

Darwin's Confession

I have set forth in former issues what would seem to be the natural and logical effect of the Darwin hypothesis on the minds of the young. This view is confirmed by its ACTUAL effect on Darwin himself. In his "Life and Letters" he says: "I am much engaged, an old man, and out of health, and I cannot spare time to answer your questions fully—nor indeed can they be answered. Science has nothing to do with Christ, except in so far as the habit of scientific research makes a man CAUTIOUS in ADMITTING EVIDENCE. For myself, I do not believe that there ever has been ANY REVELATION. As for a future life, every man must judge for himself between CONFLICTING VAGUE PROBABILITIES." It will be seen that science, according to Darwin, has nothing to do with Christ, except to discredit revelation which makes Christ's mission known to men. Darwin himself does not believe that there has ever been ANY REVELATION, which, of course, excludes Christ. It will be seen also that he has no definite views on the FUTURE LIFE—"every man, he says, must judge for himself between CONFLICTING VAGUE PROBABILITIES."

It is fair to conclude that it was HIS OWN DOCTRINE that led him astray, for in the same connection (in "Life and Letters") he says that when aboard the Beagle he was called "ORTHODOX" and was heartily laughed at by several of the officers for quoting the BIBLE as an UNANSWERABLE AUTHORITY on some point of MORALITY." In the same connection he thus describes his change and his final attitude: "When thus reflecting I feel compelled to look for a First Cause, having an intelligent mind in some degree analogous to that of man; and I deserve to be called a Theist. This conclusion was strong in my mind about the time, as far as I can remember, when I wrote the 'Origin of Species;' and it is since that time that it has very gradually, with many fluctuations, BECOME WEAKER. But then arises the doubt: CAN the mind of man, which has, as I fully believe, been DEVELOPED FROM A MIND AS LOW AS THAT POSSESSED BY THE LOWEST ANIMALS, be TRUSTED when it draws such grand conclusions?"

"I cannot pretend to throw the least light on such abstruse problems. The mystery of the beginning of all things is INSOLUBLE by us; and I for one must be content to remain an AGNOSTIC."

A careful reading of the above discloses the gradual transition wrought in Darwin himself by the unsupported hypothesis which he launched upon the world, or which he endorsed with such earnestness and industry as to impress his name upon it. He was regarded as "orthodox" when he was young; he was even laughed at for quoting the Bible "as an unanswerable authority on some point of morality." In the beginning he regarded himself as a Theist, and felt compelled "to look to a First Cause, having an intelligent mind in some degree analogous to that of man." This conclusion he says was strong in his mind when he wrote "The Origin of Species," but he observes that since that time this conclusion has very gradually become weaker, and then he unconsciously brings a telling indictment against his own hypothesis. He says, "CAN THE MIND OF MAN (which, according to his belief has been developed from a mind as low as that possessed by the lowest animals) be trusted in such mysteries?" He first links man with the animals, and then, because of this supposed connection, estimates man's mind by brute standards. Who will say, after reading these words, that it is immaterial what man thinks about his origin? Who will deny that the acceptance of the Darwinian hypothesis shuts out the higher reasonings and the larger conceptions of man?

On the very brink of the grave, after he had extracted from his hypothesis all the good that there was in it and all the benefit that it could confer, he is helplessly in the dark, and "cannot pretend to throw the least light on such abstruse problems." When he believed in God, in the Bible, in Christ and in a future life there were no mysteries that disturbed him, but a GUESS with nothing in the universe to support it swept him away from his moorings and left him in his old age in the midst of mysteries that he thought insoluble. He must content himself with Agnosticism. What can Darwinism ever do to compensate any one for the destruction of faith in God, in His Word, in His Son, and of his hope of immortality?

W. J. BRYAN.

The inner side of every cloud is bright and shining,
I therefore turn my clouds about
And always wear them inside out
To show the lining.

THE BIBLE TALKS

Mr. Bryan will write a weekly article on the Sunday school lessons, which will be published on Saturday afternoon in the following papers:

Fort Worth Star Telegram.
Oklahoma City Oklahoman.
Lexington Leader.
Muskegee Phoenix.
Lincoln State Journal.
Cincinnati Times Star.
Minneapolis Journal.
Omaha Daily News.
Roanoke Times World.
Des Moines Register.
Sioux City Journal.
Wilmington (N. C.) Dispatch.
Ablene Daily Reporter.
San Francisco Journal.
Baltimore Sun.
Cleveland News.
Fort Wayne News and Sentinel.
Detroit News.
Chicago Daily News.
Pittsburgh Press.
St. Louis Globe-Democrat.
Toledo Blade.
Dayton News and Springfield News.
Chattanooga News.
Harrisburg Patriot.
Winston Salem Twin City Sentinel.
Colorado Springs Gazette.
Fort Smith Southwest American.
Raleigh News and Observer.
Seattle Times.
Paris (Ill.) Daily Beacon.
Youngstown Vindicator.
Akron Beacon Journal.
Wheeling News and News Castle (Pa.) Herald.
Los Angeles Examiner.
Missoula Daily Missoulian.
Waterloo Evening Courier.
Greenville Piedmont.
Dallas Times Herald.
Houston Chronicle.
Albany Times Union.
Sioux Falls Argus Leader.
New Orleans Times Picayune.
Tampa Daily Times.
Walla Walla Union.
Council Bluffs Nonpareil.
Atlantic City Evening Union.
Philadelphia North American.
Birmingham News.
Sherman (Texas) Democrat.
Memphis Commercial Appeal.
Evansville Courier.
New Haven Union.
Indianapolis News.
Nashville Banner.
Atlanta Constitution.
Macon News.
Charleston News and Courier.
Charlotte Observer.
Zanesville Signal.
Greensboro (N. C.) Daily News.
Norfolk Virginian Pilot.
Richmond News Leader.
Buffalo Times.
Kansas City (Kan.) Kansan.
Washington Herald.
Binghamton Morning Sun.

The list is given in order that those who desire to do so can secure the papers containing them. While they will be republished in The Commoner, they will necessarily appear too late to use in connection with the lesson.

We presume that the reason why none of the Republican leaders have come to the front with an explanation that this is a Democratic panic because a Democrat was president the year before it broke is that they have been too busy trying to remember exactly what it was they promised the people they would do if elected.

One of the dancers whose scant costumes has caused comment even in New York declares that the less one wears the longer they will live. Our own observation is that the less the women wear the faster they live.

Perhaps a better price for corn might be obtained if some of the manufacturers of corn syrups could be induced to use some of it in their products.

Fame the Result of Service

Mrs. Winifred Black of California has said many good things but she has seldom written more wisely than in the extract to be found upon another page. She puts her philosophy in a single paragraph:

"I have never yet known anyone to achieve fame of any kind who went deliberately out to get it. The painter paints because he must—the writer writes either because he loves it or because he wants to make some money—and neither has the faintest thought of 'fame' except as a means to an end."

Fame is no more the result of planning than happiness is the result of seeking. Just as happiness is God's reward to those who put duty above everything else, so fame is God's recompense to those who with high purpose risk their all in the determination to serve.

Wendell Phillips put the proposition very happily when he said, "How prudently most men sink into nameless graves, while now and then a few forget themselves into immortality."

But the source of the philosophy of both Mrs. Black and Wendell Phillips lies farther back. It was the Saviour who laid the foundation upon which this philosophy is built. "Whosoever will save his life shall lose it; and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it."

Those who think only of themselves cannot have a very clear vision—self is such a clouded glass through which to view the great things of life. Those who forget themselves in devotion to things larger than themselves find a larger life than that which they would surrender. Have a high purpose; let service be the passion of life and fame will take care of itself.

W. J. BRYAN.

MR. BRYAN IS RIGHT

Wise and interesting comment comes from William Jennings Bryan, now a weekly contributor to the press. A well-rounded education, says Mr. Bryan, requires education of the body, of the mind, and of the heart. The heart is most important. We have schools and technical books without number to educate the mind. We have physical culture, physicians, and sports to educate the body. But very little is being done by any agency except the church, to which most of us give no heed except an hour or two on Sunday, to educate the heart. This indifference to goodness is a great mistake. For most of the big problems, which we are tackling as problems of the intellect, are pure problems of the heart—of individual honesty, justice, and kindness.

To put it in brief, human life has become too much secularized. We have forgotten that making a livelihood ought to be a mere means to an end, a mere incident in the greater work of making a life. We make this incidental thing the chief end itself.

One almost begins to believe that it might be a good idea to give the young a rest from rules of grammar, mathematics, and science, and let their education consist for the next few months of instruction in the Golden Rule. Incidentally, there should be Golden Rule night schools for grown-ups. This might help us to solve more than one of the grave problems produced by the rule of gold.

Take the problem of business depression, for example. That is bigger than tax laws, tariffs, or any of the other proposed brain-created cure-alls. Business depression is a reaction from the period of greed—profiteering by nearly all of us, in one form or another. The old Law of Compensation is at work. We are getting paid for our sins. It is not an intellectual problem. What is needed more than all else is a change of heart—an entirely new attitude of service and co-operation on the part of the whole nation. Think it over!—Pittsburgh Press.

Those railroad magnates who say they are sorry the wage dispute with the brotherhoods did not come to a showdown because they believed they would have been able to smash the unions might take an hour or two off to study conditions on Henry Ford's railroad. There are no unions on his road, and the president of the national switchmen's union said that the reason is that the men are paid well and treated well and there is no need of organization.

Liberty bonds that were quoted at around 84 and 86 six months ago are now selling above 92. We will give just one guess as to whose hands these bonds have finally been gathered.