

as is the wont of all superstitious devotees and dupes.

Dupes indeed. Clear and bold the fact stands out to-day, so that he who runs may read and understand. Science was held up as the panacea for all the evils afflicting the world: it has increased a hundredfold our facilities for killing off the race, rendered war more deadly than ever and brought no happiness. It has shown the way and provided the means to alleviate suffering and death; but their horrors are largely caused by its own deadly progress. The chemist and the physicist have unravelled the secrets of nature and used them to soothe the body in its agony. Yet, they have given us nothing to take the place of prayer and Christian fortitude as comforts to the soul when the final parting is at hand; nothing to bear up the bereaved relatives in the sorrow and agony of their loss.

The psychologist had proved conclusively that God is an idea, evolved by the inner consciousness of the race to represent the highest ideal towards which man is tending. This supreme ideal he found concretely represented in the Christ, the most perfect of men but a man withal. His miracles of healing were, of course, clearly shown now to be delusions, largely magnified by His followers to impress the uneducated minds of an unscientific age. He was a great moral character, but mistaken as to His mission and its outcome. His triumph over death is an impossibility and an absurdity: the laws of nature do not admit of any exceptions.

Do men still believe in that phantom God? Death is no longer regarded as the common fate that befalls us all in due time. Amidst the whistling of bullets and the shrieking of shells and the suffocating gas, it took on a new meaning: life beyond the grave must be a reality if this life is to have a meaning. Men were never willing to die for a fine-spun human theory devoid of certitude and sanction; nor are they now. To-day they want to be assured that their sacrifice and their death lead to something more enduring than the nirvana of scientific agnosticism. And from the very depths of their being goes up the cry to the true and living God, sweeping away in an instant that shadowy structure built up by wordy psychologists ignorant of the beauty and value of human life and destiny.

The sociologist had codified the laws that govern the mass-actions of the race and proved their uniformity by dint of elaborately compiled statistics. In his simple scheme of things man was a cog in the great wheel of society. He is dominated by his environment from which he takes his fluctuating moral standards and which sets its sanction upon his actions. Free-will is but a convenient term to designate uncorrelated activities that will sooner or later come under the mechanical laws that govern humanity and the inorganic world alike.

The mechanistic conception of the universe, held by the chemist and the physicist, was applied to man. By rule of thumb sociology would reconstruct society on this new pattern. Scientific morality would take the place of the Divine Commandments that had contributed their share towards the evolution of the race, but are now hopelessly out of date. Human society is an end in itself. Happiness in a future life cannot possibly be part of a scientific conception of the world. The greatest possible happiness for the greatest possible number right here and now is the aim of existence. Sin is not an evil, but poverty is, and sickness, and tenements, and above all, monogamous marriage when the partners are not soul-mates. All these sources of social ills will be done away with, and primarily that most prolific source of them all: Christian marriage. The outcome was to be a regenerated race, gaining in broad culture, health and physical strength what it might lose in numbers.

The apostle of science saw the old theocratic order tottering to its ruin. It is his own airy castles that are tumbling in the dust around his college chair. The old morality, the old ideals of sacrifice and devotion, assert themselves more strongly than ever in times of crisis. What do men care now for mere material happiness and creature comforts when higher ends are at stake? They

are no doubt very unscientific in warring for what they believe to be eternal principles of right and wrong, but they are true to their better selves. They refuse to admit that they are the toys of an ineluctable fate; that the good things of earth are the only possessions worth while, and they have set out, through pain and afflictions, to build themselves a better world in disregard of the sociologist's most cherished tenets.

A scientific religion and morality may quite satisfy an aristocracy of intellectuals, sybarites of the laboratory: they do not work in the world of men where the fiery ordeal of suffering only stamps a theory as fit for human souls to live by. When face to face with ultimate realities, instinct and reason alike drive men to cast aside all the crude substitutes for the one true God, whose word has brought hope and solace to untold generations in days of stress. Science in its proper sphere will continue to ennoble the mind and to reveal the greatness of the Creator. As a claimant to spurious honors it has gone the way of all idols. Humanity is the better for their passing.

ON TRANSPORT N-----

The great value of the service rendered by the Knights of Columbus in camps in the United States and in France has been evidenced in many ways, but it is doubtful if there has been a more impressive aftermath of K. of C. service than that which occurred recently aboard ship in the Irish Sea (writes John J. Donovan, from K. of C. headquarters, 16 Place de la Madeleine, Paris, in the *Boston Pilot*).

A British ship transporting more than 1000 American soldiers was forging eastward. To right and left and in front and astern were other transports, while just inside the horizon British destroyers zipped here and there with careful eye for the safety of the last American convoy to sail before the Armistice. High in the sky with the sun shining on their glittering framework were two "Silver Gleams," aluminium painted British dirigibles.

It was aboard Transport N----- that a ceremony was performed that attracted to the decks every American aboard ship as well as many of the British officers. An American soldier was to be admitted into the Catholic Church; a soldier from Cleveland, Ohio, who had received his instructions aboard the ship. As the transport was off the coast of Donegal, Ireland, hundreds stood with bared head while Arthur McIntosh, of Cleveland, Ohio, was baptised.

The ship was but a few hours out from an Atlantic port when Private McIntosh sought out Rev. Father Van der Gruiten, of St. Michael's Church, Goltry, Oklahoma, who was aboard as a Knights of Columbus chaplain en route to France. He told "Father Van" that he would like instructions, he said that at the camps in the United States he had been attracted by the service given the soldiers by the Knights of Columbus en route to France. He told "Father Van," as he was popularly called, that he would like instruction. He had been impressed by the wonderful spiritual devotion of the Catholics and their regularity in attending service and the sacraments, and that all taken together had made such an impression on him that he desired instruction that he might become a Catholic. He had noticed the work of the secretaries; their unvarying courtesy, the brother feeling always in evidence between the Catholic soldiers and the secretaries and the splendid manner in which the Knights of Columbus workers received and cared for every man irrespective of race, creed, or color.

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