

THE AGE OF LIGHT,

BY

J. KASPARY,

Humanitarian.

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1872.

THE GOD OF NATURE.

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THE existence of human intelligence and animal instinct proves to reasoning beings the existence of unchangeable laws, according to which the universe is governed; and the existence of these laws proves to reasoning beings the existence of an eternal, immutable, all-pervading, omnipotent and infinitely wise just and merciful Being. For the universe is composed of dividable substance or matter, and of beings or souls incapable of division, and both classes of essential existence have changeable qualities. As the acquisition of human intelligence and animal instinct, however, would be impossible in an universe subject to changes according to varying laws, and can be acquired only by life-producing souls from the contemplation of, and reasoning on, the changes which take place in matter and souls according to immutable laws, the existence of human intelligence and of animal instinct therefore proves the existence of unchangeable laws. But as neither the whole universe nor any of its component parts has an immutable nature or unchangeable qualities, there must necessarily exist an eternally immutable and all-pervading cause for the production of similar effects (or change of quality) in similar means (or matter and souls) everywhere, at all times, and even in opposition to the wishes of the whole human race. The existence, therefore, of unvarying laws according to which changes take place, consequently proves the existence of an essential Being, possessing a nature or the attributes of eternity, immutability, omnipresence and omnipotency, and this Being I call the "God of Nature." As all souls have derived their intelligence and instinct, or their true ideas of wisdom or goodness, from the observation of, and reasoning on, the immutable laws, which I call "God's Laws of Nature," every person possessing adequate intelligence will know, and those having true instinct will believe, that the "God of Nature" is infinitely wise, just and merciful. For "God's Laws of Nature" are the only infallible criterion by which intelligent and virtuous persons can distinguish wisdom from folly, morality from immorality, or good from evil. Since those thoughts desires and acts only are wise, moral or good,

which are rewarded by God according to His nature or laws with progressive happiness, and those are unwise, immoral or evil, that are corrected by Him with increasing misery. The existence of the "God of Nature" excludes, of course, the possibility of miracles; for the occurrence of even a single miracle would disprove the existence of immutable laws, the existence of human intelligence and animal instinct, and consequently the existence of the "God of Nature." Believers in false gods are therefore the only persons who have faith in miracles, because Pagans have neither the intelligence to know, nor the instinct to believe, in the "God of Nature;" since they have either not sufficiently cultivated themselves, or their intelligence and instinct have been perverted by the belief in such fictitious idols as Brahma, Jehovah, Jupiter, the Holy Ghost and Allah, or in such real idols as Chrishna, Christ, Kabir and Mary, the mother of the Christian idol. All the miracles recorded in such Heathen Mythologies as the Vedas, Bible, Tripitakas and the New Testament, are therefore either fables suggested by priestcraft, or tricks wrought by piously deceitful jugglers, or natural occurrences which have been regarded as miraculous by the superstitious and ignorant. All persons, however, who have no knowledge of, or belief in, the "God of Nature," but worship any of the fictitious or real idols, which the Moseses and Aarons have made for the people, are deluded Pagans, and will be corrected by God with physical and mental pain until they are converted into Humanitarians, when the Religion of God will teach them that the only way of salvation is the worship of the "God of Nature" by the acquisition of wisdom and the practice of goodness.

The Lecture at Midland Railway Arch,

Delivered by the Humanitarian, J. KASPARY,

SUPERIOR TO AND SUPERSEDING

The Ten Commandments of the Bible,

Probably composed and engraved on stone by Moses, but ascribed to Jehovah.

As Christian Jesuits have no longer the power in England to imprison, torture and murder by Law, the intelligent and honest persons who advocate true science and philosophy (the real words of God), and therefore speak against the paganism, superstition, and immoral doctrines, contained in the Christian Scriptures and Creeds, the modern Jesuits are compelled to resort to the primitive Christian practice, either of flattering mental idleness and encouraging wickedness by promising salvation in return for credulity, or by committing pious frauds in favour of their creed and against the opinions of their opponents. One of the Bible defenders, for instance, knowing that it is impossible to defend Christianity, or to attack the Religion of God by fair means, told the writer's audience at Chelsea Bridge, only a few weeks ago, that

the Ten Commandments secured to the working classes of this country their Sunday, of which the Religion of God wanted to rob them, giving them instead only four Mondays in the whole year as days of rest and recreation. The few Christians present, of course, cheered the eloquent defender of the Bible—for when did deluded Christians and similar Heathens by mistake not love their greatest enemies and hate their truest friends?—the majority of the audience, however, being composed of thinking men and women, scarcely needed to be reminded that every Christian who does not work on Sundays and rest on Saturdays breaks the Fourth Commandment of Moses, and that the Religion of God teaches “Every Sunday, and the first Monday in January, April, July, and October, you shall keep holy throughout the globe, as days of rest and recreation.” This Bible defender, therefore, committed two pious frauds,—one in favor of the Bible, and the other against the Religion of God. The writer believes, however, that when this Christian will cease to be his own greatest enemy, he will make atonement by speaking truthfully against Christian paganism and superstition and in favor of the Religion of God; for every sane and honest person will acknowledge in time that the Lecture at Midland Railway Arch is infinitely superior to the Ten Commandments of the Bible, but if there be conscientious representatives of Judaism or of any Christian sect who differ from this opinion, they are invited to debate or to correspond with their brother, the Humanitarian, J. KASPARY, 5, Southampton Row, High Holborn, London, W.C.

THE LECTURE AT MIDLAND RAILWAY ARCH,

Delivered on the two first Sundays in September, 1871, contains a translation by the Humanitarian, J. KASPARY, of the following EIGHT Commandments, which the God of Nature *Himself* eternally teaches by His laws of nature to every human being possessing adequate intelligence and goodness:—

1. You shall know that *I* alone am God, the ever conscious, omnipresent, omnipotent, and infinitely wise, just, merciful, and holy *Being*, in *Whom* the universe exists, and *Who* eternally pervades all divisible and indivisible essence (matter and souls). You shall, therefore, neither believe in fictitious beings (the creatures of human imagination, as, for instance, Brahma, Jehovah, Jupiter, Allah, the Devil, and the Holy Ghost), nor bow down to any real idols (the objects in nature and art, as, for instance, the sun, the elements, animals, Mary, Jesus, a golden calf, Jehovah's ark, and the crucifix). You shall, however, devote your whole life to worship *Me* with the acquisition of wisdom and goodness; for *I*, your only Lord and God, reward the good with progressive happiness, and correct the evil with increasing misery, yet pardon even the greatest sinners after their purification by repentance, and after their consecration by an abode in the garden of virtues.

2. You shall not swear, but speak what you know or believe to be the truth, your affirmation being *Yes*, your negation *No*.

3. You shall not believe that the invented Jehovah created the world in six days, and rested on Saturday, or that the body of the real Jesus rose again from the grave on Sunday or in similar pious frauds of priestcraft; for *I*, the only Lord of all existence am eternally active, producing all the phenomena throughout infinite space according to *My* own immutable nature. You shall, therefore, regard as equally holy all the seconds of eternity and every part of the infinite universe; but in commemoration of the blessing *I* conferred upon the human race (by rewarding with a knowledge of the only true religion your best human friend), on the first day of the week, you shall on that day exclusively serve *Me* with mental and moral culture and

rational enjoyments. Those who minister for the instruction and pleasure of the people shall serve *Me* with rest and recreation the next day. On the other six days of the week (with the exception of a few days during the year), you shall serve *Me* with working moderately for the commonwealth. Remember that *I* am the Lord of active life, resting death, and life and death-like sleep, clothing you with a new body or taking it from you, rewarding you with happiness or correcting you with misery, according to your merits.

4. You shall be loving and grateful children towards your parents, but follow only their good example and precepts. And when *I*, the foundation of life, bless you with children, you shall set them a good example by taking care of your own and their physical, mental, and moral health, that *I*, the universal parent, may reward mankind with increasing bliss, and change your eternal abode into a progressive paradise for your present and innumerable future human lives.

5. You shall not take your own life nor that of any other human being, except in self-defence. You shall, therefore, not execute even the greatest tyrants and murderers when you have taken them prisoners, but liberate them after their conversion into Humanitarian defenders of liberty. You shall, however, risk your life in the defence of others, and rather endure imprisonment, torture, and death, than lend yourself as a tool in an offensive war, when *I* will clothe you with a new, superior human body and place you under the most favorable circumstances, rewarding you with long and happy lives.

6. You shall marry only one of the other sex from rational love, and (during your married life) forget self in the happiness of your partner, when bliss will pervade your whole being. *I* shall visit, however, with misery those who prefer celibacy, or pollute themselves with seduction, adultery, and polygamy.

7. You shall restore inherited property, stolen from the people by cunning and force, and use your superior talents, not to accumulate excessive private fortunes, but to enrich the commonwealth, when happiness will be your reward. *I* shall correct, however, with increasing mental and physical pain the dishonest stewards who take more than their proper share from the gifts *I* have given them for distribution, the dishonest idlers who deprive society of due labour and other thieves, until they become converted into honest people.

8. You shall use your present and future conscious existence to examine yourself, either to exterminate stupidity and wickedness and to develop the intelligence and goodness acquired in your former human lives or in the present one, or to create more talents and good desires within yourself by your thoughts and acts. *I* will bestow all *My* blessings upon those who keep this, *My* commandment, for in it are contained all the ways that lead through the infinite regions of eternal bliss.

The Lectures at Chelsea Bridge,

Delivered by the Humanitarian, J. KASPARY,

SUPERIOR TO AND SUPERSEDING

The First Four Chapters of the New Testament,

AND

The Sermon on the Mount,

Composed by, and receiving interpolations from unknown Christians, but ascribed to Jesus and Matthew.

The Lectures at Chelsea Bridge have been composed, delivered, and published, in order to convince Christians that the Religion of God, which the Humanitarian, J. KASPARY, is advocating, teaches wiser doctrines than even the Sermon on the Mount. The whole world will admit in time that the Lectures at Chelsea Bridge, which contain only a small part of the eternal and infinite Religion of God, are superior to the first seven chapters of the New Testament; but contemporaries, who differ from this opinion, are earnestly requested to make an impartial comparison. These Lectures and the other publications of the Humanitarian, J. K.,

will be sent to the Pope, Roman Catholic and Protestant Archbishops, and Bishops of Great Britain and Ireland, the Lower House of Convocation, and the most eminent Ministers of Dissenters. Humanitarians invite and accept the representatives of any Christian church or sect to examine with their representative in debate the superiority of the Religion of God over Christianity. They are confident that truth, though taught and defended by a lisping foreigner, will prove victorious over error, though advocated by the most eloquent English Christians.

THE LECTURE AT CHELSEA BRIDGE,

Delivered on Sundays in June, 1872.

Avoid the extremes of credulity and excessive scepticism, but examine impartially and be a rational believer of probabilities in matters in which certainty is unattainable. The superstitious Christian who believes that Mary was still a virgin after the conception of her first son and that therefore Jesus had no human father, does not indulge in much greater folly than the extreme sceptic who denies the existence of the man Jesus on account of the improbable events recorded of him: for the unwise credit either everything or nothing, but the wise reject only fables and other evident untruths. Humanitarians will therefore believe that weak Joseph seduced frail Mary, and then made the best reparation by marrying her, an example every seducer ought to imitate. This marriage of Joseph with pregnant Mary undeniably proves to the intelligent reader of the Gospel the seduction of Mary by Joseph, and at least Joseph's belief that Jesus was his son.

You shall neither honour nor despise any person on account of ancestors, but regard all children as brothers and sisters, assisting every one to exterminate stupidity and evil desires by the development or creation of intelligence and goodness. It is, therefore, no disgrace to Jesus that he was procreated before the marriage of his erring, ignorant and despised parents, or, if it were true, that he was the descendant of the great criminal David. It is, however, the height of Pagan folly to esteem persons because their ancestors have been such great knaves, murderers, thieves, adulterers and seducers, as most founders of Christian aristocratic families have been.

The unknown Christian who wrote the genealogy of Joseph, the husband of Mary, in order to make the reader believe that Jesus, as the son of Joseph, was the descendant of David (Matt. i. 1—17), cannot be the same person as the piously deceitful author, who invented for Jesus a fictitious father, called the Holy Ghost (Matt. i. 18—25): for every intelligent and honest critic of the Gospels will admit that the first seventeen verses were most probably composed for the perversion of the Jews, by a perverted Jew who believed in the Biblical Messiah, whereas the last eight verses of the first chapter, ascribed to Matthew, were most probably invented for the perversion of the Gentiles by a perverted

Gentile who believed in the incarnation of the deity: as this idea was always and is still rejected by the Jews but was accepted by almost all the Heathens of antiquity, and even to-day the majority of the inhabitants of the East Indies believe as strongly in the incarnation of the second person of their Trinity as the veriest Roman Catholics, Lutherans, Calvinists, Wesleyans, Methodist Ranters, Mormon Saints and High Churchmen. The truth of the axiom that of two contradictory propositions only one can be true, but both may be false, will perhaps be evident even to Gospel believers. If, therefore, the first seventeen verses (especially Matt. i. 17) of the New Testament are true, the rest of the chapter (especially Matt. i. 25) must be the greatest Christian untruth; but were even the Holy Ghost a reality, and not a mere personification of Christian priestcraft, then Matt. i. 1—17 which wants to prove that Jesus, as the son of Joseph, was a descendant of David and the promised Messiah of the Jews, must be a great pious fraud of primitive Christian Jesuits. Even school boys, when counting the generations from Abraham to Jesus in the Gospel, will find that the Christian Holy Ghost (the reputed inspirer of the unholy Scriptures) was deficient in arithmetic: for Matt. i. 17 states that from Abraham to Jesus are three times fourteen generations, which according to the wisdom of this world make forty-two generations, but according to the infallible Gospel (Matt. i. 2—16) there are fewer than forty-two generations. Learned Christians therefore act consistently when after swallowing the camels of the Scriptures they (like Dr. Newman and Archbishop Manning) do not strain at Papal infallibility and other gnats of Roman Catholicism. The preceding remarks justify the statement that only dupes conscientiously believe in the first chapter of the Gospel: for every intelligent and honest reader must disbelieve in the cunningly devised fables which are the foundation-stones of Christian superstition and paganism.

You shall not pervert reason and morality by Trinitarian and other forms of paganism and superstition, but advocate a religious education, which alone can develop or create intelligence and goodness in the human soul and convert mankind into Humanitarians and our earth into a real paradise. You poison, however, the mind of your children and perpetuate human misery by recommending such wolves in sheep's clothing as the Vedas, Bible, Tripitakas, Koran, and other Mythologies of priestcraft, since all revealed irreligions teach more or less that folly and vice are wisdom and virtue, and *vice versa*. The second chapter of the New Testament, for instance, inculcates the belief in astrology, dreams and fortune-telling. Hence the traders in Christianity have been compelled to keep the people in ignorance, or to pervert reason by a Biblical education which inculcates credulity, called faith, as the highest wisdom and virtue; but stigmatises rationalism, or the rejection of Christian fables and immoralities, called infidelity, as the greatest folly and vice.

A truly religious life consists in the acquisition of intelligence and goodness. For intelligence is the acquired quality of the human soul which enables man to distinguish wisdom from folly. The acquired quality of goodness, however, inspires persons to love and to follow the principles of virtue, but to hate and to reject those of vice. Paganism and superstition seduce Christians to become Ascetics, like John the Baptist, and to believe in the third chapter of the Gospel which approves of the folly of baptism, and contains a silly tale, viz., that "the heavens (which have never been shut) were opened and Jesus saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove lighting upon him: And lo, a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." Humanitarians will best show their pity towards deluded Pagans who believe in such fables by converting them into Humanitarians, when the converts will purify themselves from Christian stupidity and corruption by mental industry and good thoughts desires and acts, and also practice external cleanliness by a frequent application of water, without indulging in the superstitious rite of the Baptists and of the pilgrims to the rivers Ganges and Jordan.

The existence of the "God of Nature," of course, excludes the existence of beings like the Christian Devil. For the belief in all the various fictitious devils has its origin in the personification of temptations which arise in corrupted human nature or through unfavorable circumstances. The inherent egotism, ambition, stupidity and wickedness, and the external conditions created by them, are therefore the only real devils which tempt human beings. For instance, egotism and ambition enter especially on a fierce struggle for the expulsion of wisdom and love, when men of genius are starving in garrets, laughed at or hated by the very people who ought to reverence and love them most. "Follow us," say Egotism and Ambition to a talented young politician, "and our servants, the knaves and their dupes, will shower upon you riches, honour and power. Hitherto you have listened to Wisdom and Love and their advice has rendered you poor, despised and powerless. We shall make of you, however, not only a leader of the great egotistical and stupid party, but a prime minister, the defender of church and throne on which our empire rests, and the creator of archbishops and peers in whom the egotistical and ambitious multitudes find their models and masters." The aspiring young politician listens to the seducers and follows their advice, yet tries to delude himself with the belief that he is cheating them, that the end in view justifies the means, that his actions are inspired by wisdom and love, and that he has changed from a liberal Cosmopolitan into a conservative Nationalist, not for the sake of riches, honour and power, but for the sake of educating the great egotistical and stupid party in the divine principles of wisdom and love. In countries, the inhabitants of which are mostly fools, all successful politicians must have been panderers to

aristocratic or popular folly and vice. For none but Humanitarian politicians will perseveringly try and succeed in obtaining a good end by pure means. It is less wicked, however, in Pagan or Atheistic politicians to employ impure means to obtain the good end of establishing a Republic (or the government by the best and the wisest), than the evil end of perpetuating a Monarchy (or the government by the most vicious and stupid, if he happens to be the Prince of Wales).

The geniuses of wisdom and love, however, have been and will be repeatedly sent by the infinitely wise, just and merciful God of Nature to illuminate the dark atmosphere of popular superstition and vice, by unveiling some of the divine and inextinguishable Light of the eternal Religion of God, the spreading of which may be delayed, but cannot be prevented, by the friends of darkness or the servants of egotism and ambition. Light is therefore in the world, although the blind people do not know it, but grope in darkness till comparatively intelligent and good persons, who have preserved their sight by resisting the blinding process of priestcraft, cure them of their mental blindness. As egotism and ambition have no dwelling-place in devotees of wisdom and goodness, the temptations resulting from external circumstances are easily conquered. For, wisdom teaches Humanitarians that our own happiness, or progress in the paradise of bliss, is secured in proportion as we forget self and become the most attentive and loving children of our Father, the best brothers and sisters of human beings, and the kindest masters and mistresses of useful and harmless animals.

THE LECTURE AT CHELSEA BRIDGE.

Delivered on Sunday, July, 31st, 1870.

True philosophers, or lovers of wisdom, will create eternally progressive heavens in themselves and a real paradise upon earth, since the infinitely wise Teacher inevitably *rewards* with happiness those who acquire wisdom, but *corrects* by misery those who, from mental idleness, remain ignorant and credulous. Blessed, therefore, are the rich in intellect, for their's is the *republic of heaven*; but miserable (until their conversion) are the *poor in spirit*, for their's is the *kingdom of hell*.

Wretched are the *credulous sinners*, for the God of Nature will certainly not comfort them that *were* the present by *mourning* over an iniquitous past, and by *intoxicating* themselves with the poisonous spirit of priestcraft, instead of *employing* their time in making themselves happy Humanitarians, since the God of Nature gives peace to those who were formerly sinners and are now working out their future salvation, or that will employ the rest of their present life in exterminating stupidity and evil desires by the persevering acquisition of wisdom and the practice of goodness. *Blessed*, therefore, are the true Humanitarians, or the *constant* followers of the Religion of God, for He will always give them cause to rejoice.

Proud tyrants and *meek slaves* are not Humanitarians, but miserable sinners, for the God of Nature *corrects* with mental or physical pain those who establish or maintain such pernicious institutions as priesthoods and hereditary aristocracies; but eternally *blesses* those courageous and liberty-loving Humanitarians, who enlighten and regenerate human souls and establish the divine Republic upon earth.

Happy are the *converts* that *desire* to live righteously, but *happier* are those Humanitarians that *actually* lead a virtuous life.

The God of Nature is merciful even towards the *greatest* sinner, but *blesses* especially those who exercise mercy towards their erring brothers and sisters, and do not *wilfully* cause pain to animals,

Eternally blessed are those human souls that have acquired good desires and great talents, for the beings that possess such qualities will always have the truest and most comprehensive knowledge of the God of Nature and be the greatest human benefactors of mankind.

The credulous (especially those who worship a man as God) cannot but quarrel among themselves and with those from whom they differ in opinion and language; but *Humanitarians* will always live in peace with each other, and consider it as their special duty to *prevent* war by *exterminating* sectarian and national prejudices (which especially Christian priestcraft and statecraft have implanted in the human mind) and by *inspiring* mankind with the eternal truths that the God of Nature is our common father, that every human soul is His child, and that, therefore, all men and women are our brothers and sisters. Ambition and credulity, however, will always govern credulous slaves; but love and wisdom cannot but lead enlightened Humanitarians. More *blessed* than the *peace makers* are therefore the *peace preservers*, who consider mankind as their family and the whole earth as their residence; but *miserable* are the *war makers*, who are either deluded by ambition or by superstition.

The greatest crimes any person can commit are preventing the credulous from being converted into Humanitarians, by *knowingly* telling falsehoods, and by committing their pious frauds in support of any priestcraft, or by *wilfully* misrepresenting and perverting the Religion of God, or by slandering and persecuting Humanitarian teachers. Their *own greatest enemies* are also those talented persons, who devote none of their time to the teaching of the people, and those wealthy persons who do not assist in the promulgation of the Religion of God according to their means. Those *blessed* men and women, however, who (*from love towards the God of Nature and man*) set good examples and perseveringly make known the intellectual, moral, social, and political truths of the *eternal and unerring* Religion of God (regardless of slanders and persecution of the very persons who will be most benefited by the exertions of such true Humanitarians), develop their own heavens in themselves, and cause the growth of their own paradise upon earth.

The Religion of God is the *light* of the world, which (more or less) has been shut out from the people by the various walls of superstition, raised by deluded or ambitious priests in order to keep the multitude in darkness or twilight. The duty of Humanitarians, however, is to pull down these pernicious walls, so that the light *emitted by God* may illuminate all the atmosphere in which man moves. The love of superstition and the aversion to knowledge, which many persons have contracted, will, however, speedily pass away when man compares the *beautiful* realities and tendencies of the Religion of God with the *revolting* fictions and consequences of priestcraft.

Humanitarian teachers will destroy the pernicious laws, invented by priests and blasphemously ascribed to the God of Nature, but they will expound more clearly the truths taught to their predecessors and contemporaries, and discover some of the eternal commandments of the God of Nature as yet unknown to man. The vicious teachers of erroneous doctrines (such as are contained in the Bible and sanctioned in the sermon on the Mount—Matthew v. 17—19) *enlarge* the kingdom of hell within themselves and others, as well as the vale of misery upon earth, until they are converted into Missionaries of the Religion of God, when they will change their own hell and that of others into a heaven, and this earth from a vale of misery into a progressive paradise.

Do not kill any man except in self-defence, nor any harmless animal except for food and other useful purposes; do not torture even dangerous or obnoxious animals, but kill them quickly.

If your brothers and sisters speak the truth and act justly, feel grateful, and if they slander and persecute you, be not vexed but pity them and defend yourselves.

Good desires, created by virtuous thoughts and acts, and great talents, created by mental industry, are the only acceptable sacrifice man can offer to the God of Nature; but evil desires, created by vicious thoughts and acts, and stupidity, created by mental idleness, profane His altar, which is every human soul. Do not, therefore, desecrate yourselves by causing unnecessary mental or physical pain to man or animals, but consecrate your souls by contributing to the happiness of sentient beings.

A man or a woman ought to marry only from rational love; *i.e.*, with the desire and means to make the other party happy. A marriage without rational love is worse than prostitution, for it leads to adultery, and a gradual suicide and murder. Divorce will never take place between husband and wife whose marriage is inspired by rational love; but it is better that ill-assorted couples voluntarily agree to a separation than that they should respectively commit adultery or mutually embitter and shorten their lives. It is no sin for the divorced husband and wife to contract a second alliance, but it is licentious for either man or woman to marry again after

having been twice separated. The children of separated parents shall be supported by both their father and mother, and will alternately reside with either parent, but during infancy exclusively with their mother.

Folly and dishonesty invented swearing, but wisdom and honesty will abolish it; for lying is encouraged if statements which do not deserve credit without an oath are believed in, because the liar became a perjurer. Do not, therefore, swear at all, but always speak the truth; for those who swear, tacitly admit that their bare word is not to be trusted.

Resist evil with all your might, but do not revenge yourself. If any man, therefore, smites you on the right cheek do not turn to him the other also, but defend yourself, and pardon his assault; for stupidity, cowardice and vindictiveness make tyrants and enemies, but intelligence, courage and forgiveness convert them into your equals and friends. If thieves will sue you at law and take away your coat, let them not have your cloak also, but take care of your property; for folly makes knaves, but wisdom converts them into honest people. Judiciously lend to them that want your assistance without waiting till people ask you, and do everything to oblige, but nothing from compulsion.

Imitate the infinite wisdom and love of our *ever living* Father, who *pervades* all human souls, but *rewards* with the knowledge of His presence only true Humanitarians, or those who *deserve* it; yet mercifully *corrects* the evil, and *comforts* His repentant children. *Love* therefore your friends and *deserve* their friendship by making them and yourself happy through *mutual* promotion of wisdom and goodness, *Love* also your enemies by *converting* them into your friends through your courageous self-defence; the consequent correction which this inflicts upon them, and the kindness and regard for their welfare which you will afterwards display towards these erring beings.

Persons, who give alms to gain the applause of the servants of *ignorance* and *mediocrity*, will scarcely *benefit* others, but certainly *injure* themselves. *Humanitarians*, however, when judiciously contributing towards any cause that promotes human happiness, will not trumpet their names in pulpits and newspapers, or on monuments and institutions (as especially ambitious Christians do); but their conscience will tell them that God approves of, and rewards the giving of alms only when personally given in secret or when anonymously sent.

Do not esteem and follow European and American hypocrites, who love to turn up their eyes, and to pray aloud in churches, chapels, and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen and honoured by Christian dupes. Also do not participate in the prayer meetings of evangelical Heathens, who beg much of their favourite idol, thinking that a man (who was wrongly crucified by Bible Believers, more than eighteen centuries ago, and may now be living and persecuted by Christian Pharisees) is residing somewhere beyond the clouds, and will hear and reward their blasphemous utterances. Irrational persons, or those who have no knowledge of an infinitely wise Governor of the universe, can only believe, for instance, that the immutable God of Nature sends rain because of the prayers uttered by Christians. Our infallible Father certainly knows better what things we have need of, than His erring children, the Roman Catholic, Protestant, and other Heathens. Do not therefore resemble them—for the pernicious influence of begging prayers, seduces the supplicants with false hopes, encourages idleness, prevents self-reliance, and the full display of those mental and physical exertions, which alone can elevate human beings or ensure their own progressive bliss. The Prayer of Humanitarians, however, can only reform the wicked and confirm or improve the good, as it cultivates gratitude; teaches self-examination, repentance and self-reliance; inspires good resolves, and exhorts Humanitarians to lead an exemplary life. Your brother recommends you therefore to meditate every morning and evening on the following prayer, since there cannot exist one single human soul that will not feel wiser, better, and happier after the meditation.

THE PRAYER OF HUMANITARIANS.

"All-merciful God of Nature! in Whom all beings are, accept my sincere thanks for Thy goodness. Thou hast given all to all, and I acknowledge that but for the ignorance, wickedness, and indifference of many erring brothers and sisters, all mankind would live in a real paradise.

"Accept my vows to love my own soul by enlightening her, to love my own body by living virtuously, so as to render my present life long and happy.

"I therefore vow to love each and all the members of the human family as myself, by setting them a good example, by assisting them in their bodily sufferings, and by enlightening their minds in order to render them, especially children, happier than

myself, since this alone is the true preparation for my own progressive bliss after death.

“To fulfil my vows, I solemnly promise to the God of Nature and mankind to perform the Twelve Principal Duties, and to keep the Constitution of Humanitarians, and to try with all my might to promote the spread of the ‘Religion of God.’”

Fasting, vigils, celibacy, and other mortifications of the body are suicidal, and consequently irreligious observances; but the proper use of wholesome food and drink, moderate sleep and work, marriage with one wife or husband, and living in society, are religious observances, for they prolong human life. Do not therefore imitate the pernicious example of Christian ascetics, monks and nuns, but thankfully enjoy the present, and the God of Nature will reward you with greater happiness in the future.

Employ your present life in creating and developing heavens in your eternal souls, or in laying up treasures within yourselves of which all the monarchs and priests cannot rob you: for tyrants and knaves may confiscate your property, injure your bodies, or even deprive you of life, but they cannot take away good desires and great talents, as these remain inherent in the human soul after the separation from the temporary body. Men, however, cannot acquire or possess a genius for wisdom and goodness without improving external circumstances by assisting others to create heavens within themselves, and by laying up material treasures for contemporaries and posterity upon earth, which is the only and eternal abode of human souls.

You cannot serve the God of Nature except you love yourselves, by spiritually and materially enriching the human race. Take care therefore to prolong the present life of man by providing food, drink, clothes and shelter: for the God of Nature rewards the human soul with intellect, and successively clothes her with a newly organized body, in order that man may sow, reap, eat and store up food that nourishes the soul and body. The thoughtlessness of the ignorant and credulous who erroneously believe that the God of Nature is both the universal and the special providence of sentient beings, (Matthew vi. 25—31,) has diminished the stature of man, and shortened human life: the thoughtfulness of Humanitarians, however, who know that the God of Nature is only the universal providence, and that man must be his own special providence, will add to the stature of man and lengthen human life. Take thought also for your innumerable future lives by providing your children with better organized bodies and with a better intellectual, moral, and physical education than you received from your parents, so that the future generations may more easily earn for themselves the necessities and luxuries of life, and enjoy greater happiness than yourselves at present. Do not, however, render yourselves miserable by anxieties, but live happily by being provident, by always trying to improve your circumstances, and by having the implicit faith that the God of Nature will reward your wise and persevering exertions with success in due time.

The good, think that everyone is animated by pure motives, until they have undeniable proofs to the contrary; the wicked, however, believe that everyone is bad, and attribute impure motives to the most excellent actions; for man cannot but judge of others from himself. The Humanitarian, for instance, thinks that his Christian opponent, who receives honour and money for defending Christianity, is animated by pure motives, even after having convicted him of employing so impure a means as uttering falsehoods in the defence of Christianity, and in the attack on the Religion of God. That very Christian, however, publicly accused his Humanitarian opponent, who has to give his time and money in return for curses, slander, and persecution, of teaching the Religion of God from the impure motives of honour and money, although everything shews the contrary. Learn therefore to know and improve yourselves, and you will do justice to the good, exercise charity towards the evil, and point out mistakes, not for the purpose of reproaching and offending your erring brothers and sisters, but of amending them.

As wise physicians visit first those who are dangerously ill, so Humanitarians will teach the Religion of God, especially to the ignorant, the deluded, and the vicious. They will perseveringly cast the pearls of knowledge and virtue before the dupes and knaves until they pick them up; for though these pearls may be trampled under foot yet they cannot be injured; and though the sower of them may prematurely lose his or her life, yet not the consequent blessings, which consist in an eternally progressive heaven, as well as in long and happy lives, by means of well organized bodies and favorable circumstances. Humanitarian teachers of both sexes will therefore courageously visit the neglected, perverted and vicious: for those who are more able to appreciate the Religion of God, and are longing for it, will visit its teachers, and become themselves Humanitarian missionaries.

Wise parents encourage their children to grow wiser and to earn their own livelihood, in order that they may become independent, but dissuade them from becoming

dependent through idleness and folly. If human parents have sufficient wisdom to act thus beneficially to their children, how much more does our infinitely wise and omnipresent Father encourage in His children mental and physical industry, the creators of self-reliance, but dissuade them from folly and idleness, the creators of begging prayers? Every one therefore that asketh, receiveth not; and he that seeketh in the wrong place, findeth not; but those who judiciously sow, will reap; and those who wisely look after realities, will find them.

From Love towards the God of Nature and mankind, perseveringly try to become the best and wisest human being by desiring and acting for yourself and others, even as the wisest and best would desire and act for themselves and others under similar circumstances; but the foolish and evil things the unwise and wicked would that men should do to them, do you neither to them nor to others.

Beware of the various priestcrafts which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. You shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so, every good tree bringeth forth good fruits, but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit; hence all the various priestcrafts, Christianity included, are corrupt trees, on which are grafted more or less a few branches of the only good tree, the Religion of God. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down and cast into the fire. Wherefore by the fruits ye shall know that the Religion of God is the only good tree, but that all the various priestcrafts, called revealed religions, and derived from the Vedas, Bible, Koran, etc., are corrupt trees, or wolves in sheep's clothing.

Sinners can only save themselves by real repentance and a persevering trial of making either a direct or indirect restitution and a return to the path of wisdom, love, and the virtues. Humanitarians know that the most ignorant and vicious human selves, or souls, whether life-producing or not at present, must grow wiser and better in one of their future lives than the wisest and best of their contemporaries. The latter, however, will always transcend the former in wisdom and goodness, both of which are the attributes of the God of Nature, and are therefore infinite. The gradual conversion of every human self, by means of an infinitely wise, just, and merciful correction in order to convert the sinner from folly and vice to wisdom and goodness, and the progressive bliss or salvation of all human selves without one single exception, is the true future that is in store for every man and woman, but it depends upon the individuals themselves whether they will lay the foundation of their heaven in the present life or not.

The Humanitarian, J. KASPARY,

TO HIS BROTHER

The Christian, C. H. SPURGEON.

The so-called Religious Tract Society, 56, Paternoster Row, and 164, Piccadilly, circulates an Illustrated Handbill entitled "*The Freethinker*" the contents of which are extracted by your permission from your sermons, and printed for the London City Mission.

As this Tract may prevent *credulous* believers from becoming *reasonable* persons, I feel it my duty to address you, although the most eloquent advocacy of Trinitarian Paganism and Superstition will certainly not *change* one single real Freethinker into a Christian Baptist.

About four years ago, when I listened for the first time to your oratory, I detected doubt still lurking in your soul; the *vehemence* with which you declare your belief may mislead the credulous (of which your congregations are mostly composed), but not God, or his real disciples—the true philosophers.

You may intoxicate others and yourself with the *spirit* of Christian delusion, and temporarily stupify your reason and conscience; but this will only increase your misery. Your brother rejoices, however, in the certainty that you will not be eternally damned, but that at some time you will save yourself by speaking against starvation (*Atheism*) and gluttony (Christianity), and especially by advocating the earning, eating, and digesting of wholesome and sufficient food (the Religion of God).

The love of ignorance, credulity, (both of which are the children of mental idleness) money and honour, may temporarily detain people in its clutches; but it cannot prevent you from becoming a *Humanitarian*, even in this life, for when you deserve it, God will certainly ordain you as an *Apostle* of His religion.

Your brother feels only love and pity towards you, but he hates (*not the truths*) the paganism and superstition you are teaching, since you have no right to recommend a wolf because of his sheep's clothing.

You dare not deny that millions of men (Jesus included) have been murdered because the Bible commanded it, and that millions of men are living now in ignorance, credulity, slavery, poverty, and vice, because the teachers and defenders of the Christian Scriptures know that no wise and good person can believe in witchcraft, or in capital punishment for blasphemy, adultery, disobedience to priests and parents, fornication and sabbath-breaking (which latter you do yourself every Saturday, though you teach the ten commandments on Sunday), all of which the Bible commands and the New Testament sanctions.

When you slipped the anchor of your faith, you merely changed from a *credulous* Christian into an *unreasonable* sceptic, and from the latter you changed into a *Bible* idolater. You have, however, no need to retract the false statement that "*once you were a man of reason*," and that "*reason was your captain*," because you have done so without knowing or intending it.

Every reader of this pamphlet will admit that only an *unreasonable* person, who takes *folly* for his captain, can say like brother C. H. Spurgeon :—

"I gloried at the rapidity of my motion, but yet shuddered at the terrific rate with which I passed the old land-marks of my faith. As I hurried forward, I began to doubt my very existence; I doubted if there were a world; I doubted if there were such a thing as myself; I went to the verge of the dreary realms of unbelief. I doubted everything."

Once you were in one extreme and doubted everything, now you are in the other extreme, and believe that an *ass* has spoken, that a *woman* became pregnant without having *sexual* intercourse with any man, that from Friday afternoon, the burial of Jesus, till Sunday morning, the fabulous resurrection of Jesus are three days and *three nights*, and that similar impossibilities invented by pious imposters have taken place.

Once you were a mental Anarchist, now you are a mental Slave. When will you deserve to enjoy mental Liberty?

Do not blame *Reason* (the greatest gift of God, with which people are rewarded in proportion to their merits), but blame the *folly* of man. Will you sneer at *liberty* because slaves become anarchists, and *vice versa*?

In future, confound neither *Reason* with *credulity* and *scepticism*, nor *Liberty* with *slavery* and *anarchy*, because those who prejudice the people against reason and liberty, *blaspheme* God, and *injure* themselves and others.

Your brother, like yourself, rejected his *hereditary* superstition; but *God* being his *guiding star*, *Nature* his *ocean*, and *Reason* his *captain* he is either sailing on a calm sea (interspersed with beautiful islands, each transcending in beauty the preceding ones), or anchoring in safe harbours during storms.

Parents and teachers had instructed you to remain in one of the narrow pools of Christianity, but when you grew up, and your taste became developed, you found the water putrid from the filth which priests had accumulated during many centuries. You then left your native pool for the ocean, but instead of apprenticing yourself to the greatest captain, commanding the best constructed ship (until you became superior to your master, and could improve upon his vessel or invent a new and better one), you plunged bodily into the breakers (like a reckless boy) and the waves threw you bleeding upon the rocks. Howling, you left the ocean for that narrow and putrid pool of Christianity, in which you are now living in the society of the Baptists.

The *arguments of hell* moved you to plunge into the ocean and afterwards return to your present pool, but the *arguments of heaven* will move you to follow my example. For at present you do not stand upon a rock of adamant, but you are gradually sinking into the mire from which the Religion of God alone can extricate you.

Dr. Mosheim (the greatest Protestant authority in ecclesiastical history, who lived and died as an orthodox Lutheran) states *Book I, P. II, Ch. II*, that,—

"A variety of commentaries, filled with impositions and fables, on our Saviour's life and sentiments, were composed soon after his ascent into heaven, by men who, without being bad, perhaps, were superstitious, simple, and piously deceitful. To these were afterwards added other writings falsely ascribed to the most holy apostles by fraudulent individuals."

This proves that the early Christians were as piously deceitful as the unknown authors and interpolators of the accepted Gospels and the present Jesuits, who knowingly tell falsehoods in order to promulgate or to maintain their paganism and superstition.

You say :—"Now, lashed to God's (say priests') gospel more firmly than ever, standing as on a rock of adamant, etc." Your supposed rock is rotten and crumbling. After the revision of the gospel by the Houses of Convocation, you will find that former Christian priests or monks have made the following remarkable interpolations even after the year 350, viz :

Matthew v, 44 ; Mark xi, 26, and xvi, 9--20 ; Luke ix, 56, and xxiii, 34 ; John viii, 1--11 ; and I John v, 7.

My brother, C. H. Spurgeon, has based his faith on parchments, and upon the honesty and infallibility of ancient miracle-workers and fortune tellers, but not upon those of Spiritualists and Mormons. He swallows the camels of the Trinity, and of the infallibility and honesty of the inhuman Moses and Samuel, as well as those of Pope Peter and Jesuit Paul, but he strains at the gnat of the infallibility of the Roman Catholic Pope.

I have not written a single word in this letter with the intention of offending any person ; but, nevertheless, I beg pardon for the necessary pain I must cause in order to effect the cure of my mistaken brothers and sisters.

Do not prostitute your talents as an orator to render the people credulous, but merit eternally progressive bliss by becoming a teacher of the Religion of God, and assisting me to convert the English into a nation of Humanitarians.

I take the liberty of sending you my pamphlet, treating of the Religion of God, which please to accept and to peruse. I shall also be most happy to correspond, converse, or debate with you (as two brothers who differ from each other ought to do) whenever convenient for you and possible for me.

This letter will be published as an antidote against Christian tirades, designed to bring reason and freethought in disrepute, but from personal regard towards you, I shall not circulate this letter among your congregation.

There are not yet many persons fit to be Freethinkers, but there are many who are able to promulgate the discoveries of worthy Freethinkers and all sane persons can understand these real words of God. With or without your assistance you may rest assured, however, that the whole human race will in time acknowledge the Religion of God, so that every person will become a Humanitarian.

London, 13th July, 1870.

Fifteen Doctrines of the Religion of God.

1. The God of Nature, beside whom there are no other gods, is an eternal, omnipotent and indivisible Being of infinite wisdom, justice and mercy, whose intellectual essence pervades the whole universe, or all souls (undividable beings) and matter (dividable substance). The God of Nature is therefore, to speak figuratively, the soul of the whole universe and the latter is His body, or, to quote the poetical language of Pope—

"All are but parts of one stupendous Whole,
Whose Body Nature is, and God the Soul."

2. The whole universe, or all undividable beings and dividable substance, is eternal. The God of Nature is therefore not the Creator of souls and matter but the eternal Organizer of the latter and Rewarder and Corrector of sentient beings.

3. The eternal earth, one of the innumerable stars, consists of a finite portion of matter, is the abode of a limited number of souls of different species and has eternally all the requisites for the progressive happiness and misery of its human inhabitants.

4. The species of human souls is not only the highest species of individuals on earth but in the whole universe. The wisest and best human soul is therefore the greatest being next to the God of Nature.

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