

great alembic into an old falsehood, they will have absorbed it. Socrates laughed at the too amorous gods of Greece and the people said "poison him." Galileo denied the old falsehood that the world was flat and they cried out, "imprison him." Robert Emmet refused to become an Anglomaniac and the mugwumps cried out, "hang him." This is usually what people say when confronted with something radically strange and true, lofty in purpose and high in ambition, but, once in a while there comes one who will repeat the old cry—"they may destroy the case of Anaxarchus, himself they cannot reach."

That is the spirit we would put into the Freethought movement today. It is not what foolish sound is shaped by fetid breath, not what the idle gabble of foolish geese proclaims us, that should be our chief concern, but what we actually are. The consciousness that you are right yourself, the consciousness of sincerity, will sustain and fortify you against all the assaults of the world. If you do not believe in yourself you cannot expect others to have confidence in you.

Never part with belief in yourself. Never mind what people will say. You can survive any lack of confidence provided you are honest with yourself. The infidels of one age are the saints of the next; the cranks of our own time become the philosophers of future ages, and the despised rebels of a century ago are the men whose graves we bedeck with our garlands. Those who take duty for a guiding star and are strong enough, courageous enough to stand the gibes and jeers of bigotry and ignorance will find that the years are seldom unjust.

What will people say?

Never you mind, just be yourself.

#### EDITORIAL POTPOURI.

Pastor Russell, of Pittsburg, whose front elevation of nomenclature is Charles T., editor and owner of a religious publication known as the "Watch Tower," from which he has accumulated a fortune, has just been made to pay \$6,036 alimony, \$1,500 lawyers' fees, and \$60 court costs, making a total of \$7,596. His attorneys filed for him, at one stage in the proceedings, an affidavit of his own, stating that he could not pay the alimony, as he was only drawing a salary of \$20 per month. Common experience proves that no man on such a salary could pay such a sum of money. But the pastor has paid, and then only by having his property attached, which he had moved to Brooklyn, and being threatened with arrest for contempt. It will be recalled that his wife sued him for divorce after catching him in the bed-room of their hired servant, attired only in his pajamas. It is currently reported that he will henceforth occupy the pulpit of the late Henry Ward Beecher in Brooklyn Tabernacle, and we are of the opinion that he will prove a fitting successor, for both were evidently tarred with the same bestial brush.

J. P. Mitchell, of Columbus, Ohio, writing in the Ohio State Journal, declares that the church fails because it is "not a center from which radiates a life-giving force." Mr. Mitchell is correct. But how can he expect a life-giving force to radiate from a dead theology and institutions that are built upon past human mistakes?

"Preacher Gun Toter at Work on Chain Gang." These are the big headlines appearing above an article on the first page of the Parkersburg Sentinel, (W. Va.) relating to arrest, trial and conviction of Rev. W. D. Hopkins, a Baptist preacher, of Bluefield, the same state. Rev. Hopkins was charged with having too much "booze" on board and holding up two colored lads on the street at the point of his shooting iron. Recorder Crockett sentenced the hilarious parson at 90 days in jail, at hard labor, and to pay a fine of \$200. Not having the cash, and being unable to escape the jail part of his sentence, this cold-water-and-whisky sky-pilot had a ball and chain put on him and was put to actual labor under an armed guard.

From the London Freethinker, we learn that the recent annual conference of the National Secular Society, held at Liverpool, England, was a greater success than preceding conferences, both in point of attendance and the importance of business transacted. Mr. G. W. Foote was again re-elected president, which everybody expected and none opposed. Why cannot the Freethinkers of America enjoy annual meetings of this character?

An error was made by the Blade in its announced price for Mrs. Lucas' new book, "View of Lambert's Notes on Ingersoll." We had set the price at one dollar, but it should be 75 cents. The book is ready for immediate delivery upon order, The Blade having received its portion through the kindness of Mrs. Lucas, the author.

Rev. Mr. Cloaky, pastor of the Presbyterian church at Troy, Ohio, has been greatly shocked by the use of the word "Dammit" in Sheridan's play called "The Rivals," recently given by the graduates of the High School at that place during Commencement exercises. Rev. Cloaky demands the expurgation of the world from the play without even consulting the author, his friends, or his publishers, but his indignation points not to the Bible which contains far more profane and filthy sentences, nor does he ask for any expurgation of its pages. If to use the word quoted is to imply a bad example for young children, then Rev. Cloaky ought to keep the Bible under lock and key to prevent it falling into the hands of girls and young children.

Dr. Gotthard Deutsch, of the Hebrew Union College, Cincinnati, Ohio, has filed a protest with the Board of Education regarding the use of the name "Christ" during the Commencement exercises of the High School. And he has also stirred up a hornet's nest. A counter protest was filed by the Presbyterians and now the Board will have to wrestle with the problem, even as Jacob wrestled with the Lord. Basing their protest upon a partisan ruling of a partisan judge of the United States Supreme Court, that this is a "Christian nation," they argue that the use of the name of "Christ" is appropriate on all public occasions. If the American people were unanimous regarding a belief in Christ, such an argument might have great weight, but serious divisions existing in public opinion and belief, Prof. Deutsch is right and the Presbyterians are wrong.

Pastor Charles T. Russell, of Pittsburg, who recently paid several thousand dollars alimony, must be a sort of lady-killer, for it is reported that he has caused the arrest of Miss Elizabeth Harsam, a member of Russell's Watch Tower Society, because the young lady insisted upon kissing him. Were it but kisses the girl sought, the dear pastor might have planted a resounding smack upon her ruby lips and gratified her ambition, but, it was in public and many prying eyes were in close vicinage.