

vius. If every church in the city of Winnipeg were struck with lightning tomorrow morning, the good people of Manitoba would be found going to church next Sunday as usual.

We have introduced our theme with these few brief generalizations in order to open the way for that which we regard to be the strongest statement to be presented in this discourse, namely that 99 per cent. of the evil in the world is due to the carelessness and indifference of man, the responsibility for which can in no way be laid at the feet of the Creator. If you could wipe out all the evil for which man is responsible the world would be a paradise.

Natural calamities are few and far between. There are scores of people in this building this morning who were never struck by lightning, damaged by a flood, swept by a cyclone, or disturbed by an earthquake.

God Not Responsible

There are a thousand accidents for which no sane person would hold the Almighty responsible. We read of a railroad accident, but God never built a railroad. We hear of a mine accident, but God never dug a mine. We are told of the elevator accident, but God never constructed an elevator. We have witnessed an automobile accident but God never invented an automobile. Our evening paper records an accident by way of an exploding boiler, but a boiler is not a divine institution. If men build a railroad track beneath an overhanging rock—which rolls down by reason of the vibration caused by the passing train—is God responsible? Did God order the construction of the track in that particular neighborhood?

We repeat that for 99 per cent. of the evil in this world, man is responsible and not God, man and not the devil, man and not blind fate, man and not providence. All the earthquakes, floods and cyclones of history would not equal the shame, pain, and agony—the sorrow and confusion of one hundred years of bloodshed and crucifixions in the arena of the Coliseum of Rome.

The Three Great Curses

The three great curses of the world have been war, famine and pestilence, and man is responsible for all three. The earth is full of food, war is the incarnation of human hate, and pestilence simply marks man's ignorance of natural law.

Why does man permit hunger, ignorance, disease, poverty, drunkenness, war and the white slave traffic? Here you have 99 per cent. of your questions answered.