

Miscellaneous.

THE ROMANCE OF COINS.

The December number of The Continent Monthly, has a lively article under the heading "The Aesthetics of the Roof of All Evil."

One of the saddest pictures in all history is the first mention that is made of money. Sarah was dead, and Abraham was sojourning among strangers in a strange land.

The coins of Constantine the Great, 306 A. D., will always remain of peculiar interest, as connected with the early history of Christianity. Constantine, after forcing his brother-in-law Licinius, from his Eastern dominions, built Constantinople, and made Christianity the State religion.

The first manifestation of displeasure between the mother country and the colonies, was with Massachusetts, of course. The old Bay State was impatient toward Masters then, as later in the Revolution against George, and still later, with the slaveholders. Charles I. was displeased with the colonists for coining money, which he considered his royal prerogative.

Coinage has figured in sermons. Bishop Latimer, on the 8th of March, 1549, delivered the following sarcastic sermon. On a previous occasion he had spoken justly of the new currency of Edward VI.

"Thus they burdened me even with sedition. And wot ye what? I chanced in my last sermon to speak a merry word of a new shilling, to refresh my auditory, how I was like to put a new shilling for an old gold. I was therein noted to speak sedition."

"I have now gotten one more fellow, a companion of sedition; and wot you who my fellow? Esay (Isaiah) the prophet. I spoke but of a little prettie shilling; but he speaketh to Jerusalem after another sort, and was so bold as to meddle with their oynes. 'Thou proud, thou haughty city of Jerusalem. Argentum tuum versum est in scorium; thy silver is turned into what? into tedious scorium, into dross. Ah! seditious wretch! what had he to do with the mint? Why should he not have left that matter to some masters of policy to improve? Thy silver is dross; it is not fine; it is counterfeit; thy silver is turned; thou hadst no silver. What pertained that to Esay? Marry, he replied, a piece of divinity in that policy; he threatnedeth God's vengeance for it."

Suppose the Straussens and Colensons and Rennans and their sympathizers could do all they wish to do? What then? Suppose the Old Testament were absolutely proved to be a bundle of fables and unreliable history, with no more of authority or divinity in them than there is in the vedas of the Hindus; that Christianity is a myth; that its founder was only "an amiable enthusiast," that his followers were no more than a band of remarkable fanatics; that we have no authoritative declaration of the will of Jehovah; that our religion which lies at the basis of our civilization is itself baseless; that we, as a Christian people, live and move and have our being in a stupendous lie; what then?

What then? Man is only an animal. If the Being who made him has not had consideration enough for him to reveal to him His will, then he is not of the slightest consequence. These horrible wars, which drown the world in sorrow, are the mere squabbles of a crowd of insects, too insignificant for the divine notice. These dreams of moral purity, these aspirations after spiritual excellence, these promises of immortality, these loving out-reachings towards the everlasting Father, these impulses toward a divine life, these crucifixions of lust, this proud assumption of a nature higher than that of the horse we drive, and the dog we caress, are all miserable mistakes. We are spanned upon the world like swine. We die like swine.

RELIGION is worth something as a safeguard, even when it has ceased to be life and joy.

There is a romantic incident in the early history of Massachusetts, which has been often told. Money was scarce, and in 1652 the General Court passed a law for the coining of sixpences and shillings. Captain John Hull was appointed the mint-master, and was to have one shilling in every twenty for his labor.

I hold in my hand a huge iron token which Ptolemy struck in commemoration of his conquest of Egypt, and by its side the new two-cent piece of the United States, fresh and sparkling from the Mint at Philadelphia.

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Our life comes in and goes out without meaning. It is all a farce that does not rise in dignity above the sham parades of children. If there is no authoritative revelation of immortality in the Bible, then there is no authoritative revelation of it, anywhere. Let us eat and drink, for to-morrow we die.

No candid observer will deny that whatever of good there may be in our American civilization is the product of Christianity. Skill less can he deny that the grand motives which are working for the elevation and purification of our society are strictly Christian. The immense energies of the Christian Church, stimulated by a love that shrinks from no obstacle, are all bent toward this great aim of general purification.

And now we are told, in the most kind and complacent language, that Jesus Christ was a humbug; that Christianity is a myth; and that the Old Testament, out of which the New comes like the ear out of the blade, or the flower out of the bud, by its own august profession, is a huge batch of absurdities, with no valid claim to our respectful faith!

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Richardson Air-tight Casket. The undersigned would respectfully inform the bereaved who may require his services, that he is prepared to furnish the "Richardson Circular Air-tight Casket," by means of which, in our hands, he guarantees the removal of the remains of the soldiers from their graves on the battle-field.

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DYSPEPSIA AND DISEASES RESULTING FROM Disorders of the Liver and Digestive Organs, ARE CURED BY HOOFLAND'S GERMAN BITTERS.

THE GREAT STRENGTHENING TONIC. THESE BITTERS HAVE PERFORMED MORE CURES! Have and do Give Better Satisfaction! HAVE MORE TESTIMONY!

HOOFLAND'S GERMAN BITTERS. Will cure every case of CHRONIC OR NERVOUS DEBILITY, DISEASES OF THE KIDNEYS, AND DISEASES ARISING FROM A DISORDERED STOMACH.

HOOFLAND'S GERMAN BITTERS. REMEMBER THAT THIS BITTERS IS NOT ALCOHOLIC. CONTAINS NO RUM OR WHISKEY, And Can't Make Drunkards.

IS THE BEST TONIC IN THE WORLD. READ WHO SAYS SO.

From Rev. J. M. Lyons, formerly Pastor of the Methodist Church, Philadelphia, Pa. I have known Hoofland's German Bitters favorably for a number of years.

From Rev. J. N. Brown, D. D., Editor of the Register and Post, New York. I do this more readily in regard to Hoofland's German Bitters, prepared by Dr. J. C. Hoofland, than in regard to any other medicine.

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WISTAR'S BALSAM OF WILD CHERRY. ONE OF THE OLDEST AND MOST RELIABLE REMEDIES IN THE WORLD FOR Coughs, Colds, Whooping Cough, Bronchitis, Difficulty of Breathing, Asthma, Hoarseness, Sore Throat, Croup, and every Affection of THE THROAT, LUNGS AND CHEST, INCLUDING EVEN CONSUMPTION.

WISTAR'S BALSAM OF WILD CHERRY. It is not only a great remedy, but it is also a tonic, and it is also a cathartic.

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