

with these husks and shams, and manifests none of the love and humility, that are at once the results and the badge of true worship with the Father. There is a music that God delights to hear from His worshippers, but it is not the gross and grating tones of the organ, or even of human lips, but it is a hymn of praise and thanksgiving that arises spontaneously and silently from the pure soul. Cease to do evil, and with all thy heart love thy fellowmen, and thy soul will vibrate in grateful harmony with the all-source whence it sprang. Whoso has felt and heard this sweet ethereal music can never be satisfied with the discords of mouth or organ.

Then we can safely say that these outward ceremonies are not the needs of our Society.

Is it then that our principles are unworthy a larger following? If we may judge from fruits it may seem not. Our glorious principles have made our Society foremost in nearly all the reforms of modern times. It leads in liberating the slaves, in freeing the conscience, and in the emancipation of women, in prison reform, arbitration, prohibition, and many more philanthropic movements. Our principles have proved equal to the demands in all emergencies. In the early times of our Society they sustained the mind in persecution, in the loathsome prison, and at the fiery stake. Aye, they have not gone untested, neither have they ever been found to be insufficient. They are as sure and as unfailing as God Himself, because they have their root and life in Him. Can anyone conceive of anything higher in religion than this: "We believe there is a God and that He reveals His will to men; and obedience thereto ensures happiness and heaven." This is the whole essence of all religions. The world is slowly but surely gravitating to it. It is getting more and more dissatisfied with the husks of senseless creeds and empty forms.

All masks and shams will some day be down
burled,
And God will have the homage of the world.

We have examined the things our Society has inherited from its founders—mode of worship and belief—and have found nothing wanting in either. Let us look next to ourselves. I believe we will find the fault there. What are we doing worthy of such high principles as we have inherited. I believe we are doing nothing at all adequate. I believe we have been, as a Society, very negligent of our divine principles for the last one hundred years. We have been content to believe them, or half-believe them, ourselves, without making very much exertion to enlighten those around us. Our ministers have done and are doing their part, I believe, very faithfully. But we have done very little through the press, and it is acknowledged that the press wields, to-day, by far the greatest influence in the civilization of the world. In our Society there has been, in modern times, a marked dearth of able writers. Look at the brilliant galaxy of writers that illuminated the first era of our Society, and compare with it the mediocrity of to-day. Or let us compare our own exertions in this respect to the herculean efforts made by the energetic and highly intellectual members of our sister society, the Unitarians. They have essentially the same religious views with us, no doubt learned them of us, but are greatly in advance of us in teaching them to others.

The world is ripening for the advanced religion. Thousands are dissatisfied with the old beliefs and are only waiting for something better, and we are in a position to give it to them:

Orthodoxy is crumbling away,
The old dogmas have domineered their day;
A day of blood and slavery, hate and war,
And superstition, but, thank God, its o'er.
A brighter day is dawning on the night,
Let us help usher in the purer light.

Let the light of truth, and the love of universal brotherhood be shed abroad. By giving we add more to our own. Let us think seriously of these things, and act on our honest conclusions. May we be more thoughtful of the op-