

The Silvertown Journal

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J. E. HOSMER, Editor.



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This paper stands for freedom of thought, free-
dom of the press, freedom of speech, equality of
opportunity and the religion of righteousness. It
is radically opposed to every form of superstition
and tyranny, or licensing or permitting any form
of evil.

THE VICTIMS

By J. E. Hosmer (in jail Oct. 29, 1914)

The knaves believeth not in doing
wrong.
But first, by sore necessity or tempt-
ers great,
They fall, and, helped by scorn, they
fall again ere long —
The falling habit fixed, it is too late.
The thief kn ws well that stealing is
a sin,
Nor does a drunkard often think it
right to drink;
The harlot hates the hell she shame-
fully suffers in,
A murderer, sane, from thoughts of
murder shrink.
Then hate the cause, and not the vic-
tims sore —
Our exploitation system shamefully
gives them birth;
When all can live from Mother Na-
ture's bounteous store,
These boldies, then, will be "the salt
of earth."

OPEN THAT DOOR!

Mother, do not lock your little son
or daughter up in a dark closet as a
punishment. It is the wrong principle
and hurts the child much more than it
does good. Open that closet door and
let the child's pardon and as you love
liberty, never again rob another of
that precious boon of real civilization.
Teachers, never threaten a student
with imprisonment, much less lock him
up. It is the wrong principle. It cre-
ates hate instead of love, revenge in-
stead of respect, criminality instead
of honesty, dissipation instead of in-
dustry and degeneracy instead of
progress. Open that door and become
a real teacher instead of a school (?)
master.

But parent and teacher never for
a moment think it the part of wisdom
not to pay attention to the mistakes
the children are always making. Your
ability as a real parent or a real teach-
er depends how well you know the
right principles from the wrong and
what care you use in reforming, or
rather helping the child to reform his
own character. Keeping the young
folks busy at pleasurable and yet most
profitable occupation is the secret of
success. And if a child does, as he
certainly will oftentimes, rob others
of their rights, then is the time to in-
delibly impress on his mind the great
lesson of justice and right and to help
him repair to the injured party the
injury done as far as possible.

People, open the iron bars of those
prisons! Treat the criminally insane
as patients of an asylum for their
good, but those who have been driven
to rob others of their rights by the
weakness of society should not be
locked up. Let them repair the in-
jury done to individuals and to society
as far as possible by the fruits of
their labor and teach them by kind-
ness and sympathy and books and
papers and pictures and lectures and
good work and good pay that they too
are needed in the great work of re-
deeming our race from the mistakes
of the past. Open that door!

THE STRADDLER IN THE LINE-UP

The time has come when a very
large number of our best citizens are
going to thr w their patronage to the
business man who takes a stand for
righteousness. It has been found that
the I-don't-care fellows and the evil
minded citizens are doing all they can
to keep the man with a principle from
getting a principal, and that our slow
progress in civilization is largely on
account of the choking-out process
used on any one who is good enough
to be decent and brave enough to take
a stand on the great moral questions
of our day. But woe to the poor busi-
ness man of the future who dares to
straddle the fence. He may do quite
well for a time, but sooner or later
the "line-up" in every city between the
evil doers and the well wiskers is
bound to come, and then, where is the
straddler? Poor fellow, neither side
respects him and he is "left in the
soup." When the war between the two
elements is fought out, the business
men who have taken sides will win

out provided they took the winning
side. But which is the winning side?
In the long run, truth and right will
win out over corruption. The unself-
ish and philanthropic people are now
uniting all along the line, and woe to
him who talks and acts like a beast
that devours the little one. It is easy
to know by words and deeds the side
of the fence on which any business
man stands, and it is safe to say, if he
is straddle the fence or if his patron-
age comes mostly from evil doers,
that he is on the wrong side and verily
he should get his reward. Every
mother and every father, every intelli-
gent son and daughter, should see to
it at once that the money they have
to spend in any business house is
spent where it will do more good than
just the mere securing of the goods.
If we want righteousness to rule we
must know that it helps mightily to
patronize those who preach and prac-
tice the great principles of righteous-
ness. To be sure, each one must be
the judge, but get together, investi-
gate and "ye shall know the truth,
and the truth shall make you free."

A CRUSADE OF LOVE

The Catholic priesthood seem to be-
lieve that it is right to do evil that
good may come from it. They believe
that the end justifies the means and
therefore will commit, or have com-
mitted for them, almost any crime to
boost the interests of their political,
falsely so-called church. That they
never can in this way save the world
is very evident to those trained to
believe that every righteous act
has its reward in the advancement
of a higher civilization and that every
crime checks our advance and helps
to destroy what we have thus far
gained. We certainly need a Crusade
of Love. The Protestant churches
need to unite. If they will but do this
the great cost of the many little, strug-
gling organizations will be eliminated
and real work along the teachings of
"the Master" will take the place of the
degenerating and unchristian struggle
called "churchanity." The great, evil,
Roman power is united all over the
world to crush out every idea of lib-
erty of thought and salvation through
character. The Protestant world is
doomed unless its warring elements
unite. They will be forced to unite
and that soon or the "dark ages" of
another Roman, one-man-rule, con-
dition will soon reign supreme. The
European War shows what can be
brought about and how we can be de-
feated when our forces are scattered.
No free thinking, righteous loving citi-
zen, no Protestant believes in war,
and yet today it is horribly murdering
what it has taken ages of peace to
build up. Many good people of the
United States think we are safe, but
we are not. The same imperial, Roman
power that is in America as well as
in Europe can precipitate war here
inside of three months if they wish
to, and they will do it when they
think it is to their interests. They
could not do it if the scattered ele-
ments of righteousness were united.
The immediate union of all the Prot-
estant churches is not a matter of
mere sentimentality. It is a matter
of common sense in the work of saving
the world from sin and darkness. Let
there be now at once a "Crusade of
Love." Let it start in the heart of
every lover of truth and right. Let
each one enlist and fight like a Trojan
for the one idea of union (another
name for love) and let this fight be
on broad lines so that no true man
or woman will be debarrd. Let each
plan how to bring about union meet-
ings of the churches in their home
towns. We must make union popular.
It must be sung, preached and prayed
into every Protestant and free thought
soul in America. Surely the present
angers are enough to cause all the
good people to unite and it is whole-
sale criminality to wait any longer.
Preachers, teachers, philanthropists,
lovers of humanity, get together and
be not weary in well doing. Discuss,
and yield to the truth. Weed out the
errors. Sacrifice personal interests if
necessary. Selfishness is the devil that
must be destroyed. Think! Think! For,
if the "Crusade of Love" is a success,
it will be as Shakespeare says, "think-
ing that makes it so."

WHY SO-CALLED CHRISTIANITY HAS FAILED

By Racephus Le Boutellier

The debate running through your
interesting Journal on Christianity
and Materialism is well calculated to
provoke thought and for that reason
tends to the good. Anything that pro-
vokes thought, stimulates, strength-
ens and broadens the mind, providing
the mind, in the meantime, is kept
from getting into a rut so that only
one side of a question may be admitted
to view. All mental effort should be
directed in an earnest search for
truth. God is truth, else there can be
no reality in the power we call God.
In reading these debates any one with
an unprejudiced mind searching for
truth, can readily see which side is
the more earnest in the endeavor to
set forth the truth. Both sides may
be wrong in some respects, but the
side which shows the greatest effort
to reach the truth, ignoring sophistry,

and disregarding the selfish pleasure
of final triumph, is entitled to the
greatest consideration. I am not a
materialist, neither a Christian, in the
sense that Christianity is now accept-
ed. I earnestly believe, however, that
I have a more profound respect for
the character of Christ than most, so-
called Christians do. As to God, I
believe in the eternal existence of an
all-wise, all-just, all-good creative
power, but non personal. The idea of
a personality carries with it the pre-
sumption of form. Form is an effect
and effect must be preceded by cause.
The idea of God preceding Himself is
incongruity and God cannot be in-
congruous. Therefore, the idea of a
personal God, to me, is an absurdity.
The personal pronoun "Himself" is
used for convenience only.

Now that so-called Christians are
engaged in killing each other, by the
thousands, it may well be asked if
what we call Christianity, has not
proven a failure, a delusion and a
snare. If so, wherein does the cause
lie, and what will bring about true
Christianity. The answer is: The
adoption and practice of the GOLDEN
RULE.

Why have we failed to practice this
great precept as taught by the Christ?
It seems clear to me that it is because
we have relied on what we, mistaken-
ly, believe to be an easier way: a way
which is, unquestionably, the more sel-
fish way. I allude to the common
practice, among so-called Christians,
of relying on Christ to bear the bur-
den of all our sins and relieve us from
the consequence of wrong doing. I do
not believe that Christ ever taught
such doctrine himself. It is not con-
sistent with what seems to be his true
character and love of justice.

I know that the New Testament
teaches the doctrine, but that book
was written by men some three hun-
dred years after Christ lived on the
earth. He never wrote anything Him-
self and what was written of Him was
necessarily from memory and tradi-
tion.

Before Christ appeared there were
many easy ways put forth by the
priests of the heathen gods to get
rid of the consequences of one's sins,
by paying tribute to the gods for the
benefit of the priests. Even in the
days of Moses, and among his people,
they had their scape-goat on which
they were taught to believe they could
unload their sins and escape the con-
sequences after having made the usual
sacrifice. Before the advent of Christ
the practice of offerings to God, for
the benefit of fat and lazy priests at
the temples had become a burden al-
most unbearable by the working Jews.
It must have been one of the main
objects of Christ to overthrow this
practice. He therefore, taught his fol-
lowers to rely on Himself and the
Golden Rule. When three hundred
years after the advent of Christ men
attempted to write of his sayings and
doings, how natural that men, more
or less impregnated with the old doc-
trines of Moses and paganism, should
let some of these doctrines creep into
their writings.

No! I believe that when a man vi-
olates a spiritual law he must suffer
for it, as surely as he must suffer
from the violation of a physical law
when he puts his hand in the fire.
When the world believes this the world
will reform. Then will be Peace on
earth, good will to man. Every well
informed person, regardless of reli-
gious belief, must know that within
a few centuries after the advent of
Christ, the church that was built up
in His name, became so corrupt in its
leadership as to become a world scan-
dal. Indulgences for crimes of every
sort even to commit murder were sold
for a price, in the name of the Christ.
Through the trumpet of iniquity of the
indulgence and the absolution every
sort of crime of man against his fel-
low man became tolerated and en-
couraged by the ruling heads of the
church, and those who committed
these crimes were taught to believe
that by conforming to so-called reli-
gious rites and paying tribute to the
priesthood, Christ would bear all the
sins of the criminals.

In the 16th century the scandal
arising from the sale of indulgence
became so great and the more con-
scientious and honest members of the
priesthood and laymen, so disgusted,
that Martin Luther, a distinguished
priest, successfully headed a move-
ment which established the Protestant
Church.

In doing this the practices of selling
indulgences and absolution for a
price were forever discarded as a di-
rect function of the priesthood. This
was, no doubt, a vast improvement
over the then existing conditions.

But the indirect sale of indulgences
and absolution were held out to the
people and have been ever since.
They have been taught to believe that
they are all sinners, "conceived in sin
and born in iniquity," and that their
souls are lost for all eternity unless
they confess their sins, conform to
certain ceremonials and pay tribute to
the church or priesthood. If one half
the effort that has been expended to
promulgate this doctrine had been
spent in teaching that all are born of
God (not in sin and iniquity) and that
all have the spark of divinity within
themselves; that this spark only needs

to be cultivated by the practice of hon-
esty, justice and good deeds to make
true Christians of all; that the prac-
tice of sin and injustice dwarfs our
souls and brings on retributive justice
in the spiritual life even if we escape
it in this life; how much better the
world would be.

On the other hand, how can one be
a true follower of Christ, whose
whole earthly life was devoted to un-
selfishness and the giving to others,
and yet cling to the selfish desire of
winning something for nothing, in
asking Christ to bear all the burden
of their sins and iniquities?

SOME MORE FACTS

For Guy Fitch Phelps' Consideration.

COMRADE HOSMER,
Editor Journal.

Dear Sir:—

To any broad minded man, full of love
for humanity, for animals as well as
for humans, who has no bias from pre-
conceived ideas, born of the mythical
supernatural thing called Christianity,
this earth is a charnel house of mis-
ery, pain and death. The early church
fathers use to teach that this earth
was a cruel one, where God caused all
to suffer and also taught, the greater
our sufferings here on earth, the hap-
pier we would be in that future life—
heaven!! It was taught in the early
church that this wickedness on earth
was caused by man's disobedience,
which was shouldered upon the devil,
a being having great power—so much
that God could not kill him. He died
in the 19th century—killed by intelli-
gence of humanity. The living fauna
of land, sea and air, having no moral
guide, are "red in beak, tooth and
claw." The scheme of life, as formu-
lated by a creative fiat is "Kill as
you eat" or rather "kill while you are
eating." The being which caused life
on earth, if he could have done other-
wise has neither humanity, love or jus-
tice. He created them with no moral
obligation and murdered one part to
feed the other! Why ought man bend
the knee to worship such a creator?
Mark well how Phelps' creator fitted
out the carnivora in beast, bird and
fish to carry on their killing work to
live. The fish and serpents all have
teeth curved backward, so their prey,
when once caught, never escapes —
beautiful expression of love of the
creator. The birds of prey are won-
derful strong in beak and claw. The
larger felines use to carry terror to
the man whom the creator had placed
in this world naked and defenseless.
Not until these first men could from
a bow and learn to use it — as Kip-
ling says "When he had learned to
kill at a distance," could they take the
offensive. Their "multiplying" was
seriously interfered with in those
days. This creator has been so busy,
through his priests and the "Idle
rich" trying to have the man on his
knees doing homage to him, since his
advent into Palestine from Arabia in
the 13th century B. C., when he re-
vealed himself to Moses on Mount Si-
nai, just after he had killed all the
Midianites, except the virgins, that he
forgot or did not care to rectify the
wrongs he did in the six days' work.
Mr. Phelps is great on asking ques-
tions. I ask him a few. Who put the
instinct into the immortal weasel,
which causes him to kill a dozen or
more hens in a henery in one night?
When he could not eat more than the
liver of one? Who put the instinct
into the gray shrike of the northern
states that he must stick big beetles
(legs up) and mice and small birds
while alive on thorns, wire or sharp
points? Who put the instinct into
wolves that they know, the cutting off
of the ham string of horses, deer and
cattle will stop their running? Now,
Mr. Phelps, it is up to you to enlighten
the readers of The Journal why or how
these immoral carnivora know these
things. Did you ever, Mr. Phelps,
when a boy, watch a snake, which had
caught a frog by the hind foot? And
can not you even now hear that plain-
tive cry for mercy and help which
came from the frog? Did you hear
that God heeded the victim's cry? No!
No God cared. For there is no hu-
manity in such a creator or in the
universe, except what is found in
some good man's heart. Christianity
never yet humanized any man. What
did the creator say in Genesis 1, 28:
"And God blessed them and God said
unto them, be fruitful and multiply
and replenish the earth and subdue it
and have dominion over the fish of the
sea and over the fowl of the air and
over every living thing that moveth
on the earth." As a consequence of
this verse Christians are rarely hu-
manitarians. An old "gag" of 65 and
70 years ago was this: "The lion and
the lamb shall lay down together and
a child shall lead them." This was to
happen when God could kill the devil.
Not one word about the creator's mis-
takes — at that time, your head would
have been in danger if you had. Who
of us have not heard the cry for mer-
cy when the mother robin or other
song birds' nests of young were pil-
laged of its young by the sparrow
hawk? Some man might drive the
hawk away, but the creator never
seems to care. When Yahwe called
all the animals before Adam, so he
could name them (sic), Adam noticed
one kind of rodents that hardly ever
walked, but was on the jump all the

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time. Adam not knowing what Yah-
we's plan was, gave these rodents a
name to conform to their manner. So
he called them "Lepus," because they
were ever jumping. Had Adam known
of Yahwe's plans he would, no doubt,
have given the genus the name of
Filler, which would have been much
more appropriate as they have, since
their creation "filled" the stomachs of
the carnivora all over the world, not
in one zone, but in every zone. These
innocent hares and rabbits were de-
signed by the creator to be murdered
day and night by the beasts of prey
on earth and also by the carnivora of
the air. Here is what a man wrote
who had been employed for years in
the Hudson Bay country: "God Al-
mighty, it appears, created the hares
for the expressed purpose of changing
the leaves, twigs, buds, bark and moss-
es into tough flesh to fill the maw of
the carnivora in this cold country. The
cries of these "fillers" being torn to
pieces and eaten, is constantly ascend-
ing to the throne of supposed "grace,"
to what purpose? — not one minute,
not one second is there a cessation.
Who cares? The creator had a loving
idea, as he seemed to know how he
had treated these hares and rabbits,
and he may have had fears that he
had not done the right thing by them.
This is doubtful. His idea was this:
I will make them the most prolific of
all animals, their seed shall cover the
earth. One thing is sure, they are
here, and they are filling the stomachs
of the carnivora in all parts of the
earth, and have so done since they ap-
peared on earth. I have tried to show
Mr. Phelps, by the actual facts in the
case, how illogical his creative feat is.
If the creator could have created a
world without sin, then he must should-
er the blame of responsibility; if he

could not do this, then he or it is not
God! Take either horn of the dilem-
ma you please. We people believe there
is no conscious form of energy. Yet
we believe energy (which is nearly all
of the sun on this earth) in its highest
potential does produce all things on
earth. Your God is only a supposition
of the very inferior races, that were
ignorant of all things nearly. Loeb of
Chicago succeeded in hatching sea
urchins' eggs that were unfertilized.
This was four years ago; the end is
not yet. F. B. HALL.

Augusta, Mich., Jan. 18, 1915.

Salem, Ore., January 20, 1915.

Just read of your latest contact with
the enemies of enlightenment, and it
recalls to my mind the letter of Pope
Pius V to Charles IX of France in
which, according to our historian Ab-
bott, "He urged him to extirpate
every fibre of heresy".... and "to en-
courage him he cited the example of
Scal, exterminating the Amalekites
and assured him that all tendency to
clemency was a snare of the devil!"

Perhaps you are to be "exterminat-
ed" whatever that name means. The
Lutherans having left me out of a job
temporarily, I have just been consider-
ing whether or not it wouldn't be a
good plan to double teams on them
and let me come down to The Journal
office to help out while you are on the
grindiron I will bargain to clean type,
wash the office towels, kick out the cat,
poke up the fire or sweep the office
and to make myself generally useful
for nothing a month and board myself.

We've got to beat them somehow,
and my heart, sole and all the rest of
my anatomy are in this work of edu-
cation. Please state if terms are agree-
able and when I may begin.

Yours for Liberty,
FLORA I. FOREMAN.