

one with which we are meant to be concerned; and that man was sent on this earth to live on it, to enjoy it, to study it, to embellish it," and not to disparage it as a mere pilgrimage, a fleeting illusion of the Evil One. Men *do* believe that Christ (whether divine or human it matters not: we have His life) was given to us as our great exemplar reverently to be followed through all the ages; "the possibility of the race made real." Men *do* believe that "the glad tidings of great joy" are, in very truth, "Peace on earth and good will toward men;" and that the day, which though long in its dawning, will none the less surely appear, *will* come, when this Gospel—this pure Gospel of love to God and man, which Jesus preached, and not this spurious Gospel of creeds and Christ-worship which He so denounced), *will* "cover the earth as the waters cover the great deep." And men *do*, in their inmost hearts feel that the greatest obstacle to this glorious end is this very orthodox Christianity of our age.

Col. Robert G. Ingersoll himself, who wields a greater influence over the minds of the masses in America than any dozen living preachers, and whose eloquence has dealt Orthodoxy the heaviest blows of the day; even Ingersoll is not, as he has been unjustly termed by those who have never read his books, an atheist. He is simply an agnostic, one who does not know. But of this we may be assured, that, unless "pure religion and undefiled," consisting, we are told, in "caring for the fatherless and the widow and keeping ourselves unspotted from the world," be once more (and that right soon) proclaimed from our pulpits, this current of agnosticism will flow into the dead sea of avowed Atheism! *Why cannot our clergy see that Atheism and Materialism have no faster friends than the Christianity which they themselves are preaching?* The reaction *must* take place. God grant it be not as when the Goddess of Reason was enthroned in Paris, a reaction sweeping away our very belief in a God!

Can we who feel that this end is not to be desired, that

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