

ago, a provision that his people were not to be allowed to slaughter Christians.

No more intense exhibition of faith, no more terrible evidence of sincere belief in inspiration, was ever given than has been furnished by the Khalifa and his dervishes in the Soudan within the last two years. The Hindoo proves the sincerity of his faith by the worst tortures inflicted on himself. No people ever gave stronger proofs of confidence in their religion than the Mormons have been giving for more than half a century. No torture, no sacrifice was too great for the Ghost Dancers among our own Indians ten years ago. Of our own religion we have the Catholics, the Greek Church, and a host of minor divisions of Protestants each and every one claiming to have "the way, the truth, and the light."

The foundation for the faith of each and every one of all the religions is built of visions and dreams, miracles, prophecies and revelations, and the penalty for disbelief in any one of them varies from social ostracism to the Spanish Inquisition, according as they may have power to inflict a penalty. Men trample their fellows into the dust for money and for power, but only religionists persecute.

Science, facts reduced to system, begets no hates, no persecutions, and few differences. If a chemist announces a new discovery, the chemists of the whole world proceed to experiment and to demonstrate for themselves, knowing that the laws of chemistry are perfectly uniform, and that every substance and every atom in any part of the globe is governed by laws that have no failures and no exceptions. If a discovery is made by an astronomer, astronomers everywhere turn their instruments in that direction and see for themselves whether the discoverer has or has not made a mistake. The science of mathematics, from lowest to highest, is one where mistakes as to facts are impossible to capable men. There is no disagreement among

geologists as to the facts that may be read from the rocks and the other deposits. Only conjectures vary among the geologists of the whole world. Scientific men have no occasion and no disposition to persecute.

Our great scientific societies call together the men of all nations; they meet like brothers, glad to add each his own more or less of knowledge to the general fund which is the property of the peoples of all the nations. When Darwin in England, and Wallace in the far away Malay Archipelago, almost just at the same time, discovered the facts that shaped themselves into the theory that we call evolution, there was not even any personal feeling as to who first announced the conclusions about which they were so well agreed.

Why, then, is it that for differences of opinion about things unknown, perhaps non-existent, things unknowable, even unthinkable, men will hate, persecute and slaughter each other? If of all the faiths we must follow any, which shall it be?

Surely if the Being or Beings, Power or Powers, Agent or Agents who control the universe would make to us any revelation such as every religion claims theirs to be, we would have been given evidence that no person would have room or reason to doubt. Only the facts of science are undoubted. All else is chaos; a boundless field of ever-shifting sands, "blown about by" an infinite variety of "every wind of doctrine."

The breaking of the day has passed. Let us turn our backs to the slowly retreating shadows, and while the beasts of prey and the owls and the bats are hiding themselves forever in the caves and the dens of the earth, and the many superstitions are dissolving into the thin air, let us hail with rejoicings the already risen sun.

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