



## The Test of True Religion

By Sir CONAN DOYLE, Novelist

HERE is an aggressive form of religion calling itself the Dogmatic Faith which has done far more harm to the human race than PESTILENCE OR FAMINE. Directly to its door must be laid not only all the bloodstained history of Mohammedanism, but all the murderous doings which have in turn disgraced every sect of Christianity.

In the name of Christ, the Apostle of Peace, this dreadful school of thought within a few centuries of his death brought about such quarrels and such murders as had never been heard of IN PAGAN DAYS.

Over the Homoiousian question, a theological point depending upon a diphthong, it has been reckoned that a hundred thousand people lost their lives, champions and victims of faith.

The crusades, the murders of the Albigenses and of the Cevennes, the Thirty Years' war, the inquisition, the outrages of Catholics on Protestants, the no less detestable outrages of Protestants on Catholics, the persecutions of nonconformists by the church, the persecutions of Quakers by the nonconformists, the manifold domestic tragedies and tyrannies, embittering the lives of countless numbers—surely, when all these are considered, the reader must admit that faith in the positive, aggressive sense HAS WROUGHT MORE MISCHIEF THAN FAMINE OR PESTILENCE.

ALL SECTS HAVE BEEN MISLED BY MEN OF THE SAME ACRID FRAME OF MIND AND HAVE INCURRED THE SAME BLOOD-GUILTINESS.

I only know four cults—the original Buddhists, the Quakers, the Unitarians and the agnostics—who can, I think, say that they have no blood upon their hands. Certainly the atheists cannot, for their excesses in France—in the revolution and also in 1870—have been as bad as those of the churches.

And what has been the root of it all? Saying you believe what your mind cannot grasp and what your free reason would frequently reject. A makes his proofless assertion and calls it his faith; B has the right to do the same. Then A and B hate each other with a holy hatred, and there is the epitome of the blackest chapter of the history of the world. We who are like shipwrecked mariners upon this little raft of a world, moving upon the face of the infinite ocean, have enough to do to live kindly among ourselves, without quarreling bitterly about that which is beyond the horizon.

Perhaps you say that even in these very words I myself show want of religious charity. But surely it is not so. If the Catholic finds the pope or the Anglican the bishop or the nonconformist the minister a help upon his path, then in every case it is a good thing—IF IT CAUSES THAT MAN TO BE A BETTER, MORE NOBLE HUMAN CREATURE. Every form of belief is admirable that does that. But when it turns to want of charity and the reviling of those who have other methods, then it is a petty twentieth century exhibition of that which ranks in history among the gravest and most blood-thirsty crimes.

## The Actor and the Critic

By HENRY BRODRIBB IRVING, Son of the Late Sir Henry Irving

ARE dramatic critics of any use? Should daily newspaper criticism of plays and players be abolished?

I feel sure the newspaper editors will confirm my opinion that THE PUBLIC DEMAND their daily dramatic criticism and would not do without it. That, in a way, answers both of the queries.

I do not agree with Mr. Bourchier of London either as to the possibility or the desirability of holding criticism IN CHECK. Experience has shown that it cannot puff into success a play or an actor unacceptable to the general public, nor does its adverse judgment stand in the way of either in case of TANGIBLE MERIT or popular appeal. Good notices confirm a success and are at once an encouragement and a reward to conscientious effort. Bad notices or pointed ridicule gives the coup de grace to a failure and oftentimes is merciful in putting it out of its misery promptly. But to be thus effective newspaper criticism must necessarily be TRUE TO ITS FUNCTION. It must broadly

sum up and register the impression of the first night audience en masse. If it fail in this, so much the worse for the critic.

THE PUBLIC WILL HAVE THEIR WAY JUST THE SAME, AND THE ACTOR MUST EVENTUALLY STAND OR FALL BY THEIR VERDICT.

If I may venture to speak personally, I have every reason to thank the press critics. They have given me the MOST VALUABLE ADVICE I have ever had. When I made my stage debut in London, some fifteen years ago, in Tom Robertson's "School," they printed my head on a pikestaff, and that pleasantry put me on my mettle to prove I was not a stick. When I got along some they advised me not to stop in London playing one part a hundred nights, or more, but to knock about the provinces AND ACQUIRE EXPERIENCE.

THIS I DID, TO MY EVERLASTING BENEFIT.

## Women Are the Best Bankers

By Mrs. V. F. CHURCH, Cashier Bank of Joplin, Mo.

THE first prerequisite for any bank official is that of ABSOLUTE HONESTY, and I believe I am justified in saying that women, as a rule, possess this qualification in a very marked degree. Perhaps there are reasons for it, such as their environment; but, whatever the cause may be, I feel warranted in saying that fewer WOMEN are dishonest than men.

Sterling integrity is most certainly another qualification for the bank official; and right here again I claim for woman that she possesses this qualification IN ITS HIGHEST FORM.

NOT EVEN FLATTERY OR A DIVISION OF SPOILS WOULD TEMPT A WOMAN TO BE OTHERWISE THAN SINCERE AND HONORABLE IN HANDLING THE FUNDS INTRUSTED TO HER BANK.



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BLOCK 9	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 18, 20, 21, 22, 23.	6—Lots 5, 6.	7—Lots 2, 3, 4, 6, 11, 12.	10—Lots 1, 2, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 15, 26.	11—Lots 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9.	13—Lot 5.	BLOCK 14	1—Lots 1, 2, 3, 7, 8.	15—Lots 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9.	23—Lots 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9.	41—Lots 25, 26, 27.	42—Lots 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13.	43—Lots 4, 5.	48—Lots 5, 6, 7.	101—Lots 3, 4.	102—Lots 6, 7.	BLOCK 103	1—Lots 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14.	104—Lots 2, 3, 4, 5.	105—Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11.	106—Lots 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11.	107—Lot 12.	110—Lot 5.	112—Lots 1, 2, 3, 4.	151—Lots 11, 12.																																																																																							

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