

Ingersoll Memorial Number. See Frontispiece, and Editorial, p. 43.

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HUMANITARIAN

REVIEW



Scientific Rationalism, Psychology, Biology, Sociology, Comparative Religion and Mythology, Freethought, Ethical Culture, etc., etc.

SINGLETON WATERS DAVIS, EDITOR.

VOL. IX.
NO. 1.

AUGUST, 1910.

WHOLE
NO. 92.

Principal Contents of This Number : Frontispiece—Portrait of Ingersoll ; Articles on Origin and Evolution of Ethics, Science, Jesus, Psychic Research ; Views and Reviews ; The Arena ; Editorials—Life and Matter, Ingersoll, Immortality, Comments etc, etc., and Brief Notes & Comments ; Poems, Interesting Letters &c.

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ISSUED MONTHLY AT

No. 854 E. 54TH ST., LOS ANGELES, CAL.

SINGLETON W. DAVIS, Publisher.

Entered as Second Class Matter at the Postoffice at Los Angeles, Cal., May 27, 1904.

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SINGLETON WATERS DAVIS, EDITOR.

VOL. IX.
NO. 11.

JUNE, 1911.

WHOLE
NO. 102.

Principal Contents of This Number : Frontispiece -- Poetic Glimpses ; Articles on : The Bible a Book of Myths, Socrates, Religious Truth, Is there Evidence of Immortality ? Jesus a Man ; Gems of Poesy ; Views & Reviews ; Editorials : Abbott's "Collapse," A Criticism, Spiritualism, &c.; Brief Notes ; Interesting Letters, etc.



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Written for The Humanitarian Review

IS THERE ANY EVIDENCE THAT MAN IS IMMORTAL?

BY G. MAJOR TABER.

THERE are those who doubt that there is any evidence that man is immortal, for the simple reason that they have not personally been convinced by a careful investigation. There are many facts in science which but few are capable of personally investigating which we are bound to accept. When our greatest scientists have spent a lifetime investigating no reasonable mind ought to object to their conclusions upon the above ground. During the past fifty years I have carefully investigated, without prejudice, the subject of Spiritualism, and I have ample evidence that man is immortal, and that there is no death. Lord Lytton thus expresses it:

There is no death! An angel form
Walks o'er the earth with silent tread;
He bears our "best-loved things away;
And then we call them "dead."

And ever near us, tho' unseen,
The dear immortal spirits tread;
For all the boundless universe
Is life—there are no dead.

The reader might well ask, What have you seen to convince you? I have seen and recognized members of my family, and have seen other spirits where there was no possibility of fraud, and also have witnessed many cases where I was convinced of fraud. I have talked with an old friend who had promised to come to me thirty years before, as well as a score of others when the medium was totally unconscious. I received communications frequently from Colonel Bob Ingersoll, as well as a well-known citizen of this city who did not know he was dead. I could fill pages of personal experiences, but am restricted for want of space.

There is nothing new in Spiritualism. It is as old as civilization. Neither is it, in my opinion, anything but a scientific discovery. Some of its adherents have called it a religion, following in the footsteps of so-called religious grafters, like hundreds of other societies. It might be well to note the foundation of a few of the religions:

Paganism was founded upon the worship of gods.

Adventism was founded by Miller, who resided near the north line of Vermont, who persuaded his dupes to turn their property over to him, as he had set the day when the world was coming to an end, yet

that same day while his dupes were dressed in white, ready to ascend to heaven, he was building a stone wall around his farm. As I lived not many miles distant when a boy, I learned these facts. Then they were called Millerites, but that was the foundation of Adventism. Mormonism was originated by Joseph Smith, September 21, 1823. He published the Mormon bible, and was declared God's prophet, yet their religion inspired them to massacre the early settlers. What has Catholicism ever done but murder Protestants when and wherever they had the power? What is the Episcopal church but modified Catholicism? What did the early Pilgrim Fathers do but murder others when they had the power? There is not one of the 180 so-called religious sects, who are bound by their creeds but what would persecute those who did not indorse its creed and pay their tithes. Mary Baker Eddy was formerly a spiritualistic medium, and gave sittings for fifty cents, but being unscrupulous and talented, she started a cult, and has gulled her dupes out of between two and three millions.

Just think of it: The Christian churches are collecting twenty-five millions annually for foreign missions, when in the Southern states there are nearly half a million children from ten to fourteen years of age who can neither read nor write, and thousands of widows and orphans in the Northern states who need help. It is simply a colossal graft to give missionaries fat jobs. I have long since come to the conclusion that the religions of the world have been a curse to mankind, and I think history will bear me out in that conclusion.

In proof of my assertion that spirit communion was as old as civilization, allow me to offer the following historical facts: Throughout Egypt's progress in science what is now called "Spiritualism" was a universal belief. Hermes taught that "this visible is but a picture of the invisible world." Herodotus mentioned that the King of Egypt descended to the mansions of the dead and returned. Strabo states that in the Temple of Serapis, at Canopus, many miracles were practiced by the sacred sleep, now known as the trance condition. Emanuel Rebold, president of the Academy of France, states that the occult science for more than 3000 years was practiced by the Egyptian priesthood. Even Socrates was known to have heard voices. Old Chinese records for 40,000 years record the belief of intercourse between the living and the dead, so stated by a learned mandarin, and also by Dr. McGowan, a Chinese missionary. Confucius also believed in the Spiritual philosophy. Zoroaster's prayer was, "When I die carry me to the bosom of joy," and he frequently saw celestial spirits. The Egyptian, Phœnician, Persian and Grecian writers believed in immortality. Titus, in his address to his soldiers before Jerusalem, declared that soldiers who died in battle joined the company who were placed among the stars. The Chaldeans were Spiritualists. Hesiod, who lived 1000 B. C., gave an account of the spirits of antiquity. Homer was a medium and seer at eight years of age. Pythagoras, 500 B. C., taught the immortality of the soul. Esculapius was a medium. Beda states that the spirits rang bells in Rome when a rebellion was attempted. Plutarch, Luther and Mohammed often heard spirit voices. Cicero believed it possible for events

to be predicted. Nero and Julian consulted the spirits. Livy reports over 50 instances of fulfillment by mediums. Gregory VII, Roger Bacon, Bishop Grossetete, and even Martin Luther, were mediumistic. Philip Melancthon claimed he saw spirits, and John Calvin was clairaudient. Tasso, the poet, was a Spiritualist, and Joan D'Arc heard spirit voices. Besides the ancients, there are millions of intelligent persons the world over, as well as scores of our present-day scientists who have spent years in the investigation who have demonstrated the fact of immortality and spirit return.

My materialist friend, if you think that Mother Nature, after millions of ages in the development of intelligence from the lowest of animal life up to man, will suspend the law of evolution to corroborate your opinion, you are laboring under a great mistake, for Nature has never been known to susped one of her laws. There is no end to life, and there are no dead.

Los Angeles, Cal., May 1, 1911.

Written for The Humanitarian Review

COLLAPSE OF THE MYTHICAL THEORY.

BY C. L. ABBOTT.

A REVIEW of all that has been said on the subject of the historical existence of Jesus will make it clear, I think, that the negative evidence by which it was sought to prove him a myth has broken down all along the line, while the positive evidence of his existence remains untouched. The negative arguments were the following:

1. No historian of the first century mentions Jesus, therefore he did not exist. To this the reply was, neither is there any mention of Apollonius, and yet you assert that he lived. There must therefore be some other explanation, and whatever it may be in the case of Apollonius the same may answer for Jesus. Thus the alleged proof breaks down at the first touch. As there has been no attempt to answer this point, the matter might be dropped here; but the subject is not without interest, and it may be well to see if we can find out what the true explanation is, the one that was offered being demonstrably false. The science of historical criticism teaches that the first thing to do in order to understand the New Testament is to arrange the books in chronological order that the earlier teachings and doctrines may be compared with the later and the true course of evolution be ascertained.

It is agreed that the epistles of Paul are the earliest books. Now, Paul teaches that Jesus was born like other men, lived like other men, performed no miracles to distinguish him from other men, and died like other men. According to Paul, Jesus from his birth to his death did nothing worth mentioning. With the first Christians it was not what he had done, but what he was going to do. But the idea of placing on