

usual, in good humor. None the worse for the inexcusable high-handed attempt at "sacred bulldozing," his subscription list lengthening as the opposition goes on. He expects Mr. Underwood there sometime in May, when Mr. U. will deliver a course of lectures, about which time you will probably hear of a "great awakening." The *Tribune* is a neat, newsy, "nice wicked" paper, and its Editor a gentleman and a scholar. Fearless and honest principled, an able critic and one of the most plain spoken of Editors. He has dealt Orthodoxy in Duluth some deadly blows, and I am glad to see is backed up by the Liberal citizens of Duluth—not a few. The "sacred bulldozing," referred to above, was a systematic attempt on the part of two clergymen and their dupes, to scare Mr. Mitchell out of publishing his criticism on their orthodox notions, by signing a paper pledging themselves not to subscribe for the "*Tribune*" until those obnoxious articles were dropped, but it didn't work. Mr. Mitchell has achieved a complete victory. I was informed, that they even petitioned President Hayes to remove Mr. Mitchell from the position he held in the land office. Fooled again, and now they hide their diminished heads in the shame of their dirty action, while the "*Tribune*," comes out spier as usual, and as I said before, with an increased subscription list. Verily, to what ignoble means are the supporters of religion, who must be classed among the incapable, driven to, bolster up their creed. The old spirit of persecution seems to yet linger among the orthodox portion of the citizens of Duluth. The same spirit that in the 13th century started the inquisition that kept Europe in a pool of blood for hundreds of years, that burned John Huss and Jerome of Prague; that impelled Luther in speaking of Popes and Cardinals to exclaim "Why not wash our hands in their blood;" John Knox to clamour for the death of the "Queen, along with that of her priests;" the English parliament to defend persecution as necessary to advance the glory of God; the Scottish parliament in sentencing catholics as idolaters, to say it was a "religious obligation to execute them;" Cranmer to condemn six anabaptists to death "one of whom a woman, was burnt alive;" John Calvin to burn Servetus; "the Puritans, to whip the harmless Quakers from town to town," &c., &c., "all for his glory," but enough of these sickening details; let us rather look forward to the time when the peaceful white banner of humanity and reason, shall be the unanimous substitute for the bloody red cross of christianity, a consummation devoutly to be wished for, worthy of the energies of every Freethinker in hastening.

Yours truly,

SQUILLS.

MYTHOLOGY—SHORT STORIES FOR THE YOUNG.

BY MRS. ELMINA D. SLENKER.

No. 2—*Rhea*.

As the woman is said to be the half of man, and by many is known to be the better half, while some even go so far as to say she is the last, best, and most perfect production of the creative power, and is some day destined to be the supreme head of all, and to excel in wisdom and goodness her present "lord and master" man. Our story of Saturn will not be complete unless we supplement it with that of his sister and wife Rhea, who was worshipped as a Goddess in Crete, and also in many other parts of Greece. Mary, the holy virgin of Christian mythology, the betrothed of Joseph, the wife (or all that the name implies), of the great Jehovah of the universe, is worshipped in all Christian countries of the earth. By Catholics she is passionately adored and enthusiastically idolized. Prayers are offered at her shrine as to that of some great and powerful Goddess, and she is said to have accomplished marvellous cures and wonderful miracles. She is also worshipped among the Protestants. Portraits of the "Virgin and Child" hang everywhere upon the walls of the houses, and they adorn the pages of our books, magazines, and even common newspapers; for was she not the mother

of the son of God? He who has taken his father's place in the hearts and feelings of all the most affectionate of his creatures?

Just so it was with Rhea. She was the wife of the great father of the Gods, the mother of the son of God, Jupiter, who afterwards became God himself, greater than his father, ruler of the earth and the heavens, and king of all the Gods.

"Resistless lord of all!
At whose command whole empires rise and fall;
He shakes the feeble props of human trust,
And towns and armies humble to the dust."

And is it not meet, then, that his mother should be worshipped and adored by ancient Mythologists, just the same as modern mythologists now worship and adore the divine mother of "our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ"?

The gentle, holy, loving nature of Rhea, is shown in her desire to preserve and save the life, of one at least, of the little children who were born unto her. The mother's heart longed with an intense, passionate longing, for the sound of little feet pattering upon the floor, for little clinging hands holding to her dress, for tender, soft and loving kisses from baby mouths, for sweet childish voices that should call to her in pretty, pleading tones. Nothing in all the world beside could ever supply to her the place of those dear and precious joys which are the great heir-loom and inherent birth-right of every mother that ever lived.

But Saturn, mindful only of his own pride and power, was such an unnatural parent as to be eager to devour his own offspring as fast as they came into existence, rather than himself to run the risk of being some day deprived of his kingdom by one of his sons. Self! self was all his thought. He could not bear that his son should succeed, equal and perhaps rival his sire. No throbbing of that parental pride which rejoices in self-sacrifice for the sake of the child of its love, stirred his heart. But the great soul and generous spirit of the loving Rhea could not endure to see the little helpless innocents murdered and sacrificed, one by one, to minister to the selfish pride and heartless ambition of her husband. The throne might pass to her son, and all worldly honor be his, so long as it was Fate's decree. She would welcome humble obscurity, and abjure all the paraphernalia of Queenly pride and power, rather than accept them by being accessory to the crime of murdering her own darling little ones; so she gave Saturn the stone to swallow, and had the little Jupiter taken care of by Cretan Nymphs in a cave hidden from his father's sight.

Rhea was identified by the Greeks in Asia Minor with the Asiatic Goddess known as "the great Earth-mother," or the "Mother of Gods," and also bearing other names, such as Cybele, Adigstis and Dindymene, hence her worship became of a wild and enthusiastic character, and various Eastern rites were added to it which soon spread through the whole of Greece. From the Orgiastic natures of these rites, her worship became closely connected with that of Bacchus. Under the name of Cybele her worship was universal in Phrygia, and as Adigstis she was worshipped with great solemnity at Pessinus, in Galatia, which town was regarded as the principal place of her worship.

Under different names we can trace this adoration of Rhea as far as the Euphrates, and even Bactriana. She was the Goddess of the whole Eastern world. "The Romans worshipped Jupiter and his mother Ops, who was identical with Rhea; in all European countries Rhea was conceived to be accompanied by the Curetes,"—ancient people who settled in Crete, and seemed to have been wandering priests and jugglers. The Corybantes were enthusiastic priests of Rhea, who "with drums, cymbals and horns performed their Orgiastic dances in the forests and on the mountains of Phrygia. In Rome the Galli were her priests. The lion was sacred to her. In works of art she is usually represented as "seated on a throne adorned with a mural crown, from which a veil hangs down at the back. Lions appear crouching at the right and left of her throne, and sometimes she is seen riding in a chariot drawn by four lions." Shall we not judge from this that she was a great character, as fully as worthy of our notice as her husband Saturn? Woman has too long been doomed to "blush unseen and waste her sweetness on the desert air," and it is time she was brought to the front and occupied her true place as the