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DECLINING CHRISTIANITY.

In a Theosophical magazine published in New York some interesting statistics are given, which are made the foundation for the conclusion that orthodox Christianity is on the wane and that in "100 years more that form of religion will belong only to Bigots, Fanatics, or people who make it a point everything, and accounts based on statistics, as a general rule, are not accepted without some caution. But the figures mentioned on this subject are highly interesting. A summary of the article appears in the Literary Digest of New York, from which the following is borrowed:

"The American almanac for 1898 estimated the population of the world at 1,550,000,000. The number of Christians in the world at that time, according to Malte-Brun and Grimm, was 558,000,000, Buchanan's estimate of 30 years previous 500,000,000, Jess Pilgrim's in 1880, 667,000,000. Malte-Brun gave the number of Christians at about 1,000,000 in Oceanica, Pinkerton, Hassel, and Bulle gave the number from 200,000 to 3,000,000. Hassel gives 1,000,000 to Australia, that is of the people to the great religions, one put down by them as therefore at about 35 per cent. In this will be 35,000,000 population of the world in 1892, 35 per cent were Christians.

"Dr. Dorfeld, editor of the Christian Herald and Reporter, published by Dodd, New York, 1891, put down the population of the world at 1,500,000,000, of which 475,000,000 were Christians and 625,000,000 non-Christians, which gives the Christian population in 1891 to be rather more than 31 1-3 per cent, a decline of nearly 3 1-2 per cent since 1892.

"Dr. Behaff and Herzog's Encyclopedia of Religious Knowledge for 1891, Hutmann M. Zerkoff gives the Census for 1892 as: Buddhists, 467,000,000; Brahmins, 191,000,000; Mohammedans, 165,000,000; Jews, 5,000,000; Christians, 1,024,000,000 non-Christians. The number of Christians he estimates at 400,000,000, and the population of the world at 1,621,000,000. This in 1892, the number of Christians in the world had declined to 29½ per cent of the whole population.

"Harper's Book of Facts for 1895 gives the population of the world for 1890 as 1,454,000,000. Of this number 400,000,000 were Christians, going to show that in eight years the proportion of the Christian population had declined 1 per cent.

"That is, in the period from 1892 to 1890—a little more than half a century—there was a decline in the number of nominal Christians from 32 per cent of the total population of the world to 27½ per cent. And this, it is asserted, is the best showing possible, notwithstanding the millions spent yearly on missionary efforts at home and abroad.

"It is suggested that a contribution of mission is responsible for this decline. Infidelity has been aggressive in this century as never before, appealing no longer only to scholars but to the masses. Its tenets have been preached through scientific treatises and more powerfully still through the so-called religious novel. Biblical criticism with its reckless disregard of fact has had an influence far more pernicious than the open reports written by the avowed orthodox Christianity.

"To the readers of the "News" it will be of special interest to note that modern Christianity, according to the figures presented, reached its highest mark about the time of the establishment of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The statistics commence with the year 1700. At that time the Church of God, fleeing from the Gentile tyranny, had not been organized to show its beauty and superiority proportions to the world. It had received the promise that the "keys of the kingdom" should never be taken away. That was the legal deed of a new fee upon the earth. It was an inheritance of the new Jerusalem of the prophets. "Behold I make all things new."

Many religious societies have lived and succumbed with the civilizations with which they were associated. Christianity displayed the religions of Rome, Greece, the Scandinavian and other countries. Christianity is still declined to go on with the earth ways—ships at the feet of St. Helena's feet the Christians (that will accompany the work will be the religions of the Son of God) are so numerous. Hence Modern Christianity, orthodox Christianity, may be amazing, but, we Christians, guided by the light of revelation and upheld in the power of God, Almighty, say, "Amen." The universal brotherhood is nearer an ideal system of harmony and adhesion, but any old system otherwise, but the Gospel of Jesus presided by authority from on high.

THAT RAILROAD ACCIDENT.

Judging from expressions, there is much indignation among the people around the railroad depot on account of the shocking accident by which poor little Annie Lillian was laid down in the city yesterday, November 11. It is said there have not so low than five hundred people that walk, and if this is true, it is no wonder if people now demand that some effective steps be taken for the protection of the straight lot of humanity. The place where the accident happened is a public thoroughfare. Children on their way to the University have to pass there, and by some means or other, even at some expense to the railroad, the street must be made safe.

Railroad companies may have done who have lost health or limbs in their service, and it is to their credit that they have. But there is some reproach, but that does not justify them in placing incompetent heads in important and responsible positions.

The funeral services over the remains of the little girl will be held tomorrow, Sunday. We hope there will be a large attendance of sympathizing friends. This will be some comfort to the bereaved parents.

SACRIFICES FOR PRINCIPLE.

In the early part of President Johnson's administration, when it was manifest that it was to be a Democrat and consequently he removed the Republicans in a very wholesale manner and making a rule of a considerable part of the country, embracing numerous men who were then accepted as excellent prices, such as New York, Philadelphia, Chicago, Detroit, St. Louis, Louisville and so on. The petition in Brooklyn was numerous and was manipulated by a Democrat and went under the patronage of Professor V. Rooney made famous by Andrew's "Swinger Round the Cyclone." It was a new thing, and had been practiced much of late years, but the object was to allay as far as possible the growing feeling against the President and his administration by mingling with the people, speaking to them and in a general way showing their real genuine humanity and a desire for the rights of all, regardless of nationalities. The trip was a failure and instead of allaying the growing feeling had but the effect of adding fuel to the flames, and what doubtless appeared did not accomplish what it thought, namely, the Democrat was brought down to a common level and lost prestige.

Some people, very many in fact but a few of their friends, thought President's policy and practices all wrong. They held that he was too much disposed to ignore the prevailing feeling among the people of the North and held that all to the lately conquered states of the South at a time when he could accomplish nothing but "he was above and the old Nick." Furthermore, that he was not polite enough for a politician, but especially unfitted for a statesman. His purpose of bringing about the immediate restoration of ante bellum conditions was looked upon as a contempt of the constitutional power of Congress which had ordained and was in the process of enacting reconstruction measures for the South and was wrong. There were to consultation with radical Republican chiefs and were aimed at holding the Southerners who participated actively or passively in the rebellion in a state of darkness, bondage and subjugation for a prescriptory period, excepting only such as applied for clemency under circumstances and in accordance with forms prescribed by Congress itself. The plan failed and effect of this, so far as practical politics was concerned, was to give the rebellion a prominent hold of power. The Southern states were all without back to the Union one by one after they had elected Republican officers and ratified the Fifteenth Amendment to the Constitution, giving the negro suffrage and, of course, the vote of course then would also be a man act with those who gave them freedom and enfranchisement, and with the white men coming back to the condition of suffrage nearly and to small agitate, the attention appeared to Johnson more of a politician than a statesman, for the Union between Congress and himself quickly grew. He would very measure leading to support the objectionable conditions referred to and Congress as regularly and with the attempt to overpower and bring over the veto. A crisis was inevitable. The President, after three years of haggling, worrying and wearying with the legislative branch of the government, was impelled. The House of Representatives passed an impeachment resolution, charging him with violating the law in high crimes and misdemeanors, the specifications setting out a thousand of his acts of office in assuming the authority of Congress, consulting with his Cabinet and seeking to render respitory the laws which it made, and the Senate sitting as a court was summoned. He faced the crisis with the same stolid determination and impossibility of purpose that had characterized him all along. To a friend who urged him to make a judicious use of his patronage privileges he replied that he wouldn't give a twenty-dollar post office for any man's vote. After a long and exciting trial the Senate, ruled on the eleventh article of impeachment and the President was acquitted, enough incidental Republicans having voted with the Democrats to make the proper vacation short by one vote of the absolute two-thirds necessary. He retired from the Presidency amid acclaim, but he is better thought of now.

There is something more than political history to be learned from all this. It proves a moral and shows a little, very few of the most advanced thought of social consideration is concerned, it the report must be had for conditions, surroundings and opportunities to convince be the object sought. A man may be convinced in his own mind with the knowledge that he is right and the belief that some day time will come. He will act as he is. But that such are very rare. They are scarcely limited man, but those of early day and past have middle and begin to fellowship with the traditional discomfort and to work to prove it to be correct, or such there can none only which for the weapon and frequently punishment of one kind or another for those who so think. Galileo made the discovery that the earth revolved when the sun stood still, a doctrine at variance with that of the powers that were in the place and at the time he made his discovery, and he was compelled to make a humiliating public retractation. There have been many such professors. Penn, Wesley, Stevenson and even those of the enlightened and advanced generation in this church and practice made—and, I understand, is—a sacrifice and factory for a time. A person, a politic, or one whose mind or heart is very pushing has stood of the struggling mass must expect little for opposition according to duties, friends and the frequently far more severe hesitation for himself. In plain terms, to be successful in life one must conform somewhat to the hobbies, circumstances, prejudices and peculiarities of the great majority of those by whom he is surrounded. Those who are continued with professions justice, with honors and powers which they can over personally realize, may still have advantages which to the majority are never to be realized or withstanding from them. If the Andrew Johnsons and the Wendell Phillips and even the John Brooks and others who suffered in this life did so because their principles put them ahead of their time, who may say, yea and nay, the presence in another sphere of action where rewards are not so capricious, so tardy or so decline when they come?

A CASE OF CHRISTIAN SCIENCE.

The death in Great Britain of Harold Frederic, the journalist, previously noted in these columns, has created a sensation among the adherents of so-called Christian Science. The manner's boy received a variety of contradictory answers a number of the bereaved and the deceased here and also against the Christian Scientist who attended him and who had to take care of the best friend of getting his medical aid. Then the women and now is placed on trial on the grave charge made against them. Without doubt the case will be followed with interest high in Broad Bulletin and here, owing to the prominence of Mr. Frederic as well as to the great number of believers in the "science," of which it is supposed he was a member.

Opinions may differ as to the right of the law to dictate to patients in the matter of medical treatment, but on the ground of the philosophy that calls itself Christian Science, at least so far as it endeavors to account for the existence of physical ailments, there can be no two opinions. Here is a scrap of that philosophy:

"You say a foot is painful, but that is impossible, for matter without mind is not painful. The foot simply manifests what mind believes. It pulls through the medium of matter and feel that the belief is a fact. Now administer to mind a pain killer or opiate and you will find the belief is a fact. Now administer to mind a pain killer or opiate and you will soon cure the foot. The fact that mind is in one place where there is no mortal mind is a fact, and the proof that this so-called mind makes its own pain—that is, the pain belief is pain."

The theory may not be the concern of the law and the courts, but if a theory is carried out in practice and it is found to involve a danger to the community, it becomes the proper subject of legislation and certain restrictions will be considered necessary. Public opinion in Great Britain has been strongly against Christian Science on this ground, and the probability is that there will be much opposition.

NICARAGUAN CANAL WANTED.

The United States has seen offers of the Panama canal at a figure which, all things considered, is not unreasonable. Those who oppose the purchase but still favor an interoceanic waterway somewhere along the isthmus of Panama, are pushing the project of making Nicaragua the location. Here the country is much wilder and no work has been done. Concerning this subject an article appears in the November Forum from the pen of Gen. H. L. Abbott, in which some interesting facts appear. He shows that the entire length of the canal is forty-six miles, of which about 12 miles on the Atlantic side and 7½ miles on the Pacific side, or about one-half of the whole distance, will be at sea level. Of the distance 16 miles, or about two-thirds of the entire route, is today essentially completed, so that at a moderate outlay for dredging it will be made at once serviceable. We have, therefore, only to consider the 20½ miles between Brito on the Atlantic side and Miraflores, on that of the Pacific. Two sea level harbors, which will demand no outlay for improvements are available, and the Panama railroad skirts the entire throughout its entire route to be available of in operation. Ample quarries, on the condition, for the improved locks of Isthmus are already opened at many sites. These advantages are claimed to be unique.

It is held that there is another advantage not less valuable. We are shown that the company, by careful and technical studies, has partially succeeded in so adjusting the project that a canal between the three last mentioned levels may be constructed so that the actual excavation the work may be conducted on a grand scale. The cost of finishing one either of the plans is estimated at about 100,000,000. This is a good deal of money, but not so much as it would be if we take the Nicaraguan route literally literally. It would be as far as though the chief consideration, however, should be one of time, the matter of expedition being manifestly one in comparison with the necessity for a waterway between the Atlantic and Pacific. Some years ago have been a wonderful increase in all the great commercial powers and a vast volume of revenue to the owners, but in the United States with its new possessions in the Pacific it has become an indispensable and immediate requirement. It is said the coming session of Congress will make the Nicaraguan canal one of the first subjects which it settles.

WAGES AND RELIGION.

In a pamphlet entitled Prosperity Forever, the author endeavors to prove that high wages follow the source of the highest form of religion. In China, he says, the average earnings are 3 cents a day. In India they are 11 cents a day and in Japan 12 cents. In Mohammedan countries, Persia and Turkey, for instance, the average is 20 cents a day. In countries where the Greek religion prevails, the average of wages is 40 cents. In the Protestant, it is 50 cents and at Africa, 27 cents. In Roman Catholic countries wages from 18 cents in Italy and Austria to 27 cents in France and Belgium. Throughout Europe the average is 30