The Liberal Republican

DALLAS, SATURDAY, FEB 15.

Continued from page first

to us; in England, by another apostle of "Modern Thought" as one of the men to whose guidance we ought, if we are wise, to submit in matters of belief I would not if even if I had the capacity and the time, make an attempt in this place to confute them; for I have no fear that by their exhibition they will beguile you. Neither do I search for the hard name of controversy to describe them, for they best describe themselves. [Applause.] Neither can I profess to feel unmixed regret at their being forced, thus eagerly and thus early into notice; because it is to be hoped that they will cause a shock and a reaction, and will compel many who have too lightly valued the inheritance so dearly bought for them, and they may have entered upon dangerous paths, to consider, while there is yet time, whither those paths will lead them. In no part of his writings, perhaps has Dr. Strauss been so effective as where he assails the inconsistency of those who adopt those premises but decline to follow him to their conclusions. Suffice it to say these opinions are by no means merely German brood; there are many writers of kindred sympathy in England, and some of as outspoken courage. But, in preparing ourselves for the combat of life, I beg you to take this also into your account that the spirit of denial is abroad, and has challenged all religion, but especially the religion we profess, to a combat of life and death. But I venture to offer you a few suggestions, in the hope that they may not be without their use. In the Material sphere the achievements of the age are splendid and unmixed. In the social sphere they are great and noble, but seen ever to be confronted by a succession of new problems, which almost defy solution. In the sphere of pure intellect I doubt whether posterity will rate us as we rate ourselves. [Hear, hear.] But what most to observe is this, that it is an insufferable arrogrance in the men of any age to assume what I may call airs of unmeasured superiority over former ages. God, who cares for us, cared for them also. In the goods of this world we may advance by strides, but it is by steps only and not by strides, and by slow and steady steps that all the improvements of man in the highest arranges of his being is effected. [Hear, hear.] Again, my friends, you will hear much to the effect that the divisions among Christians render it impossible to say what Christianity is, and so destroy the certainty of religion. But if the divisions are remarkable, not less so in their unity in the greatest doctrine that they hold. [Hear.] Well might fifteen hundred years —— years of a more stained activity than the world had ever before seen—have passed away since the great controversies concerning the Deity and Person of the Redeemer were, after a long agony determined. As before that time in a manner less defined, but adequate for their day, so ever since that time, amid all chance and change, more, aye many more, than ninty-nine of every hundred Christians have with one will confessed the Deity and incarnation of our Lord as the cardinal and central truths of our religion. [Hear.] Surely there is some sense of brotherhood, some glory in the past, some hope for the times are to come. On one, and only one, more of the favorite fallacies of the day I will yet presume to touch. It is the opinion and the boast of some that man is not responsible for his belief. Lord Brougham was at one time stated to have given utterence to this opinion, whether truly, I know not. But this I know: it was my privilege to hear from his own lips the needful and due limitation of that propostion. "Man," he said, "is not responsible for his belief.' But as before God one and the same law applies to opinions and to acts—or to inward and to outward acts, for opinions are to inward acts. [Applause] Many a wrong opinion may be guiltless because formed in ignorance, and because that ignorance may not be our fault; but who shall presume to say there is no mercy for wrong actions also, when they, too, have been due to ignorance, and that ignorance has not been guilty? The question is not whether judgments and actions are in the same degree influenced by the condition of the moral motives. If it is undeniable that self-love and passion have an influence upon both; then so far as that influence goes, for both we must be prepared to answer. Should we in common life ask a body of swindlers for an opinion upon swindling, or of gamblers for an opinion upon gamlbing or ot misers upon bounty? And if in matters of religion we allow pride and perverseness to raise a cloud between us and the truth, so that we see it not, the false opinion that we form is but the index of that perverseness and that pride, and both of them, and for it as their offspring, we shall be justly held responsible. Who they are upon whom this responsibility will fall it is not ours to judge. These laws are given to us not to apply presumptuously to others, but to enforce honestly against ourselves. Next to a Christian life, my friends, you will find your best defence against reckless novelty of speculation in sobriety of temper and in sound intellectual habits. Be slow to stir inquiries which you do not mean particularly to pursue to their proper end. Be not afraid to suspend your judgment, or to feel and admit to yourselves how narrow are the bounds of knowledge. Do not too readily assume that to us have been opened royal roads to truth, which were heretofore hidden from the whole family of man; for the opening of such roads would not be so much favor or ca price. If it is bad to yield a blind submission to authority, it is not less an error to deny to it its reasonable weight Eschewing a service adherence to the past, regard it with defference and gratitude, and except its accumulations in inward as well as outward things as the patrimony, which is your part in life both to preserve and to improve. [Prolonged applause.]

A WISH.

I wish I was married,
And had a little wife,
Of roaming I am tired
With her I spend my life.

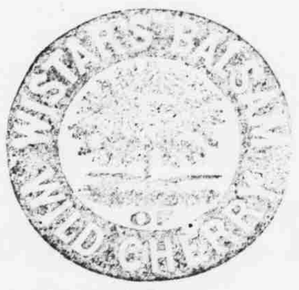
A pretty little home
And a pleasant hearth,
I think that I could make it
A little Heaven on earth.

With pretty little babies
To play upon my knees
And their loving mother,
I would delight to please

When weary and pressed down
In the busy walk of life,
I could rest my weary head
On the bosom of my wife.

Now with such a home as this
Contented I would be,
And ere the setting of each sun
Its homeward I would flee.

WEBFOOT.



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