

our most homogeneous states, such as Russia, France and Prussia, cannot have the same sentiment of patriotism as that which characterized the ancients, because their whole life's interests frequently lie outside their nation and in the very country against which their patriotic hatred is excited. A man's family interests may be there; his wife may be a foreigner; his economical interests, his capital may be there; his intellectual, his scientific and artistic interests,—they all may be abroad, in the very country he is expected to make war against.

Why patriotism is impossible in our time is mainly because, despite all our efforts to suppress the sense of Christianity in the course of 1800 years, it nevertheless crops out into our lives and has such a hold on it, that even men most coarse and stupid cannot help seeing the total incompatibility of patriotism with those moral precepts which guide their lives.*

IMMORTALITY.

Oh! for the eye of bard or seer,
To pierce this dead Cimmerian gloom,
To penetrate beyond the tomb,
And make its hidden secrets clear.

Our lives are drear, our souls are dark,
But what is life? and what is soul?
Two titles for one simple whole,
Centred in one electric spark.

Our hopes are dim, our faith is cold,
The olden creeds no more suffice
For those who look with wakened eyes,
And see the mockeries they hold.

Science and wisdom, hand in hand,
Have shed such light on ancient tales,
That reason o'er blind faith prevails,
And priestcraft can no longer stand.

But still each soul its hope will keep,
To flicker round the shattered faith,
To consecrate the calm of Death,
And bring us gently to our sleep.

The Agnostic and Other Poems.

GEORGE ANDERSON.

* Reprinted from THE OPEN COURT, Chicago.

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