

Contributors and Correspondents.

A PENITENT INFIDEL.

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Our leisure moments during the last week have been employed in reading the life of Thomas Cooper, well known in England as Chartist Agitator and Infidel Lecturer for a period of thirty years.

Mr. Cooper was born at Leicester, in England, on the 20th March, 1805. From childhood he seems to have been precocious to a degree all but incredible.

Mr. Cooper's lapse into infidelity may be traced to several causes. He speaks of it as a penalty for my great sin in deserting God, because I thought men ill used me.

During his shoemaking life he studied with intensity, and filled up every leisure moment of his time in literary pursuits and in mastering languages living and dead.

It is not our purpose, however, in this brief notice, to follow Mr. Cooper through his long and eventful career, and dwell at length upon his religious difficulties.

their oppressors and subsequently brought him into conflict with the Government of the day, and left him a prisoner for years in Stafford jail, bitterly to repent—not perhaps of his Chartist principles—but of his impudent and more ignorant associates.

As to the sincerity of Mr. Cooper's re-conversion, if we may so term it; there can be no doubt. His change from infidelity to faith in Christ and Christianity he thus describes:

"My heart and mind were deeply uneasy and I could hardly define the uneasiness. I felt sure my life for years had been wrong. I had taught morals, and taught them strictly; but the questioning within that would arise, day by day, and hour by hour, made my heart ache.

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Religious indifference soon became positive infidelity, and the infidelity was confirmed by his subsequent Chartist life, and the influence of the men who gathered around him at this period.

no more about thy God Almighty," was the sneering rejoinder, "there isn't one; if there was one, he would not let us suffer as we do."

Cooper's mind, it should also be said, was of a sceptical turn from his youth upward. The spiritual powers had not been developed in due proportion with the mental.

Finally, it seems to us, that he was deceived as to his real state in his first public profession of religion. His entrance into the church was more a matter of feeling and impulse than the result of satisfactory evidence.

In closing the volume we feel as if to think that such a man should for a long period have wandered from the faith, and done so much to muddle others with the virus of infidelity.

The church is never purer, or the whole never more devout, and never increases more rapidly than when she enjoys the good opinion of society; but when we begin to be thought very excellent people, and our church is honored, esteemed and respected, and corruption sets in, we get away from Christ, and prove again that the friendship of this world is enmity with God.

THE TOMB OF ESTHER.

In the present famine-stricken city of Hamadan, in Persia, stands a plain brick structure, raising its dome above the houses of the Jews.

It is probable that while Xerxes indulged his pleasures with the grossest sensuality, and his vanity by making silly rock inscriptions, Esther, the queen, and Mordecai, the Jew, were welcomed by their countrymen, and that here one or both of them died, beloved and honored.

There is no other place claiming the honor of their burial. The traditions of the Jews, it should also be remarked, do not make such demand on our blind credulity as do the relics and sacred places shown by the monks.

The old Israelite who has charge of the place swings back the low, but heavy door, and we stand in the outer apartment. In it are buried several rabbis of distinction.

Entering another door, so low and narrow one is obliged to stoop almost upon hands and knees, and creep in, we stand in the tomb chamber. The floor is paved with glazed tiles, and a recess opening on one side is used as a place of prayer.

The larger sarcophagus is Esther's. Upon it is written or carved in relief, "This is the Sarcophagus of Esther, the righteous;" and upon the smaller one "This is the Sarcophagus of Mordecai, the righteous."

No man can influence his fellows with any power who retires into his own selfishness; and gives himself to a self-culture which has no further object.

Scientific and Useful.

POTATO SALAD.

Take four large Irish potatoes, boil soft and mealy; wash with a fork until entirely free from lumps; season with salt and pepper quite strong, boil three eggs hard, mash the yolks to a paste with a little vinegar, and mix it in the potatoes thoroughly.

SALT FOR CHICKENS.

In building a chimney put a quantity of salt into the mortar with which the interstices of brick are to be laid. The effect will be that there will never be any accumulation of soot in the chimney.

DIRT ON FLIES' FEET.

A curious and perhaps important discovery is stated to have been made recently by M. Klezarsky, a Viennese professor. Noticing that persons sick with the small-pox were often visited by flies, he placed near an open window of the hospital a saucer filled with glycerine.

WASHING FLUID.

Three tablespoonfuls of soda, the same quantity of dissolved camphor (the same as kept for family use) to a quart of soft water, bottle it up and shake it well before using.

MUD HOLES.

Very recently, says an exchange, we read a recommendation to farmers to fill the mud holes about their homesteads with leaves. A more shiftless resource could not well be thought of.

A TEST OF THE EXTINCTION OF LIFE.

In view of the uncertainty regarding the final extinction of life that occasionally arises, Dr. Magnus proposes the following test for the decision of the matter. If a limb of the body (a finger is best for the purpose) be constricted by a strong ligature quite tightly, there will, if the subject is yet alive, be a reddening of the constricted member.

THE RINGS OF SATURN.

The rings of Saturn have always been an enigma to astronomers. La Place showed that if they were solid and of the same thickness throughout, they would soon fall down on the planet and be destroyed. He therefore supposed them of irregular density.

TAKE CARE OF YOUR CHICKENS.

The diseases of poultry are caused by close confinement, filth, impure air and water, and lack of gravel, more than by any other causes. All poultry houses should be warm for winter, but not warm at the expense of ventilation.