

ried out Paul's advice in that respect, and has cordially hated every other sect. Gentleness and sweetness of temper win our admiration; but we look in vain for an exhibition of these virtues by the heroes of the Bible. Jesus cursing the fig tree because it had no fruit at the wrong time of year, his overturning the tables of the money changers in the temple, his cursing the Jews, calling them fools and hypocrites, are examples of the sweetness of temper of the most gentle character portrayed in the Bible. The claim that Christian morality is higher and better than the morality of the rest of mankind is utterly unfounded. Morality does not depend upon, nor is it an outgrowth of religion, but is the accumulated experience of the human race, through all the ages, of what is most conducive to the security and happiness of mankind. Place men who are entirely ignorant of any religion apart from the rest of the world and in a few generations experience would teach them, not what to believe, but what to do to attain the greatest amount of happiness. They might, and probably would, invent some religious theories, but morality would precede their religion as morality has preceded all religions. We would be more surprised and shocked to hear that any of our leaders of modern Infidelity were either teaching or practicing immorality than to hear that the brightest star of the Christian churches had "fallen."

If there is any truth in Christianity Judas Iscariot has been the most badly used person in history. Without him how could the Christian "plan of salvation" have been carried out? He was necessary to, and a part of, that plan. In fact, Pilate, Christ's accusers, false witnesses, and the whole court, as well as the rabble multitude who cried out "Crucify him," were necessary for the carrying out of that god-like (!) scheme to save the human race from the vengeance of their own creator. Salvation could not have been possible without them, any more than without Christ. If Christ was foretold, so were his betrayer, his accusers, and his executioners. We do not know by what kind of theological jugglery Christians can defend in a deity what in man would be considered despicable, mean, and cowardly. If any man, no matter how powerful, should compel men to become his agents or instruments to carry out his schemes and then not only cast them aside, but punish them for being *made* his instruments, he would deserve and receive the execration and contempt of all right thinking persons. Instead of abuse, Judas should receive honor at the hands of Christians. Without him and his associates there could have been no "lamb who was slain for us," no cross, no "saviour," no "salvation." If there is any truth in the Christian religion Christians should hold the name of Judas Iscariot in the most profound veneration and respect.

We ask our well-meaning Christian friends who are unceremoniously abolishing hell, Are you not making a mistake in this matter? If there is no hell and no devil what need is there for an atonement? Without your "precious atonement" what need is there for your churches, your ministers, and your missionaries? Are you not worse off without your hell and your devil than was the devout old lady who exclaimed: "If you take the devil away from me you rob me of half my religion." Does it not take all your need for Christianity away? Should you not rather than try to abolish hell, say, as the Western convert did, that you "thank your God that you have a hell in your church? Without it you may have a religion, but not Christianity." What need for a "God"

to be butchered, for a "Saviour," if there was nothing to die for, nothing to be "saved" from? Reconsider your decision, Bros. Farrar and Beecher, or else give up your superstition called Christianity and acknowledge that you know nothing about the future. If your vocation be to teach the people, teach them to love justice, truth, and honesty; teach them how to live here in this world, how to extract the good and avoid and reject the evil, which is to be found side by side everywhere in the world.

EDITORIAL NOTES AND NOTICES.

Rev. T. W. Handford, of this city, has been delivering a course of sermons in his church, the Congregational, against Infidelity and Atheism. We listened to his sermon on the latter subject, and on the following Sunday we answered him from the platform in Albert Hall to a larger audience than could be packed into his church. We understand that during his first sermon Mr. Handford brought to the notice of his hearers an article in the JOURNAL, written by one of our contributors, as an evidence that Infidels were ignorant of the Bible. The article in question appears to attribute to Christ what is said to have been uttered by his disciples regarding "selling the ointment and giving the money to the poor." The advice given seemed to the writer of the article to be better than the answer given. It seems, however, that our Rev. friend could not see through the joke. We will try and give him an easier one next time.

We have completed an arrangement with the proprietors of the *Spiritual Offering* which enables us to offer that valuable magazine and the JOURNAL for one year for the small sum of two dollars. The *Spiritual Offering* is one of the leading Spiritual publications in the United States, and has able contributors. Remit two dollars to us, and both papers will be promptly forwarded. See advertisement on last page.

We have received the first number of the *Positive Thinker*, published by The New York Liberal Publishing Company, and edited by G. L. Henderson and H. B. Brown. It is devoted to constructive Freethought, and its mottoes are, "To destroy, you must replace," "To do the good, know the true." It is ably edited, and is a valuable addition to the Liberal publications of the United States. Subscription price, \$1.50 a year.

Any of our readers who want to procure the celebrated work "Fruits of Philosophy" for publishing which Mrs. Annie Besant and Charles Bradlaugh were prosecuted in England, or the "Priest in Absolution," which raised such a storm of indignation in the House of Lords, should send the price to Frank Rivers, 28 School St., Boston, Mass. Mr. Rivers is a well-known publisher and is thoroughly reliable. See advertisement.

We have received the prospectus of the *Physiologist*, soon to be published by the physiological society of New York, and edited by Dr. Sara B. Chase. If it redeems its promises it will be a valuable publication. Its first number will contain articles by Walter R. Bartlett M. D.; Elizabeth Oakes Smith, Sara B. Chase; M. D.; E. G. Cook, M. D.; S. H. Preston, and others.

We receive an occasional number of the *Duluth Tribune*, which