

REPLY TO REV. GUY FITCH PHELPS

By S. H. Van Trump, Mt. Angel.

In The Journal of 13th inst. Mr. Guy Fitch Phelps in his "Reply to Materialists" shines forth with his usual rare and enviable brilliance. He magnanimously admits that there is very little in either my own or Mr. Wettstein's letters that merits consideration, and yet he can't resist the temptation to preach us a lengthy sermon. It is too bad that in a scientific discussion like this Mr. Phelps can't curb his ministerial passion.

First he points out what he imagines to be his opponent's error in logic or data; he drives his point home, then he proceeds to lay on the lash. How he does love to flay 'em!

In reading Mr. Phelps one is constantly reminded of Hamlet's reply when asked what he was reading: "Words, words, words!" Mr. Phelps just talks, talks. He can't help it. He has got to talk whether he has anything to say or not. It is pathetic to see a person so afflicted. It looks like a case of verbal cholera in which the long since decomposed "Substantiation" of A. Wilford Hall was being spewed forth upon an astonished and unoffending public.

He complains about the materialists introducing irrelevant subjects into this discussion, and yet no one is more guilty than he himself. He started a bitter ethical controversy by impugning the motives of materialists, calling them moral lepers — "bomb throwers," "gamblers," "white slavers," etc. I can't see any just reason (save ignorant bigotry) why an honest Theist should hate an honest materialist.

Mr. Phelps knows "that materialism and evolution are just bluffs put up by those who have a senseless bitter desire to build a universe without the aid of a Supreme Being." Then will Mr. Phelps kindly tell us why so many eminent Christian and Theistic scholars are thorough going evolutionists? Sir Oliver Lodge, one of the pillars of Christianity, accepts fully the organic evolution of man. Dr. A. R. Wallace, a world famous Theist, was one of the first of modern evolutionists. Mr. Phelps ought to know that thousands of eminent Christian ministers believe in organic evolution. Does he say that these men are anxious to build a universe without God?

Mr. Phelps objects to my using the term "science of evolution." I used the term advisedly. Evolution is no longer a hypothesis; it is no longer even a theory; it is a science. Astronomy is a science, though not all the facts of the heavens are yet known, likewise evolution is a science though not all processes are yet known. He says "science is founded on facts, so is faith." Will Mr. Phelps name some of the facts on which faith is founded? I will name some of the facts upon which evolution rests. The more than 500 varieties of improved apples which we now have, representing all seasons and qualities are descended from a bitter crab of northern Europe no larger than a haw. All the numerous varieties of the dog are descended from the wild European wolf. These facts men have seen with their own eyes. It is known also that Indian corn (zea mays) has descended from a plant much like Kaffir corn that bore its ear and tassel in one. In adverse seasons as the past one here at Silverton Indian corn constantly tends to revert to its ancient type and bear its ear and tassel in one. We have many specimens of this type in our fields today. Prof. Scott, curator of the museum of ornithology, Princeton University, and the most learned authority on birds, testifies that he has witnessed the origin of two new species of birds in New England. How does Mr. Phelps account for the wonderful records of paleontology; how does he account for the thousands of species that have passed away; how does he account for rudimentary organs in man and the lower animals? Mr. Phelps thinks he has got a clincher in the case of the horse. If he had ever read a single standard work on evolution he would not ask the senseless question he does about the horse. No evolutionist ever said that the progress of development was invariably from the simple to the complex. Darwin himself gave many illustrations of the reverse. "The whole theory of evolution" does not "stand or fall" by the fact that its processes have sometimes rid a body of an organ when that organ has, under changed conditions of life, become useless or a detriment. The horse lost its four small toes and acquired one large one because changed conditions of life rendered one large toe a more efficient instrument than five small ones.

How Mr. Phelps does love to play the preacher. He imagines he has caught me mistating facts about his scientific anti-evolution authorities, especially in the case of Brewster. I said that Brewster was mouldy before anything much was known about the evidences of evolution. He thinks he has shown that Brewster and Darwin "lived their lives together" and that

Brewster was a trustworthy authority. Then he preaches: "This is a sample of the take-it-for-granted way infidels are in the habit of putting up their facts." Let us see who it is that takes things for granted. Brewster was born in 1781—died in 1868. Darwin published his "Origin of Species" in 1859, his "Descent of Man" in 1871. Brewster was 78 when the "Origin of Species" was first published and three years dead when the "Descent of Man" first appeared. Besides he was a physicist and never claimed to be an authority on biology. But I have no doubt that he is a good enough authority for a Christian who is very particular about the manner of "putting up his facts."

Mr. Phelps says that "Haeckel and Darwin did not agree at all in their theories of evolution." Seriously, can Mr. Phelps believe he speaks the truth in that statement? As a matter of the plainest fact to anyone that has ever looked inside of their works, Haeckel and Darwin agree absolutely on the entire field where they both treated the subject. The only difference being that Darwin never sought to trace the origin of life, while Haeckel sought to discover that origin in the inorganic world. Mr. Phelps thinks I will do well not to quote from Haeckel; I think he would do better to read just one of Haeckel's works. He says that no real scientist today believes in spontaneous generation. That shows how much Mr. Phelps knows about the subject. On the contrary, the leading biologists of the world hope some day to demonstrate the evolution of life from the inorganic world. Dr. Loeb, the profoundest American biologist, Prof. Schafer and Dr. Lankester of England, with many other leading biologists, regard the doctrine of abiogenesis as a legitimate, rational, working hypothesis.

Still once again Mr. Phelps pounds his Bible and regales us with his ministerial cake-walk. He tells us that all the infidels in the world that have any good in them were educated in Christian institutions; that all the good in man is the fruit of Christian precept and example. Will Mr. Phelps allow me to instruct him? Can he point out a single passage in the entire Bible where anyone is commissioned to found a school to study and teach the wonders of Nature? Does Mr. Phelps know that Egypt, a heathen land, was the mother of Western civilization; that 2000 years before the Christian era she had great universities and a perfect system of common schools, and had developed arts that even to this day remain the envy and despair of the scientific world?

Does Mr. Phelps know that Roman and Grecian civilizations surpassed our present Christian civilization in many important respects; that the Himalayan Heights of ethical precept are to be found, not in the New Testament, but in the Meditations of Marcus Aurelius? Authentic history tells of no civilization that has been so ingeniously bloodthirsty and barbaric as that Christian civilization Mr. Phelps so loves to glorify. A picture of Europe today fairly represents the panorama of "God's chosen nations" for the past 1500 years.

When Lieut. Perry made his last trip to the North in quest of the Pole, he discovered a small tribe of Eskimoes, who while having no idea of a God were, nevertheless, almost absolutely moral. They were virtuous, temperate, industrious and humane; taking the most tender care of the aged and helpless members of their tribe. The most precious blessing that Lieut. Perry could bestow upon this little tribe was the earnest prayer that no missionary would ever hunt them out.

For The Silverton Journal:

To Mr. Guy Fitch Phelps

May I introduce myself? My hair has been white for a good many years now, but even in my strenuous working days I was always an interested student of the subjects on which you have been writing in The Silverton Journal, and for the last nineteen years (being held within doors through the effects of an accident) I have given my whole time, all day and half the night, to these matters, very happily.

No one has ever called me a materialist. Indeed, a great personage has said that I am a mystic. Materialist books and periodicals do not interest me much. I am saying all this to show you, first, that I may know something of these things, and that I am no amateur or beginner.

Now, being an old man and friendly, and having read your articles in The Journal, especially that in the November 14 issue, I am going to say that I think you really ought to quit and give the space to another man. Your arguments show a weakness that would make one cry if he did not have to laugh. I have wondered what your reading can have been. Or do you purposely and persistently pretend that you know nothing of evolution or any other subject that you have discussed?

LOUIS CARLTON HARMON,
M. D., LL. D.
Los Angeles, California.

P. S. — Edit r The Journal:

The following cut from the Los Angeles Tribune, is a good answer to the Reverend Guy Fitch Phelps who asks in your paper for such information:

Editor The Tribune: I respectfully address the following to Mr. David Campbell of Inglewood in response to his request for the names of the atheists, infidels and materialists (so-called) who have heroically championed the cause of human progress and human liberty. Just one name, I believe, is sufficient.

Thomas Paine (1737-1809): "The world is my country; to do good my religion." The man who named our country. The man first to advocate independence for our country. The man who did more to achieve this independence than any other man, giving his pen, tongue, sword and pocket-book to the cause. The man who wrote The Crisis. The man who was joint author of the Declaration of Independence with Jefferson. The man who borrowed \$10,000,000 from Louis XVI to feed and clothe the army. The man who established the Bank of North America in order to supply the army. The author of The Rights of Man, acknowledged to be the greatest work ever written for political freedom. This masterpiece gave free speech and free press to England and America. The first man to plead justice for women. The man first to plead for dumb animals. The man to propose old-age pensions. The man first to propose "The land for the people" (single tax). The man first to propose the care of the children of the poor at public expense. The man who invented and built the first iron bridge. The man who first proposed the abolition of negro slavery, first suggested international copyright, first suggested a republic of all the nations of the world, first suggested the religion of humanity, first proposed and first wrote the words "United States of America." Paine has been called an atheist, a free thinker, a blasphemer, simply because he could not believe in some old traditions which today are known as allegorical and which few intelligent minds regard seriously. R. L. C. Los Angeles.

WHAT WE BUY FROM EUROPE

Washington, D. C., Nov. 25.—The Department of Commerce today issued a statement showing the different kinds of articles imported into the United States from European countries. The compilation of these data was made necessary in order to intelligently answer the numerous queries received, since the European war began, from merchants and manufacturers in practically every country in the world. According to the report, the United States is dependent upon England for a large portion of the cotton goods consumed in this country, approximately 36,000,000 yards of cloth, valued at \$20,000,000, being imported into the United States annually.

Germany supplies the American trade with a large quantity of chemicals, and last year sold \$20,000,000 worth to the United States merchants. Other important articles imported from Germany to the United States are cotton goods, palm oil, potash, salts, wood pulp, toys, machinery, cutlery, gloves, silks, paper goods, clover

and sugar beet seed, rice flour, cocoa, spirits, wines and malt liquors.

France supplies the United States with a large amount of luxuries, among the most important being silks, art works, autos and wines. We also import perfumeries, diamonds and motion picture films from this country. France contributes few necessities to the United States.

Italy supplies large quantities of macaroni, fruits and nuts, olive oil, prepared vegetables, cheese, still wines, art works, hats, argols and distilled oils. Netherlands is a leading source of diamonds and wrapper tobacco, and also sends us hides, fish, spices, tin and paper stock. Belgium is our largest source of diamonds, and also sends us much rubber, hides and furs, and linens. Switzerland leads as our source of imported cotton laces and watches, and is important in the matter of cheese, silk goods and coal tar. Ireland supplies large quantities of linens.

PROFITS AND PRAYERS

By Henry M. Tichenor.

Big deckheads in the St. Louis daily papers of October 1, ran as follows: "4,500 Army Horses ordered by French in St. Louis Market"—"\$750,000 Purchase, Largest Since Boer War, Made at East Side Stock Yards"—"Dealer Says Representatives are Authorized to Buy 100,000." Another read: "European orders swamp East Side Packing Concerns"—"Special Buyers Sent out to Meet Heavy Demands for Canned Meats"—"Cattle from Florida Sent by Train Loads"—"Large Number of Goats Killed for Use of Warring Nations." And another: "St. Louis Mill Makes Record Flour Sale to Nation Engaged in War." We are told that "the largest sale of flour ever made in St. Louis was consummated yesterday when the Kehlor Flour Mills Company agreed to furnish in short order, to one of the nations at war, 110,000 barrels of flour. The grade is known as the Rex 95 per cent patent, and is to be made of Kansas hard wheat, of which 540,000 bushels will be required. The price, was not made public, but it was stated that it was satisfactory to the company. Shipments will begin in a few days and will be rushed to New York as fast as the wheat is ground."

Three days later—Sunday, October 4—the whole United States was solemnly called to prayer to beseech God to stop the war.

Editorials in the papers lauded this day of public prayer as a wonderful manifestation of the spirit of peace that prevails in Christian America.

Other editorials in the same papers hurrahed over the immense purchase of horses and flour and canned meats made by the foreign nations engaged in the wholesale human slaughter, that the day of prayer was set apart to stop.

They said that millions of dollars would flow from now on into American pockets on account of the warring nations buying stuff of America, and that this meant prosperity with a big P.

The editorials about "Profits," to be brought about by the war, and the editorials about "Prayers" to stop the war, ran along side by side, with a recklessness utterly regardless of all logic.

To help wage the war millions of dollars worth of horses and food were being rushed to the soldiers.

To try and stop the war millions of petitions were being rushed to heaven.

"Profits" and "Prayers" were nationally matched against each other to see which would come out winner.

It is needless to remark that no prayers have so far been reported that asked God, as one of the best means at hand to stop the war, to head off the cargoes of horses and flour and meat on the way to Europe, and not to allow these powerful munitions of war to leave our shores.

In the name of Christian love of all creatures, it would seem that at last a few prayers might have been offered that the poor horses be not dragged into the war.

These kind of noble animals have done nothing that they should be torn and slaughtered by the shot and shell of savages.

But, no, the poor horses, like the barrels of flour, only figured in the column of profits.

The prayers were carefully worded so that God would understand that in stopping the war He was not in any way to interfere with the profits.

With all due reverence, this certainly puts God in a very trying position. How to continue to sell millions of dollars worth of stuff to Europe, to assist the fighting armies in their bloody work, and at the same time to stop the war, will require a much greater miracle than overrunning Egypt with hoptoads, or even making the sun stand still while Joshua mopped the earth with the heathen.

The sight of a people gloating over the profits that loom up so large, on account of the war, and at the same time offering prayers to God to stop the war, is one of the most wonderful exhibitions of unflinching faith that the imagination of man can conceive.

The religion of Profits and Prayers is some religion.

The only trouble with it is that so far nobody has been able to make it work both ways at once.

SILVERTON TIME TABLE

•	Arrive from Portland	8.25 A.M.
•	" "	11.05 A.M.
•	" "	4.30 P.M.
•	" "	8.15 P.M.
•	" Salem	10.59 A.M.
•	" "	5.05 P.M.
•	" Brownsville	9.15 A.M.
•	Depart for Portland	7.30 A.M.
•	" "	9.15 A.M.
•	" "	2.00 P.M.
•	" "	5.05 P.M.
•	" Salem	8.25 A.M.
•	" "	3.00 P.M.
•	" Brownsville	4.30 P.M.

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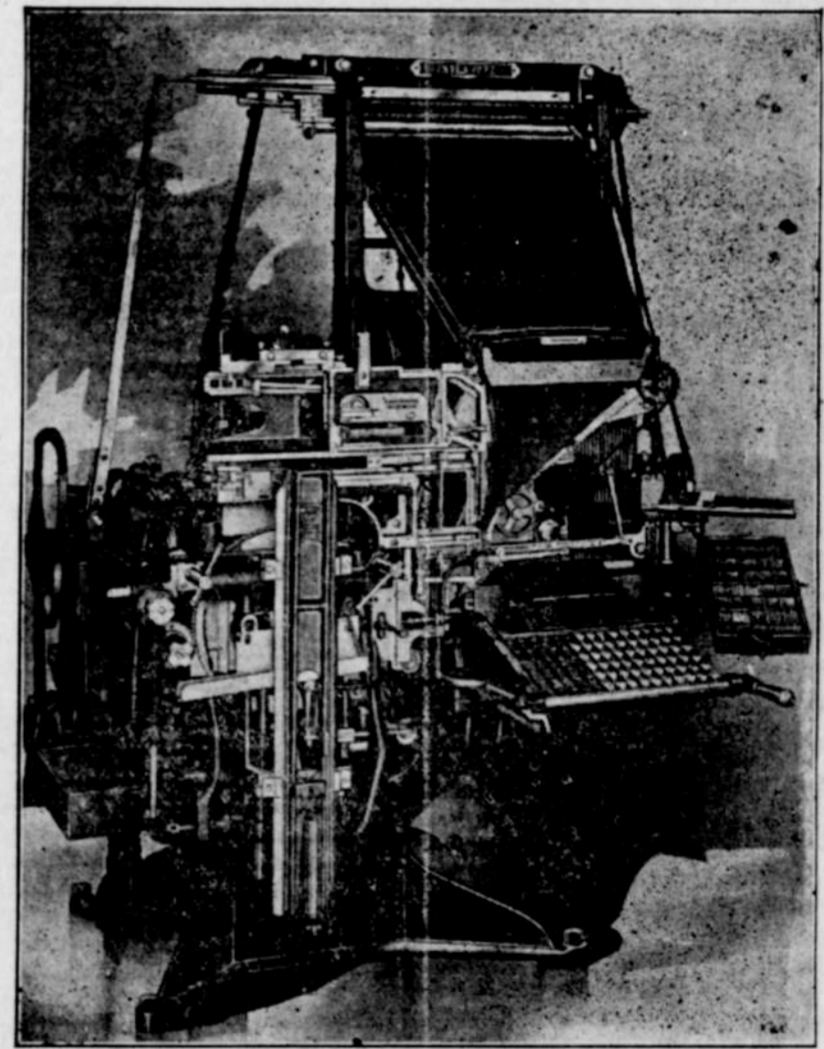
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