

is on the side of temperance, as understood by prohibitionists. It is a fact which cannot be successfully disputed that the teaching of the bible has been one of the main causes of the drinking customs of Europe and America. The Christian nations are *par excellence* the drunken nation of the earth. The Chinese use opium instead of liquor, but did not do so until it was first introduced, and then forced upon them by Christian England. The bible does say "No drunkard shall inherit the kingdom of Heaven," but it commends moderate drinkers, from whose ranks drunkards are made. We cannot understand how any follower of the religion of Humanity can uphold the traffic, though we can easily understand how a christian can, and that too, consistent with the teaching of his bible.

EDITORIAL NOTES AND NOTICES.

THE Christians of Meaford, after all their bluster, do not appear anxious to have their essayist Braden meet Mr. Underwood in public debate. We do not blame them, if success be their object, as Braden is no match for the champion of Materialism.

THE *Spiritual Offering* has been enlarged to fifty-six pages and the price advanced to two dollars a year. We will send the *Offering* and JOURNAL for one year for two dollars and seventy-five cents in advance.

We have read with much pleasure a pamphlet entitled "Buddhism and Christianity Face to Face," being a report of a discussion upon the relative merits of the two religions, between Rev. Mr. Missetuwatto, a Buddhist Priest, and Rev. D. Silva, an English Clergyman, with introduction and annotations by Dr. J. M. Peebles, the noted traveler and Spiritualist. The introduction covers seventeen pages, and is a short but clear and intelligent history of the Buddhist religion, its founder, and its over 400,000,000 followers. It treats of the origin and prevalence of Buddhism, its doctrines, moral influence, its aims, gives the Buddhist Ten Commandments, and closes with a short account of the death of its founder. The next eighty pages are devoted to a full discussion between the two disputants. We not only sympathize with the "heathen" all through the discussion, but are of the opinion that he got decidedly the best of the argument. He showed himself much better acquainted with the Christian Bible and the Christian religion than his opponent did with the Buddhist Scripture or the Buddhist religion. He deals some heavy and merciless blows to the absurdities of the Christian faith. Witness the following. He said:—"As Mary, the mother of Christ, was created by Jehovah, Jehovah was her father and Mary his daughter; but as Christ was born of Mary, Jehovah becomes her son, and Mary Jehovah's mother, and as Christ is Jehovah's son, Jehovah becomes Mary's husband, and Mary his wife. So according to the Christian Scriptures, the same Mary becomes in one case Jehovah's daughter, in another Jehovah's mother, and in another Jehovah's wife, and truly if the term "roundabout" or "circumlocutory genesis" could be applied to any proceeding it was to the Trinity notions connected with the birth of Christ, and not to the reasonable doctrine of *Paticcasamupphada*."

The pamphlet should be read by all who want to become acquainted with a religion which is believed in, and followed by, more than one-third of the whole human race. For sale by Messrs. Colby & Rich, Boston, and at this office. Price 25 cents.

Our contemporary, the *Religio-Philosophical Journal*, is doing a good work in exposing fraud. Though a Spiritualist paper, it is first to expose and condemn fraudulent mediums. We wish we could believe that there were any of them who are not either deceivers or the dupes of those who are.

DURING one of the sittings of the Church of England Synod, lately held in this city, a Rev. gentleman gravely proposed that in the election of an assistant Bishop, the following plan should be used. "Place," he said, "the names of two candidates, on slips of paper, in a hat with a number of blanks, and then draw one of the slips; if one of the two names were drawn it would indicate God's will in the matter; if a blank, then it would indicate that God did not approve of either of the names proposed; then substitute two other names, and continue thus to do until a name was drawn, the name so drawn to be declared called of God, and unanimously elected by the Synod." Are we living in the nineteenth century, the century which has brought forth the railway, the steamboat, the telephone, which is celebrated for its scientific discoveries, its culture and refinement? or has that Rev. gentleman never heard of any of these things, never read anything except the productions of the dark ages. Imagine "Jehovah" watching that Rev. hat and directing the fingers of the drawer to a particular bit of paper.

MR. UNDERWOOD lectured at Albion, N. Y., June 27 and 28, and at Elmira, N. Y., June 30. We learn from the *Boston Index*, that he has been elected one of the Vice Presidents of the National Secular Society of Great Britain, at its meeting on June 9th, at Sheffield. He will allow us, in common with his many Canadian friends, to congratulate him upon the event.

We call the special attention of Canadian Freethinkers to the notice of the first annual Convention of the Freethinkers Association of central and western New York, to which we are invited. We had the pleasure of meeting its sterling president, Dr. T. L. Brown, and genial secretary, Mr. Edgar M. Sallan, at Rochester, last October, and can assure Canadians that they will receive a cordial and hearty welcome. Let every Canadian Freethinker, who can possibly do so, attend at Watkins, N. Y., on the 22, 23, 24 and 25th of August, next.

ALL those who have been receiving the JOURNAL and who have not paid for it, will please do so immediately.

ALTHOUGH we belong to the same political party as the *Mail*, we condemn without qualification the attempt of that Journal to injure Mr. Jury, simply because he is what is termed an "Atheist." We do not agree with Mr. Jury, politically, and can find enough in his *political* belief for which to oppose him, without trying to injure him through his religious opinions, even if such opinions were not in accord with our own. The *Mail* has yet to learn, perhaps, that it is *because* the leaders and the conservative party generally, are more liberal in their opinions on religious questions, that thousands are to-day in their ranks who otherwise would be found in the camp of the "enemy." There can be no more effectual method adopted, to drive those thousands into that camp, than the course pursued by the *Mail*—of attempting to blacken the character of an opponent, simply because his religious opinions do not accord with its own.

MOST of our readers will, ere this, have learned, that by the decision of an English-Jewish Judge, Mrs. Annie Besant has been robbed of her child. The learned (?) judge in rendering his judgment claimed that it was for the benefit of the child that she should be separated from her mother, as the atheistic opinions held by the mother were "unpopular," and the teaching the child would receive under the mother's care would injure her "prospects" in life. The decision is an outrage on the rights of humanity. Less than one hundred years ago the child of that same judge's grandfather might have been torn from him on the same plea—that his Jewish opinions were "unpopular"—and forced to submit to christian teaching, taught to hate and despise its father and his religion.