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Prairie View Kansas.

4-25-1893.

Hon. A. W. Tourgee.
Mayville, on Chautauqua, N. Y.

Dear Sir,

I have recently become a reader of the Chicago Weekly Inter-Ocean, and I want to say to you, that I enjoy reading the Bystanders notes very much. I admire your independence, boldness and courage in attacking error falsehood and hypocrisy in every and all forms, particularly your bombardment of hypocritical Christian Barbarism.

The fact is, Modern Christianity is nothing more than improved paganism. True, it has been a great relief to the bulls and goats, and rams and heifers; but, so far as the human animal has been benefited it has not been a success; as its trail

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can easily be followed by the blood it has shed in the name of Christianity. Which is in violation of the teaching and practice and examples of Christ. Persecutions, wars, and bloodshed has been nearly as bad under Christianity as under paganism.

I hold no people who spend millions of dollars yearly to improve and make implements of destruction, by which human life may be destroyed; has ^{not} any right to call themselves Christians, or civilized. The fact is they are not semi-civilized. In reading your notes, I am sometimes almost led to the conclusion that you are a freethinker, of one thing I feel pretty well assured, and that is, that you are very far in advance of the masses. Had it not been for a few noble souls along the pathway of time the world would be in gross darkness.

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Does the poor woman who asks about her race's "destiny" find little comfort in this? Yet there are two things in it to console her. It is in the first place an abandonment of the older and grosser claim that God so loved one race or class of men and women, that by divine ordainment he gave them the right to rule over, control, and dominate over other races and types. Thank God! the number who dare stand up in the sunlight of the present and thus defame and debase the Almighty, is daily growing less. The last half century has made sad havoc with them, and another half century of like quality will probably not have a single sample of their type of religious egotist in all Christendom, outside of the lunatic asylums and hospitals for the weak minded."

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Now, it seems to me, that in the foregoing language; you challenge the idea; that the Hebrew, or Mosaic dispensation was a Theocracy. Something which has been believed for a long time and I think is believed at the present ^{day} by the great mass of those who call themselves Christians, and is taught from the pulpits regularly. Your language seems to convey the idea, that Christ was the first one to reveal the true God; and his will and purposes in regard to the human race. Now, all I have to say in reply is, that if there is as little progress in eighteen centuries to come, as in the eighteen past. It will require men and women of iron nerve, will and purpose, to go forward and battle for the right. I am sorry I cannot take so hopeful a view of the situation as you do. To my mind the

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facts are against you. I like the following idea, taken from your correspondent. "There is no sense in referring to providence, to the fall of a sparrow, to a God who rules in the heavens, to petition to the throne of grace, etc., etc. Such gush only draws the mind from practical measures of all kinds for our own good. Carried to its logical results, its only effect is to say to menials, you keep still, all will be done for that is for your good. Nature is the test; human nature does not differ from brute nature, and higher civilization only comes in spots, and the higher and finer can only come by extermination of the lower and grosser."

It is said God "helps him who helps himself," Why ask anyone ~~ask~~ to do for us, what we can do for ourselves. This God business is about played out with the most intelligent

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and advanced thinkers. What does man know anyway that has been of any lasting benefit to him; only what he has acquired through the exercise of his mental powers. "And this is the real truth. The survival of the strongest or toughest (scientifically "the fittest") is the law of the brute creation in which conscience or the principle of right conduct does not prevail.

In other words, instead of being a question of inevitable fate, to be decided by a rule of physical science, the most important elements of the problem are the moral qualities of the two races." I would ask, how you are going to get a higher order of moral qualities; without first securing a higher order of physical organization. To my mind, the only way to secure ~~the~~ a higher order of moral qualities, is to first

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To secure a higher order of physical development; which is the seat of the moral qualities, by cultivation and environment of a character calculated to effect such results. We cannot expect a high order of moral qualities from a low order of physical qualities, any more than we can expect grapes to grow on thorns, or figs on thistles. The first thing to be done, is to secure a higher order of physical development; and then educate it, which is a slow process, but to my mind it is the only way, much needed changes and reforms will ever be brought about. I shall have to beg your pardon for the length of this communication I extended it far beyond what I had intended when I began. I subscribe myself Respectfully yours.

A. Davison.