God are certain, fixed and unchangeable.

It is contended by these believers that the fact that all men will eventually develop into godly individuals does not take away man's responsibility for his life; because the attitude man assumes toward the things that are good, pure and holy determines the length of the period during which he must struggle with lower propensities of his nature and endure the resulting trouble and suffering. It is contended that these are the means by which God causes man willingly to turn away from the lower, grosser tendencies of the physical life to the higher, better promptings of the divine elements that are struggling for mastery within him. That when this mastery is finally attained, man lives in the atmosphere of divinity, in harmony with the ultimate purpose of God for him and enjoys the bliss and displays the wisdom and power that are incident to the possession within himself of the controlling life of divinity.

Secretary Christian's disclosure that President Harding once seriously considered locating in Tennessee prompts unprofitable reflections. For instance, that there may be some Tennesseean who if he had located in Ohio would have become president.

Mr. Balfour was asked by a group of newspaper correspondents if he was going to Washington, and he laughingly answered that he had a shrewd idea: "The prime minister has just called me to decide whether he goes or I go, or we both go." The United States would be glad to see both.

"Boys," remarked Noah, "we can consider ourselves lucky." "In what way?" "In not having to wait for a legislative appropriation to carry out our shipbuilding enterprise." — Washington Star.

Dr. Gotthard Deutsch, dean of the Hebrew Union college of Cincinatti, who has died at the age of 62, could quote the Bible word for word from memory, it is said. It illustrates the cyclopedic quality of his mind, which he employed in many works of profound scholarship. He wrote equally well, it is said, in English, Hebrew, French and German. He was a native of Austria.

"A paramount obligation" the American Red Cross declares its duty to care for disabled veterans of the World war, and it might with equal truth have characterized the United States government's duty in the same terms.

New York is proud of its low death rate as compared with other American cities; but Health Commissioner Copeland finds that it is surpassed by three European cities. The healthiest city in the world in 1920 was Amsterdam, with a death rate of but 11.07 per 1000. Then come Birmingham and London, both with a record a little better than New York's 12.93.

AN EDUCATIONAL NEED

(From the Washington Post)

The recent educational survey on every-day topics clearly showed the need of current events courses in the schools and colleges of the country. When a big percentage of students displays ignorance of the men and affairs of the day, it is high time to do something to correct the condition. Boys and girls should be kept abreast of the times. In order to round out their education they need to know things other than those contained in text books.

Current event courses will fill the need. More stress laid on the affairs of the day will make interesting the hours that are so boresome to all healthy children. An added zest can be given to study. That will help the youngsters and the teachers, too. The practical can well be combined with the theoretical, to the end that the young men and women of the country will have a broader education than the survey indicates to be the vogue at present.

Parents and teachers would do well to demand that children keep in touch with the news of the day. History is made every 24 hours. Not all of it is lasting, but the lessons and impressions of the fleeting day should be read by all. The newspapers furnish the medium of instruction that is needed by grownups, as well as children. Through their columns one can gain a liberal education. No one ignorant of the affairs of the day is well educated. Hence a knowledge of current events is an obligation that rests upon every good citizen. It is one of the greatest of our educational needs.

A Hint to Pathe

Amazing ignorace about current events is revealed by an examination of 17,000 students in grammar schools, high schools and colleges scattered through the country. The questions asked were not difficult, but an average of 44 per cent was the best result possible. Only seven persons knew who Senator Lodge was, and such conspicuous characters as Lloyd George and Hughes were variously misplaced. Obviously more attention is needed to current events in home and school.—Congregationalist.

SHY IN THE PULPIT

More young men are going into the academies and colleges than ever before, but fewer are going into the ministry. A bishop says that the Methodist church alone needs 1000 new preachers today. An exchange says: "Looks as if the women would have to take more extensively to the ministry. They are taking men's jobs in every field, but are making less progress in the pulpit than in most aisles of effort. Women keep the church fires burning, yet they fail to superintend the fuel supply."

OUR EXPENSES ON THE RHINE

(From the Chicago Tribune)

Briand, the French premier, will take up with President Harding when, or if, he comes to Washington the matter of the expenses of the American army on the Rhine. The cost has been $300,000,000 thus far. The Germans have paid it. The French and British have it. The United States can't get it.

The reparations commission is supposed to pay it over, but is prevented by its understanding of the situation. The United States has not signed the treaty. The reparations commission handles funds under the terms of the treaty. A hundred years from now, when Germany has paid in full, $65,000,000,000, it may be possible to turn over to the United States what Germany paid to France and Great Britain for the upkeep of the American army on German soil since the armistice.

The treaty does not prevent the American army from supporting France on German territory and it does not prevent the Germans from paying the French and their allies for the American army, but it does prevent the American army from getting the German money.

Maybe the soldiers had better come home before the reparations commission thinks to turn in a bill for rental of an occupied town. That might run into real money.

HANGING, RELIGIOUS RELIC

In many parts of the world hanging is the white man's method of capital punishment, a custom handed down for thousands of years. As a matter of fact hanging is a religious relic. Odin, the great god, according to Norse mythology, once hanged himself, and on coming back to life promised that all who would follow his example would join a band of his companions and live happy ever after. Many followed this injunction voluntarily, and it became a religious ceremony. But soon offers diminished, and the priests were forced to take prisoners of war, and finally criminals, from which resulted the custom which is still followed.—Detroit News.

RIGHTS OF THE BIBLE

The Presbyterian church is determined to prove that the action of the state of Washington in specifically excluding the Bible from the public schools is unconstitutional. The church does not ask for the regular use of the Bible in the schools, but it does insist that its direct exclusion is not in accordance with the principles upon which the government was founded. The constitution guarantees religious liberty, but that does not mean the exclusion of the Christian Bible from the educational institutions of the state. The constitution was largely based upon the Bible-reading group of patriots. To now definitely bar the Bible from any American school is to run counter to the will and intents of the founders of the republic. It is the intention of the Presbyterian synod to make a test case and carry it clear to the supreme court of the United States if necessary. The Bible may not be freely admitted into school service, but it is not to be specifically excluded. —Los Angeles Times.

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MAY ERECT SPAN NEAR CASCADES

Steel Structure Planned on Spot Where Bridge of Gods Stood

CASCADE LOCKS, Or., Oct. 20. —The "Bridge of the Gods," a natural bridge which Indian legend says once spanned the wide Columbia river here, may be replaced by a bridge of steel or concrete for passage of the white man's automobile.

From father to son, back farther than the white man's writings go, has come the tale of how once a great mass of stone and earth and huge trees arched the Columbia as a causeway upon which Indians crossed the wide-flowing stream. Then there came a day when the bridge of nature was shaken from its moorings, and sank into the water. And that is how, they say, the cascades were created.

Geographical and geological investigators have reported that the red man's story may be true. When the waters of the Columbia are clear and low late in the year remains of trees may be seen standing, as they may have stood before the bridge fell and formed the cascades.

Credence is placed in the natural bridge of F. H. Balch, author of the Indian romance, "The Bridge of the Gods." He says that Indians everywhere along the mid-Columbia tell of the great bridge that once stood over the cascades.

"All Columbian tribes tell the story," he says, "in different versions and different dialects, but all agreeing on the essential features as one of the great facts of past history."

Engineers were recently reported making preliminary surveys on both sides of the Columbia for a bridge just below the cascades.

. . . . PREPAREDNESS . . . .

On a dozen occasions within six months the old fellow had absented himself from the shop to attend funerals. Finally the foreman remonstrated with him, not wishing to see the man discharged.

"What's the idea of going to all those funerals, Dennis, when the people are not even distantly related to you? Your absence from work is getting you in bad with the superintendent."

"Oi'm an old man, sor, a very ould mon," he replied earnestly. "Oi must look out for the future mesilf, sor. If yes doan't go to other folk's funeral how can yez expect them to go to yourn?"—Saturday Evening Post.

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