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Should Man Worship?

BY ESTHER WEISSMAN

Many understand Omar Khayyam as a pessimist. This is a mistaken conception; he is not a pessimist, he is a realist. His seeming pessimism is because of the fact that he who sees through the ultimate cannot glorify the immediate, no matter how wonderful the immediate may happen to be at times. When we look at a blooming flower, at a budding leaf and think of all those marvelous forces that make the flower blossom, the leaf grow, we appreciate, we admire, we acclaim, but when we begin to think that the life of the flower; the life of the leaf is but a short couple of months or thereabout, we cease appreciating and admiring, we begin to ask questions instead. We ask-- would an Intelligence, in the given case it would be a higher or a supreme Intelligence, go through all the marvelous processes of creation to develop a beautiful flower or a shapely leaf, just to strike them down a little later? In plainer words would an Intelligence create and then himself destroy what he created?

What underlying purpose can there be in creation, when it is

but for destruction? And we must not forget the fact, that this alternating process of create and destroy applies not only to some phenomena. All vegetation, the whole of the animal kingdom, man included, are subject to: becoming, ripening, deteriorating and dying. And this holds true not only of life, but of every particle in the universe and the universe as a whole.

Talking of man, the supreme creation, the coordination and functions in a human body (When it works right) mental and physical is the most wonderful of all wonders of creation, yet man, too, as the leaf and the flower, is let to bloom, develop for a certain period of time and then, as the flower and the leaf, the human begins to deteriorate, old age, and then total annihilation - Death.

To bring forth an Einstein, an Edison, a Leonardo da Vinci, etc., and then subject them to the same destructive laws as any worm, any insect is - madness. And what about the average type of man? What incalculable numbers of human beings were

brought into life and then done unto death. What is the "Creator" doing? Amusing himself with blowing bubbles? And let us note, when the youngster blows his bubbles, no one suffers by it; the soap bubbles do not suffer, when they burst, but, when the "Creator" blows his bubbles, suffering is entailed; suffering due to growing old with all the sickness and weakness that come with age and then the final and inevitable blow - death. And let us also remember the fact, that due to this death, there is the constant and continual insecurity throughout life.

And, according to faith and the faithful, man is obliged to worship and adore his "Creator". Assuming for the given moment that there is a God, I ask honestly and truly, fearlessly and sincerely - does this God deserve worship and adoration from man?

This God, if such there is, could have given man life without death, could have given man health without diseases, could have given man not a beastly struggle for existence, but an existence of peace and security, could have given man, instead of the moronism, we call greed, a higher understanding, that real enjoyment of life is not in grabbing, but in giving; not in destroying, but in creating; not in ruling over others, but in friendship with others. Why did not God make man, as the best among men teach and preach? Does God, if such there is, understand less than Hillel, a Jesus or a Buddha? Observing the laws of nature it is impossible to believe that they are the creation

of a God.

The believers tell us not to judge God by human standards. How else can we judge if not by his creations? We judge a writer by his writing, a painter by his painting, a statesman by how he conducts the affairs entrusted to him, etc. There is no other way, there is no surer way.

A few more words about these human standards. Our very conception of a God is according to human standards. Our conception of the attributes of God is according to human standards. The tenets of all religions, in which the believers claim the knowledge of God's likes and dislikes; God's actions and reactions: all are according to human standards. We are, therefore, justified to judge the supposed to be creator by our human standards. We are also fully justified to judge the "Creator" by the HOW of his creations and by the laws governing these creations. And doing so we find, that no intelligence would have brought about the cruelties, the tragic wastefulness, the utter aimlessness of what we call the laws of nature and the laws of life.

In conclusion, if there is an Intelligence in or behind nature, its actions demonstrate madness, and if there is no Intelligence, nature then is just a conglomeration of wonderful, but blind forces, which accidentally bring about good or evil, or both together - whichever way, it is sheer stupidity to worship at the shrine of these forces, whether mad or blind.

Religion in the Public Schools

The religionists never tire of trying to bootleg their superstitions into the public schools. One of their latest efforts is concentrated on the Pennsylvania schools. The Greater Philadelphia Council of Churches has embarked on a program to stress teaching about religion in the public schools in that state. The Council claims to represent 1700 Protestant churches in the metropolitan area.

The claim is always made by these fanatics that if children are taught religion, that is, that there is a God who controls the universe and demands certain standards of conduct under penalty of eternal torment in a fiery hell, they will be better citizens. No proof of this claim is ever produced, and no one seems to have any idea that such proof or disproof is readily available. Yet it is right at hand.

We have in the United States a private school system run by a Christian sect. There are millions of people in this country who have been educated in these schools. The whole system of education in these schools is based on religion. In fact, that is the sole purpose of the system. Every study is orientated to inculcate religious belief. No pupil can be promoted or graduated unless he is proficient in his religious studies.

Now, if the claim is true that knowledge of religion is an elevating influence, it follows that the graduates of this system should be the highest type of citizens.

There should be fewer of them in jails than of the graduates of godless public schools. The prison population should be percentage wise less. Is this a fact?

No. The percentage of prison inmates of Roman Catholics, -persons who have had in general a far larger dose of religion than any other group, is very high. Notwithstanding that they have been filled with religion in their schools, and had a literal, fiery, burning hell held ever before their eyes they turn out to be criminals of all types. The less intelligent ones perpetrate crimes of violence and the better educated ones furnish a large proportion of the political grafters in government positions. Roman Catholic police officials are notorious takers of bribes and the papers are full of political offenses in which Roman Catholics are involved. But they all go to Church.

The Milwaukee Journal, March 24th issue headlines that "Finds Few Scientists Believe Resurrection". The article says that out of 521 scientists listed in Who's Who, carefully selected to eliminate all Unitarians, agnostics, Jews and other liberals, 228 replied to the question. Only 36 said they Christ arose from the dead while 192 said they rejected the story. Very likely some of the 36 had no faith in the tale but didn't care to say so. If a poll were taken of ALL scientists listed in Who's Who it is likely that the percentage of believers would be mighty low.

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THE LIBERAL

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The League will furnish a speaker and conduct Rationalist funeral services upon request. No charge unless expense is incurred.



EDITORIAL

One of the most hopeful and encouraging signs of the times is the rapidly growing opposition that is being manifested by various Protestant sects to the schemes of the Roman Catholic Hierarchy to get control of the United States. In three fields the Bishops' forces have been repulsed in the past few months. In the matter of censorship of books, magazines, radio and television they have had setbacks. In Chicago, after R.C. threats of boycott and blacklist frightened a television station to cancel a proposed showing of the film "Martin Luther" a combination of Protestants and Jews objected so effectively that they frightened the TV station management so badly that they are begging now to be allowed to show it. In a number of states grabs for public funds for support of parochial school buses have been blocked, notably in Augusta, Maine. The courts in several instances have told police chiefs and District Attorneys that they have no right to order newsdealers or bookstores to refuse to sell books merely because some Catholic organization does not like the contents. Once there gets to be a widespread

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Heresy and Infidelity over the Midnight Air

BY JOHN TODD

A program called "Party Line" has been on the air for some time on station KVAN, Vancouver, Wash. It runs from 8 to 10 P.M. and from 10:30 P.M. to 1:30 A.M. Mondays through Fridays. Through a special telephone hookup, a listener may call AV 6-2151 (Portland, Ore.). His voice will be recorded on a tape and played back over the air as he talks to the master of ceremonies, "Moon" Mullins.

Any subject is discussed. None are taboo. Mullins is a popular radio figure and the program has an enormous number of listeners in the area.

It all started on the night of April 9th when my wife called to discuss the Washington State Sales Tax. Mullins, learning that I was a writer, wished to talk with me. At first, we discussed some aspects of science-fiction writing, then touched briefly on evolution. The conversation lasted ten minutes.

Later in the evening, Mullins remarked that he had had a discussion with a theological student as to the possibility of inhabitants of another planet having a different religion from that of earth.

The next call was from a woman Bible-quoter affirming "special creation", the "word of god", etc.

After she finished, I called and in a conversation of thirty minutes,

touched on many features of evolution vs. Genesis. I stated that god was a subjective hallucination for many believers and that the higher the level of culture the less religion. Under my questioning, Mullins admitted that he was a pantheist although he closes his programs with the phrase, "The Lord bless you". He stated his belief in evolution vs. Genesis. He remarked that the Bible is the compilation of forty different writers and definitely is not the "inspired word of god".

I pointed out many improvements that could be made in the human body, demonstrating its animal and evolutionary origin as opposed to the myth of "special creation" or any creation at all. Before our conversation terminated, Mullins attempted to steer it into safer channels. He doubtless anticipated the storm of controversy that would follow.

And, follow, it did. There was a steady procession of old ladies calling. They quoted the Bible and threatened the wrath of god on the writer. Many others called to find out more about evolution and science. Listener interest was aroused as no other subject could do. In the course of the evening, Mullins had remarked that the Jesuits and Franciscans were communistic in their communal life and vows. A heavy-voiced woman called and told him to leave the Jesuits and Franciscans

alone or else. She stated that he was a "damn fool" and then hung up, refusing to give her name. The arm of Catholic Action was aroused.

When the next call came through, one of Mullins' associates on the program remarked, "Maybe its the Pope calling".

"If it is", Mullins replied, "I'll be another Martin Luther and have the Papal Bull after me."

The following night, many listeners called asking about evolution. During the course of the evening, the same heavy-voiced woman called. She asked Mullins many personal matters, then delivered a rabid diatribe against evolution and Atheism, quoting from a Catholic Action book identifying evolutionists with Communists. She admitted having made tape recordings of the programs, as well as having a recorder attached to her telephone for use against Mullins in a possible attempt to have him fired from the station.

Mullins, several listeners, my wife and I were given the credit for stimulating the entire thing.

That night my wife called again and for fifteen minutes talked about the evolutionary findings of Haeckel and T.H. Huxley, quoting from their books. The reaction was immediate, causing many listeners to ask questions.

The upshot of this second night of controversy was that Mullins would try to arrange a radio debate between a medical doctor and a minister on the subject of evolution and Genesis.

The third night, April 11th, a theo-

logical student had replaced Mullins. The replacement pointedly invited the listeners to discuss fishing trips or events in their past lives. Under questioning from several callers, he stated that due to Mullin's "ill-health", he had "gone indefinitely on vacation". Mullins had previously said that after he had seen the "boss" he might be out of a job. My wife and I were not surprised. We only wonder how the whole thing escaped being cut off the air five minutes after it started.

Thus ended an experiment in free speech.

From Calcutta, India comes a report that the Dalai lama of Tibet and the Panchen lama, (the Popes of Tibet) went on a spending spree while visting there. They withdrew a hundred-thousand dollars from a Calcutta bank for "incidental expenses" and made purchases of two wrist watches costing \$2,800, made bets on the ponies, etc. The masses in Tibet, who believe their Popes are sacred, live in the most abject poverty in order to provide luxury for a horde of parasitical monks and priests.

Dr. Wesley Shrader, Yale Divinity School professor, is quoted as saying the hour of Sunday School is the most wasted time in the week. Many parents use it merely to get their kids out of the way for a while. The good man is so right but he could as truthfully have added that an hour spent by an adult listening to him or any other shaman is an hour equally wasted.

Dialogue Between a Liberal and an Evangelist

J. J. FILEMYR

LIBERAL. I take it, sir, that you have little consideration for my intelligence.

EVANGELIST. Since we both live in an age of great enlightenment, I am bound to respect your knowledge of worldly affairs. But there is another side to man's nature besides the material. There is the spiritual, which you appear to hold of little account and which I, and others of my calling, consider of great importance. The spiritual side of man directs the intellectual side and gives meaning to what otherwise would be colorless and sordid.

LIBERAL. There, my friend, we are in perfect agreement. I object, however, to that which you consider "spiritual". It is quite different from my opinion. . . . Is it an appeal to man's "spiritual" nature to encourage, nay, almost command him, to believe so many things at which his REASON revolts? Is it helping his "spiritual" nature to oblige him to close the windows of his mind to all of the teachings of your Creeds and Professions of Faith which are obviously ridiculous and unacceptable in this age of enlightenment? Is it helping man's "spiritual" nature to take so little account of the phenomena, the "miracles", of all things about us, and dwell only upon the paltry opinions of men - Opinions that were set to parchments thousands of years

ago and which are bristling with obvious falsehoods, errors and worse?

EVANGELIST. (confused) There are a few mistakes in our writings, I must admit, but those mistakes must be laid to the account of the men who received the dictation of God, and not to God himself. They may have been remiss at times, and not have received his instructions perfectly.

LIBERAL. But all of those writings are said, by those of your profession, to have been "inspired" by God - in plain, to have been dictated by him. Therefore, your God cannot escape the responsibility for all that is set down in your scriptures. You cannot in one and the same breath praise him for the good, and acquit him for the evil. If you credit him with the good, you must be honest enough to debit him with the bad. You cannot hedge and dissemulate, as you are so frequently in the habit of doing. You must be honest. Besides, do you not agree that most of the truly moral precepts in your scriptures were pronounced by men who lived long before the authors of your books were born?

EVANGELIST. No one familiar with history can deny that; but in spite of the remarkable learning of the ancient world, men at one time became so depraved that God felt it necessary to send his

Only Begotten Son to earth to redeem them from their sins. We believe that Jesus Christ, by his suffering and death on the cross, thus redeemed mankind from the Original Sin incurred by the first man and woman.

LIBERAL. But "sin" still exists; suffering still exists; death still exists. How, then, did Jesus Christ "redeem" us from them?

EVANGELIST. (fervently) He redeemed us by opening the path to heavenly bliss for all those who believe in him.

LIBERAL. Is not the idea of "heaven" but a piece of theological metaphysics, without any foundation whatever in demonstratable fact? And "hell", also? What evidence have we to believe, in this age of enlightenment, that such places exist? Galileo swept the skies with his telescopes - and "heaven" disappeared. Magellan passed his hand under the earth- and "hell" was no more. Heaven and hell were well enough during the Age of Ignorance, when the "arc of the firmament" was a solid substance and the earth was flat, but they will not do now. We know better. And about your theory (or rather your "fact", for you folks never deal in anything but facts!) of "redemption" - is it not ridiculous to place any faith whatever in the idea of vicarious atonement? . . . No man can sin for me - no man can suffer for me; - and if, under certain circumstances, he might be willing to die for me, his death would in no way expiate the sins of which I, or my progenitors, might have been guilty. The Christian doctrine of "atonement" is built entirely

upon pecuniary, rather than moral grounds. If I owe a debt of money, someone might settle the obligation for me; but if I am guilty of a moral infraction, such as murder, rape, incest, etc., the situation becomes entirely different. No man can cancel those sins for me. They are mine alone, and I must suffer the consequences for them.

EVANGELIST. But your theory does not take into consideration the natural depravity of man, which is a condition that was established at the very moment of Creation. God, in his infinite wisdom, made man and woman perfect; but the evil in their hearts prompted them to the "Fall" - which "Fall" was only expiated by the blood of our Savior. Your nimble philosophizing about the difference between moral and pecuniary justice does not take into consideration the spiritual significance of our doctrine of Redemption. Man, being an exceedingly religious animal, needs to know that there is spiritual hope for him in a world of imperfections, embracing all sorts of sin and suffering. Would you deny everyone the consolation that the Christian faith offers to the poor and suffering and underprivileged of the earth?

LIBERAL. I would certainly not deny my fellow man one gleam of hope or consolation in a world that has always been identified with suffering of many sorts; - injustice, intolerance, poverty, famine, wars, disease, crime, and, indeed, every species of "sin" in the book. But let me ask you. If God created man and woman "perfect", as you preach, how

come they so soon fell into "evil ways"? If I created a "perfect" machine I would be anything but happy if it failed so quickly. An omnipotent and all-powerful God should be expected to be more thorough in his handiwork. I can never excuse him for making my progenitors both perfect and "depraved" at one and the same time. To me, it doesn't make sense. Furthermore, your doctrines (and you cannot deny it!) have made life here on earth a species of living death. Christians have ever been persuaded that this life is of little moment - that it is the life to come that is of the utmost importance, and that the only way to achieve such a life of "infinite bliss" is to faithfully accept all of the teachings, however contrary to reason and common sense, of the Christian religion. This preachment and belief was so strong among the early proselytes to the faith that they willingly flung themselves in the way of what they termed "martyrdom" in such numbers that even their own bishops and other leaders were forced to restrain them lest the movement, so necessary to their personal designs, should, for want of sufficient adherents, die out at its very inception. Christianity taught, and still teaches, that this life is of minor significance, and should be devoted largely to a preparation for the next.

EVANGELIST. But do you not think that this doctrine - this preachment - of reward and punishment in the life to come acts as a deterrent with those inclined to sin and wrong-doing? For the good, there is the promise of

a reward for virtue; and for the evil, the certainty of dire punishment for misdeeds. Thus, is satisfied man's craving for justice, which history shows has so seldom been granted here on earth.

LIBERAL. It is, indeed, a gratifying thought to be in a place of perfect happiness and look down upon the majority of our fellow men suffering eternal torments! Old world cathedrals are conspicuous with charming portrayals of such a happy condition; - and who would not join any church, or accept any form of belief, that promises a place in the realm of light and glory! And in Christianity as, indeed, in most every so-called religion, the entrance requirements to this Elysium are not a life of integrity and virtue, but a docile acceptance of a "belief" to which a majority of the people subscribe. Furthermore, it is a matter of geography. In this country you and your kind are accorded a satisfying degree of reverence, incident to your calling, but in other parts of the world you would not only be looked upon without respect, but might even be subject to indignities and bodily harm if your profession of faith were known. This sort of thing happens every day among your so-called "missionaries". For hundreds of years they have stirred up trouble wherever they went by bickerings and disputes among themselves, and in many cases have been courteously requested by the authorities of those countries to leave. It is well to believe whatever you please - that is the prerogative of everyone - but it is unwise to attempt to force your beliefs down

the throats of those who, perhaps, possess a higher code of morals than your own. . . . As for your preachment of a better and grander life after death - it is pernicious on the face of it. A man, standing in total darkness at the edge of a precipice believing a bridge to be in place where none existed, would be in the same situation. A step beyond the edge - and that would be the end of him! This is our life. This is the opportunity we have been given to do all that we possibly can for our fellow man according to our abilities. We need no other. Of what use would be a conscious existence after death if we could be of no use in all the vast reaches of the universe? We would be a void in the midst of a vacuum. . . . For myself, I am satisfied with "immortality" in the form of my children, and in the fact the elements of which I am composed will ultimately enter into other forms of life here on earth. According to your philosophy, our immortal "souls" will have conscious existence after death. How long will this "conscious existence" endure? Will it be for a limited time only, or will it be for all eternity? If for the latter, I would become very bored, I can assure you, and would much prefer a dreamless sleep when my work here is accomplished.

EVANGELIST. You are decidedly a materialist, sir, and I would despair of the world if everyone thought as you do.

LIBERAL. Do you not really mean to say, my friend, that you would despair of your own situation, and the situation of others,

of your "calling"? What would the High Priests of superstition, ever do if everyone submitted to the dictates of REASON and refused to be afraid? It would become a case of "root, hog, or starve"! Let the people once forget their fears, and you would become conscious of yours.

EVANGELIST. Sir, from being ridiculous, you have become offensive, and I no longer desire to discuss the matter with you. Not for the world would I care to be of your way of thinking on my deathbed. You are lost!

LIBERAL. (laughing) I'll take my chances on that. But before you leave, reverend sir, tell me, just how far do you think your various creeds of Christianity would get if they were to be originated today, instead of two thousand years ago? Would a man, who was said to have performed miracles, even to the point of raising people from the dead, be crucified today simply because he disagreed with you upon subjects which are matters of opinion only? Would a young woman, who was pregnant, be believed if she, or others, said that condition was brought about, not in a natural way, but by ----

EVANGELIST. Good day, sir. I will hear no more!

LIBERAL. Good day, sir! It is most unfortunate that we cannot agree to some extent, at least. But I suppose conflict and differences of opinion will always be the way of the world. Perhaps it is best! But, though we disagree, let us at least part as friends.

EVANGELIST. Sir, that is quite impossible!

THE MACKS ARE COMING!

The Macks, they are coming,
 no bagpipes they play;
 They're not from the Highlands,
 the heather or brae
 The one is McCarthy - Crusader
 so Bold -
 The other McCarren, made in
 the same mold.

They come to do battle for all our
 fair land
 'Gainst foreign dictation they've
 taken their stand.
 To slay the dread dragon, they
 call it the Red
 With fiery tongue and many a head.

Like knights, without armor or
 horses or spears
 They fight in the Press, shed
 crocodile tears
 For Freedom that's dying because,
 as they say
 The bad men of Moscow are
 having their way.

If one in a thousand believes in
 the right
 To seek social justice, the two
 Macks must fight.
 That's foreign dictation so plain
 all can see;
 He's taking his orders from over
 the sea.

So loyal to country - Did you hear
 them tell?
 And only The Faithful can steer
 clear of Hell!
 And faithful to country can hold
 out no hope;
 The loyalty single, must be to
 their Pope.

Now who takes from whither the
 orders so stern?
 Who claims the sole power all
 others to spurn?

Who claims to be Monarch abroad
 and at home;
 Sole judge of all virtue - WHICH -
 Moscow or Rome?

1953

Veni Vidi.

THAT \$5000 OFFER

Recently there was an offer of a
 reward of \$5000 offered in the pages
 of the LIBERAL for a cure in two
 specific cases to any faith healer
 religious or otherwise.

To date not one has offered to take
 up this offer.

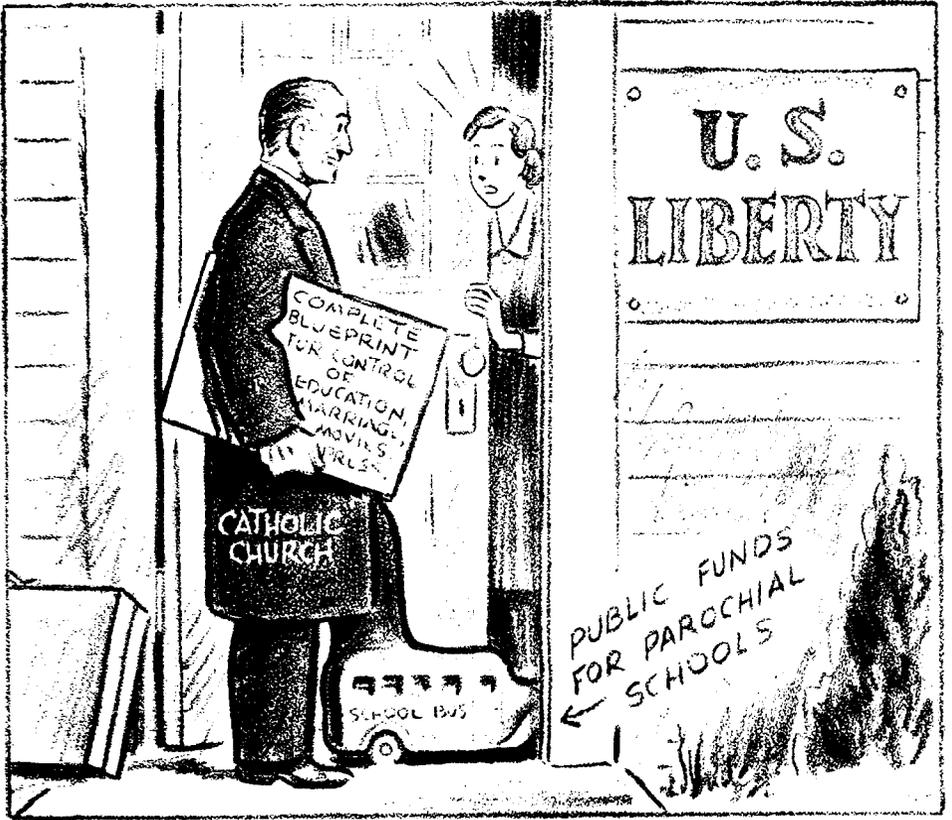
Many replies have been received,
 however, only one was interested
 enough in the case to ask for the
 names and addresses of the patients.

There were the usual charges made
 of showmanship, dares, foolish offer,
 cheap publicity, challenging the one
 thing that should never be challeng-
 ed, foolish atheist stunt etc., etc,

The Christian Scientists, over 300
 practitioners in our area, avoided the
 offer. The Church in Boston, which
 should have healers by the dozen
 considered the offer nonsensical and
 refused to consider it at all.

In all fairness, we must say that
 two letters from religious people
 were received that were kind, tem-
 perate and sincere. We thank them
 for their kindness and interest.

It is with regret that we announce
 that only one of the men is alive
 today. The other is failing fast.
 If any healer wants to collect that
 \$5000 he had better hurry. It is still
 open to all comers.



CONGRESSIONAL CHURCH AFFILIATIONS

(From Catholic Men, April, 1957)

“According to an unofficial poll in which no names are given, there are more Methodists in Congress than any other religion:- 18 in the Senate and 84 in the House. Catholics come next with 11 and 75, followed by the Baptists with 14 and 55.

“Jews are credited with two in the Senate and eight in the House. There are two Christian Scientists in the Senate and one Hindu in House.”

That adds up like this:

Methodists.....	102
Catholics.....	86
Baptists.....	69
Jews.....	10
Christian Scientists.....	2
Hindu (Buddhist?).....	1
TOTAL.....	270

The Senate has a total of 96 members and the House totals 435, which makes a total in Congress of 531.

Those claiming affiliation with any church or religion, therefore, constitute only 50.8 percent, which

is slightly less than the percentage of the total population claimed as members of some sect...60.3 percent, according to the World Almanac.

With such a slight edge over a majority, how can anyone claim that this is a Christian country? That is a silly statement, and definitely not true. The figures prove that.

However, there is a hidden danger in these figures. With 86 Catholics in Congress, they now control 16.2 per cent of the vote there on all controversial matters, such as "In God We Trust" on our money and inserting "under God" in the oath of allegiance.

All other sects put together, with a total of 184, have only 34.6 per cent of the vote in both houses. In spite of the fact that this is more than double the Catholic vote, for purely political reasons and without regard to their oaths of office, these others are usually persuaded to go along with the Catholics on things the latter want to put across, to avoid political reprisals.

The non-church part of the Congress, totaling 261 or 49.2 per cent of the total, are also afraid of Catholic reprisals and frequently violate their oaths of office to go along with the alien ideas of the Vatican group, so that, in effect, we are today governed by the Roman Catholic Church, and not from Washington, D.C. but from Rome, where the Pope issues the orders.

It's high time the people of the United States woke up to the inherent danger of this situation -

and did something about it.

What can they do?..... Two important things:

First, ask every Catholic candidate for Congress, (or any other office, for that matter) whether he will respect his oath of office or whether he will continue taking his orders from the Pope; then vote for the true American candidate;

Second, it behooves the non-Church portion of our population, constituting 39.7 per cent of the total, to get behind candidates who will promise not to "go along with the Catholics" but will fight them and their political maneuvers at every opportunity, without regard to consequences, and to remove from office at the next election those who don't keep their word and who violate their oaths of office.

It is only by taking action politically that we can keep America free.

C. Harry Nims

Geo. Gallup, Director, American Institute of Public Opinion, says that his poll shows that fewer Americans attended church in 1956 than in 1955. This may be true, but remember that Gallup's polls showed that Truman would be defeated. Only the Pope is infallible.

THOMAS PAINE CENTER

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LETTERS

Editor:

Please remove my name from your list. I never subscribed, never will and will not read such a pack of lies about my faith. You vipers.

James McDonald.

Editor:

After reading every issue of the Liberal and some of the letters sent to you by the "god-fearing" people, I become more and more convinced that it should be the duty of every freethinker to support such publications as the Liberal, and also such institutions as the Thomas Paine Center.

Enclosed is my contribution to the Fund hoping that the Thomas Paine Center will soon be a debt free monument of free-thought in this beloved country of ours.

Henry Sykora.

Editor:

This (donation) is not for the pope nor his future slaves.

D.W.B.

Editor:

Enclosed find \$2.00 for the Thomas Paine fund. My son and I pledge \$1.00 each per month until this debt is paid off.

A small amount like this will not be missed by anyone and if each subscriber would pledge \$1.00 per month, (I am sure most of them would) it would be an ideal way of paying off this debt.

O.C.Hogue.

Editor:

Enclosed is a small donation from an old farmer who regrets that he cannot do more.

It seems that the religious have most of the wealth of this country, controlling the

press, radio and television and keep the people confused. We must not give up the struggle or all is lost. Do not lose heart.

Wm. Argabright.

Editor:

Not a cent will you get from me to help spread the dastardly work you are doing. If I had the power, you would recant or else.

Why do you and the lot of your kind not go back to Russia where you belong? We don't want you here.

Lydia Carson.

Editor:

The unknown friend who sent me a sample copy of the Liberal has my sincere thanks. He certainly did me a favor. I enclose not only a subscription but a small contribution so that you may send the Liberal to others.

C.Thompson.

Editor:

The scoundrel and skunk that sent you my name should rot in hell. It was one of those ----- that live near me. Take my name off any listing you may have.

B.Kelly

Editor:

In the April issue of the Liberal a letter was very interesting to me, signed Caroline Edwards. There was only one thing wrong. Instead of writing "if and when Christianity rules the nation" it should read "when Catholics rule."

The threat of the stake and the absence of mercy was a dead giveaway of her position. Everyone who has read the history of the Inquisition knows that they are the most cruel and heartless brutes that can be found anywhere and many of them are ready to pounce upon us at any time.

Herman Erbe

Editor:

A friend and I were discussing what could be done to counter this wave of ignorance now sweeping the country like

a forest fire before these Ignoramuses close the remaining avenues of free speech and free press.

We are therefore offering this for the consideration of the readers of the Liberal. Secure at least one subscription to our little magazine each month. Or pick out some young individual whom you think has enough gray matter to understand what is going on and send them a subscription to the Liberal. This would only be twelve dollars a year, a very small sum compared to what the average church moron pays to propagate superstition.

M.R.K.

Editor:

Think it a very good idea not to list the names of freethinkers in the Liberal.

It would not surprise me if our church friends keep a list of all freethinkers and like minded for the day when they may have the power to tie us at the stake.

I will do what I can to help along with the cause.

J.L.

Editor:

In a Catholic publication I read this: Just one hundred years ago in Italy, in the much-publicized Mortara case, the Holy See reaffirmed that ancient segregation principle, "Any Jewish baby that is discovered to be baptized must be taken from his unbaptized Jewish parents and brought up in a Catholic family."

I wrote the editor asking for evidence and source but received no reply. This publication has adopted the "new look." There is salvation outside the Church under certain conditions, etc. This is a temporary retreat but if they are ever in the majority they will repudiate all concessions.

If the Liberal will dig up the Mortara case it will uncover a precious nugget.

A.M.

Editor:

The editor of your daily newspaper wants to print what he thinks the majority of people are well enough developed to read. But he does not realize how few people still have minds as unable to think as those of 2000 years ago.

Because the people who buy the newspapers do not complain about the low class, backward and craven editorials; and do not object to the many columns given to church notices and entirely eliminate any opposite viewpoint--the editor fails to understand he is publishing a paper which is pleasing a small percentage of his readers. Of course his first aim is to please his advertisers.

Big advertisers, big industrialists and opportunists of every kind want to keep the minds of the people as they were 2000 years ago. Good and faithful servants, content to work for low wages and to produce the maximum of unearned profits for the owners.

People with better developed minds, instead of not bothering to read the editorials should read the editorial page and write frequently to the editor telling what he really believes and what he does not, breaking the ice gently so that the editor will dare to print the letter without fear of nothing more harmful to himself than a complaint of one or two advertisers.

D.W.B.

Editor:

The people of this country are losing their liberties and there is approaching a greater crisis than any this nation has ever seen, which is being brought upon us mostly by man's worst enemy, the Roman Catholic Hierarchy. This politico-religious sect is trying to lead us into another dark age, in which it would persecute, torture and even burn at the stake any dissenter.

Jacob D.W.Greene.

QUAKER REPORT ON THE 5TH AMENDMENT

Friends Committee on Civil Liberties, 1515 Cherry Street, Phila. 2, Pa. has recently published a 32 page study on "Friends (Quakers) and the Use of the Fifth Amendment", which states their position concerning the use of this amendment as a protection against being forced to testify in matters pertaining to oneself. It is a valuable explanation of the thought and spirit behind the idea on which the amendment is based, that is, the right not to be forced to confess that one did so and so. They will send a copy on request.

Our generation has little realization of what this amendment meant to the founders of the United States or why they wrote it into the fundamental law of the new nation. In fact, there is a widespread idea that it amounts to little more than a shield for guilty persons to hide behind and that its use is practically a confession of guilt. Nothing could be farther from the truth.

Its real purpose is to eliminate forced confessions by innocent persons. The founding fathers knew well the history of their times. They knew that thousands of persons had by torture been forced to confess that they were witches and in league with the devil; that they could cast spells and ride on broomsticks through the air. They knew that police and other governmental authorities frequently abused their power and tortured confessions from their opponents, political and otherwise.

So men like Jefferson, Madison, Franklin and the other leaders determined that such procedures should have no place in the United States. They put other safeguards in also, notably that an accused person must be furnished with full knowledge of what is charged against him and must be given a public trial, with all his accusers present. Another great amendment says that excessive bail must not be required nor any cruel or unusual punishment inflicted.

These rights are so fundamental to us all that they should be jealously guarded by all. Imagine what the late Senator McCarthy and his stooges would have done to their victims had they had the power; or what fanatics like Bishop Sheen or Cardinal Spellman would do if they had ecclesiastical courts and prisons, such as their predecessors had, where secret trials, on charges by unknown accusers, condemned thousands. If you can imagine such a situation then you will know what we owe to our founding fathers.

IN HONOR OF

Chairs have been named in honor of the following:

D.M.Kaiser

Carlo Tresca

Ludwig C.Alt

Rationalist Society of St. Louis

Anyone wishing to have a Chair in the Thomas Paine Center named in honor of a friend, kindly notify the secretary. Donation is \$5.00

AMERICAN RATIONALIST

Bi-Monthly Freethought Journal \$2.00 yr.
2218 St. Louis Ave. St. Louis, Mo.

THE WORLD'S "BEST SELLER"

BY PHIL E. MEYER

During the so-called "Religious Revivals" of recent years, large streamers waved over the speaker's platform reading: "We Preach Christ Crucified". To the devout Christian, this slogan unquestionably held great significance; but in the minds of all those inclined to REASON arose the question: "So What?" Did this slogan have any more meaning than if it had read: "We preach Bruno Richard Hauptman Electricuted", or "We Preach Abraham Lincoln assassinated?"

Very few doubt that Jesus Christ was crucified - but what has that fact to do with RELIGION? Religion is a condition aimed at the highest concepts of VIRTUE in ethics and morality, and just how the contemplation of the assassination of a virtuous man can lead to the achievement of these ends is beyond understanding. Indeed, it leads to a religion of Manism rather than Deism! It is an abortion of the higher concepts of morality!

The entire aim of the Christian "religion" is, and always has been, to confine REASON to the smallest possible dimensions. The invention of the "Rosary"-the tolling of beads- was designed to this miserable and unworthy end. By the constant repetition of words that are, on the face of them, utterly, meaningless, the brain is brought to a condition of pious hypnosis which precludes the possibility of anything resembling originality entering into it - thus, dooming the victim

to a condition of servility and subservience. Once this end is achieved, the priests have an easy time of it.

Then, there is the CATECHISM which strives toward the same end. A small book, filled with a succession of questions and answers, which, when completed, the victim begins all over again; and the same process is continued - all to the end of inculcating into young minds nothing but the nonsense which is primarily aimed at preventing anything associated with Common Sense from entering into them! It is cruel to thus stunt young minds at the very time when ORIGINALITY in this age of intellectual advancement is most needed, and one cannot speak too strongly against it.

Speaking of Manism superseding Deism, recently, since the "Virgin" Mary has been advanced in the Catholic Church as the principle object of reverence and adoration, it has become a case of Womanism taking the place of Manism. Can it be possible that people, who pride themselves upon possessing a degree of Common Sense, thus, ignore the Facts of History and the Bible? What would be thought today if an unmarried woman, obviously pregnant, and accompanied by a man who was NOT her husband, applied for a room at an inn which was ostensibly respectable? She would, beyond a doubt, be refused accommodation - and yet when this same circumstance occurred two thousand years ago, we are expected to consider the proprietor of the place heartless and inconsiderate for consigning the pair to the

stable where the birth of Jesus took place.

It is time we ceased founding our RELIGION upon stories so obviously "human" and founded only upon human frailties, misconceptions, and out-and-out falsehoods, and raising our "sights" to that higher POWER which is manifested in all the wonders and workings of NATURE.

Too long has the BIBLE, with all of its Contradictions, Absurdities, Immoralities, Indecencies and Obscenities, been held up before the eyes of mankind as the "Great Well of Virtue, Truth and Enlightenment". Too long have men found in it an excuse for every species of Cruelty, Intolerance and Vice in which they are disposed to indulge. Too long has it been the breast-work behind which Hypocrisy has crouched, and priestcraft has flourished; bidding defiance to the forces of Intellect and Higher Ideals which have made valiant efforts to gain the Citadel of Human Reason. Almost every day changes are made in it; and in the dogmas and doctrines of the "Creeds" founded upon it, in order to bring it in harmony with present-day conceptions of decency - yet it still lags far behind! How much longer will it be before the evil in it is banished to a merited oblivion?

So long as we are ashamed to have our children read certain portions of ANY book which are filthy, just so long will that book be of a nature unfit to print. Yet in spite of the fact the certain portions of the Bible are certainly in this category, we constantly hear of it referred to as "The Good Book",

"The Holy Scriptures" and "The World's Best Seller". . . . If we regard it as a "good" book, - then, we are morally lacking. If we maintain that it reflects the thoughts of God; nay, was even "dictated" by him, - then, God is morally lacking. If we look upon it as "holy", - then our conceptions of all that is lofty, and virtuous and sublime is a travesty upon our modern-day preachments. And if it is in truth "The World's Best Seller", it is to be hoped that its sale is not an accurate index to the degree that it is read! If it is read at all, it should be read only as the "Arabian Nights" is read (and this is much more entertaining!) - as a record of the history of the times - and even then, only by the esoterically inclined; for even as a reliable record of history it is not to be depended upon. The greatest nonsense of all is to place about it the halo of divinity.

At Tuskegee Institute, famous Negro school founded by Booker T. Washington, the chapel was struck by lightning recently and burned to the ground. As there are 50 to 100 buildings at the school that are used in educational work which were not damaged, it looks like whoever directed the lightning felt that the chapel was expendable and the others were not. If you've got a better explanation let's hear it.



**Stretch Every Buck
You Earn; BUT . . .
PLEASE RENEW YOUR SUBSCRIPTION**

R.I.P.

There recently died in Spain one of the Pope's Cardinals who was so outspokenly truthful in his advocacy and admiration of the history of the Church in Spain and so eager to regain and reinstitute all of its ancient privileges, including the Inquisition that he embarrassed his fellow Clerics in America. He was Cardinal Segura of Seville.

What a fanatic he was, is illustrated by his opposition to the Franco regime which allowed a small measure of existence to Protestant sects and his critical attitude toward the Pope himself for having signed a concordat, (treaty) with Franco which held that no one could be molested "on account of his religion".

He was criticized by American R.C. Ecclesiastics because he gave the lie to their mouthings about the democracy and tolerance of their Church, yet actually, he was a real and true representative of what Catholicism is in the raw. The New York Times characterized him as, "The Catholic prelate who looked back nostalgically to the days of Spain's meritorious Inquisition. Cardinal Segura repeatedly - and sometimes vehemently - opposed Protestantism, the human freedoms.....Cardinal Segura was proudly intolerant of tolerance. He denounced the freedoms of thought, religion and the press as liberties of perdition and blamed them for the great evils of the world".

Yes, Segura was a true son of the Church. His fault was that in these dangerous days when

heretics have multiplied tremendously he insisted in talking in terms that the Church used in happier days when they could torture and roast all its opponents. He openly longed for their return while his American confreres do it only in secret.

Still Wasting Congressional Record Space.

The Pope's representatives in the U.S. Congress are still wasting space in the Congressional Record, which is supposed to be a journal of what occurs in congress, by inserting drivel about the doing of their Church. On April 9th, Thomas J. Lane, representing the Archdiocese of Boston, has an article on the Central Catholic High School, of Lawrence, Mass. He also has another on the speech of his boss, Archbishop Cushing, lauding Mother Anna Dengel, a Nun-missionary in India. More than a full page is used for this sectarian propaganda. In the issue of April 8th Representative Smith of Wisconsin uses half of another page to tell that Archbishop O'Hara, of Philadelphia has done a good job in opposing the Federal Aid to Education legislation. Of course, he does not state that Mr. O'Hara's opposition is because his parochial schools are not included in the proposed giveaway. But the prize winner is Hon. John J. Rooney, who uses a column for a Passover message to the Jews of America from the Lord Mayor of Dublin, that sterling Irishman Robert Briscoe.

THOMAS PAINE SEALS

100 seals 50¢

Cont. from page 4.

opposition the small minority of Catholics will find that their threats will not be heeded. The Rationalist movement should be out in front in this struggle, and will be, if supported properly.

"Without infringing upon the principle of separation of church and state, the Greater Philadelphia Council of Churches has embarked on a program to stress teaching about religion in the public schools." So states the Philadelphia Inquirer of April 2, 1957. Suggested things to be taught include "In teaching social living, the public school should make reference to the Judaic and Christian principles of conduct that have been a vital factor in shaping American law and standards of behavior". We suggest that before installing this program into the public schools that an investigation be made as to what "principles of conduct" are observed by the graduates of R.C. parochial schools where not only is religion taught as a formal study but where the whole atmosphere is permeated by religion. If, as it is alleged, the graduates of these schools comprise a very large percentage of our prison population then it looks like "godless" schools train better citizens, and we should let well enough alone. Readers of the LIBERAL in the Philadelphia area should write a letter to the Inquirer Editor on the matter.

This would be the best of all possible worlds if there were no religion in it.

John Adams.

AN IMPORTANT BOOK

By Arthur O'Halloran,
New Zealand.

Avro Manhattan's latest book, "The Dollar and the Vatican" is now on sale in New Zealand. What is more important is that it should be on sale from end to end of your United States and that it will be read by many millions of Americans. I notice that Mr. F. Matthews, Secretary of the U.S. Navy is a practicing Catholic, as is also General Alfred Gruenther --- a fact which does a good deal to explain some of their dangerous speeches.

The Roman Catholic Church long ago invaded politics in Australia. It has been less successful, so far, in New Zealand. The need for a strong offensive against it in the U.S.A. seems a task of urgency and magnitude.

Christian propaganda, per medium of the films, a la Hollywood, seems to be not entirely concentrated in affiliation of the Roman Catholic Church. The other day, in Auckland, my wife and I saw a short "drama" in which two women, a Protestant clergyman, and a stolen child appeared. Much pious moralizing, --- "Do you believe in prayer?" "Yes, I believe in prayer. Oh God, Bring back my child to me, etc., etc." If there is much more of this Free-thinkers will have to get busy with their objections. I have no objections to Religious organizations showing Religious films to their own groups or even publicly offering them, per advertisement, to any folk interested. But for the picture industry to be forcing mumbo-jumbo, willy-nilly on its

unsuspecting patrons is quite another matter.

The Roman Catholic Church recently made a determined but unsuccessful bid to get the State to subsidize their schools in New Zealand. Catholic Bishops and other dignitaries have for years past been harping on the "injustices" that their schools suffer from. This has been particularly a feature of the Annual Break Ups and Prize distributions. Recently, the Holy Name Society brought the matter to a head and asked the Government to set up a Parliamentary Committee to hear evidence. When the committee met, Holy Name Society made a claim for an annual grant for schooling totaling about six million dollars. The claims of the Church were opposed by the Director of Education; a number of Protestant Churches; the Royal Orange Lodge; by Rationalists, and many others. The upshot was a flat rejection by the Parliamentary Committee of the petition, --- it had "No Recommendation". Thus, for the time being, the demands fail.

But the Catholic Hierarchy is scarcely likely to write "finis" to its claims. The old slogan "Eternal Vigilance..." will be necessary to ward off and defeat other moves in this matter by the "One True Church" as it has the effrontery to label itself.

THOMAS PAINE POST CARDS

Thomas Paine Post Cards are now available to readers of the Liberal.

They may be had from the Paine Center, 20 for 50 cents or 40 for \$1.00 Use them wherever practical.

THE COMING A.R.F. CONVENTION

The annual convention of the American Rationalist Federation, with which Friendship Liberal League is affiliated will be held this year in Philadelphia, in the Thomas Paine Center. The dates will be August 24th and 25th.

While convention time is several months ahead yet, nevertheless we must begin to plan now. There are many things that will have to be taken care of and every member of F.L.L. in the Philadelphia area is urged to help make this gathering a success. Any member who knows of decent rooms, within a ten block radius of the Paine Center, that may be had for a couple of days should inform Secretary Alt promptly. Later issues of the LIBERAL will give further information.

The National Council of Catholic Men wants CBS to revise its religious views so that topics such as birth control, movie censorship, and the use of public school buses by R.C. parochial school pupils can be discussed. Of course, what the N.C.C.M. wants is that they be allowed to present their views on these matters. We hope they gain their wishes for it will be difficult for CBS then to deny the Protestants and Rationalists equal time to present contrary views. Wouldn't that be something?

Eugene Sue, famous French author, comments in his *Mysteries of Paris* that "Good People make Christians, but Christianity does not make Good People".

BOOK REVIEWS

THE MIND IN THE MAKING, by James Harvey Robinson, 148 pp. clothette, Thinker Library Series, price 75 cents, Watts, London.

This little volume shows how mankind may plan to save civilization from the menace of war and of moral and economic confusion.

A fine rationalist work, in keeping with the high standards of the Watts Press. Order your copy today.

THE GOOD BOOK, by Jack Bays, 60 pp. pocket book, paper, 25 cents.

A commentary on the Bible, showing that Christians do not follow the so-called ethics laid down in that infallible book. Written by a freethinker, it contains an arsenal of facts for those who wish to civilize the Bible and its followers. Order yours today, 25 cents a copy, 3 for 50 cents.

DISCUSSION ON DEMOCRACY, by William E. Hawk Jr. 168 pp. cloth, price \$3.50, Exposition Press, N.Y.

The word Democracy has many meanings to many people. Mr. Hawk traces democracy from the early Greeks to the present day and shows that it has had a different connotation to every culture and time. His analysis of the lack of understanding on the part of the average American is excellent. A fine work, and one that can be recommended to all thinking people.

CURRENT PROBLEMS IN RELIGION by Hermon F. Bell, 648 pp. cloth, Philosophical Library, N.Y. \$10.00

A persuasive plea for fundamental freedom in the present day religious and theological thought. Mr. Bell's approach to the age-old question of

life after death is answered honestly as it should be, "I do not know."

Mr. Bell also recognizes that free and open discussions in theology and in religion are absolutely necessary.

WHAT DOES FREEDOM OF RELIGION MEAN? by Sonja Biersted, 16 pp. paper, price 25 cents, Rationalist Press, Phila.

An essay by a psychologist on the concept of Freedom of Religion. Mrs. Biersted points out very clearly that what is meant by freedom is not the same freedom that certain self-appointed Church leaders have in mind when they use the term. A few brief lines from the booklet. "I believe myself to be a liberal and free-thinker. I hate with a fierce hate the spiritual booby-traps given out to the people and labelled "true religion." I hate with a burning hate the philosophies which aim at enslaving the human mind and spirit." A valuable addition to freethought literature.

**MINUTE MEN
FOR THE CONSTITUTION, INC.,**

We have received literature from this organization, whose address is P.O. Box 74654, Oakwood Station, Los Angeles 4, Calif., which states that it is organized to defend the Constitution of the United States and to oppose the attempted domination of the nation by the R.C. Hierarchy. Its president is Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Herbert C. Holdridge, whose name should be well known to LIBERAL readers. He has been fighting valiantly against religious encroachments on our secular form of government for years. Write to the above address for a copy of their Manifesto. It's an eyeopener.

BEQUESTS TO THE LEAGUE

Persons desiring to leave bequests to the League for the furtherance of Free-thought can legally do so. The following form should be used.

I hereby bequeath to Friendship Liberal League of 5233 N. 5th St. Philadelphia, Penna., a non-profit organization, incorporated under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania the sum of

Intimation should be sent to the secretary of your intentions.

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