

gods, by their marriages, were involved in perpetual jealousies. Although the gods were called holy and just, they were full of envy, wrath, cruelty, hatred, perfidy and adultery. Paul gives a very vivid picture of the heathen world in his epistle to the Romans. Their debased condition was the necessary consequence of worshiping the gods we have mentioned; for man becomes assimilated to the character of the object worshiped.

The Christian teachers among the Gentiles had to contend with many propagandists of heathen systems of philosophy. Platonism and Aristotelianism had each able and persistent advocates; and Christianity was pronounced by them foolishness. In the days of the apostles, Epicureanism and Stoicism were the prevailing philosophies at Athens, which was the center of civilization, according to heathen philosophy. At the conclusion of Paul's celebrated discourse on Mars' Hill, the Epicureans mocked, and the Stoics went away indifferently, saying, "We will hear you again concerning this matter." Paul warned the Colossians against the baneful influence of the leading systems of philosophy belonging to that age.

Christianity had to contend against the civil power of Rome. The Roman religion was united to the civil power; and Christianity, in its religious triumphs, incurred the disfavor of the State.

There were ten great persecutions waged against the Church, commencing with Nero and ending with Dioclesian. The last named monarch boasted that he would exterminate the Christians; but the more he persecuted them the faster they grew, so that finally he had to issue an edict of toleration. After a conflict of three hundred years, Christianity triumphed over both political and ecclesiastical Rome. Although Constantine the Great did not fully understand the true spirit of Christianity, he had sagacity enough to know that it was the only religion that had in it vitality enough to sustain the declining glory of imperial Rome.

Lancaster, Ky.

THE SINLESS AGE.

SALEM, OR., May 10, 1883.

Ed. Christian Herald:

DEAR BRO.,—In a former article I spoke of the long ages that may have passed away while man was in his sinless state, when death, as a consequence of sin, was to him

unknown. Time carried them not on to the grave, when youth, perpetual youth, through decades, centuries and millenniums may have been theirs. But alas! the tempter came. Man violated the command of his Creator, then disease began

to prey upon him, time began to bring age, youth began to fade, troubles and sorrows were multiplied, the earth did not yield to him her "strength" any longer, thorns and thistle began to grow; man saw the approaching doom "Dust thou art and unto dust thou shalt return." Now behold a weeping world. What untold sorrows, pain and grief have rolled over the world as a deluge for six thousand years, and all in consequence of the loss of the tree of life. Moses tells us but very little about this tree, his account of it is very short. But John, in his apocalyptic vision, gives a more full description of it; he was permitted to see it as it is now in heaven, and says it bore twelve manner of fruit and yielded its fruit every month and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

Now be it remembered that this is after the resurrection and the judgment, and after the creation of the new heaven and the new earth, and after the saints have put on immortality and wearing their spiritual bodies. Then what diseases will there be for the leaves of this tree to heal? But I am inclined to the opinion that John was permitted to see it just as it grew in the garden of Eden where it actually bore twelve manner of fruit and yielded its fruit every month and the leaves of it were for the healing of the nations of the earth before their rebellion. Here I will give my understanding of this part of the subject, that man was created just as he is now (sin excepted) mortal, and subject to disease, decay and death, that his body wasted away as now, and that eating and drinking was necessary to supply their wasting energies. This seems to be a universal law of all animated nature, and man was no exception to this universal law; and to supply this demand of nature the earth brought forth abundantly and yielded to man her strength.

Now there is another law just as universal, for which there is no remedy, and that is decay and death; time carries all animated beings to the grave. This is just what the tree of life was for, it healed diseases, perpetuated life and destroyed the effects of time.

As food supplied the wasting energies of the body so the tree of life healed the maladies that man was heir to and neutralized death. After humanity arrived at maturity the fruit of this tree and its leaves effectually stayed any further advancement of age, but youth was perpetually his. Now let us suppose that man had voluntarily refused to eat of this tree for a certain length of time beyond that in which it was intended to be used, age would surely begin to prey upon him and death would finally ensue, and by long neglect of this tree, voluntarily or otherwise, or from mechanical injuries he possibly may have died with violating any command. Death seems not to have been in the tree of knowledge of good and evil as though it was poison; but then becoming disobedient the life-giving tree was guarded by a flaming sword, and afterward was removed to heaven where John saw it as above described, there to be preserved till the resurrection, when all the Christian world will see it as it grew and was beheld by unfallen man in Eden's garden. With this view of the subject, and I believe there is nothing in the Bible that will contradict it, but that there is a preponderance of evidence in its favor, we may look for man and his works, and expect to find them occasionally through all the geological formations that contain those of the mammiferous animals that was created simultaneous with man, or on the same day that he was.

Now I am done with this subject for the present. These articles may be considered hypothetical which, indeed, they were partly intended to be. In this matter I have had no high way in which to travel, no beaten path to tread; that they may contain errors we may expect, possibly the premissis wrong. I submit the subject to the public for their investigation, asking them to receive the good and reject the evil. Hoping to meet the Christian world in the new heaven and new earth and find Paradise restored.

Yours,

G. R. P.

"Men have tried various plans for the transformation of character; but the gospel plan has the advantage of them all. Human expedients propose a change of circumstances; but the gospel proposes a change of heart."

Programme of Exercises for Commencement Week in Christian College.

Sunday, June 17th, 11, A. M., Baccalaureate Sermon, President Van Scoy, of Willamette University.

Tuesday, June 19th, 10, A. M., Annual Meeting of the Board of Trustees.

Tuesday evening, 8, P. M., Annual Reunion of Associate Alumni.

Wednesday evening, June 20th, Society Entertainment.

Thursday evening, June 21st, Graduation Exercises.

Report.

LANCASTER, KY.,

April 16, 1883.

Dear Bro. Floyd:

About one year ago the brethren here thought that we had added to the church all that could be reached in this city. Since then nearly thirty persons have united with the church at our regular meetings.

Yours fraternally,

JAS. W. LOWBER.

Report from Kansas.

LEAVENWORTH, KAN.,

May 21, 1883.

Bro. Floyd:

We had two added to our number yesterday. We have averaged about two additions each Sunday since the 1st of Jan. We have repaired our church to the amount of \$500. Every thing is now in good taste and the church is at work and we are happy and prosper.

Your brother in the work,

F. M. RAINS.

Department of Public Instruction.

SALEM, OR., May 29, 1883.

The State Teachers' Association for 1883, has been appointed to meet in Salem, June 26th, and will continue in session June 27th, 28th and 29th. Teachers and friends of education in all parts of the State are cordially and earnestly invited to attend and take part in its discussions.

An excellent programme is being prepared and will be printed for distribution as early as possible. Superior lectures and instruction will be given by the leading educators and teachers of our higher institutions of learning and the public schools.

Arrangements have been made for reduced rates on the principal