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REDEMPTION OF MAN.

A call on him from his opponents resembles in several respects, perspective to give a general idea of the probable number of souls now inhabiting the regions assigned to the lost children of mankind, after death. The statistics were first published in the English *Freethinkers' Magazine*, and were evidently compiled for the purpose of holding up to ridicule the doctrines of Christianity. The writer arrives at the conclusion that the population of hell now amounts to two hundred million against one billion eight hundred millions of souls in heaven. That is to say, for every saved person, there are in the calculation seven are lost in hell. But the premises on which the figures rest are utterly void of all semblance to truth and prove nothing, if not the author's absolute ignorance about the subject with which he deals.

His argument runs somewhat like this:

In round numbers the earth has a population of 1,500,000,000, of whom 200,000,000 are professed Christians, the other 1,300,000,000 being Mohammedans, Buddhists, pagans and heathens. The whole race was condemned to eternal punishment for the sin of Adam. Then was and is no redemption even through the death of Christ. Christian chronology gives the earth a period of 6,000 years. From Adam's time down to the death of Christ was 4,000 years, during which time all human souls were lost. The population of the globe during last 2,000 years averaged, we will say, 1,000,000,000. Three generations, or 3,000,000,000, passed away each century. Forty centuries, therefore, consigned 120,000,000,000 human souls to eternal fire. In the 1,800 years which have elapsed since the birth of Christ 57,000,000,000 more of human beings have lived and died. If all the Christians, nominal and real, who have ever lived on the face of the earth have been saved, they would not number more than 18,000,000,000.

Now, if we deduct the latter number from the grand total of 177,000,000,000, the number which have been lost—see the creation, we find that 159,000,000,000 of souls are now suffering the torments of hell against a positive 18,000,000,000 who have escaped. But this is not the whole truth. Say that 10 per cent of the so-called Christians have been saved, which is very doubtful, then heaven contains a population of less than 1,800,000,000, while that of hell aggregates upward of 200,000,000,000.

To anyone familiar with Scripture doctrine on the subject the absurdity of the above is so plain as to need no refutation. But it will illustrate the general principle that willful ignorance about Christianity is nearly always responsible for infidelity, just as ignorance about Mormonism has been a distinguishing feature of its virulent opponents. It has been the case from Celsus of ancient fame, down to the present age.

Holy writ emphatically declares that the number that will be lost ultimately is comparatively small. Peter had a special revelation on the subject that "God is no respecter of persons, but in every nation he that feareth Him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with Him." One of the promises of the eternal Father to His beloved Son is that exposed in holy writ: "Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the utermost parts of the earth for thy possession." And consequently at last He will indeed be the King of kings and Lord of lords. All enemies shall be subdued by Him, death not excepted, and Heaven itself shall exercise no inhabitants save those that "dwell may be in God, and God in them," that the "mystery of God may be finished" and that He work in salvation, more quietly, extensively and deeply for the earth for this than it has done, that the spirit be poured according to law to the flesh, but the flesh according to God in the spirit."

The gloomy doctrine of the all but total victory of evil over good has no foundation in Christianity. Everywhere in God's Word, both ancient and modern, the declaration is made that power and dominion and glory belong to Christ for ever and ever, and it is he always has been a heavenly light in the darkness of error and sin, that these are not always, to prevail, but must give place for truth and righteousness. The final victory of the Spirit of God is foretold in the Old Testament, from the first promise made to fallen man. Gradually the visions of prophecy triumph become clearer and the New Testament closes with a wonderful representation of such a triumph. In harmony with this are the hopes and promises held out to the ancient tabernacle on this continent, as recorded in the Book of Mormon. But last, but not least, clearly revealed in this age in which God's kingdom is to rule. The condition of Christendom, however, cannot, we fear, be indicative of the triumph of the Son of man on earth. The immorality of the nations (we speak generally, then, of the Gentiles, from Sodom and Gomorrah, the heavenly fire has in these last days, in the judgments of the Almighty. And this is the great and marvelous work commenced in the name of the Almighty by Joseph the prophet. It will continue until "at last every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear, and every one shall know, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is the Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

EDUCATION AND POLITICS.

The News had great hopes that the first party convention held under the new order of things would be held in a fair situation to divorce educational from party politics and so fill the ticket for public preferment for such places. We know that the people of the Territory would not say never but would applaud such a policy. If there are any who would not so say they either belong to a class of persons who care nothing for any party or any state—aside from the political—or else we have are grossly ignorant of the question. If we are to have a complete system of education in the State it must come through a strong non-partisan policy in the naming of the school officials. A school system in any community is to be overthrown if it is to be used in the hands of every new partisan who shall come into power. Which we find ourselves submitting a system of that kind we can with pride establish the school institution and relieve it private politics. States that have permitted this result to be established in any degree to party affiliation are unanimous to their disapproval of the experiment.

Of course there may be times when under the inexpediency of the immediate inactive to supplanted by a new one. But even in such instances we have seen, we should still urge a policy of non-interference by any partisan convention, the issues acting in response to some well articulated voice from the school broad issues of the State. Briefly, we hold that the initiative in the case belongs now and forever with the educators and not with any political organization whatsoever. If we are right—and it is not the proper function of a party convention to nominate in such a case independent of regular action from the educators then this is the time above all others to protest against such a policy. We have consulted with a large number of educators in connection with this subject and then for the opinions expressed here been unanimous.

We earnestly urge the teachers and superintendents throughout the Territory to let their wishes be known to the voters. The columns of the News are open to them. The coming election being for the initial organization of the new State, it is important that we start right. It would be highly profitable to the state and particularly to the cause of education, for practical educators from various parts of the Territory to get together and consider the question freely. It such a gathering should accomplish nothing more than an emphatic assertion of privilege in the premises, it would be setting a precedent that might prove of inestimable importance in future elections.

We have the experience of the eastern states to prove that if any educational department is regarded as legitimate spoil of party government it is a menace to the whole school system, which is certain eventually to turn our public schools into a battlefield for professional demagogues. We hope the voters of the Territory will see the importance of this question and move upon political lines on both sides of the issue so emphatic within that our system of public education is to be under a party institution, except so far as question of state policy between those who do and those who do not believe in public education, and on this issue we respect without qualification that of all the opponents of public schools their most institutions owing to the person who would make them the instruments of a political party.

FILE AGAIN.

While there was perhaps some severity in the News' remarks on the correspondence with which most offices fortune upon the American, further in these journals of late, we are emboldened to tell we that the sentiments expressed have met with warm approval, not only from the higher minded and more respectable of the Illinois newspapers, but from the public in generally. Pursuing the subject a little further, as we propose to continue to do until every practice shall be made salient, and every subject examined be made impossible save under peril of imprisonment, we give place today to a query and a comparison offered by a local correspondent.

Editor Deseret News:

Write you are on the subject of "free" would I ask you to explain how the extraordinary charges made have compared with eastern prices? The following, the charges for naturalization papers, including immigrant, have ..... $2 [illegible] ..... $1 [illegible] ..... $1 [illegible] $1