

Is the World Growing Better or Worse?

REV. J. A. FORD.

A newspaper reporter is said to have interviewed a number of Chicago ministers with the design of ascertaining why the churches were losing their hold upon the people.

This reporter has a large connection. Very many excellent people have drifted into similarly hasty conclusions from insufficient, if not totally false premises. A great many people are indifferent, if not hostile to the churches, but a great many people will likely continue to be.

There were people in Solomon's day who believed things were going to the bad, but Solomon rebuked them and intimated that their conclusions were incorrect, and that little clouds and wider observation would result in less gloomy views.

It must be admitted at the outset that it is difficult to estimate correctly the actual value of moral forces. There are factors in the problem of religious progress that cannot be pressed within the limits of arithmetical calculation.

There are also those which we can examine and compare, and from which a reasonably correct result may be obtained. No violence is done the question if it is presented in another form, viz: Is the sum total of moral good in the world at the present time greater than at any other period in its history?

From Germany and Great Britain the dregs of infidelity were vomited on us; all the leading universities were hot beds of infidelity. Dr. Dorotheus, reformer, insisted under the shadow of barbarism.

It is changed: slavery is practically an extinct system; or if it lives at all, it is only a single flag for a prison, existing under the shadow of barbarism.

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Good News!

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