

THE LECTURE.

FELLOW CAUCASIANS,—I am about to deliver a lecture, the like of which I claim has never greeted Caucasian ears. It is not to my pecuniary interest to do so. It is unfortunate that many who profess to be guided by higher teachings resort to more than questionable acts when they fail to meet the arguments of an opponent. The Christian religion does not appear to advantage in the enquiry I am about to institute; but, I think, I should not be held accountable for this fact. Perhaps someone will show that it is otherwise; that any essential statement I make is not true. I invite him to do so. I will join his church and turn my not very rheumatic pen in the interests of the "true religion." Yea, I will preach it while a corporal's guard attends to hear, if he succeeds. But if it cannot be shown that I am wrong, I demand in the interests of common decency that church members at least shall not ply the arts of the assassin.

The great mass of our race has been kept in ignorance in regard to the nearly universal sobriety prevailing outside of Christendom. I think I will in due course make the reason apparent.

The history of the use of alcoholic drinks and the history of religion have often been interwoven.

Alcoholic drinks have been forbidden by three at least of the great existing religions, because it is the great crime or sin-producer.

It is thus distinguished from every other substance. I therefore divide the religions of the world into the Alcoholic and the Prohibitive. In the evolution of religions all the Alcoholic religions, excepting the Christian, have perished.

The religions to which I will refer are the Aryan, the Hindoo or Brahminical, the Persian, the Buddhic, the Confucian, the Hebrew, the Greek, the Roman,