

NON CHRISTIAN RELIGIONS.

It is true that we are already committed to the Christian faith, but our belief in Christianity does not incapacitate us for judging the non-Christian religions justly and fairly. Men cannot approach these religions with an absolutely neutral mind, and we are as well qualified to view them fairly as atheists or agnostics. It is with keen sorrow and regret that we are forced to acknowledge the inadequacy of the non-Christian religions. It is not a matter of joy. It is with reluctance and grief that we have to pronounce them inadequate to the needs of the great multitudes of men who believe in them.

A candid consideration of the non-Christian religions, one by one, reveals characteristics in each which disqualify it for meeting the needs of men. I would refer to the unmorality, or immorality, of Hinduism, whose languages have no word meaning "chaste" applicable to men; to the stagnation and unprogressiveness of Buddhism, which springs from its condemnation of the physical world as morally evil; to the puerility and superstition of all fetish conceptions, and to the sterility of Islam and the moral inferiority of its fruits even to the pantheistic religion. And the closer our study of these religions, one by one, the clearer our discernment of the fact that they fall into a class entirely apart from Christianity, and that they are absolutely inadequate to meet the needs of men.

1. They do not meet his intellectual needs. Their philosophy of the world, which can hold its own in metaphysics, collapses in contact with the physical sciences.

2. They do not meet the moral needs of men. (1) They do not present a perfect moral ideal. (2) They offer no power from without to enable men to realize their ideal and their real is a widening of they present an ethical demand on the will, and not an ethical reinforcement of the will. (3) They have no adequate conception of sin, and, accordingly, no secret of forgiveness and deliverance. (4) They are morally chaotic. The chasm between their ideal and their real is a frowning chasm. (5) Their atheism kills the moral restraints by annihilation, and their pantheism by liquefaction. (6) They fail to perceive or to secure the inviolate supremacy of truth.

3. In the third place, they do not meet the social needs of men. In the case of women and children they are anti-social. They deny the unity of mankind.

4. In the fourth place, they do not meet the spiritual needs of men. They are in reality atheistic, except Islam, whose monotheism is so negative and mechanical as to deprive it of uplifting power. They represent the search of men for God, not the search of God for men. They darken true, natural religion. They do not advance upon it. They give men no fellowship with the Father. They are hopeless as to the future.

5. The slow movement of the world is demonstrating the inadequacy of the non-Christian religions. They are simply disintegrating before the movement of the world's life, or are transforming themselves by adoptive imitations of Christianity. They are thus confessing their own inadequacy.

And, lastly, we might say what might have been said at the beginning—for us the incarnation closes the issue of comparative religion. Judaism is easily superior to all the non-Christian religions, yet it was Judaism to which Jesus came, which he declared inadequate, and which he superseded by the one adequate and satisfying religion—the only religion of which it can be said: "I came forth from God, and I go back to God again."—Robert E. Speer.

One thing which arrests the attention of strangers on arriving in Moscow is the entire absence of whips among drivers of cabs, carriages, and all sorts of vehicles. Owing to a law prohibiting them there is not a single whip in use in Moscow.

SPARKLES.

Men vary in temperament. Where one will heave a sigh the other will heave a brick.

He couldn't raise the mortgage on his building lot, and so, poor man, without becoming blind, he lost his site.

"Daughter, is your husband amiable?" "Well, ma, he's exactly like pa. When he gets his own way about everything he's lovely!"

If people worked as hard after marriage to keep each other as they did before the engagement to win each other, marriage would be more of a success.

The Eagle: "I have one great advantage over you. I don't need to keep dodging automobiles all the time." The Cow: "No; but just wait till they get these airships going."

Minister (to Sarah, whom he finds neglecting his young people's meeting to walk out with a "friend"): "But why not bring your friend with you, Sarah?" Sarah: "An' give all them other girls a chance? I've lost two like that a'ready, sir."

An old farmer, who was complaining terribly of a recent bad harvest, met the minister of the parish, and, as usual, held forth on his misfortunes. "Ah, yes, Giles," said the worthy minister, "you have cause to complain, but you should remember that Providence is kind, and that even the birds of the air are provided for!" "Ay," said Giles, significantly: "aff my tattlers!"

Cholly Nitwit: "When I was introduced to you I was so overcome with pleasure, bah Jove, that I lost my wits completely, y'know."

Dolly Hotshot: "Then you must forgive me for a mental injustice I have always done you. I thought you were born that way."

"Mamma," said little Bessy, at table one noon, "I'm to write something to read in school next Friday, but I've forgotten what the teacher called it."

"An essay, perhaps," suggested Bessie's father.

"An oration," offered the little maid's high-school brother, teasingly.

"A valedictory," prompted a senior sister.

"No," said Bessie, suddenly brightening. "I remember now what it is—it's an imposition."

Patient to Pretty Nurse: "Will you be my wife when I recover?"

Pretty Nurse: "Certainly."

Patient: "Then you love me?"

Pretty Nurse: "Oh, no; that's merely a part of the treatment. I must keep my patients cheerful. I promised this morning to run away with a married man who had lost both his legs."

A number of little girls were boasting of the rank of their respective families. They had passed from clothes to personal appearance, then to interior furnishings, and finally came to parental dignity. The minister's little girl boasted: "Every package that comes to my papa is marked D. D." "And every package that comes for my papa is marked M. D.," retorted the daughter of the physician. Then followed a look of contempt from the youngest of the party. "Why!" she exclaimed, "every package that comes to our house is marked C. O. D!"

Is it raining, little flower?

"T will shine again."

Too much sun would wither thee,

"T will shine again."

The sky is very black, 'tis true,
But just behind it shines the blue.

Art thou weary, tender heart?

Be glad of pain!

In sorrow sweetest things will grow,

As flowers in rain.

God watches; and thou wilt have sun

When clouds their perfect work have done.

—Lucy Larcom.

BLOODLESS GIRLS.

Can Obtain new Health Through the Use of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills.

Anæmia means bloodless. Dr. Williams' Pink Pills actually make new, rich, red blood and thus cure anæmia. When the blood is poor the nerves are starved and irritable. Then comes hysteria, neuralgia, sleeplessness and other nerve disorders. Headaches, backaches and side-aches wear out and depress the poor pale victim. Dr. Williams' Pink Pills soon bring ruddy health and lively vigor. They soothe the jangled nerves and give new strength to every organ. Miss Winnie Allen, Montreal, says: "I was so weak and run down that my friends thought I was going into consumption. I was as pale as a corpse, had no appetite and did not sleep well. The least exertion tired me out, and if I walked a few blocks I would be almost breathless. My sister advised me to take Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, and after using them for a few weeks I am again enjoying good health, and have good color. I think every weak girl should take Dr. Williams' Pink Pills."

Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, will cure any case of bloodlessness just as surely as they cured Miss Allen. The pale anæmic needs only one thing—new blood. Dr. Williams' Pink Pills make new, rich blood with every dose. That is why they cure all common diseases like anæmia, indigestion, neuralgia, palpitation of the heart, headaches and backaches, St. Vitus' dance, partial paralysis and the secret troubles that make the lives of thousands of women miserable. Dr. Williams' Pink Pills are sold by medicine dealers or by mail at 50 cents a box or six boxes for \$2.50 from the Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

RICE AS FOOD.

As an article of diet rice possesses the advantage of being the most easily digested (but one hour being required for perfect digestion) and most completely assimilated of the starch grains. For these reasons it becomes a valuable food for persons of sedentary habits. It is also rich in nutritive properties, being four times as nutritious as the potato and more uniform in quality. According to the views of modern chemists, rice contains a smaller amount of flesh-forming substance and a larger amount of fat-forming or heat-producing substances than any other grain. Owing to the small quantity of gluten which it contains rice is capable of itself of only very imperfect fermentation, and is therefore unfit for baking into bread.

The palatableness of rice, if not, indeed, its wholesomeness, depends largely upon the way it is cooked. The gummy preparation which passes muster on so many tables under the name of boiled rice is a sorry travesty upon this wholesome dish when it is properly cooked.—Table Talk.

The average birth-rate for Europe shows that for every 100 girls 106 boys are born. The large towns are nearly equidistant in Holland. They average about 20 miles from each other.

Denmark's kings for 384 years have all been named Christian or Frederick. It is the law of Denmark that Christian must be succeeded by Frederick and Frederick by Christian. To attain this, every Danish prince, no matter what other names he may receive, always has Christian and Frederick among them.

The finest cliff scenery in the United Kingdom is on the coast of Donegal, in Ireland, where the variety and grandeur of the cliffs are most thrilling and impressive. Slieve League, south of Glen Columbkille, is a superb introduction to Donegal's coast splendors. In less than half a mile from the sea the mountain rises to a height of nearly 2,000 feet. In the Island of Achill, off the west coast of Ireland, the cliffs of Crogham, at Achill Head, rise to 3,000 feet.