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WE AIM TO CUT DOWN ERROR AND ESTABLISH TRUTH.

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SACRED BOSH OF THE HOLY BIBLE

God Must Have Been a Mere Apprentice and Far from an All-round Up-to-Date Star Maker.---Did the Best He Could, but Was Met with Many Difficulties.

MOORE SENT TO PEN FOR A CRIME HE DID NOT COMMIT

(By James Armstrong) As a creator of things, suns, moons, stars, planets, men, animals, plants, insects and germs God notwithstanding he was wise as an experimenter. He tells us so in his own book, for you remember Genesis says that when the Lord got through making the world he saw that it was good. Then again, after he had made Adam he saw that it was not good for man to be alone in consequence of which he "ribbed" up Eve to keep him company.

According to this and especially in view of the fact that God afterwards repented of having made the world and drowned it out, it looks like Jehovah was only an amateur creator, simply an apprentice learning his trade and was far from being an all-round, up-to-date star maker.

Such a view of the deity, however, is not only horribly sacrilegious, but it is also theological. During the eternity which elapsed before God began to make things there was nothing but God. He was all, and since he never and never thought about anything himself, there was nothing for him to think about, it inevitably follows that he was all-wise. Give a stupid little atheist three or four hundred billions of years and he would certainly learn enough to say the alphabet of self knowledge, and with eternity to go to school in he could not keep from graduating if he tried.

God, therefore I say, was all-wise just before he began to carry the cosmic hod. I have no desire to be irreverent in speaking of God as a hod-carrier in fact I do it piously and in accordance with Holy Writ, as you remember it was "in the beginning" that God began to make the heavens and earth, and of course commencing at the bottom and working up to the top God certainly had sense enough to avail himself of so simple a contrivance as a hod.

In refutation of this you may say that God was a spirit and thus being without shoulders could not have used a hod if he had had one. But you overlook the fact that God made man in his own image, and hence not only must have had shoulders, but must have been able to spit on his hands to keep the handle of the hod from slipping.

And what a pair of hands the Lord must have had with which to round out the Constellation Hercules, not to mention the making of the tail for the Dog star and the growls for the Greater and Lesser Bears! But, o k, what infinite suffering if God had got salivated while making Mercury!

The probability of God's having been a hod-carrier is strengthened by the fact that he was a tailor; for you know he made clothes for Adam and Eve out of the skins of animals. In order to do this he must have had knives to kill the animals and fashion the skins into garments, to say nothing of thread, needles and thimble to sew them together. Possessing all these labor-saving devices there is no reason to believe he lacked such a simple thing as a hod.

But I am getting away from the subject. We were talking about the seeming impossibility of an all-wise God making the world and then getting sorry for having done so. My argument is that God was omniscient notwithstanding he made mistakes. If he had not made mistakes how could mistakes exist? As the creator of all things God knew he had to make blunders as well as the stars. He doubtless foresaw the wants of the Christian church, anticipated its needs of mistakes and error, vicarious atonement, four-cornered

earth infallible popes, resurrection of the body and life everlasting.

As a perfect and omniscient being God knew that even the thought of making the world was a mistake, that it was an error to cause something to exist besides himself. But being all-powerful there was no reason why he shouldn't make mistakes if he wanted to, and when we take a census of all the Christian inmates of asylums, penitentiaries and churches, we are forced to the conclusion that he certainly made as fine a lot of mistakes as one could wish.

Ingersoll criticized God because he made a world where "every mouth was a slaughter house and every stomach was a tomb." Bob regarded this as one of Jehovah's mistakes, but then infidels always did think they knew more than God almighty. Besides this Ingersoll thought that the calf of the leg ought to cover the shin and health ought to be catching instead of diseases, all of which is very foolish to one who has been taken into God's confidence.

I know that God could when he created the world if you want to see the stars as he was laboring under when he "made the stars also" fill a bathtub level full of water and then try to get in it without making the tub run over. The Lord God Almighty was up against just such a proposition. For God as you know is or rather was everywhere, he filled space just like a nine foot fills a six shoe, and when you think of the tremendous effort he made in squeezing himself together to make room for the world it is any wonder things went wrong. Thus I think it was a shame for Ingersoll to talk about God the way he did; and if the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob wasn't such a kind and loving old God Ingersoll would be sizzling in hell right now along with Tom Paine and Charley Moore.

No, my dearly beloved, just before taking up the collection, I wish to say that God is all right. He knows his business and if he made mistakes he had a right to make them. Why, infidels themselves, the smartest people God ever made, make mistakes, and certainly it would be funny if God couldn't do anything they do. There is nothing impossible with God, and since there is nothing so easy to make as a mistake you would have it appear that the Lord could do nothing but difficult things—raise the dead, overshadow virgins et cetera!

Why, look what a wise and difficult thing Jehovah did when he turned gardener and planted Eden. He made knowledge and life everlasting grow on trees, and such was the virtue of the fruit they bore that the Lord had to drive Adam and Eve out of Eden to keep them from becoming gods themselves. God did not intend for man to be anything more than a naked ignorant—ignorant even to his nakedness wonderful fruit that not only opened and certainly it must have been a Adam's eyes but also enabled him to hide from the all-seeing eye of God himself as he walked in the garden in the cool of the day.

"And now the lest he put forth his hand, partake of the tree of life, eat and live forever," that is lest Adam and Eve through a vegetarian diet become Gods themselves and blossom forth as rival star-makers and planet-builders, the Lord drove them out of the garden and placed a flaming sword at the gate to keep them from coming back! Talk about doing hard things! How about making knowledge and immortality grow on trees, to say nothing of making a flaming sword without a gasoline attachment in the

handle! Hard things. Why, that's the Lord's specialty. Look what a hard lot his chosen people were, especially such fellows as David, having men killed off so as to get possession of their wives! Look at the perpetrators of the Bartholomew massacres and the keepers of inquisitions burning a hundred thousand people a year because they were not wise enough to see the beauties of Christian theology! Look at John Calvin making a bonfire out of Servetus and the Roman church roasting the astronomy, philosophy and humanity out of Bruno, to say nothing of those hard Kentuckians who sent Moore to the penitentiary for a crime he didn't commit!

Yes, Brethren, the good Lord can do hard things as well as easy ones. The only time he ever failed was when he met the chariots of iron and couldn't drive them out. But even that wasn't a failure, because God made the iron and he did the job so well that the people who used iron as a weapon were invincible even before God himself. Just another case of God's making a rock so he couldn't lift it or walking around opposite corners at the same time to shake hands with himself in the middle of the next block! The irony of fate that's all!

FACTS

STUBBORN THINGS

Just a Few Points From The Secular Press Occasioned by Attending Church in Oklahoma.

THE BEAUTIFUL DOCTRINE OF HELL

(From Justice)

The following pointed and timely article appeared in the columns of Justice, a new publication of Duncan Ind., Terr., and was sent to this office by J. P. James. It is well worth reading and strikes a severe blow at orthodox doctrine.

A FEW COLD FACTS

We attended services last Sunday at the Methodist church. The parson (we have forgotten his name) preached a very happy sermon on the "advantages of the Christian life." We believe that the parson was intensely sincere in what he said for he seems to have actually fattened on the life. He didn't say whether he was ever hungry and happy at the same time or not, probably he never was hungry. We have seen some devout Christians in our time that were extremely disgusted and melancholy over the crime and degradation, want and misery, open saloons and licensed bawdy houses in a land where Christian voters hold the balance of power, but perhaps they never received the witness of the spirit while in the same position as the parson, which, to use his own words, was on the piazza at 19 o'clock at night with his feet above his head. The parson—he had preached several years before he ever received the Holy Ghost—possibly he never had got his feet high enough. If that method gets very popular it will cause a revolution in the making of the church seats. Imagine an evangelist sowing his well written eloquence into a sea of up-turned shoe soles.

We fail to see any excuse for merriment on the part of the followers of the carpenter of Nazareth, in a land where 10 per cent of the infants born die and sink into a relentless hell before they are ten days old (according to their teachings) on account of conditions that the church voters have the undisputed power to abolish. We affirm that when a prospective mother is forced by competition in labor to work at hard labor to help support a family, when by all the laws of nature she should be enjoying healthful atmosphere, beautiful scenery and rest, and by so working the life of the baby is sacrificed and the voters of this land have the blood of that baby on their hands.

Now, don't understand us to say that the Methodists are trying to preach the babies into hell, for we were sprinkled ourselves before we got our eyes open good, but we do not think a Chinaman is just as much excusable on account of ignorance as the Stephens county baby, and we can see no excuse for the Methodists sending millions of dollars out of this country, where hundreds of thousands of Christian girls are for-

ced to sell virtue to buy bread, this money to be spent in showing the chinaman the light, that 90 percent of them may have the glorious privilege of taking a never-ending bath in a lake pure and unadulterated fire and brimstone—U. S. inspected by act of congress ad infinitum.

What has the poor Chinaman ever done to us that we should send our hired hands over there to show him the road to hell? We have enough hypocrites over here to fill hell so full that there won't be room for a Chinaman there in a couple of billion years, anyhow, so let the yaller devil smoke his hop in space.

We are heartily in sympathy with any move for the uplifting and betterment of the human family, but we positively refuse to get hilariously jubilant and sober at the same time as long as 90 per cent of the people are writing under the tyrant heel of the other 10 per cent, all account of the stupid ignorance and stubborn prejudice and unparalleled hypocrisy of the church voter. We are not trying to "bawl" out all the church members, but we do know that 90 per cent of the sanctimonious Christians, for a man pass to heaven only, will support the rottenest thug that can be brought out, if he can be made to believe that it will further his financial interests and when he hears one of these counterfeit-notthings, who would foreclose a mortgage on a blind woman, get up in the meeting and whimper about like a child of God it gives us an appetite for bromo-seltzer.

We know some noble people who are preaching the gospel but they are not preaching that-be-content rot that has been the direct cause of all the oppression of the ages. Discontent among the masses has been the nightmare of tyrants throughout the history of the human family. Show us a despotism that was ever overthrown by the people who were happy and contented.

One parting shot before we close: We heard one Duncan preacher who, by the way, was a holiness preacher say that he knew his mother was suffering the torture of an unquenchable hell, yet that he was rejoiced in the happy knowledge that he was going to dwell with Jesus forevermore. We don't care about dwelling with anyone who would be instrumental in the administering of unthinkable torture to our mother throughout the endless ages of eternity, simply because she had not seen fit to ask an orthodox God for forgiveness for doing what she thought to be right. We don't believe that Geronimo were placed on the throne of God he would be a thousandth part the fiend that the majority of the preachers represent God to be. We have simply made these remarks that a few people may be set to thinking and not through any ill will to anyone. Our space is always open to anyone who is endeavoring to unlift down-trodden humanity.

CURSE

THEIR VERY BIRTH

And Drives Themselves And Others Insane Because of Being Ignorant Upon the Important Subject of Sex Psychology

STORY TOLD OF THE DYING SOLDIER

(From Clinical Journal)

The following extract from an article which appeared in the May number of the American Journal of Clinical Medicine, published in New York, has been sent to us with the suggestion that it would furnish a good text for quotations and editorial comment.

No doubt that the suggestion is true and the Blade, even with the physical and moral courage necessary to undertake such a discussion, frankly confesses its inability to properly cope with such an intricate subject. I there is any profession in the world capable of intelligently explaining the mighty and important truths that are contained in the is here mentioned, it is the profession of medicine. Upon this hypothesis our readers may appreciate the fact that the author of the following knows even more than he has dared to tell. The article reads—

"We do not approve of making a feature of discussion and investigation of the sexual relations. We fully grant their importance and the need of their study. Men and women are cursing the day they were born, are

(Continued from Page four)

CRITICISM FOR CAPTAIN CLARK

Wants to Know When Gabriel Will Toot and the Millennium Begin to Dawn

(Contributed)

An article ingeniously headed "Cuby Ideas for your brains to work on" which appeared in the Blade of March 24, written by our dear brother Capt. B. F. Clark, 72 years of age, who for more than fifty years served in the army of Freethought in all parts of the world, including all of the five continents and is the sole survivor of a numerous family, a ten year subscriber to the Blade which he both criticises and complements. He is a professional instructor, a scholar of high rank and refined linguist evidently tainted with spiritualism or quakerism, as he says "the spirit moves me to express my ideas upon the matters discussed the past year in the blade." He denounces freethought organization by calling its advocates an infernal lot of pigmy minded, chicken-brained galoots of cheek and gall to create a large good natured dog to catch crows, chip munks, jackdaws, tommycoods, wood-ducks and polecats, but no eagles, lions or whales. The galoots are to wag the dogs tail causing an explosion of all but the tail, which is to be retained as evidence of the dogs existence. He advises the disorganization of the tail organization with a big club until Gabriel's horn cries wake up boys, change cars for Gehenna, where you belong.

He then rebukes Dr. Wilson for addressing him as "Dear brother Clark" which savors too strongly of Christianity and socialism which he hates because they chew the rag over the blasted rot of the fatherhood of god and the brotherhood of man. He tells us to throw the old jew god overboard and Otto Wettstein is judged to be after the Captain's heart. He next speaks of free love just etc. and compares socialism with it and asks that the normal minded eagles, lions, and whales abstain from such dangerous galoots, and then threatens that if any determined effort be made to establish the ideal social commonwealth hell will be to pay with hot pitch as the clericals and socialists of Germany have united and made common cause in their nefarious scheme, which fact alone ought to sound the death knell of socialism among freethinkers. He then closes his argument by vehemently exclaiming "God damn socialism."

The writer hereof does not pretend to comment on or criticize the learned captain's arguments, being an unqualified illiterate of but five weeks schooling in a poor little country school, then had to shuck dad's corn. Being now about the age of the learned captain I simply beg to ask him a few questions hoping he will kindly instruct me as I don't want to be an infernal pigmy, chicken-brained galoot, or be exploded as a chip munk in a big dog because I have ignorantly favored freethought organization nor do I want to be clubbed back until Gabriel horn says wake up boys and change cars for Gehenna.

Now captain, how soon will Gabriel take his horn? You say socialism is like the coming of Christ, neither will ever get here. How about Gabriel getting here on time to defeat socialism? Won't he have to come quick as you admit that clericals of Germany added 240,000 to the socialist vote in the last election forcing all other parties to fuse to keep the socialists from establishing an ideal infidel commonwealth. Ninety five per cent of the infidels in America are socialists and I was foolish enough to be one until I read your article because Paine, Franklin, Jefferson, Lincoln and all other great and good men who have proved themselves benefactors and inspired the world with liberty, taught socialism. Now captain, if you will please tell me when Gabriel will toot his horn I will tell you the day socialism will be here. You see if Gabriel gets here first I will quit freethought organization and socialism and join the Republicans and Democratic grafts of crime and plunder, but if Gabriel is slow and socialism gets here first I think I had better remain a

"God damned socialist." What do you think about it? Please advise me. And say, captain, as crime under republicanism and democracy has increased 600 per cent since the death of Lincoln and as government reports show that in 1860 the producing class got 43% per cent of what they produced while in 1900 we are getting but 8 per cent. How long will it take your eagles, lions and whales to lead us prodigals back? If we all join you will we all become eagles, lions or whales?

I believe I would rather be an eagle, then they could not kidnap me and imprison me or deprive me of navigating the air, or sitting on my perch in the mountain, without trial, because I was true and loyal to my kind.

And, now, captain, you have lived 72 years. Why didn't you tell us long ago that it was wrong to organize? And why don't you destroy the discipline of the army, governments, and churches that oppress us like priest ridden nations do the jews because they have no national protection?

I thought freethought had the same right to organize against the church that the church has to organize against us. I am told that wise men have said system is heaven's first law. In union there is strength. United we stand divided we fall. A house divided against itself cannot stand. Is not discipline the strength of army and church? Could free masonry kick the altar and bible out of the lodge and French nation and thus stimulate the repudiation of popish idolatry without national discipline? If you are a mason you know they possess the eagle, lion, whale and freethought brains of earth and that their modest meekness deprives the world of even a vague idea of their useful actions to liberty made possible by organized discipline. Can an undisciplined mob cope with disciplined soldiers?

Why do you object to Dr. Wilson calling you dear brother and then permit Mr. Hughes to stick the nasty little pigtail of "capt" to your name? That smells of blood carnage and might vs right? Can you really staste Christianity and socialism in "Dear brother"? Why is Otto Wettstein after your own heart? Do you really think he has use for it? Why do you hate christianity and socialism they been diametrically the opposite of each other? Parasitic christianity could no more live under socialism than a deb bug could live in the fumes of burning sulphur. Do you "hate" heaven and hell also if they exist as described? if so why?

You advise throwing "the old jew God over board." What would be gained by doing it? Would he just walk off as he did on the sea of Galilee? Why is it that 95 per cent of our freethought people lose their normal minds by favoring organization and socialism? I used to think freethought people were all eagles, lions and whales and now you tell me they are crows, pole cats and chip munks and you threaten the ideal commonwealth with "hell to pay with hot pitch." Is hot pitch a legal tender in hell? Germany being an infidel nation and socialism being so antifusion they would now fuss with father son, and holy ghost. I don't believe the virgin Mary could tempt them to do it either. So why do you blame the socialist for the clericals surrendering to them in 240,000 lots unconditionally Christ died among republicans and democratic sinners because its the sick that needs a physician.

After reading your article last night I dreamed that you was John Calvin returned to earth preaching his doctrine and that I went to hear you and that after you sang the following hymn I woke up, took my gun and went hunting eagles, lions and whales.

Have faith the same. In the Captain's claim; In all the human race, For hell is crammed, With socialists damned, Without a day of grace.

Toot the horn for Gabe.