

of God, and a joint heir with Christ. Let the commands be obeyed by us, and let there go out His radiating influence from our souls, through our lives, into the common brotherhood of man. There is a beauty afforded in this obedience to the Father's will, and a satisfaction, that all the allurements and glittering pleasures of earth cannot give. That which seemed to be a thorny path will be turned into one of roses, whose sweet fragrance will be wafted about our daily lives. And what is wrongly called a "vale of tears" will be but a preparatory training for the higher collegiate course. And the "dark valley of death" will be but a glorious transfer into a higher state of richer and purer enjoyment, when our work is done here, and God calls us.

*MYTHOLOGY.

Myths in general are representations of true and important facts, although they may be accepted literally, yet they teach the truth and help to make it easier understood. It is best described as a voluntary product of the youthful imagination of mankind, the natural forms under which the infant race directly stated its notions and strong beliefs about supernatural relations and prehistoric events. It does not invent but simply imagines and repeats. It may err, but it never lies. The more ancient narratives have a value not only as indicating the imperfect development of race, but have also much truth in them which will well repay the study. Myths develop spontaneously in the consciousness of an original people, instead of being the effect of design and invention, they resemble the forces of nature under whose authority they are formed, and have an essentially religious character. In early days men looked at things with the large eyes of childish wonderment, and much of what they saw was incapable of any other than a figurative description at their hands. They had no words to express their surprise, and if they had it would have been less accurate to their thought, since they transferred their own feelings and opinions to the world about them and

*Essay read by Nancy Zavitz, at the "Olio,"
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made themselves the measure of all things. Thus the hunter regarded the moon as a beaming goddess with her nymphs. Before Homer wrote his Iliad and Odyssey, Jupiter was regarded by the Greeks as the father of all gods and men. He gathers and dispenses the clouds, and sends forth hail and rain and snow upon the earth. They regarded him also from an ethical standpoint, from which he appears far more important. He was regarded as the protector, and from him the kings of the earth received their rights. He protects the wanderer and punishes those who violate the laws of hospitality by turning helpless strangers from their doors. He measures the doings of the good and evil men, and is supposed to be the creator and ruler of all things. Be assured that nothing escapes the eye of God, for He watches over us, and with Him all things are possible.

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT.

The report of the New York State Commission, appointed last winter to take into consideration more humane methods than hanging of carrying into effect sentences of death passed upon convicts, will shortly be made. The Commission consists of Hon. Elbridge T. Gerry, of New York; Matthew H. C. Albany, and Dr. A. P. Southwick, of Buffalo. In prosecuting their inquiries the Commission issues a circular letter to judges, lawyers, members of the medical profession and others, inviting answers to the following questions:

First—Do you consider the present mode of inflicting capital punishment, by hanging, objectionable? Please give the reasons for your opinions.

Second—Were you ever present at an execution, and if so, will you kindly state details of the occurrence bearing on the subject?

Third—In your opinion, is there any method known to science which would carry into effect the death penalty in capital cases in a more humane and practical manner than the present one of hanging? If so, what would you suggest?

Fourth—The following substitutes for hanging have been suggested to the Commission.