

self knowledge, penetrates all recesses of doubt, but proposes, certain and definite means by which man may advance in virtue and acquire eternal happiness.

The doctrines regarding the nature of God are stripped of all their former absurdities, the dogmas concerning the human soul, the moral phenomena that surrounds our present existence, the origin and end of man, which all the acuteness of sages had not been able to solve and whose solution they acknowledged beyond reason's power, are all placed in a clear, simple and comprehensive light. The doctrines of Christianity carry with them no long chain of axioms, theories or corollaries. They are adapted to the intellect of the weakest, by reason of their simplicity, and leave room for the exercise of the faculties of the most learned. All previous theories wax pale before the splendor of this system; the former were of darkness, the latter of light. One is the work of earth, the other of heaven. Christianity forms a system of doctrines calculated to meet the wants of all mankind and to satisfy the cravings of the entire human race. The natural beauty and obvious simplicity of its basis as contrasted with the manifest imperfections of all former systems could not come from man.

Universality of Christianity.

Its universality applies to every rank in life, every age in clime, which makes the terms whereon men are received into the pale of religion equal to all, whether learned or illiterate, rich or poor, could never have been conceived by merely human wisdom.

Its efficacy, as proposed and taught by example, is equally sublime. The unity and symmetry of all its teachings surpass in grandeur the conceptions of all former ages.

Their wonderful harmony, obvious simplicity and beautiful coördination of parts are so lofty, so far above all human wisdom that they must be considered the work of God's hands. The character of Christ is so sublime and so consistent. It stands forth with such dignity and majesty that it must be considered something more than man. In Him are centered all virtues, in all their completeness and simplicity, virtues, too, which were unknown before His time, adorn His life and daily actions. Magnanimous without pride, humble without servility, prudent without conceit—He shines forth in His meekness a model for all. His gentleness, His sweetness, His profound wisdom, His constancy and presence of mind under affliction, His refinement and justice in all his answers, His unbounded charity that prompted Him to die for all alike, are more than human.

The Pagan poets never dreamed of such a sublime character and the character of Christ as handed down to us with the teachings of Christianity is so real, so true, so beautiful, so unique and so

sublime that there is no doubt the Hero of Christianity was "The God Man."

External Arguments.

External arguments of Christianity drawn from history and authority:

1. 1,900 years ago the world was Pagan.
2. Today the world is Christian.
3. Conversion of the world is the work of a person.—Christ, assisted by twelve poor fishermen.
4. Jesus of Nazareth was a crucified Jew.
5. A crucified Jew was the most detestable object under heaven.
6. For the last 1,900 years the world has adored the crucified Jew.
7. Over 1,100,000 of martyrs, or more, from all conditions of life and countries cheerfully accepted death in order to honor and worship this crucified Jew.
8. The world has advanced in intelligence, in virtues, in liberty, in civilization, while adoring this crucified Jew.
9. All nations that do not adore this crucified Jew lie buried in the darkness of barbarism, held fast by the chains of slavery, unable to move in the ways of civilization, *i. e.*, witness Chinese, Turks, Arabs, etc.
10. No nation leaves its darkness, bursts its chains, walks in the way of progress but by adoring the crucified Jew.
11. Every nation that ceases to adore the Jew loses its morality and falls back into Paganism and barbarism.

Many other external proofs could be adduced from "The Resurrection of Christ." If Christ be risen from the dead Christianity is true. But Christ is risen from the dead. So Christianity is true. Even the enemies of Christ admit the resurrection of Christ. Again we might cite the miracles and prophecies of Christianity. Miracles and prophecies are the work of God and not of man. Christianity is the work of God. Again the wonderful propagation of Christianity, despite men's passions, desires and inclinations, is a proof of its divine origin as well as preservation. Either the internal arguments or the external arguments are sufficient proof and evidence of the truth of Christianity, but where taken together they are cumulative and irrefutable.

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THE FREE SEED FRAUD.

The government of the United States has for some years been spending millions of dollars in raising, buying and sending out seeds to the farmers of the country. It is now proposed to increase the amount appropriated for this purpose, and it is reported that the congressional committee is ready to report in favor of the increase. A committee of seedmen has gone to Washington to protest against the fraud, and this com-

mittee should have the backing of all right-thinking people.

There is no good reason why our government should be turned into a dispensary for the sake of the farmers or anyone else. And there is no more reason why the government should issue free seeds than free ham and eggs, free medicine, or free anything else. Good farmers who understand their business do not use the seeds furnished by the government. They have learned from bitter experience that these seeds are bought from every Tom, Dick and Harry, that the seeds are not true to name, and often anything but what they are represented to be. When careful farmers receive their quota of seeds they feed them to their chickens or hogs or burn them.

It is also well known that many congressmen do not send out their allotments of seeds. They sell them to local jobbers and pocket the money; and it has been intimated that some of them sell the seeds through brokers back to the government. This is, of course, a fat thing for the congressmen, but scarcely the legitimate work of a statesman.

It is perfectly right for the government to have experimental farms where every sort of seed shall receive a fair test. The government can legitimately spend money to discover new things in agriculture just as it spends money to promote scientific investigation in other lines. But the government's activity should end with the publication of the results of its labors.

The whole system of sending out packages of seeds is an outrage and a fraud. It is used to perpetuate congressional incumbency, and as a means of personal aggrandizement. It costs the government millions of dollars and benefits no one except the members of congress and a few jobbers who furnish the seeds at outrageous prices.—St. Joseph News.

ORNAMENTS STATION GROUNDS.

Officers of several of the big railroad systems are considering plans to induce agents and others concerned to make stronger efforts to beautify station grounds and buildings. During the past year or two particular attention has been given to making the stations more attractive. The Burlington has accomplished a great deal in this direction. Last year it issued orders to all employees that the grounds and buildings adjacent to the company's right-of-way must present a neat and attractive appearance. The company's gardener gave his especial attention to beautifying the suburban stations for forty miles out of Chicago. Before last summer closed, switch shanties, tool houses, yard offices and round houses had been prettily covered with running vines and the grounds about each building converted into fine lawns over which shrubbery had been planted. During the coming spring and summer this work will be greatly extended, and in time the Burlington expects to have the most ornamental station grounds in the west.