

CHRIST OR THE CHURCH.

Every attack made upon the erroneous opinions and the selfishness of the church autocrats is misrepresented by the latter as an attack upon religion; not upon their religious views, but as an attack upon religion itself. Their church is their God, and the interests of the church are their religion; it is all the God and the religion they know; they can form no conception of a God without priestcraft, nor of a religion without church-benefits. Having all their lives kept their minds within the narrow grooves prescribed for them by their creeds, having become accustomed to worship an unnatural, limited, impossible, and helpless God, who needs the assistance of the clergy to teach mankind; the universal, omnipotent, omnipresent Divinity, the Christ, whose light shines into the hearts of men, is nonexistent for them; and although they preach such Christ with their mouths, repeating the sayings of the ancient books of wisdom, without understanding their meaning, nevertheless they deny Him in practice and reject Him on every occasion. They preach love and act hate; they claim to love God, but the God they love is fashioned after their own fancies, and by loving Him, they love nothing else but themselves. Their God is a limited, personal, circumscribed and narrow-minded God, and their love is equally narrow-minded and intolerant.—Hartmann's Life of Jehoshua.

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Build thee more stately mansions, O, my soul,
As the swift seasons roll!

Leave thy low-vaulted past!

Let each new temple, nobler than the last,
Shut thee from Heaven with a dome more vast,

Till thou at length art free,
Leaving thine outgrown shell by life's unresting sea!

—OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES.

WHY NEED WE REINCARNATE.

I think questions of this nature arise unconsciously from a sort of dissatisfaction with present environment in the world, and evolution from a desire of personal satisfaction and betterment according to a standard made up from and in a civilization that is based on a fundamental idea of separateness. For if we think we are separate from God and His universe, then alterations of state and condition will arise, "Why did we fall if we were once divine?" I do not admit that "we were once divine and have fallen;" but say that we are divine and always were, and that the falling is but apparent and due to the personal consciousness which calls that soul which is not and that not which is. We are God, and working out in various personalities and environments the great plan in view, and that plan is well known to the dweller in the body who calmly waits for all the material elements to come to a realization of their oneness with God.—W. Q. J., in The Theosophical Forum No. 64.

I. H. S. AND I. N. R. I.

The letters I. H. S. usually interpreted *Isus Hominum Salvator*, first appear as one of the ancient names of Him Who was known as Bacchus, and Dionysos, whose symbol was the Vine. "I am the true Vine." They are also found in the Egyptian mysteries representing Isis, Horus and Seb. In Hoc Signo is a more recent rendering. The Rosicrucian motto "Igne Natura Renovatur Integra," is supplanted by the inscription "Iesus Nazarenus Rex Iudæorum," according to the churches, and by the Masons with "I come from Judea, I have passed through Nazareth, was conducted by Raphael, and belong to the tribe of Judah." The alchemists understood it to mean nature renovated by fire, or matter by spirit. The Hebrew form "Iaithi, Nain, Rasith, Iaitui," signifies the creative principle, the passive substance, the union of these two and the perpetual transformation of created things, and the first principle to which all returns.

We have just enough religion to make us hate, but not enough to make us love one another.—Dean Swift.

The pure gold of truth is coined in every nation for current use, and bears a different image and superscription under every religion by which it is circulated.