

proclaims this fact to His intelligent creatures by what we call supernatural manifestations or miracles. The "laws of nature," as generally apparent, set forth the wisdom and arrangement of God, while the occasional deviations from them prove that they are not paramount, but are under control, that they have proceeded from the Great First Cause, and that their forces, though great, are not inherent, but imparted.

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## THE HEBREW MIDWIVES.

BY THE EDITOR.

"But the midwives feared God, and did not as the King of Egypt commanded them, but saved the men children alive."—Exodus i. 17.

Pharaoh, like Herod at a later date, sought to save his kingdom and perpetuate his dynasty by making war upon helpless, innocent infants. He was, however, foiled in his first plot, for he had chosen as executioners women who had not sacrificed their womanly virtues and tenderness—women in whose hearts was the fear of God. "They did not as the King commanded them." Not all the terrors of the terrible Pharaoh of Egypt could force them to these fearful deeds. These women were made thus noble by their truly womanly natures, which God had given them—natures also supplied and enlarged with divine grace. This was well-pleasing in the sight of the Author of life: "Therefore God dealt well with the midwives, and because they feared God, he made them houses," and placed their names on an imperishable record. So much for this incident in ancient history, recorded and preserved by God for us; an incident which covers Pharaoh with infamy, and the Hebrew midwives with honour. But God has recorded against America a crime greater in purpose and extent than that fatal crime of Egypt. In His book of remembrance it is written, and before the assembled universe it will be read and His judgment pronounced. Yea, before the general judgment, unless this gangrene of a nation is cut out and true penitence secures pardon, He will plague the people with fearful punishments. We shudder when we think of the slaughter of the innocents at Bethlehem; but do we not know there are many more infantile lives, in all stages of existence, annually sacrificed on this continent than were destroyed by order of Herod? We express our horror at the wholesale massacre of baby boys in Egypt; but do we not know that Christian America is accountable for the destruction of a greater number? We are filled with sadness when we read of the Hindoos, in the fervour of their false faith, throwing their children to their gods of the Ganges, and we send missionaries with Bibles to convert them, when a more deplorable crime stains the history of this fair portion of the world, writing God's curses all over the continent, which must come with fearful fury on individuals and nations. In nearly every town are there human beasts of prey, who fatten on the vices of their victims, and concerning whom much innocent blood cries to God for vengeance. In nearly every class of society is the destruction of embryonic life practised to a greater or less extent; so that in the United States, should this crime continue for a few generations more, the native Americans will become extinct. Nearly every Christian denomination has been tainted with this gross immorality, and there are those who hold high positions in society who are known to have thus violated the laws of God and man, and are verily guilty of a great crime.

We do not intend to enter into a consideration of the useless causes of this crime, but feel bound to call loudly to the Christian community of our country these warnings. It is but natural that sentiments and practices prevailing so near should soon reach us, and there is no guarantee why we, as well as others, should not have our hearts hardened and our consciences put to sleep, and thus be led to prey upon our own species, preventing and destroying human life. One of those immoral monsters, whose profession is the destruction of life, has recently been