

The Relations of Literary Men to Christianity.

The above caption is the subject of a sermon by David Swing, of Chicago. He takes for his text, "What think ye of Christ?"

This famous pulpit orator and profound thinker, grapples with a question which he seems unable to answer satisfactorily, standing as he does the exponent of a great church establishment; it is difficult to harmonize his conceptions of Christianity with the strong tendency and deeply felt need of many minds famous in literature. He says, "Upon reading over the catalogue of those gifted ones who have made the world's literature in its many forms and languages, I conclude for myself that the relations of these minds to any organized church have not been warm and out spoken; that these men have not been full of zeal for the creeds which may have surrounded them."

This is confessing a great deal. There are, with the true worshippers, a forgetting of cold formalism, and a neglect of the stiff and death-dealing ritualism which surrounds too many written forms of worship. There is in true piety a plain which stretches far above all these and extends its bounds to the far-reaching horizon of meditation and devotion, combining in its features, the rude outlines of true spiritual worship where exists only earth beneath and heaven above.

But let it not be inferred that, we would argue the want of the truly religious sentiment in the minds of those who, as we sometimes express it, have learned to think for themselves. Quite the contrary. Hear him again:

"On the other hand, it does not appear that the religious element has been wanting or that Atheism plays much of a part in letters. Only this appears, that literary men have very widely refused to sign the articles of Christian organizations, but they have almost universally revealed a deep religious sentiment, in the Christian era a Christian sentiment, in the Pagan era a Pagan religious sentiment. If the scholars and thinkers of the world have not led towards a meeting house, or a chapel, or a cathedral, it can not be complained of them that they have led toward Atheism or any form of impiety. It is the glory of literature and of the good fortune of those who read it, that cold as may be its heart toward your church or my church, it has never led toward Atheism or utter indifference, but it has made a large and central figure of God, and all through the Christian centuries of Christ."

This is strong language, indicating a deep-seated religious sentiment, searching for the true worship, yet, at the same time, an open acknowledgment that the formulated articles of so-called church establishments do not meet the wants of man's spiritual nature. It is a bold concession that the reverence due to the Father of Spirits, through his only Son, from spiritual beings can not be couched in so many "Ave Marias," pages of the Prayer Book or following the prescribed mechanical postures of this or that organization.

He comes to the point so that all can understand. "Our problem, therefore, narrows itself somewhat as we look into it, and asks us to acquit literature of any Atheism, and to ask only this less painful question: 'What are the relations of literary men to the formulated creeds of Christianity?'"

He gives the names of several among many leaders in letters as proof that they "conceal wonderfully any details of religious belief but content themselves with the assumption of a God who demands righteousness."

From one connected with the religious world as Mr. Swing, this is a deserved and unwitting compliment to pure Christianity divested of all its unsatisfactory and parasitic

growth. It is a fair statement of the question. While acquitting the lights of literature of the charge of skepticism or infidelity, he strikes at the root of one of the evils in religion, while lopping of the branches of an unworthy and burdensome growth in another direction. All true thought must strengthen in the minds of men the religion of the child of Nazareth, and, just as surely must it divest Christianity of its unnecessary humanisms which stifle the religious sentiment in men. The great difficulty seems to be that men have striven not so much for truth as against error. The results of the conflicts have made their appearance in the form of protestations—creeds—which, as one has truly said, are so many forms of unbelief. There is a veil over the face of many. Nevertheless we have the promise that when the minds and hearts of men shall turn wholly and unreservedly to the Lord this shall be taken away. Right glad are we to note in these signs in the upper strata of the world's leaders a tendency toward purity in submission to the simple faith of Jesus.

W.

Lane County Annual Meeting.

EUGENE CITY, OR., Aug. 26, 1879.
T. F. Campbell:

DEAR BRO.—We send you for publication the following notice of our County Meeting.

TO THE BRETHREN OF LANE COUNTY,
Greeting: Dear brethren, at our last County Meeting, it was unanimously agreed that our next County Meeting be held at Pleasant Hill, Lane county, commencing Friday before 1st Lord's day in October next.

And now as we all want to have a good meeting and enjoy ourselves, and have a good time generally, we must work for it, and then we may hope to see the Lord's cause prosper in our hands.

And as nothing can be done without power, therefore we wish to employ all the power that may be necessary on that occasion to produce good results; and as money is a very useful thing in that direction, therefore we must have some of that.

We therefore select as a committee of finance the following brethren:

Pleasant Hill, Robert Calison; Eugene City, J. P. Gill; Junction, J. A. Bushnell; Long Tom, E. Mayes and Joel Inman; Clear Lake, Wm. Bond; Oak Hill, Y. Crabtree; Spencer, J. F. Amis; Creswell, M. H. Thompson; Cottage Grove, Bro. Baker; Coast Fork, J. M. White; Trent, D. Rigdon; Lost Valley, T. Barbree; Mohawk, J. F. Mulkey; Willamette, Wm. Vaughn.

Now, brethren, please take hold of this matter, and do all you can to make this meeting a success, and be sure to bring help in the shape of money with you. Ask the brethren of your congregations to contribute for this purpose, and let us all work and make it our meeting.

Report all moneys to Robert Calison, Treasurer.

By order of Committee of Arrangement,

J. W. JACKSON,

Chairman.

N. B.—We invite the brethren from all the counties to come along if convenient.

Consumption Cured.

An old physician, retired from practice, having had placed in his hands by an East India missionary the formula of a simple vegetable remedy, for the speedy and permanent cure for consumption, bronchitis, catarrh, asthma, and all throat and lung affections, also a positive and radical cure for nervous debility and all nervous complaints, after having tested its wonderful curative powers in thousands of cases, has felt it his duty to make it known to his suffering fellows. Actuated by this motive, and a desire to relieve human suffering, I will send, free of charge, to all who desire it, this recipe, with full directions for preparing and using, in German, French, or English. Sent by mail by addressing with stamp, naming this paper, W. W. Sherar, 149 Power's Block, Rochester, N. Y.

Jottings.

I have just returned from a short tour through northern Colusa and Butte counties, Cal.

We met with the brethren at the Jackson school house on Lord's day morning, and in the evening at Vernon school house, some six miles apart. The brethren have a small but a zealous organization at the Jackson school house, under the care of Bro. H. G. Hartley, assisted by Bro. J. H. Minard. Bro. Hartley is one of those zealous men who works on his farm during the week, then preaches on Sunday. Bro. H. is doing a good work. He is sowing much good seed both by the practice and precepts of the Christian profession. Sister H. is one of the most earnest workers I have ever met, besides the care of a large family, she has a large class in the Sunday school; and such a family of singers we seldom meet. Bro. and Sister H. and the three little girls sing with a heavenly sweetness. And when you become acquainted with the family you think the name should be spelled *Heartley*. We hope Bro. H. will soon devote more of his time to preaching.

Bro. J. H. Minard is Sunday school superintendent. He is another faithful worker, we learned, and he gives satisfaction in the proclamation of the word. We found him just recovering of an illness of some time and scarcely able to sit up. We hope and pray he may soon be able for duty, and that he and his interesting family may do much good service for the cause of truth.

The congregation was organized or more nearly perfected a few months ago, during the labors of Bro. W. H. Martin, of Colusa, who held a protracted meeting in the Vernon school house, near Butte City, with some thirteen additions. Bro. M. is a grand old workman, and the "Old, Old Story" is presented by him with a telling effect. He is good to sow the good seed and he is a good reaper.

This part of the State is noted for grain raising. The same trouble as in other parts of this great State, a few men own too much land. There are two grants in the neighborhood, including near 30,000 acres of most excellent land, and owned by two men. The land is generally not farmed so well, as it would be if in smaller tracts, settlements are scattered, and the public schools are sickly.

We have in this vicinity a number of good and faithful brethren and sisters. There are the Mann brothers, Ensley brothers, Bros. Grinstead, Owen, Childress. Sisters Wills, Childress, and others. Sister Childress furnishes the chickens. Her house is certainly the best place for the *plumed bipeds* I have seen in any State, she having over four hundred turkeys, and as many chickens, and not like those in most countries, these *roost very low*.

Yours itinerantly.

J. DURHAM.

College City, Cal.

Nature's Anaesthetic.

Several evenings since I was attacked with severe dental neuralgia. After resorting to friction, cold and hot applications, etc., without obtaining any relief, I lay upon my bed trusting that sleep might come and give me respite. Still the excruciating pain continued, and while I was suffering the "torments of the doubly doomed," undecided whether to arouse some tired druggist for a bottle of chloroform or chop my head off (with a decided preference, however, for the chloroform); I suddenly bethought me of what I had read on an anesthetic which we always carry with us. Thereupon I began to inflate my lungs to their utmost capacity, and then forcibly blow out all the air I could. Immediately the pain began to lessen, and after a few repetitions of the process it had entirely ceased, being replaced by a tickling sensation in the gums, and furthermore I know not, for in less time than it takes me to tell it I was sound asleep, awakening next morning delightfully refreshed and without a symptom of my ailment left. Hence, you see, I was not simply temporarily relieved, but entirely well again. I wish other sufferers would try this and report results.—*Louisville Medical News*.

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Make Friends

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From all parts of the country reports come of the immense sales and increasing demands for that deservingly popular Sewing Machine, The Old Reliable "STANDARD," the price of which the proprietors wisely reduced to \$20 including all the attachments, and at once secured for them a popularity among the people, far beyond that ever yet attained by any other machine at any price, the consequence of which is, agents are leaving the old high priced machines, and seeking territory for the "STANDARD." Knowing from experience that with the best goods at the lowest price they can outsell all other Machines, where the superior quality and low price is made known. This splendid Machine combines all the improvements. Is far ahead of all others in beauty and durability of its work, ease of management, and light running, is sensibly made upon sound principles, with positive working parts all steel, and can safely put down as the very perfection of a Serviceable Shuttle Double Thread Sewing Machine, in every particular, that will outlast any Machine, and at a price far below any other. It is thoroughly warranted for five years. Kept in order free of charge. And sent to any part of the Country for examination by the customer before payment of the bill. We can predict equally as large a demand for them in this section as others. Families desiring the best Machine manufactured should write direct to the Factory. And enterprising persons wishing to seize the chance should apply for so desirable an agency. See advertisement in another part of this paper. Address, Standard Machine Co., Cor. Broadway and Clinton Place, New York.

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