

**"GOD AND BRO. WADE'S
CHILDLIKE CREDULITY."**

Editor Blade:-

Bro. Severance is waiting "with great and feverish anxiety" for my reply to his article on my "God and childlike credulity." I hasten to relieve his anxiety, and perchance present the idea of "a personal God" in a light that may illuminate his darkened understanding somewhat.

First, a few words regarding "childlike credulity." Jesus, the founder of the Christian religion, said "Of such is the Kingdom of Heaven," but when we would convince scientists and Rationalists of the reality and necessity of a supreme intelligence directing all things (call it what you may—God, Nature, or Great Spirit), we must first give a reasonable theory that will, at least, explain the possibility of such on a scientific basis. Reason teaches us that all the manifold works of nature must have had a conscious, intelligent maker or builder, for they could not come by chance. Such a thing is so palpably absurd as to need no argument to confute it. Then, if they did not come by chance, they must have had a maker, or they must have existed from all eternity. They could not have so existed, for there was a time when "the earth was void;" nothing existed but cosmic or nebulous matter. What power or being brought them into their forms as they now exist? Nothing can create or form itself before it has an existence. There must be an intelligent being, independent of its existence, or it never could have had an existence.

For instance: The body of a man has within itself the power to tear down and rebuild itself constantly during the life of the individual, but what being formed the body before it had an existence? You may say, that body had its beginning in the womb of its mother: But who made the mother? and so we trace the origin of man, back to the beginning, when all was "primeval matter, without form and void."

If, in the beginning, God did not create the heavens and the earth, the question arises, "Who did?" It is said that "Fools can ask questions that wise men cannot answer." I may be a fool ("childlike in my credulity") yet I can put questions that the most scientific Materialists and Atheists cannot meet on a Materialist's basis of reasoning.

Now, let us see if we cannot throw some light on this question of the being and personality of God and His wisdom and goodness to all His creatures. For illustration, I am getting a pension from the government. I say that "Uncle Sam gives me this pension." What do I mean? Do I intend to convey the idea that a mysterious person (existing only in imagination) is the giver of all material benefits? Do we not understand by the term, "Uncle Sam," the Government? and that the Government is the will of the majority of the people executed by their chosen agents. This will, written on the statute books, is the law of the conscious, intelligent voters of the land. All law, whether good or bad, must have its origin in a conscious intelligent being.

Another fact, patent to every citizen of nature, is that every government must have a head of authority. Each State in the Union has a Governor, who is the chief executive of that State. And, since States are individuals, with interests and conflicting interests, would we with each other, it is essential that these States be all united under one head of government. Hence we have a President of these United States, who is the "chief executive" over all. Other nations also have a chief ruler under other titles, as King, Emperor, Czar, etc., but they are all the chief executives of those nations. It is also plain to the student of natural law, that all the nations of this earth are amenable to the same laws of society as individuals are, and that law is best expressed in the saying, "No man liveth unto himself." In other words, the peace, happiness and prosperity of every individual member can only be secured when the best good of the whole community is assured.

Then, if individual peace, happiness and prosperity is only secured by laws that maintain the peace and prosperity of the State, and the harmony of States by the general government, it follows as a necessity that all nations must be under the same law in order to secure general peace and the best good of all. There must be a Supreme Ruler, who is "King of Kings and Lord of Lords," or there could be no order, harmony or plan in the Universe—all would be chaos, anarchy and ruin.

It is supreme folly for you or I to criticize the wisdom or goodness of the Supreme Ruler of the Universe. What do we (agnostics and unbelievers) know of the plans and most that I have been able to know

was from "spirit intercourse." I know that "spirit communications" is not superstition, but a demonstrated philosophical theory by the same natural laws as the telegraph, telephone or "wireless telegraphy."

There is no more reason to doubt that Jesus and the inspired prophets were inspired by higher intelligences and that their utterances were truth, and we would be vastly wiser and better to give credence to their prophecies.

A. E. WADE.
Murphysboro, Ill, Aug. 8, 1910.

**WHAT WE BELIEVE, AND
WHAT WE DON'T BELIEVE.**

At first we will state that we are a firm Bible believer. We don't believe, though, that any God ever wrote a word in the Book, or ever ordered any one else to write it for Him. A God would not have to write books or edit papers in order to publish his business to the world. He can do that by wireless telegraph.

But we do believe that a lot of evil, designing, ignorant, superstitious murderers and adulterers, such as Moses, Joshua, David and Solomon, wrote the books then daubed them over with inspiration, in order to give them a solemn sound. In other words, they do their dirty work, then charge it up to the Lord.

We don't believe that any intelligent person is going to contend for a moment that an All-wise God ever created an innocent man and woman, then placed a temptation before them, and threaten them with death the moment they touched it—when He knew at the time just what they would do. That sounds too un-Godlike to believe for a moment. Neither do we believe that any God ever created man on the earth, then in a short time, tell us that he is grieved at his heart for doing such a foolish thing; and then getting down on his knees and repenting for it.

Now, we ask, is there an intelligent, honest, truth-loving person in the world today that can believe any God ever dictated any man to write such a record of him as that? We don't or cannot believe that any God who after getting the world populated with millions of innocent human beings—men, women and children—then appoint a couple of war generals, such as Moses and Joshua, as leaders of the people; then order them to kill and slay every man, woman and child that comes within their reach; not to spare even the sucklings in the mothers' arms. And the General that could murder the most and commit the most hideous crimes was the best fellow. On one occasion they are ordered to kill, not only every human being, but everything that breathes the breath of life. Then they are ordered to take the heads of the people they have slain, and hang them up before the Lord against the sun, that his fierce anger might be turned away.

Do you believe that any God ever inspired any man to scandalize Him that way? There are thousands who do not believe it, although it looks unreasonable to them, and not in conformity with their ideas of truth and justice. Still they are bound to believe it simply because they find it in the Bible. They must believe it—even though they know it to be a lie, because it is in the Bible. If they found such teachings in any other book, they would stamp them as disgraceful and unfit for belief.

Then, we can't conclude for a moment that any God ever created a beautiful world like this, and created it so vile and sinful that He had to send His beloved son here to be sacrificed for the sins. Would it be just and right to punish an innocent person for the sins of the guilty? That is what the Bible teaches—no remission of sin without the shedding of innocent blood. Christians must have their road to heaven sprinkled with the innocent blood of Christ, or else it is not fit to travel upon.

It is stated that the Lord on one occasion undertook to find out the strength of Abraham's faith; and He tells him that he must sacrifice his son Isaac upon the altar. So Abraham makes all arrangements to put the Lord's command into execution. But the Lord seeing that Abraham was fanatic enough to do such a thing, stops him just in time to save the child's life, and substitutes in place thereof a ram. (See Gen. 22nd chapter.)

It does seem incredible that at this day and age of the world, and right amongst a nation of people boasting of their civilization, there should be found people who are just fanatical enough over their religious faith and belief as to even imagine that an infinite, all-wise God should be guilty of indulging in such ungodly work as that. We can't nor won't admit it for a moment.

Neither are we quite ready to subscribe to the teachings of a God who will at one time tell us that He is a God of love, very pitiful and tender of mercy, not willing that

any should perish, but that all should inherit eternal life,—then will turn right around and say that He has made the gates leading to heaven, or to His headquarters, so very narrow that very few will ever be able to find them. (See Matt. 7:13-14; also Luke 13:24.) "Many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in and shall not be able."

Now, we find as good authority in the Bible for believing that mankind will eventually be saved as there is to believe that all or even any part of them will suffer in an endless hell. But that kind of teaching doesn't suit our good Christian brother. He must have his hell for every one who doesn't think and believe as he does. Then he sees at a glance that a heaven without a hell would not be worth living in; and in case he does away with the sufferings of the one, the happiness of the other goes with it.

Then, our love and respect for a God who says: "For I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquities of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generations," can't possibly be very flattering, to say the least. (See Exodus 20:5.) We don't want any God punishing our children for the sins we may have committed; neither do we put much faith in a God who says that He loves some children and hates others before they are born. (See Rom. 9:11-13.)

It is also stated that the anger of the Lord was kindled against the people of Israel, and He made them wander in the wilderness for forty years. (See Num. 32:13.) We would not wish such a revengeful God as that to get angry at us; consequently we think the best plan is to keep out of His reach.

It is also stated that God commands human sacrifice. Hear what He says: "No devoted thing that a man shall devote unto the Lord, both of man and of beast, shall be sold or redeemed. None devoted which shall be devoted of men, shall be redeemed, but shall surely be put to death. (See Leviticus 27:28-29 verses.) Don't say, after reading this, that God doesn't require human sacrifice. This is where the demon, "Heimann," of Oklahoma, gets his ideas of human sacrifice from the Bible instead of Moses Harmon, as falsely states.

The Lord also required burnt offerings. He says: "And the priest shall burn all on the altar, to be a burnt sacrifice, an offering made by fire of a sweet savor unto the Lord." (See Lev. 1:9. Read the first chapter of Leviticus in full for burnt offerings.)

Again we find it stated that God is jealous and the Lord revengeth, and is furious and will take vengeance on His adversaries. (See Nahum 1:2.) It says that the Lord gave the people statutes that were not good. (Ezek. 20:25.) That the Lord is a man of war. (Exod. 15:3) And says that He will neither pity nor spare, nor have mercy, but destroy them. (Jer. 13:14.) It says that God shall send strong delusions upon the people to make them believe a lie that they might be damned. (2nd Thessa. 2:11-12.) It also says that God sends out lying spirits to deceive the people, and as many as 400 false prophets are found at one time. (Read 12th chapter of 1st Kings.) "And the Lord said: If a prophet be deceived when he hath spoken a thing, I the Lord, have received that prophet and

famous dogmas. I was not driven by the unkindness of my father to hate a God who would order, according to the Old Testament, the sweet bodies of women to be ripped open by the sword. My father was a kind and loving man. He loved his children tenderly and intensely. There was no sacrifice he would not and did not gladly make for them. He had one misfortune, and that was his religion. He believed the Bible, and in the shadow of that frightful book he passed his life. He believed in the truth of its horrors, and for years, thinking of the fate of the human race, his eyes were filled with tears. Seeing the effect upon him—seeing that religion simply made men unhappy, I learned to hate what is generally known as orthodox religion. I abhor the outrageous cruelties and horrors described in the Old Testament, perpetrated, as it alleges, by the command of God. I abhor the threatenings will stretch out my hand upon him." (Ezek. 14:9.)

We find some fearful cases of falsehood and deception charged up to the Lord, and all coming stamped as the inspired truth of God we don't see why they should not be as true as any other writings in the book. We are aware that there are other statements that will contradict those we have given above, but that don't injure our statements a particle, because if ours are not true, the others would be sure to be false. We have given chapter and verse for all we have said. And we offer them in the spirit of kindness not wishing, as God says, to take vengeance on any one. Our object is to show the reader that there are such statements in the book, and he can decide for himself as to the truth or belief in any of them. For our part, we choose rather to run the risk of being called a "filthy little atheist" or any other kind of a theist, than to be charged like the Bible God is, with being the author and creator of all the evil there is in the world (Isa. 45:7) and leading the people into temptations simply to get the chance to punish them. Let all believe who can, but for our part we choose rather to be excused, and instead of stamping the Bible with inspiration to daub it all over with fraud and deception, as the work of evil, designing men who know nothing about any God or His works.

Truly yours,
JOEL M. BERRY.

**MODERN CHRISTIANITY A
'VARNISH' SAYS FOSTER.**

U. of C. Professor Declares Dogma Has Made Religions a "Hotbed of Spurious Hatreds."

"The trouble seems to be that our modern Christianity has become a mere thing of varnish." This was the summing up by Prof. George Burnham Foster, of the University of Chicago, of his triectures of the modern church, which he injected into an address at Mandel Hall last week, delivered just before the regular weekly exercises of the university. Prof. Foster's religious ideas are world-famous. His book, "The Functions of Religion," and other writings in a similar vein, created a profound stir in the Baptist church and throughout the religious world generally, bringing down on him at-

tacks by many distinguished churchmen.

"Dogmas seem to prevail in the Christian Church today," said he. "We are taught that if we believe the dogma as given to us by the churches then we are on God's side, but if we otherwise then we are fit only to be burned at the stake, to be turned out of the church or to be hit by vituperation.

"Christianity has become a hotbed of spurious hatreds. Our idea of brotherhood has become so narrowed that now it includes only those who are brothers in our own particular faith."

Will Use Pen to Keep Blade Alive.

Editor Blade: I am sorry to see the Blade in such critical circumstances and not be able to come to the rescue. I don't like the idea of making it a monthly. I will do my best to keep it supplied with good, sensible reading matter, and that, in our opinion, is a big thing. Let those who can live outside a military hospital do the rest.—J. M. B.

**THE ARREST AND
CRUCIFIXION OF JESUS**

We are told that on the first day of the Feast of the Passover and at night, Jesus was arrested and brought before the Jewish Sanhedrim. Now, according to the "Mishna," no court of justice was allowed to sit on the Sabbath, a holiday or a feast day, and not even on the day preceding such, or at night. The Feast of the Passover was the most sacred feast of the year, and according to Exodus (12:16) was a "holy convocation," when no manner of work was allowed to be done. The writer of this was evidently not a Jew, or he would hardly have written such nonsense.

1909—1909

Blue Grass Blade Bound Volume

Containing Fifty-two Copies of The Blade and all handsomely bound in Blue Buckram with gold letters.

\$3.00

Reduced from last year's price

\$3.00

Subscribe NOW and get your name on the list in time.

A STILL BETTER OFFER!

For Five New Subscribers

For Five New Subscribers

We will send ONE COPY of the Bound Volume

FREE OF COST!

To any person sending us five new subscribers in one club at the regular rates before Dec. 31, 1909
THE CLUB IS PREFERABLE! GET UP ONE! SECURE A COPY FREE!

BLUE GRASS BLADE, Lexington



"AN AMERICAN MADONNA" is a serial running in the WHEEL OF LIFE. It is written by Mary Ives Todd, the ablest writer of Liberal fiction since Grant Allen, and is a beautiful presentation of the essentially modern problem of the Woman in Business.

THE WHEEL OF LIFE. A monthly periodical. It deals with ORIGINS, the origin of Marriage, of Ethics, of Religion, of Brotherhood, of the belief in immortality. It treats broadly of Love, of Human Instincts and Ideals. It takes the whole Wheel of Life, treating all subjects in such a clear, plain and spicy way that the dust is shaken out and they become as interesting as a novel to even the casual reader. Send 10 cents for a six months' trial subscription or a quarter for a year.

"CONFESSIONS OF A DRONE" by Joseph Medill Patterson, author of "A LITTLE BROTHER OF THE RICH," sent without extra charge with a 6 months' trial subscription to the WHEEL OF LIFE. Address LIFE PUB. CO., Desk A, St. Louis, Mo.

\$10.00 BOOK for \$1.00.



Will mail on receipt of \$1.20.
BLUE GRASS BLADE, Publishers,
Box 393, Lexington, Ky.

If you want to be of service to the cause you espouse, and at the same time help some of your friends, you can have The Blade sent to ten of them one year for Five Dollars