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Science and Religion

A GREAT many people now living heard Professor Tyndall lecture. It is but a very few years since he died. He did not believe in any form of revealed religion. His was an absolutely scientific mind. What was not susceptible of proof, he rejected. Hugh Miller in trying to reconcile his scientific knowledge with the teachings of the bible went distraught and killed himself. Tyndall in the pride of his scientific achievements, decided that the purported facts of the bible were but the compilations of oriental imaginations that would not bear the test of scientific research. Each established what they believed to be indisputable truths about the processes of nature; neither seemed ever to question themselves whether or not what they had proven was all that could be discovered relating to the question under consideration. They each looked from the bottom of the trail up and knew naught of the glories which at the summit were revealed.

Tyndall goes into history as the man who more than any other man "made known the great scientific truth of the mutual convertibility of heat and motion." Were he still alive would he not have to correct some of the statements which he made? He was one who agreed that the universe was made of atoms. Did he ever think that each atom was a little world, holding in its matrix thousands of other atoms? He said: "We cannot be content with knowing that the light and heat of the earth illuminate and warm the world. We are led irresistibly to enquire, what is light, and what is heat?"

Then he proceeded to explain. He ascribed both to the light and heat of the sun transferred to us on waves of ether.

He accepted the belief that the sun was a rolling globe of fire, consuming annually material enough to make a planet, and that such light and heat as come to the earth come on waves of ether, but he never tried to explain, how the heat was maintained through millions of miles of space that is vastly colder than ice, except that this was accomplished by the motion of the waves that it came on.

The first assumption makes the sun a world that is consuming itself, and which at last must burn itself out, and of course leave all the planets but frozen and dark derelicts flooding in the abysses of space. As though in God's economy so fearful a tragedy was made inevitable. The other theory that the heat comes through that fearful distance of frozen space is still more untenable.

How vast the pity is that Tyndall could not have lived to see one arc light and to know that

its substance was gathered by machinery turned by a motor power miles away and transmitted on a wire to where, under man's guidance, it flashed out in its constituent elements, precisely the same light as that of the sun. Then when he learned further that cold is a natural conductor of electricity, that the natural conclusion is that the parent sun throws off electricity to his planets, that when it strikes our atmosphere then the friction begins which heats the air around us, and when the atmospheric conditions are right for it, the surplus electricity blazes out in electric storms with its thunder drums rolling, and sometimes bends down to rend the oak or crush some structure reared by man?

And could he have lived until a wireless message was brought to him, the words say of a friend from whom he was separated by mountains and valleys and rolling oceans. "What would he have said then? Would it not have been in the words of Newton:

"To myself I seem to have been only like a boy playing on the sea shore and diverting myself in now and then finding a smoother pebble or a prettier shell than ordinary whilst the great ocean (of truth) lay all undiscovered before me."

Tyndall said the study of science intensified the imaginations of men. Our thought is that a profound study of the sciences ought, with every succeeding problem solved, make the proudest man grow humble in the consciousness of how little he knows.

But the doors of science are being opened more and more frequently all the time; the more that are opened the richer are the treasures found within; with each new discovery God's power and God's mercy are the more apparent, and this is so manifest that we do not think it unreasonable to believe, that, after all, it will be science through its revelations that will cause all men to bow in reverence to the power that fashioned the universe and set its mysterious planets and suns, fully freighted and comparisoned, on their sublime voyages.

Forecast Speculations

THE Oregonian calls attention to the very well-known fact that "the south is in the saddle." The president is a southern man with a southern wife; all of the chief committeemen in congress with two or three exceptions are southern; Mr. Underwood runs the house, his party is in the majority, he and two or three men shape all the legislation, and the caucus,—old-fashioned democratic legislation—votes solidly as the caucus is directed. While up to date the legislation has been generally broad there are exceptions. A heavy duty was left on mohair which is chiefly produced in the south, while it was taken entirely from wool which is mostly from the west.

But future legislations is what worries the Oregonian. "Will the support heretofore given to bring water on irrigated lands be changed to draining swamp lands in the south?—we may here remark that the swamp lands in all of the states belong to the states and the only way the government could interpose would be to loan states the money to drain them. Will money appropriations be made for improving rivers and harbors in the east and south, and the west be neglected?"

We are not apprehensive that way. The

president and his particular friends in congress mean to be broad. The only thing that will interpose will be inherent, deep down, almost hereditary prejudices. For instance, on the tariff, we can understand that Mr. Wilson and Mr. Underwood having been brought up to the idea that a protective tariff was an injury, could gather in their souls the belief that if it could be expunged it would help the north as much as the south. Then the democracy of the south was in the saddle most of the time for sixty years prior to 1860. The northern democracy was always obedient to their behests, and they grew to believe that they were a superior race and entitled to rule, and, when ousted from power, in their fury they determined to "best" the country. We speak, of course, of the leaders. The south generally which had a nucleus of the war at first joined with them and the class in the north which was always accustomed to their guidance and control simply reeled themselves into a sullen band, giving them moral support and as much of their support as they could without taking a stand in their behalf.

We believe that Mr. Wilson and his party really want to make a broad success of their power for honest reasons, and the campaign which will come two years hence must be prepared for. Behind every question they will consider will be, "What effect will this have on the election in 1916?" It is too soon to judge that election yet.

We notice in the dispatches that some prominent Progressive has received a note from Mr. Roosevelt that he will be present in the campaign. As though anyone ever doubted that he would, and his voice will be for no compromise at all. Our private belief is that he contracted with the Democracy in 1912 to make so big a diversion from the Republican party that a Democrat would be elected and it is possible that contract is a hangover, that the terms of it implied that if necessary he would repeat the performance in 1916. All the time it was whispered to him that his magnetism, his winsome ways to the unthinking would possibly elect him president. If not in 1916, then certainly in 1920. In that we get the key to his present position. He is in for Roosevelt. What he really wants more than anything else is office and spoils. If he had to surrender the office for six years yet he will be sure of the spoils and will have a good time calling people liars in the meantime. Of course, without him, were some boa constrictor to take a couple of twists on him down in the chaparral of South America, that would end the Progressive party. But he plays in luck. He will come home all right. Without him there is nothing that is not either anarchistic or crazy in the Progressive platform that the Republicans would not accept. With him they will not want to accept.

We judge men sometimes by the company they keep. In 1912 he would have been helpless from the start except for Mr. Perkins. Mr. Perkins went out of the firm of J. P. Morgan and Company very rich and for sometime aspired to be president. He wrote fool essays and delivered fool speeches, and when his own prospects did not look good for nomination he joined in to support Roosevelt. He provided the sinews of war to herd the rabble for the primaries and to carry on the campaign. Then the Colonel had