

Robert G. Ingersoll, the famous agnostic, once met his friend, General Lew Wallace, and immediately opened a discussion with him on the subject of religion, with special reference to the historical authenticity of Christianity:—"Lew, you are not a professed Christian, are you? Certainly a man of your intelligence is not a believer in such doctrines as the divinity of Jesus and the inspiration of the Bible," said Ingersoll in his bold, brusk way. And, for the moment, Lew Wallace was stalled. He had no answer for the brilliant orator. But the question stirred his sluggish soul and set him thinking. Then he began to ask himself the question: "Is Christianity creditable from the standpoint of history?"

The answer to that question is revealed in that wonderful book which Lew Wallace laid on the centre table of history, "Ben Hur, or The Tale Of The Christ." The literary and historical investigations which led to the writing of that book also led the author in the real presence of the real Christ. The mental process was an evolutionary one. First he exclaimed, as the facts began to array themselves: "There certainly was a Christ!" Then, as the facts began to marshal and organize themselves, he said to himself, within himself: "This is of a surety the Christ!" And, last of all, as the thought of the rediscovery of the foundations of his religious convictions entered into the fabric of his soul, he exclaimed, triumphantly, "MY CHRIST!"—"A Christ." "The Christ." "My Christ." History leads to Christ. Any man who knows enough to read, and has read enough to know, knows this, if he knows anything, that the religion of Jesus Christ rests on the quarried blocks of history's granite.

Christianity has proved to be the greatest revolutionizing force in history. Liberty, Fraternity, Equality, Humanity, Democracy, and Socialism are all the echoes and re-echoes of the divine artillery of Christianity sounding out over the hills of Time. Mightier than nitro-glycerine, mightier than gun powder, mightier than dynamite, mightier than the earthquake and all planetary upheavals is the revolutionary force of a genuine Christianity sweeping over the earth.

The moon of Mahomet arose
And it shall set, while blazoned
On heaven's immortal noon, The
Cross
Leads generations on.

There has always been in Christianity a revolutionary force. "These men who have turned the world upside down, have come hither also." Mark the procession. The Covenanters. The Huguenots. The Waldenses. The Puritans. The Pilgrim Fathers. The Abolitionists. The men who have