

The
Ingersoll
Birthday
Book



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THE INGERSOLL
BIRTHDAY BOOK

ARRANGED BY

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DESIGNED BY THE COMMISSIONERS

Robert G. Ingersoll, 1897

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THE INGERSOLL
BIRTHDAY BOOK

ARRANGED BY

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No. 1





Eva Ingersoll-Brown

PREFACE.

A GREAT man is at once the simplest and the most complex of all nature's creatures. He is as "many-sided as the clouds are many formed." He is simplicity incarnate and sagacity supreme. His brain has the clearness and candor of light—his soul the poise and breadth of truth itself—his heart the jocund laughter and the tears of pure and spotless childhood.

A great man is the embodiment of infinite compassion—of pure democracy—of lustrous truth—of all-embracing love.

He is an intellectual spendthrift. To him "giving is hoarding, summer is harvest, and waste itself the source of wealth;" and the "more he gives" of his "mental gold," "the more he has," for it is "infinite."

A great man is universal, elemental, cosmic. His being is sun-touched and godlike—attuned to the higher harmonies of life and death, and all that makes for beauty and completion;—"a man to match the mountains and compel the stars to look our way, and honor us"—and such a man was Robert G. Ingersoll.

A fetterless Freethinker and Agnostic, his creed was:

“To love justice, to long for the right, to love mercy, to pity the suffering, to assist the weak, to forget wrongs, and remember benefits; to love the truth, to be sincere, to utter honest words, to love liberty, to wage relentless war against slavery in all its forms, to love wife and child and friend, to make a happy home, to love the beautiful in art, in nature, to cultivate the mind, to be familiar with the mighty thoughts that genius has expressed, the noble deeds of all the world; to cultivate courage and cheerfulness, to make others happy, to fill life with the splendor of generous deeds, the warmth of loving words; to discard error, to destroy prejudice, to receive new truth with gladness, to cultivate hope, to see the calm beyond the storm, the dawn beyond the night, to do the best that can be done, and then to be resigned.”

Than this a more inspiring, noble and complete declaration of faith was never born of human heart and brain. And, above all be it said, to the eternal glory of this transcendent man, that he lived in absolute accord with these his high ideals. His life was one unbroken melody of thought and deed, of heart and hand, of will and act—one sublime symphony of conscience and of conduct, of precept and of practice—one lofty consecration to the service of his fellow-men.

In his nature “duties and desires clasped hands, and became comrades and friends.” He realized that true happiness can come alone through right doing; that “honor’s wounds are self-inflicted,” and that, provided one is sovereign of oneself, one is invulnerable to a united and a hostile world. In other words, a man has but one

enemy—himself. He believed in the independence and integrity of the intellect, the kingship of the mind and soul, the heart and being. He was an individualist—believed in the power of personality, of character, the dignity and force of the ego. He was also (if I may employ such a term) an altruist—a passionate lover and server of humanity—a pitier and helper of the poor, despised and outcast of every land and clime—an ardent advocate of liberty, a devout believer in democracy, in social *justice* but not in charity, which, in his opinion, only tended to foster a false, degrading spirit among men; to make them slaves, and rob them of what small faint spark of manhood they may have had before.

He distinguished with unerring eye the gold from the dross—the real from the artificial values of life. He knew that the only true caste is the caste of the mind—the only true superiority, the superiority of heart and soul—the only real aristocracy, the aristocracy of intellect, of achievement—the only real nobility, the nobility of nature and character development.

Ingersoll was, I believe, the most profoundly ethical, the most deeply spiritual, the most truly religious of men. His was the only real religion; the religion of goodness, of justice and of mercy, the *religion of humanity*; and his whole life was one heroic consecration to the futherance of his religion. I beg leave to repeat this all-important fact; Ingersoll was a religious man—religious in the highest and holiest, the only true sense of the term; religious in his irrepressible and matchless zeal for truth, religious in his love for and trust in

humanity, religious in his fine, intrepid fealty to facts, to justice and to rectitude; religious in his temperament of storm and fire—religious in his splendid scorn of wrong—in his superb capacity for wrath and for rebellion—religious in his peerless power for tenderness, for pity, and for love; religious even in his fearless enmity to creed and cant, to every form of futile dogma, ignorant theology, and childish faith—to base hypocrisy that masquerades as virtue and as truth; religious in his very detestation of the church; for the term religious, rightly conceived, signifies no unreasoning adherence to puerile formula, or stupid rite, no self-effacement through humble and unquestioning faith in things beyond the grasp of mortal mind, such as the worship of (a) God, but rather a large capacity for lofty thoughts, for loving words, for brave and generous deeds.

Moreover Ingersoll, to the extent that he was religious, was not so much destructive as *constructive*, not so much an iconoclast as an *upbuilder*, a *conservator*, a sower of the seeds that shall in time to come bear quite the richest fruitage that the world has ever known. For what is there so affirmative, so constructive as scientific truths, as bed-rock facts, as free, untrammelled thought and speech, as the countless marvelous inventions and discoveries born of the mind of man, as all the vast, well traversed fields in knowledge's grand domain, as all the mental wealth that genius has produced? For all these things, Ingersoll, the *apostle of Secularism*, fought.

The true philosopher, poet, or seer is necessarily constructive; his vision—that divine, immortal something

that gives to our small life its sweetness, melody and joy—while it is ever idealistic, married to a dream, cloud-swept and “luminous with suns”—is nevertheless sane and practical, hence preeminently constructive. Therefore Ingersoll, being, in the highest degree, poet, philosopher and seer, had a vision—a “vision of the future,” wherein he saw a “world at peace, adorned with every form of art, with music’s myriad voices thrilled; a world without disease of flesh or brain, shapely and fair, the married harmony of form and function,” and as he looked “life lengthens, joy deepens, love canopies the earth, and over all shines the eternal star of human hope.”

Ingersoll hated orthodoxy and the church because they are the fierce, inveterate foes of human freedom; because they stand as they have ever stood, for fear and fraud, hypocrisy and greed, for selfishness and sin—because they crown the coward, and debase the brave—because they crush on every possible occasion, honest doubt, and seek to extirpate all those who dare to speak their fearless thought—because they are the bitter enemies of progress and enlightenment—because they are the emblems of ignorance and might—the last poor remnants of a dark and blood-stained past—the trappings and externals of the most colossal *lie* mankind has ever lived, or has believed these dreary ages past.

Ingersoll in his characterization of Shakespeare, I think, described himself. “He was an intellectual ocean whose waves touched all the shores of thought, within which were all the tides and waves of destiny and will, over which swept all the storms of fate, ambition

and revenge, and within which was the inverted sky lit with the eternal stars—an intellectual ocean, towards which all rivers ran, and from which now the isles and continents of thought receive their dew and rain.”

This Birthday Book contains selections from Ingersoll's most characteristic utterances, his thoughts in miniature, and at the same time its scope embraces the widest variety. Here are glimpses of the “cloud-capped towers, the gorgeous palaces, the solemn temples, the great globe” of his complete works. Thus the purpose for which, with painstaking care, the selections have been chosen, is admirably served.

E. I. B.

THE INGERSOLL BIRTHDAY BOOK





ORN of love and hope, of ecstasy and pain, of agony and fear, of tears and joy—dowered with the wealth of two united hearts—held in happy arms, with lips upon life's drifted font, blue-veined and fair, where perfect peace finds perfect form; rocked by willing feet and wooed to shadowy shore of sleep by siren mother singing soft and low—looking with wonder's wide and startled eyes at common things of life and day—taught by want and wish and contact with the things that touch the dimpled flesh of babes—lured by light and flame, and charmed by color's wondrous robes—learning the use of hands and feet, and by the love of mimicry beguiled to utter speech—releasing prisoned thoughts from crabbed and curious marks on soiled and tattered leaves—puzzling the brain with crooked numbers and their changing, tangled worth; and so through years of alternating day and night, until the captive grows familiar with the chains and walls and limitations of a life.

And times runs on in sun and shade, until the one of all the world is wooed and won, and all the lore of love is taught and learned again. Again a home is built with the fair chamber wherein faint dreams, like cool and shadowy vales, divide the billowed hours of love. Again the miracle of a birth—the pain and joy, the kiss of welcome and the cradle-song drowning the drowsy prattle of a babe.

And then the sense of obligation and of wrong—pity for those who toil and weep—tears for the imprisoned and despised—love for the generous dead, and in the heart the rapture of a high resolve.

And then ambition, with its lust of pelf and place and power, longing to put upon its breast distinction's worthless badge. Then keener thoughts of men, and eyes that see behind the smiling mask of craft, flattered no more by the obsequious cringe of gain and greed—knowing the uselessness of hoarded gold—of honor bought from those who charge the usury of self-respect—of power that only bends a coward's knees and forces

from the lips of fear the lies of praise. Knowing at last the unstudied gesture of esteem, the reverent eyes made rich with honest thought; and holding high above all other things—high as hope's great throbbing star above the darkness of the dead—the love of wife and child and friend.

Then locks of gray, and growing love of other days and half-remembered things—then holding withered hands of those who first held his, while over dim and loving eyes death softly presses down the lids of rest.

And so, locking in marriage vows his children's hands and crossing others on the breasts of peace, with daughters' babes upon his knees, the white hair mingling with the gold, he journeys on from day to day to that horizon where the dusk is waiting for the night. At last, sitting by the holy hearth of home as evening's embers change from red to gray, he falls asleep within the arms of her he worshiped and adored, feeling upon his pallid lips loves' last and holiest kiss.

—Life.

Love was the first
to dream of immortality

R. G. Ingersoll

Sept 27th 1895



IF not a human being lived . . . the changing Seasons would come and go, time would repeat the poem of the year, Spring with deft and unseen hands would weave her robes of green, life with countless lips would seek fair Summer's swelling breasts, Autumn would reap the wealth of leaf and fruit and seed, Winter, the artist, would etch in frost the pines and ferns, while wind and wave and fire, old architects, with ceaseless toil would still destroy and build, still wreck and change, and from the dust of death produce again the throb and breath of life.



January 1.



INTER is the mother of industry and prudence. Civilization, liberty, justice, charity, intellectual advancement are all flowers that blossom in the drifted snow.

—Liberty of Man, Woman and Child.

January 2.



WHETHER the Bible is true or false is of no consequence in comparison with the mental freedom of the race. Salvation through slavery is worthless. Salvation from slavery is inestimable.

—The Gods.

January 3.



THE man who has a good business and who can make a reasonable living and lay aside something for the future, and who can educate his children and can leave enough to keep the wolf of want from the door of those he loves, ought to be the happiest of men.

—How to Reform Mankind.

January 4.



OF his world man should be sovereign, and his soul should wear the purple. From his dominions should be banished the hosts of force and fear.

—The Truth.

GRATITUDE is the fairest flower that sheds its perfume in the heart.

—Decoration Day.

————— *January 1.* —————

————— *January 2.* —————

————— *January 3.* —————

————— *January 4.* —————

January 5.

THE world remains with its winters and homes and firesides, where grow and bloom the virtues of our race. All these are left; and music, with its sad and thrilling voice, and all there is of art and song and hope and love and aspiration high. All these remain. Let the ghosts go—we will worship them no more.

—The Ghosts.

January 6.

THE sciences are not sectarian. People do not persecute each other on account of disagreements in mathematics. Families are not divided about botany, and astronomy does not even tend to make a man hate his father and mother. It is what people do not know, that they persecute each other about. Science will bring, not a sword, but peace.

—Some Mistakes of Moses.

January 7.

THE imagination hath a stage within the brain, whereon he sets all scenes that lie between the morn of laughter and the night of tears, and where his players body forth the false and true, the joys and griefs, the careless shallows and the tragic deeps of every life.

—The Imagination.

January 8.

THE orator loves the real, the simple, the natural. He places the thought above all. He knows that the greatest ideas should be expressed in the shortest words—that the greatest statue needs the least drapery.

—Abraham Lincoln.

MARTYRDOM, as a rule, establishes the sincerity of the martyr—never the correctness of his thought.

—The Great Infidels.

————— *January 5.* —————

————— *January 6.* —————

————— *January 7.* —————

————— *January 8.* —————

January 9.



LIBERTY is the soil and light and rain—it is the plant and bud and flower and fruit—and in that sacred word lie all the seeds of progress, love and joy.

—Liberty of Man, Woman and Child.

January 10.



THE superior man is the providence of the inferior. He is eyes for the blind, strength for the weak, and a shield for the defenseless. He stands erect by bending above the fallen. He rises by lifting others.

—Liberty of Man, Woman and Child.

January 11.



THE world should know that the real bible has not yet been written, but is being written, and that it will never be finished until the race begins its downward march, or ceases to exist.

—The Real Bible.

January 12.



IT is not necessary to be rich or to be great or to be powerful, to be happy. The happy man is the successful man. Happiness is the legal tender of the soul. Joy is wealth.

—Liberty of Man, Woman and Child.

LOVE is the many-colored flame that makes the fire-side of the heart. It is the mingled Spring and Autumn—the perfect climate of the soul.

—Shakespeare.

January 9.

January 10.

January 11.

January 12.

January 13.

TO civilize the world, to hasten the coming of the golden dawn of the Perfect Day, we must educate the children, we must commence at the cradle, at the lap of the loving mother.

—How to Reform Mankind.

January 14.

TO him and for him there was but one religion—the religion of pure thoughts, of noble words, of self-denying deeds, of honest work for all the world—the religion of Help and Hope.

—Tribute to Courtlandt Palmer.

January 15.

LET us believe that pure thoughts, brave words and generous deeds can never die. Let us believe that they bear fruit and add forever to the well being of the human race. Let us believe that a noble, self-denying life increases the moral wealth of man, and gives assurance that the future will be grander than the past,

—Tribute to Courtlandt Palmer.

January 16.

THE record of a generous life runs like a vine around the memory of our dead, and every sweet, unselfish act is now a perfumed flower.

—Tribute to Ebon C. Ingersoll.

THE real church, the real edifice is adorned and glorified with all that art has done.

—How to Reform Mankind.

————— *January 13.* —————

————— *January 14.* —————

————— *January 15.* —————

————— *January 16.* —————

January 17.



AM told that I must render good for evil. I am told that if smitten on one cheek I must turn the other. I am told that I must overcome evil with good. I am told that I must love my euemies; and will it do for this God who tells me to love my enemies to damn his? No, it will not do. It will not do.

January 18.



ATHERS and mothers should do their utmost to make their children free. They should teach them to doubt, to inquire, and every father and mother should know that by the cradle of every child, as by the cradle of the infant Hercules, crawls the serpent of superstition.

—Voltaire.

January 19.



HE Infidels have been the brave and thoughtful men; the flower of all the world; the pioneers and heralds of the blessed day of liberty and love; the generous spirits of the unworthy past; the seers and profits of our race; the great chivalric souls, proud victors on the battlefields of thought, the creditors of all the years to be.

—Voltaire.

January 20.



S a matter of fact the truth does not need to be inspired. Nothing needs inspiration except a falsehood or a mistake. Where truth ends, where probability stops, inspiration begins. A fact never went into partnership with a miracle. Truth does not need the assistance of miracle.

—Some Mistakes of Moses.

————— *January 17.* —————

————— *January 18.* —————

————— *January 19.* —————

————— *January 20.* —————

January 21.

BY physical liberty I mean the right to do anything which does not interfere with the happiness of another. By intellectual liberty I mean the right to think right and the right to think wrong. Thought is the means by which we endeavor to arrive at truth. If we know the truth already we need not think. All that can be required is honesty of purpose.

—Liberty of Man, Woman and Child.

January 22.

THEOLOGY is not a science. If it were God would forgive his children for being mistaken about it. If it could be proved like geology, or astronomy, there would be no merit in believing it.

—Interviews on Talmage.

January 23.

THE most important thing in this world is liberty. More important than food or clothes—more important than gold or houses—more important than all religions, is the liberty of man.

—Argument in Trial for Blasphemy.

January 24.

MY gospel of health will bring life. My gospel of intelligence, my gospel of good living, my gospel of good-fellowship will cover the world with happy homes. My doctrine will put carpets upon your floors, pictures upon your walls. My doctrine will put books upon your shelves, ideas in your minds.

—What Must We Do to Be Saved?

January 21.

January 22.

January 23.

January 24.

January 25.

THIS world is like a great orange-tree, and we are oranges. Let us squeeze life so that when death comes we can say, You are welcome to the withered shell. Happiness comes from noble doing and the doing of what you believe to be your duty. You lessen poverty by teaching men to rely on themselves, but what you want is to take superstition from the shoulders of industry.

—Which Way?

January 26.

IWOULD rather listen to Tristan and Isolde—that Mississippi of melody—where the great notes winged like eagles lift the soul above the cares and griefs of this weary world—than to all the orthodox sermons ever preached. I would rather look at the Venus de Milo than to read the Presbyterian creed.

—Myth and Miracle.

January 27.

THE time will come when the truly intelligent man cannot be happy, cannot be satisfied, when millions of his fellow-men are hungry and naked. The time will come when in every heart will be the perfume of pity's sacred flower.

—How to Reform Mankind.

January 28.

FORTUNATE is that nation great enough to know the great. Intelligence, integrity and courage are the great pillars that support the State.

How poor this world would be without its graves, without the memory of its mighty dead. Only the voiceless speak forever.

—Tribute to Roscoe Conkling.

————— *January 25.* —————

————— *January 26.* —————

————— *January 27.* —————

————— *January 28.* —————

January 29.

HE was born among the poor in a country where children were burdens, where intellectual liberty was infidelity. Poverty was his mother. Necessity was his master. . . . He died in the land his genius defended, under the flag he gave to the skies. His life was what the world calls a failure, and what history calls success.

—Thomas Paine.

January 30.

FREETHINKERS should make the Sabbath a day of mirth and music, a day to spend with wife and child—a day of games, and books and dreams—a day to put fresh flowers above our sleeping dead—a day of memory and hope, of love and rest.

—Some Mistakes of Moses.

January 31.

HAPPINESS is the only good. The way to be happy is to make others happy. Other things being equal, that man is happiest who is nearest just—who is truthful, merciful and intelligent—in other words, the one who lives in accordance with the conditions in life.

—Interviews.



————— *January 29.* —————

————— *January 30.* —————

————— *January 31.* —————



HE loved the winter days, the whirl and drift of snow—
all forms of frost—the rage and fury of the storm,
when in the forest desolate and stripped, the brave old
pine towers green and grand—a prophecy of Spring.



Paul Berdanier

February 1.



THE time to be happy is now, and the place to be happy is here. Reason is the lamp of the mind—the only torch of progress; and instead of blowing that out and depending upon darkness and dogma, it is far better to increase that sacred light.

—Interviews.

February 2.



LET every human being do all the good he can, and let him bind up the wounds of his fellow-creatures, and at the same time put forth every effort to hasten the coming of a better day.

—How to Reform Mankind.

February 3.



IF I understand myself, I advocate only the doctrines that in my judgment will make this world happier and better. If I know myself, I advocate only those things that will make a man a better citizen, a better father, a kinder husband—that will make a woman a better wife, a better mother—doctrines that will fill every home with sunshine and joy.

—Argument in the Blasphemy Case.

February 4.



ABOVE all creeds, above all religions, after all is that divine thing, Humanity; and now and then in shipwreck on the wide, wide sea, or 'mid the rocks and breakers of some cruel shore, or where the serpents of flame writhe and hiss, some glorious heart, some chivalric soul, does a deed that glitters like a star, and gives the lie to all the dogmas of superstition.

—Liberty.

February 1.

February 2.

February 3.

February 4.

February 5.

FEAR paralyzes the brain. Progress is born of courage. Fear believes—courage doubts. Fear falls upon the earth and prays—courage stands erect and thinks. Fear retreats—courage advances. Fear is barbarism—courage is civilization. Fear believes in witchcraft, in devils and in ghosts. Fear is religion—courage is science.

—The Ghosts.

February 6.

DOWN, forever down, with any religion that requires upon its ignorant altar the sacrifice of the goddess Reason, that compels her to abdicate forever the shining throne of the soul, strips from her form the imperial purple, snatches from her hand the sceptre of thought and makes her the bond-woman of a senseless faith!

—Thomas Paine.

February 7.

HE did not fear to stand alone. His brain took counsel of his heart. To every foe he offered reconciliation's hand. He loved this land of ours and added to its glory through the world.

—Tribute to H. W. Beecher.

ALL the sciences—except theology—are eager for facts—hungry for the truth. On the brow of a finder of a fact the laurel is placed.

—The Truth.

February 8.

ART is the highest form of expression. Through art thoughts become visible and exist for the sake of expression. Back of forms are the desire, the longing, the brooding creative instinct, the maternity of mind and the passion that give pose and swell, outline and color.

—Art and Morality.

February 5.

February 6.

February 7.

February 8.

February 9.



ALL our sympathies should be with the men who work, who toil; for the women who labor for themselves and children; because we know that labor is the foundation of all, and that those who labor are the caryatides that support the structure and glittering dome of civilization and progress.

—How to Reform Mankind.

February 10.



IF men were incapable of suffering, the words right and wrong never could have been spoken. If man were destitute of imagination, the flower of pity never could have blossomed in his heart. We suffer—we cause others to suffer—those that we love—and of this fact conscience is born.

—Shakespeare.

February 11.



MIRACLES are not simply impossible, but they are unthinkable by any man capable of thinking. Now an intelligent man cannot believe that a miracle ever was, or ever will be performed. Ignorance is the soil in which belief in miracles grows.

—Superstition.

February 12.



THE great orator idealizes the real, transfigures the common, makes even the inanimate throb and thrill, fills the gallery of imagination with statues and pictures perfect in form and color, brings to light the gold hoarded by memory the miser, shows the glittering coin to the spendthrift hope, enriches the brain, ennobles the heart, and quickens the conscience.

—Abraham Lincoln.


February 9.

February 10.

February 11.


February 12.

February 13.


S far as I am concerned I wish to be out on the high seas. I wish to take my chances with wind and wave and star. And I had rather go down in the glory and grandeur of the storm than to rot in any orthodox harbor whatever.

—Liberty of Man, Woman and Child.

February 14.


OVE is the only bow on life's dark cloud. It is the morning and evening star. It shines upon the babe, and sheds its radiance on the quiet tomb. It is the mother of art, inspirer of poet, patriot and philosopher. It is the air and light of every heart—builder of every home, kindler of every fire on every hearth. It was the first to dream of immortality.

February 15.

NEW era is dawning on the world. We are beginning to believe in the religion of usefulness. Tell the truth, develop your brains, use your senses, and hold high the torch of Reason.

—The Truth.

February 16.

O do all the good you can is to be a saint in the highest sense. To do all the good you can; this is to be really and truly spiritual. To relieve suffering, to put the star of hope in the midnight of despair, this is truly holiness. This is the religion of Science.

—How to Reform Mankind.

————— *February 13.* —————

————— *February 14.* —————

————— *February 15.* —————

————— *February 16.* —————

February 17.

NOTHING can be grander than to sow the seeds of noble thoughts and virtuous deeds—to liberate the bodies and the souls of men—to earn the grateful homage of a race—and then in life's last shadowy hour to know that the historian of Liberty will be compelled to write your name.

—Tribute to Roscoe Conkling.

February 18.

THERE are no words intense enough—with heart enough—to express my admiration for the great and gallant souls who have in every age and every land upheld the right, and who have lived and died for freedom's sake.

—Tribute to Roscoe Conkling.

February 19.

THERE is a law higher than any statute. There is a law higher than any constitution. It is the law of the human conscience, and no man who is a man will defile and pollute his conscience at the bidding of any legislature. Above all things one should maintain his self-respect, and there is but one way to do that, and that is to live in accordance with your highest ideal. —Argument in Blasphemy Case.

February 20.

SCIENCE is the great physician. His touch has given sight. He has made the lame to leap, the deaf to hear, the dumb to speak, and in the pallid face his hand has set the rose of health. Science has given his beloved sleep and wrapped in happy dreams the throbbing nerves of pain. Science is the destroyer of disease, builder of happy homes, the preserver of life and love.

—Myth and Miracle.

————— *February 17.* —————

————— *February 18.* —————

————— *February 19.* —————

————— *February 20.* —————

February 21.



BELIEF in one God is claimed to be a dogma of almost infinite importance, that without this belief civilization is impossible, and that this fact is the sun around which all the virtues revolve. For my part, I think it infinitely more important to believe in men. Theology is a superstition—Humanity is religion.

—Some Mistakes of Moses.

February 22.



HERE can be nothing more utterly subversive of all that is really valuable than the suppression of honest thought. No man worthy of the form he bears will at the command of church or state solemnly repeat a creed his reason scorns.

—Individuality.

February 23.



HE hands that help are better far
Than lips that pray.
Love is the ever gleaming star
That leads the way—
That shines not on vague worlds of bliss,
But on a paradise in this.

—Declaration of the Free.

February 24.



HERE is only one way to be happy, and that is to make somebody else so, and you cannot be happy by going cross lots; you have got to go the regular turnpike road.

—Liberty of Man, Woman and Child.

I THINK more of reasons than of reputation, more of principles than of persons, more of nature than of names, more of facts than of faiths.

—Interviews on Talmage.

————— *February 21.* —————

————— *February 22.* —————

————— *February 23.* —————

————— *February 24.* —————

February 25.



IN the universe there is no chance, no caprice. Every event has parents.

That which has not happened could not. The present is the necessary product of all the past, the necessary cause of all the future.

—Religion.

February 26.



IF you have but a dollar in the world, and you have got to spend it, spend it like a king; spend it as though it were a dry leaf and you the owner of unbounded forests! That's the way to spend it.

—Liberty of Man, Woman and Child.

February 27.



WORDS are the garments of thought, the robes of ideas. Some are as rude as the skins of wild beasts, and others glisten and glitter like silk and gold. They have been born of hatred and revenge; of love and sacrifice; of hope and fear; of agony and joy. These words are born of the terror and beauty of nature. The stars have fashioned them. In them mingle the darkness and dawn.

—The Ghosts.

February 28.



GOOD fathers and mothers wish their children to advance, to overcome obstacles which baffled them, and to correct the errors of their education. If you wish to reflect credit upon your parents, accomplish more than they did, solve problems that they could not understand, and build better than they knew.

—Some Mistakes of Moses.

February 25.

February 26.

February 27.

February 28.

February 29.



WITH him the man was greater than the king,
the woman than the queen. The greatest were
the noblest and the noblest were those who
loved their fellow-men the best, the ones who
filled their lives with generous deeds.

—Robert Burns.



February 29.



EVERY flower that gives its fragrance to the wandering air leaves its influence on the soul of man. The wheel and swoop of the winged creatures of the air suggest the flowing lines of subtle art. The roar and murmur of the restless sea, the cataract's solemn chant, the thunder's voice, the happy babble of the brook, the whispering leaves, the thrilling notes of mating birds, the sighing winds, taught man to pour his heart in song and gave a voice to grief and hope, to love and death.



Paul Berdanier

March 1.

THE human race was imprisoned. Through some of the prison bars came a few struggling rays of light. Against these bars Science pressed its pale and thoughtful face, wooed by the holy dawn of human advancement. Bar after bar was broken away. A few grand men escaped and devoted their lives to the liberation of their fellows.

—Liberty of Man, Woman and Child.

March 2.

HUMOR is one of the most valuable things in the human brain. It is the torch of the mind—it sheds light. Humor is the readiest test of truth—of the natural, of the sensible—and when you take from a man all sense of humor, there will only be enough left to make a bigot.

—Argument in Blasphemy Case.

March 3.

THE firmament inlaid with suns is the dome of the real cathedral. The interpreters of nature are the true and only priests. In the great creed are all the truths that lips have uttered, and in the real litany will be found all the ecstasies and aspirations of the soul, all dreams of joy, all hopes for nobler, fuller life.

—How to Reform Mankind.

March 4.

TRUE religion is the perfume of a free and grateful heart. True religion is a subordination of the passions to the perceptions of the intellect. True religion is not a theory—it is a practice. It is not a creed—it is a life.

—The Ghosts.

TO plow is to pray; to plant is to prophesy; and the harvest answers and fulfills.

————— *March 1.* —————

————— *March 2.* —————

————— *March 3.* —————

————— *March 4.* —————

March 5.

ALL should be taught that the highest ambition is to be happy, and to add to the well-being of others; that place and power are not necessary to success; that the desire to acquire great wealth is a kind of insanity. They should be taught that it is a waste of energy, a waste of thought, a waste of life, to acquire what you do not really use for the benefit of yourself or others. —How to Reform Mankind.

March 6.

HE should be intellectually hospitable. Prejudice, egotism, hatred, contempt, disdain, are the enemies of truth and progress.

—The Truth.

THE holiest temple beneath the stars is a home that love has built. And the holiest altar in all the wide world is the fireside around which gather father and mother and sweet babes.

—What Must We Do to Be Saved?

March 7.

SUPERSTITION is the child of slavery. Free-thought will give us truth. When all have the right to think and to express their thoughts, every brain will give to all the best it has. The world will then be filled with intellectual wealth.

—Liberty of Man, Woman and Child.

March 8.

IT is far more important that you love your children than that you love Jesus Christ. And why? If he is God you cannot help him, but you can plant a little flower of happiness in every footstep of the child, from the cradle until you die in that child's arms. Let me tell you to-day it is far more important to build a home than to erect a church.

—What Must We Do to Be Saved?

March 5.

March 6.

March 7.

March 8.

March 9.



UT Genius knows all time. For him the dead all live and breathe, and act their countless parts again. All human life is in his now, and every moment feels the thrill of all to be.

—Tribute to H. W. Beecher.

March 10.



RELIGION, to command the respect of intelligent men, should rest on a foundation of established facts. It should appeal, not to passions, not to hope and fear, but to the judgment. It should ask that all the faculties of the mind, all the senses, should assemble and take counsel together, and that its claims be passed upon and tested without prejudice, without fear.

—The Truth.

March 11.



RELIGIONS are for a day. They are the clouds. Humanity is the eternal blue. Religions are the waves of the sea. These waves depend upon the force and direction of the wind—that is to say, of passion; but Humanity is the great sea. And so our religions change from day to day, and it is a blessed thing that they do.

—Argument in Blasphemy Case.

March 12.



BELIEVE in the gospel of good living. You cannot make any god happy by fasting. Let us have good food, and let us have it well cooked—and it is a thousand times better to know how to cook than it is to understand any theology in the world.

—What Must We Do to Be Saved?

March 9.

March 10.

March 11.

March 12.

March 13.



HAVE infinite respect for the inventors, the thinkers, the discoverers, and above all, for the unknown millions who have, without the hope of fame, lived and labored for the ones they loved.

—Interviews.

March 14.



FOR all the blessings that we now enjoy—for progress in every form, for science and art—for all that has lengthened life, that has conquered disease, that has lessened pain; for raiment, roof and food, for music in its highest forms, . . . for all this we are indebted to the worldly—to those who turned their attention to the affairs of this life.

—Myth and Miracle.

March 15.



EVERY sermon in which men have been told that they could save their souls by believing has been an injury. Such sermons dull the moral sense and subvert the true conception of virtue and duty.

—The Ghosts.

March 16.



THE religionist of to-day wants the ship of his soul to lie at the wharf of orthodoxy and rot in the sun. He delights to hear the sails of old opinions flap against the masts of old creeds. He loves to see the joints and the sides open and gape in the sun, and it is a kind of a bliss for him to repeat again and again: "Let me go backward rather than forward."

—Liberty of Man, Woman and Child.

March 13.

March 14.

March 15.

March 16.

March 17.

IT seems that Adam saw nothing that struck his fancy. The fairest ape, the sprightliest chimpanzee, the loveliest baboon, the most bewitching orangoutang, the most fascinating gorilla failed to touch with love's sweet pain poor Adam's lonely heart. Let us rejoice that this was so. Had he fallen in love then, there never would have been a Freethinker in this world. —Some Mistakes of Moses.

March 18.

THE theologian arrives at the unthinkable, the inconceivable, and he calls this God. The scientist arrives at the unthinkable, the inconceivable, and calls it the Unknown.

—The Foundation of Faith.

March 19.

IBELIEVE in intellectual hospitality. I love men that have a little horizon to their minds—a little sky, a little scope. I hate anything that is narrow and pinched and withered and mean and crawling, and that is willing to live on dust. I believe in creating such an atmosphere that things will burst into blossom.

—Argument in Blasphemy Case.

March 20.

INFIDELITY is liberty; all religion is slavery. In every creed man is the slave of God—woman is the slave of man and the sweet children are the slaves of all. We do not want creeds; we want knowledge—we want happiness. —Thomas Paine.

TRUTH is made no worse by the one who tells it, and a lie gets no real benefit from the reputation of its author.

—Interviews.

————— *March 17.* —————

————— *March 18.* —————

————— *March 19.* —————

————— *March 20.* —————

March 21.

NEARLY all people stand in great horror of annihilation, and yet to give up your individuality is to annihilate yourself. Mental slavery is mental death, and every man who has given up his intellectual freedom is the living coffin of his dead soul. In this sense, every church is a cemetery and every creed an epitaph.

—Individuality.

March 22.

EVERY man must bear the consequences at least of his own actions. If he puts his hands in the fire, *his* hands must smart, and not the hands of another. In other words, each man must eat the fruit of the tree he plants.

—Interviews.

March 23.

SCIENCE is gradually widening the area within which men of genius can be produced. We are conquering the north with houses, clothing, food and fuel. We are in many ways overcoming the heat of the south. If we attend to this world instead of another we may in time cover the land with men and women of genius.

—Liberty of Man, Woman and Child.

March 24.

THE undressed is vulgar—the nude is pure. The statues, frankly, proudly nude, whose free and perfect limbs have never known the sacrilege of clothes, were and are as free from taint, as pure, as stainless, as the image of the morning star trembling in a drop of perfumed dew.

—Art and Morality.

March 21.

March 22.

March 23.

March 24.

March 25.



MORALITY is the harmony between act and circumstance. It is the melody of conduct. A great statue does not suggest labor; it seems to have been created as a joy. A great painting suggests no weariness and no effort; the greater, the easier it seems. So a great and splendid life seems to have been without effort.

—Art and Morality.

March 26.



IN a little while a man will find that he cannot steal without robbing himself. He will find that he cannot murder without assassinating his own joy. He will find that every crime is a mistake. He will find that only that man carries the cross who does wrong, and that upon the man who does right the cross turns to wings that will bear him upward forever.

—What Must We Do to Be Saved?

March 27.



SUPERSTITION is the serpent that crawls and hisses in every Eden and fastens its poisonous fangs in the hearts of men. It is the deadliest foe of the human race.

—The Truth.

MY doctrine will give us health, wealth and happiness. That is what I want. That is what I believe in. Give us intelligence.

—What Must We Do to Be Saved?

March 28.



SCIENCE denies the truth of myth and miracle, denies that human testimony can substantiate the miraculous, denies the existence of the supernatural. Science asserts the absolute, the unvarying uniformity of nature. Science insists that the present is the child of all the past, and that nature is forever the same.

—Myth and Miracle.

————— *March 25.* —————

————— *March 26.* —————

————— *March 27.* —————

————— *March 28.* —————

March 29.



AS man develops, he places a greater value upon his own rights. Liberty becomes a grander and diviner thing. As he values his own rights, he begins to value the rights of others. And when all men give to all others all the rights they claim for themselves this world will be civilized.

—Liberty of Man, Woman and Child.

March 30.



REASON, Observation and Experience, the Holy Trinity of Science, have taught us that happiness is the only good; that the time to be happy is now, and that the way to be happy is to make others so.

—The Gods.

March 31.



WHEN we look upon a flower, a painting, a statue, a star, or a violet, the more we know, the more we have experienced, the more we have thought, the more we remember, the more the statue, the star, the painting, the violet, has to tell. Nature says to me all that I am capable of understanding—gives all that I can receive. As with star, or flower, or sea, so with a book.

—Inspiration.



————— *March 29.* —————

————— *March 30.* —————

————— *March 31.* —————



THESE were within his words the subtle spirit of the season's change—of everything that is, of everything that lies between the slumbering seed that, half awakened by the April rain, has dreams of heaven's blue and feels the amorous kisses of the sun, and that strange tomb wherein the alchemist doth give to death's cold dust the throb and thrill of life again. He saw with loving eyes the willows of the meadow streams grow red beneath the glance of Spring—the grass along the marsh's edge—the stir of life beneath the withered leaves—the moss beneath the drift of snow—the flowers that give their bosoms to the first south wind that woos—the sad and timid violets that only bear the gaze of love from eyes half closed—the ferns where fancy gives a thousand forms with but a single plan—the green and sunny slopes enriched with daisy's silver and the cowslip's gold.



April 1.



WE know the difference between hope and knowledge; we hope for happiness here and dream of joy hereafter, but we do not know. We cannot assert, we can only hope. We can have our dream. In the wide night our star can shine and shed its radiance on the graves of those we love. We can bend above our pallid dead and say, that beyond this life there are no sighs, no tears, no breaking hearts.

April 2.



THE idea of immortality that like a sea has ebbed and flowed in the human heart, . . . was not born of any book, nor of any creed, nor of any religion. It was born of human affection, and it will continue to ebb and flow beneath the mists and clouds of doubt and darkness as long as love kisses the lips of death. It is the rainbow—Hope shining upon the fears of grief.

—The Ghosts.

April 3.



PRIESTS have invented a crime called “blasphemy,” and behind that crime hypocrisy has crouched for thousands of years. There is but one blasphemy, and that is injustice. There is but one worship, and that is justice!

—What Must We Do to Be Saved?

April 4.



NO man and no body of men can answer the questions of the Whence and Whither. The mystery of existence cannot be explained by the intellect of man. Back of life, of existence, we cannot go; beyond death we cannot see. All duties, all obligations, all knowledge, all experience, are for this life, for this world.

—The Truth.

————— *April 1.* —————

————— *April 2.* —————

————— *April 3.* —————

————— *April 4.* —————

April 5.



HAPPINESS is the true end and aim of life. It is the task of intelligence to ascertain the conditions of happiness, and when found the truly wise will live in accordance with them. By happiness is meant not simply the joy of eating and drinking—the gratification of the appetite—but good, well-being in the highest and noblest forms.

—Myth and Miracle.

April 6.



THE inventor of the plow did more good than the maker of the first rosary; because, say what you will, plowing is better than praying, but we cannot live by praying without plowing. So I put my faith in the plow.

—Interviews.

April 7.



THIS is my doctrine: Give every human being every right you claim for yourself. Keep your mind open to the influences of nature. Receive new thoughts with hospitality. Let us advance.

—Liberty of Man, Woman and Child.

April 8.



THE poet lives in the world of thought and feeling, and to this the dramatist adds the world of action. He creates characters that seem to act in accordance with their own natures and independently of him. He compresses lives into hours, tells us the secrets of the heart, shows us the spring of action.

—On Shakespeare.

————— April 5. —————

————— April 6. —————

————— April 7. —————

————— April 8. —————

April 9.



THE heretics have not thought and suffered and died in vain. Every heretic has been, and is, a ray of light. Not in vain did Voltaire, that great man, point from the foot of the Alps the finger of scorn at every hypocrite in Europe. Not in vain were the splendid utterances of the Infidels, while beyond all price are the discoveries of science.

—Heretics and Heresies.

April 10.



RELIGION can never reform mankind, because religion is slavery. It is far better to be free, to leave the forts and barricades of fear, to stand erect and face the future with a smile.

—Religion.

April 11.



WHenever I see an exceedingly solemn man, I know he is an exceedingly stupid man. No man of any humor ever founded a religion—never. Humor sees both sides. While reason is the holy light, humor carries the lantern, and the man with a keen sense of humor is preserved from the solemn stupidities of superstition.

—What Must We Do to Be Saved?

April 12.



HAPPINESS is the joy that springs from obligation discharged, from duty done, from generous acts, from being true to the ideal, from a perception of the beautiful in nature, art and conduct; the happiness that is born of and gives birth to poetry and music, that follows the gratification of the highest wants.

—Myth and Miracle.

April 9.

April 10.

April 11.

April 12.

April 13.



HE church of to-day lacks sympathy; the theologians are without affection. After all, sympathy is genius. A man who really sympathizes with another understands him. A man who sympathizes with religion instantly sees the good that is in it, and a man who sympathizes with the right sees the evil that a creed contains.

—Argument in Trial for Blasphemy.

April 14.



AN advances only as he overcomes the obstructions of nature, and this can be done only by labor and by thought. Labor is the foundation of all. Without labor, and without great labor, progress is impossible.

—The Ghosts.

April 15.



ART civilizes because it enlightens, develops, strengthens, ennobles. It deals with the beautiful, with the passionate, with the ideal. It is the child of the heart. To be great it must deal with the human. It must be in accordance with the experience, with the hopes, with the fears, and with the possibilities of man.

—Art and Morality.

April 16.



IF it be good for man to find the truth—good for him to be intellectually honest and hospitable, then it is good for others to know the truth thus found.

—The Truth.

I BELONG to the republic of intellectual liberty, and only those are good citizens of that republic who depend upon persuasion, and only those are traitors who resort to brute force.

—What Must We Do to Be Saved?

————— *April 13.* —————

————— *April 14.* —————

————— *April 15.* —————

————— *April 16.* —————

April 17.



EAR is the dungeon of the mind, and superstition is a dagger with which hypocrisy assassinates the soul. Courage is liberty. I am in favor of absolute freedom of thought. In the realm of mind every one is a monarch; every one is robed, sceptered, and crowned, and every one wears the purple of authority.

—What Must We Do to Be Saved?

April 18.



S long as the church has the power to close the lips of men, so long and no longer will superstition rule this world. Blasphemy is the word that the majority hisses into the ear of the few. After every argument of the church has been answered, has been refuted, then the church cries “blasphemy.”

—Argument in Blasphemy Case.

April 19.



FACT will fit every other fact in the universe, because it is the product of all the other facts. A lie will fit nothing except another lie made for the express purpose of fitting it. After a while the man gets tired of lying, and then the last lie will not fit the next fact, and there is an opportunity to use a miracle. Just at that point, it is necessary to have a little inspiration.

—Some Mistakes of Moses.

April 20.



WANT no heaven for which I must give my reason; no happiness in exchange for my liberty; and no immortality that demands the surrender of my individuality. Better rot in the windowless tomb to which there is no door but the red mouth of the pallid worm, than wear the jeweled collar even of a god.

—Individuality.

————— *April 17.* —————

————— *April 18.* —————

————— *April 19.* —————

————— *April 20.* —————

April 21.

FIND that in this day and generation the meanest men have the lowest estimate of woman; that the greater the man is, the more he thinks of mother, wife and daughter. I also find that just in the proportion that he has lost confidence in the polygamy of Jehovah and in the advice and philosophy of St. Paul, he believes in the rights and liberties of woman.

—Interviews.

April 22.

SURELY investigation is better than unthinking faith. Surely reason is a better guide than fear. This world should be controlled by the living, not by the dead. The grave is not a throne and a corpse is not a king. Man should not try to live on ashes.

—Liberty of Man, Woman and Child.

April 23.

SHAKESPEARE was an intellectual ocean, whose waves touched all the shores of thought; . . . upon which fell the gloom and darkness of despair and death and all the sunlight of content and love, and within which was the inverted sky lit with the eternal stars—an intellectual ocean—towards which all rivers ran, and from which now the isles and continents of thought receive their dew and rain.

April 24.

IF we wish to improve the condition of mankind—if we wish for nobler men and women—we must develop the brain, we must encourage thought and investigation. We must convince the world that credulity is a vice; that there is no virtue in believing without or against evidence, and that the really honest man is true to himself. We must fill the world with intellectual light.

—Myth and Miracle.

————— April 21. —————

————— April 22. —————

————— April 23. —————

————— April 24. —————

April 25.



HOSE who prevent or try to prevent the expression of honest thought, are the foes of civilization, the enemies of truth. Nothing can exceed the egotism and impudence of the man who claims the right to express his thought and denies the same right to others.

—The Truth.

April 26.



E, too, have our religion, and it is this: Help for the living, Hope for the dead.

—At a Child's Grave.

MY doctrine is this: For good, return good; for evil, return justice without admixture of revenge.

—Benefits for Injuries.

April 27.



ET us throw away these superstitions and take the higher, nobler ground that every day should be rendered sacred by some loving act, by increasing the happiness of man, giving birth to noble thoughts, helping the unfortunate, lifting the fallen, dispelling gloom, destroying prejudice, defending the helpless and filling homes with light and love.

—Some Mistakes of Moses.

April 28.



ITH every drop of my blood I hate and execrate every form of tyranny, every form of slavery. I hate dictation. I love liberty.

—Liberty of Man, Woman and Child.

WE do not need the forgiveness of gods, but of ourselves and the ones we injure. Restitution without repentance is far better than repentance without restitution.

—Myth and Miracle.

————— *April 25.* —————

————— *April 26.* —————

————— *April 27.* —————

————— *April 28.* —————

April 29.



CHRISTIANITY has always opposed every forward movement of the human race. Across the highway of progress it has always been building breastworks of bibles, tracts, commentaries, prayer-books, creeds, dogmas, and platforms, and at every advance Christians have gathered behind these heaps of rubbish and shot the poisoned arrows of malice at the soldiers of freedom.

—Individuality.

April 30.



THE telescope destroyed the firmament, did away with the heaven of the New Testament, rendered the ascension of our Lord and the assumption of his mother infinitely absurd, crumbled to chaos the gates and palaces of the New Jerusalem, and in their places gave to man a wilderness of worlds.

—Some Mistakes of Moses.



April 29.

April 30.



YOU stand in orchards where the blossoms fall like snow,
where the birds nest and sing, and painted moths make
aimless journeys through the happy air. You live the
lives of those who till the earth, and walk amid the
perfumed fields, hear the reaper's song and feel the breadth
and scope of earth and sky.



May 1.

LOVE is the magician, the enchanter that changes worthless things to joy, and makes right royal kings and queens of common clay. It is the perfume of that wondrous flower, the heart, and without that sacred passion, that divine swoon, we are less than beasts; but with it earth is heaven, and we are gods.

—Love.

May 2.

UNTIL every soul is freely permitted to investigate every book, and creed, and dogma for itself, the world cannot be free. Mankind will be enslaved until there is mental grandeur enough to allow each man to have his thought and say. This earth will be a paradise when men can upon all these questions differ, and yet grasp each other's hands as friends.

—Some Mistakes of Moses.

May 3.

WE walk according to our light,
Pursue the path
That leads to honor's stainless height,
Careless of wrath
Or curse of God or priestly spite,
Longing to know and do the right.

—Declaration of the Free.

May 4.

CHARITY should hold the scales in which are weighed the deeds of men. Peculiarities, traits born of locality and surroundings—these are but the dust of the race—these are accidents, drapery clothes, fashions, that have nothing to do with the man except to hide his character. They are the clouds that cling to mountains.

—Tribute to Roscoe Conkling.

————— *May 1.* —————

————— *May 2.* —————

————— *May 3.* —————

————— *May 4.* —————

May 5.



VANITY rests on the opinion of others—pride on our own. The source of vanity is from without—of pride from within. Vanity is a vane that turns, a willow that bends with every breeze—pride is the oak that defies the storm. One is cloud, the other rock. One is weakness, the other strength.

—Tribute to Roscoe Conkling.

May 6.



BELIEVE in the gospel of cheerfulness, the Gospel of Good Nature; the Gospel of Good Health. Let us pay some attention to our bodies. Take care of our bodies and our souls will take care of themselves. And I believe the time will come when the public thought will be so great and grand that it will be looked upon as infamous to perpetuate disease.

—What Must We Do to Be Saved?

May 7.



THE time will come when we will study ourselves, and understand the laws of health, and then we will say: We are under obligations to put the flag of health in the cheeks of our children.

—What Must We Do to Be Saved?

May 8.



WE must teach our fellowmen that honor comes from within, not from without; that honor must be earned, that it is not alms, that even an infinite god could not enrich the beggar's palm with the gem of honor.

—Myth and Miracle.

JUST in proportion that we have done away with what is known as orthodox Christianity, humanity has taken its place.

—Interviews.

May 5.

May 6.

May 7.

May 8.

May 9.

IT will not do to say that certain ideas are sacred, and that man has not the right to investigate and test these ideas for himself. Who knows that they are sacred? Can anything be sacred to us that we do not know to be true?

—The Truth.

May 10.

WE are laying the foundations of the grand temple of the future, . . . wherein, with appropriate rites, will be celebrated the religion of humanity. We are doing what little we can to hasten the coming of the day when society shall cease producing millionaires and mendicants—gorged indolence and famished industry—truth in rags and superstition robed and crowned.

—The Gods.

May 11.

IHAVE sometimes thought that it will not make great and splendid characters to rock children in the cradle of hypocrisy. I believe men will be nearer honest in business, in politics, grander in art—in everything that is good and grand and beautiful, if they are taught from the cradle to the coffin to tell their honest opinion.

—The Great Infidels.

May 12.

THE scientist insists that the Unknown is not changed so far as he knows by prayers of people or priests. He admits that he does not know whether the Unknown is good or bad—whether he or it is worthy of worship. He does not say that the Unknown is God, that it created substance and force, life and thought. He simply says that of the Unknown he knows nothing. —The Foundations of Faith.

May 9.

May 10.

May 11.

May 12.

May 13.



UPERSTITION, the mother of those hideous twins, Fear and Faith, from her throne of skulls, still rules the world, and will until the mind of woman ceases to be the property of priests.

—Individuality.

May 14.



HE doctrine of forgiveness—the idea that somebody else can suffer in place of the guilty—the notion that just at the last the whole account can be settled—these ideas, doctrines, and notions are calculated to fill penitentiaries.

—Interviews.

May 15.



S long as men and women are afraid of the church, as long as a minister inspires fear, as long as people reverence a thing simply because they do not understand it, as long as it is respectable to lose your self-respect, as long as the church has power, as long as mankind worships a book, just so long will the world be filled with intellectual paupers and vagrants.

—Liberty of Man, Woman and Child.

May 16.



WHY should we pursue the truth? and why should we investigate and reason? And why should we be mentally honest and hospitable? And why should we express our honest thoughts? To this there is but one answer: for the benefit of mankind.

—The Truth.

ALL fundamental laws were born simply of the instinct of self-defense.

—Some Mistakes of Moses.

May 13.

May 14.

May 15.

May 16.

May 17.



THE world is a dictionary of the mind, and in the dictionary of things genius discovers analogies, resemblances, and parallels amid opposites, likeness in difference, and corroboration in contradiction.

—Art and Morality.

May 18.



LANGUAGE is but a multitude of pictures. Nearly every word is a work of art, a picture represented by a sound, and this sound represented by a mark, and this mark gives not only the sound, but the picture of something in the outward world and the picture of something within the mind, and with these words which were once pictures other pictures are made.

—Art and Morality.

May 19.



IN every college truth should be a welcome guest. Every professor should be a finder, and every student a learner of facts. Theology and intellectual dishonesty go together. The teacher of children should be intelligent and perfectly sincere.

—Myth and Miracle.

May 20.



HUMANITY has built all the asylums, all the hospitals. Humanity, not Christianity, has done these things. The people of this country are all willing to be taxed that the insane may be cared for, that the sick, the helpless, and the destitute may be provided for, not because they are Christians but because they are humane; and they are not humane because they are Christians.

—Interviews.

————— *May 17.* —————

————— *May 18.* —————

————— *May 19.* —————

————— *May 20.* —————

May 21.



RUTH has always been in favor of free speech —has always asked to be investigated—has always longed to be known and understood. Freedom, discussion, honesty, investigation and courage are the friends and allies of truth. Truth loves the light and the open field. It appeals to the senses—to the judgment, the reason, to all the higher and nobler faculties and powers of the mind. —The Truth.

May 22.



CIVILIZATION rests upon the family. The good family is the unit of good government. The virtues grow about the holy hearth of home—they cluster, bloom, and shed their perfume round the fireside where the one man loves the one woman.

—Some Mistakes of Moses.

May 23.



WE are looking for the time when the useful shall be the honorable; when the true shall be the beautiful, and when Reason, throned upon the world's brain, shall be the king of kings and god of gods.

—The Gods.

May 24.



THE brain must be developed. The world must think. Speech must be free. The world must learn that credulity is not a virtue and that no question is settled until reason is fully satisfied.

—The Truth.

EVENTS, like the pendulum of a clock, have swung forward and backward, but after all, man, like the hands, has gone steadily on.

—Some Mistakes of Moses.

May 21.

May 22.

May 23.

May 24.

May 25.

BLASPHEMY is what an old mistake says of a newly discovered truth. Blasphemy is what a withered last year's leaf says to a this year's bud. Blasphemy is the bulwark of religious prejudice. Blasphemy is the breastplate of the heartless.

—Argument in Blasphemy Case.

May 26.

IN this world the skeptic appears to have the best of the argument; logic seems to be on the side of blasphemy; common sense apparently goes hand in hand with Infidelity, and the few things we are absolutely certain of seem inconsistent with the Christian creeds.

—Interviews.

May 27.

GIVE me the storm and tempest of thought and action, rather than the dead calm of ignorance and faith! Banish me from Eden when you will; but first let me eat of the fruit of the tree of knowledge.

—The Gods.

May 28.

SLOWLY but surely man is freeing his imagination of these sexless phantoms, of these cruel ghosts. He is learning to rely upon himself. He is beginning to find that labor is the only prayer that ought to be answered, and that hoping, toiling, aspiring, suffering men and women are of more importance than all the ghosts that ever wandered through the fenceless fields of space.

—The Ghosts.

————— *May 25.* —————

————— *May 26.* —————

————— *May 27.* —————

————— *May 28.* —————

May 29.



SURELY it is sublime to think that the brain is a castle, and that within its curious bastions and winding halls the soul, in spite of all worlds and all beings, is the supreme sovereign of itself.

—Individuality.

May 30.



THIS day is sacred to our heroes dead. Upon their tombs we have lovingly laid the wealth of Spring. This is a day for memory and tears. A mighty nation bends above its honored graves, and pays to noble dust the tribute of its love.

—Decoration Day.

May 31.



REAL victories can be won only for the Right. The triumph of justice is the only peace. Such is the nature of things. He who enslaves another cannot be free. He who attacks the right assaults himself.

—Decoration Day.



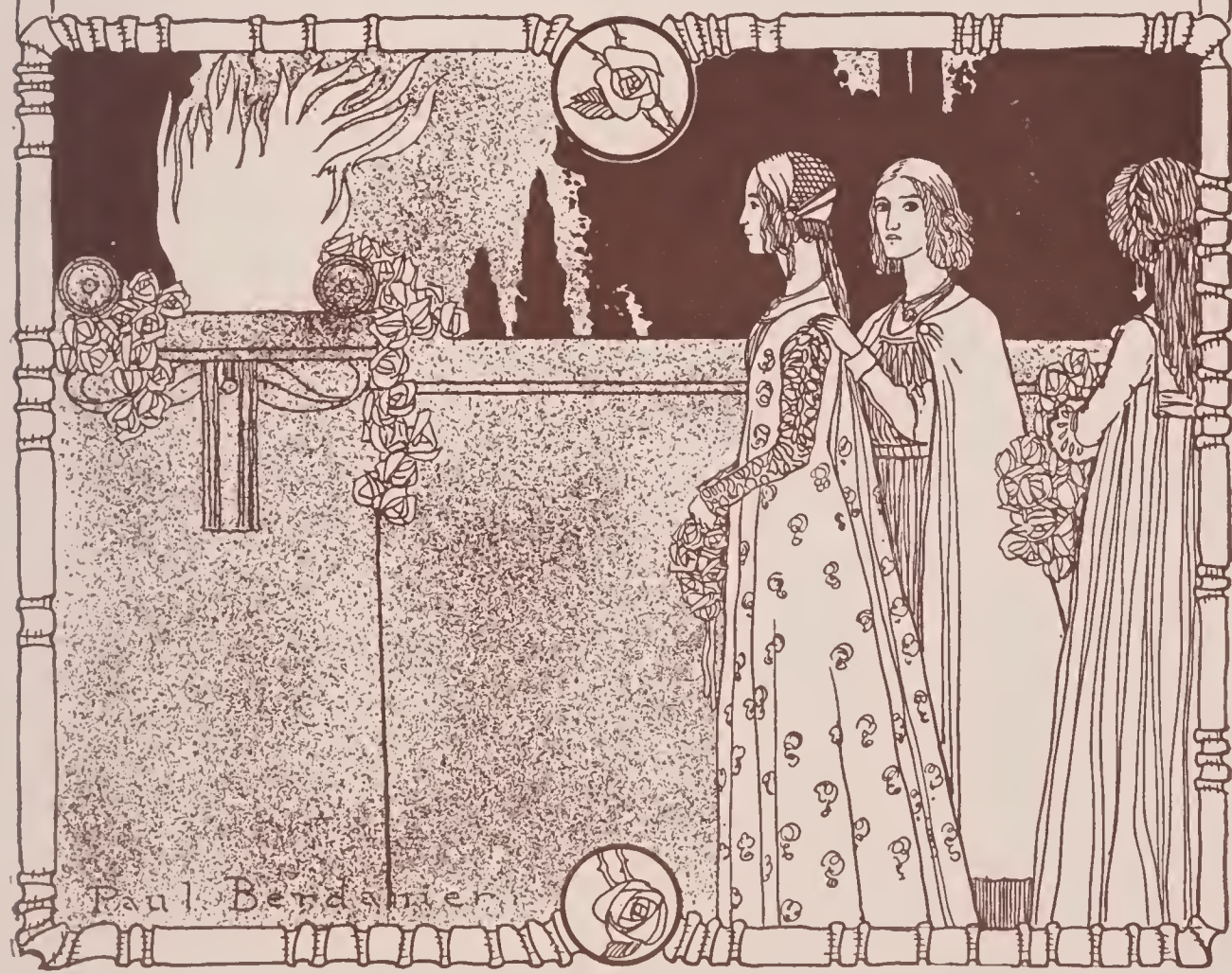
————— *May 29.* —————

————— *May 30.* —————

————— *May 31.* —————



HIS thoughts were moulded by the graceful curves of streams, by winding paths in woods, the charm of quiet country roads, and lanes grown indistinct with weeds and grass—by vines that cling and hide with leaf and flower the crumbling wall's decay—by cattle standing in the summer pools like statues of content.



June 1.

IT is not necessary to be great to be happy ; it is not necessary to be rich to be just and generous and to have a heart filled with divine affection. No matter whether you are rich or poor, treat your wife as though she were a splendid flower, and she will fill your life with perfume and with joy.

—Liberty of Man, Woman and Child.

June 2.

IF not a human being lived—if all were in their graves, the sun would continue to shine, the wheeling world would pursue its flight, violets would spread their velvet bosoms to the day, the spendthrift roses give their perfume to the air, the climbing vines would hide with leaf and flower the fallen and the dead.

—Myth and Miracle.

June 3.

LET me tell you to-night that when the sword of justice is changed into a staff to support the weak, that staff bursts into blossom and the perfume of that flower is the only incense, the only offering, the only sacrifice that mercy will accept.

—Which Way?

June 4.

IT is a great thing to preach philosophy—far greater to live it. The highest philosophy accepts the inevitable with a smile and greets it as though it were desired. To be satisfied: This is wealth—success.

—Tribute to Walt Whitman.

ON every side are the benevolent and malicious—something toiling to preserve, something laboring to destroy.

—Superstition.

June 1.

June 2.

June 3.

June 4.

June 5.



AND yet we hope and dream. Maybe the longing for another life is but the prophecy, forever warm from Nature's lips, that love, disguised as death, alone fulfills.

—Tribute to Elizur Wright.

June 6.



BUT this we know: good deeds are never childless. A noble life is never lost. A virtuous action does not die.

—Tribute to Elizur Wright.

THE accumulated experience of the world is a power and force that works for righteousness.

—What Is Religion?

June 7.



WORK is worship. Labor is the best prayer. He who loves worships.

—What is Worship?

THE destroyers have always been honored. The useful have always been despised.

—Progress.

June 8.



LIFE is a narrow vale between the cold and barren peaks of two eternities. We strive in vain to look beyond the heights. We cry aloud, and the only answer is the echo of our wailing cry.

From the voiceless lips of the unreplying dead there comes no word, but in the night of death hope sees a star and listening love can hear the rustle of a wing.

—Tribute to Ebon C. Ingersoll.

June 5.

June 6.

June 7.

June 8.

June 9.



AND I had rather live and love where death is king, than have eternal life where love is not. Another life is nought unless we know and love again the ones who love us here.

—At a Child's Grave.

June 10.



IS it a small thing to make men truly free—to destroy the dogmas of ignorance, prejudice and power—the poisoned fables of superstition, and drive from the beautiful face of the earth the fiend of Fear.

—We Build.

June 11.



HALL we not become charitable and just when we know that every act is but condition's fruit; that Nature, with her countless hands, scatters the seeds of tears and crimes—of every virtue and of every joy; that all the base and vile are the victims of the blind, and that the good and great have, in the lottery of life, by chance or fate, drawn heart and brain?

Reformers.

June 12.



GREAT man adds to the sum of knowledge, extends the horizon of thought, releases souls from the Bastile of fear, crosses unknown and myterious seas, gives new islands and continents to the domain of thought, new constellations to the firmament of mind.

—Voltaire.

TO teach the alphabet is to inaugurate revolution.

—The Ghosts.

————— *June 9.* —————

————— *June 10.* —————

————— *June 11.* —————

————— *June 12.* —————

June 13.



GREAT man does not seek applause or place; he seeks for truth; he seeks the road to happiness, and what he ascertains he gives to others.

—Voltaire.

INDUSTRY objected to supporting idleness, and laws were made against theft.

—Some Mistakes of Moses.

June 14.



HAT flag is the emblem of a supreme will—of a Nation's power. Beneath its folds the weakest must be protected and the strongest must obey. . . . That flag was given to the air in the Revolution's darkest days. It represents the sufferings of the past, the glories yet to be; and like the bow of heaven, it is the child of storm and sun.

—Decoration Day.

June 15.



LET us cultivate courage and cheerfulness—open our hearts to the good—our minds to the true. Let us live free lives. Let us hope that the future will bring peace and joy to all the children of men, and above all, let us preserve the veracity of our souls.

—The Truth.

June 16.



HEN men are prosperous they are in love with life. Nature grows beautiful, the arts begin to flourish, there is work for painter and sculptor, the poet is born, the stage is erected; and this life with which men are in love is represented in a thousand forms.

—Shakespeare.

EVERY wrong in some way tends to abolish itself.

—The Ghosts.

June 13.

June 14.

June 15.

June 16.

June 17.

THE triumphs of science are our miracles. The books filled with the facts of Nature are our sacred scriptures, and the force that is in every atom and in every star—in every thing that grows and thinks, that hopes and suffers—is the only possible god.

—The 'Truth.

June 18.

IMAGINATION like the atmosphere of Spring woos every seed of earth to seek the blue of heaven, and whispers of bud and flower and fruit. Imagination gathers from every field of thought and pours the wealth of many lives into the lap of one.

—Argument in Blasphemy Case.

June 19.

COMPARED with Shakespeare's "book and volume of the brain," the "sacred" Bible shrinks and seems as feebly impotent and vain as would a pipe of Pan when some great organ, voiced with every tone, from the hoarse thunder of the sea to the winged warble of a mated bird, floods and fills cathedral aisles with all the wealth of sound.

—Some Mistakes of Moses.

June 20.

CONFRONTED with the universe, with fields of space sown thick with stars, and all there is of life, the wise man being asked the origin and destiny of all, replies: "I do not know. These questions are beyond the powers of my mind." The wise man is thoughtful and modest. He clings to facts. Beyond his intellectual horizon he does not pretend to see.

—The Foundations of Faith.

June 17.

June 18.

June 19.

June 20.

June 21.

THE church has impeded, but it has not and it cannot stop the onward march of the human race. Heresy cannot be burned, nor imprisoned, nor starved. It laughs at presbyteries and synods, at ecumenical councils and the impotent thunders of Sinai. Heresy is the eternal dawn, the morning star, the glittering herald of the day.

—Heretics and Heresies.

June 22.

REGARD the rights of men and women as equal. In Love's fair realm husband and wife are king and queen, sceptered and crowned alike, and seated on the self-same throne.

—Interviews.

June 23.

BE-LIEVE in allowing the children to think for themselves. I believe in the democracy of the family. If in this world there is anything splendid, it is the home where all are equal.

—Liberty of Man, Woman and Child.

June 24.

INTELLIGENCE is the only light. It enables us to keep the highway, to avoid the obstructions, and to take advantage of the forces of nature. To develop the brain is to civilize the world. Intelligence reaves the heavens of winged and frightful monsters—drives ghosts and leering fiends from the darkness, and floods with light the dungeons of fear.

—The Truth.

June 21.

June 22.

June 23.

June 24.

June 25.



THE phenomena of nature have been investigated and the supernatural has not been found. The myths have faded from the imagination, and of them nothing remains but the poetic. The miraculous has become the absurd, the impossible. Gods and phantoms have been banished from the earth and sky. We are living in a natural world.

—Myth and Miracle.

June 26.



INFIDELS are intellectual discoverers. They sail the unknown seas and find new isles and continents in the infinite realms of thought. An Infidel is one who has found a new fact, who has an idea of his own, and who in the mental sky has seen another star.

—The Great Infidels.

June 27.



IN the world of thought, each man is an absolute monarch, each brain is a kingdom that cannot be invaded even by the tyranny of majorities.

—Interviews.

AN error cannot be believed sincerely enough to make it a truth.

—The Great Infidels.

June 28.



THE laugh of a child will make the holiest day more sacred still . . . O rippling river of laughter, thou art the blessed boundary line between the beasts and men; and every wayward wave of thine doth drown some fretful fiend of care. O laughter, rose-lipped daughter of Joy, there are dimples enough in thy cheek to catch and hold and glorify all the tears of grief.

—Liberty of Man, Woman and Child.

June 25.

June 26.

June 27.

June 28.

June 29.



WE have no falsehoods to defend—
We want the facts ;
Our force, our thought, we do not spend
In vain attacks.
And we will never meanly try
To save some fair and pleasing lie.

—Declaration of the Free.

June 30.



HOEVER increases the sum of joy is a worshiper. He who adds to the sum of human misery is a blasphemer.

—Argument in Blasphemy Case.

ALL there is of leaf and bud, of flower and fruit, of painted insect life, and all the winged and happy children of the air that Summer holds beneath her dome of blue, were known and loved by him.

—Tribute to H. W. Beecher.

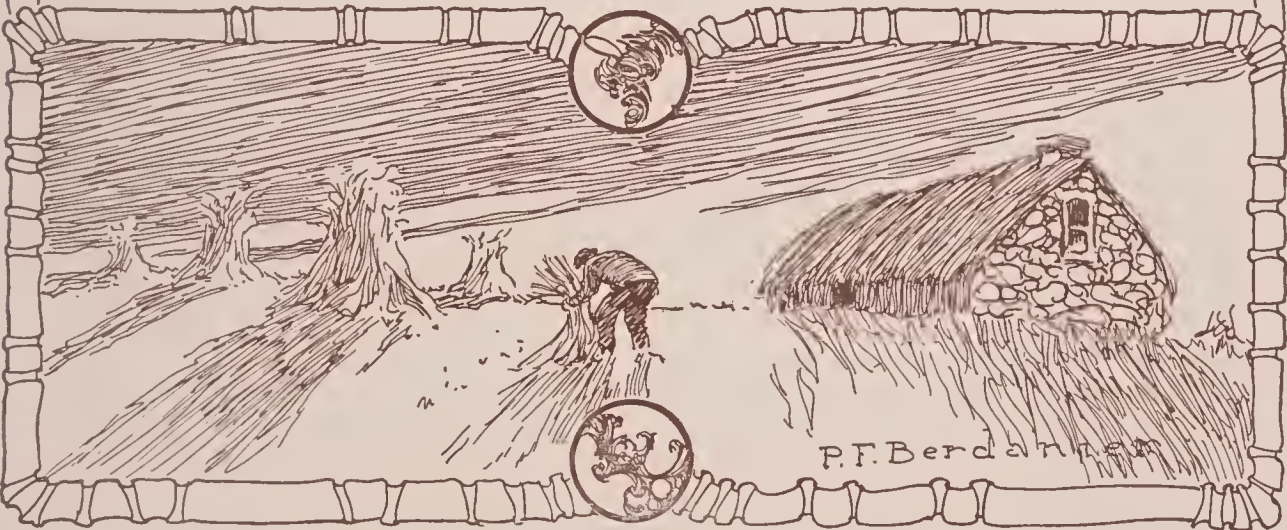


June 29.

June 30.



O LIBERTY, thou art the god of my idolatry! Thou art the only deity that hateth bended knees. In thy vast and unwalled temple, beneath the roofless dome, star-gemmed and luminous with suns, thy worshipers stand erect! They do not cringe or crawl, or bend their foreheads to the earth. The dust has never borne the impress of their lips. Upon thy altars mothers do not sacrifice their babes, nor men their rights. Thou askest nought from men except the things that good men hate—the whip, the chain, the dungeon key. Thou hast no popes nor priests who stand between their fellowmen and thee. Thou carest not for foolish forms or selfish prayers; at thy sacred shrine hypocrisy does not bow, virtue does not tremble, superstition's feeble tapers do not burn, but Reason holds aloft her inextinguishable torch whose holy light will one day flood the world.



P.F. Berdan del.

July 1.



TAKE the word Liberty from human speech and all the other words become poor, withered, meaningless sounds; but with this word understood, the world becomes a paradise.

—Argument in Blasphemy Case.

July 2.



THE church has been, and still is, the great robber. She has rifled not only the pockets but the brains of the world. She is the stone at the sepulchre of liberty; the upas-tree in whose shade the intellect of man has withered; the Gorgon beneath whose gaze the human heart has turned to stone.

—Individuality.

July 3.



WAIT until the world is free before you write a creed. In this creed there will be but one word—Liberty. O Liberty, float not forever in the far horizon—remain not forever in the dream of the enthusiast, the philanthropist and poet, but come and make thy home among the children of men!

—Liberty of Man, Woman and Child.

July 4.



ALL who stand beneath our banner are free. Ours is the only flag that has in reality written upon it: Liberty, Fraternity, Equality—the three grandest words in all the languages of men.

—Declaration of Independence.

MEN are oaks, women are vines, children are flowers.

—Liberty of Man, Woman and Child.

————— *July 1.* —————

————— *July 2.* —————

————— *July 3.* —————

————— *July 4.* —————

July 5.



HAT has been called religion is, after all, but the organization of the wild beast in man. The perfumed blossom of arrogance is heaven. Hell is the consummation of revenge.

—The Ghosts.

July 6.



E will not willingly be fooled,
By fables nursed;
Our hearts by earnest thoughts are schooled
To bear the worst.
And we can stand erect and dare
All things, all facts that really are.

July 7.



E who attempts to ridicule the truth ridicules himself. He becomes the food of his own laughter.

—Voltaire.

HERESY is the last and best thought. It is the perpetual New World, the unknown sea, toward which the brave all sail. It is the eternal horizon of progress.

—Heretics and Heresies.

July 8.



REMEMBER that everything of beauty tends to the elevation of man. Every little morning glory whose purple bosom is thrilled with the amorous kisses of the sun, tends to put a blossom in your heart. Every flower about a house certifies to the refinement of somebody. Every vine climbing and blossoming tells of love and joy.

—Farming in Illinois.

July 5.

July 6.

July 7.

July 8.

July 9.



NOTHING can be more important to a human being than to be free and to live without fear. It is far better to be a mortal freeman than an immortal slave.

—Voltaire.

July 10.



WE have no God to serve or fear,
No hell to shun;
No devil with malicious leer,
When life is done
An endless sleep may close our eyes,
A sleep with neither dreams nor sighs.

—Declaration of the Free.

July 11.



AND then to rouse yourself to do all useful things, to reach with thought and deed the ideal in your brain, to give your fancies wing, that they, like chemist bees, may find art's nectar in the weeds of common things, to look with trained and steady eyes for facts, . . . to develop the brain, to defend the right, to make a palace for the soul. This is real religion. This is real worship.

—Religion.

July 12.



IT is hurtful for people to imagine that they can please God by any ceremony whatever. If there is any God, there is only one way to please him, and that is by a conscientious discharge of your obligations to your fellowmen.

—Interviews.

INSPIRATION is in the man as well as in the book. God should have "inspired" readers as well as writers.

—Inspiration.

————— *July 9.* —————

————— *July 10.* —————

————— *July 11.* —————

————— *July 12.* —————

July 13.



WE know that theology always has and always will make enemies. It sows the seed of hatred in families and nations. It is selfish, cruel, revengeful and malicious. It has heaven for the few and perdition for the many.

—Myth and Miracle.

July 14.



KNOW not what . . . garments of glory may be woven by the years to come. I cannot dream of the victories to be won upon the fields of thought; but I do know that, coming from the infinite sea of the future, there will never touch this "bank and shoal of time" a richer gift, a rarer blessing, than liberty for man, for woman, and for child.

—Liberty of Man, Woman and Child.

July 15.



WE should do justice whether a woman was made from a rib or from "omnipotence." We should be merciful whether the flood was general or local. We should be kind and obliging whether Jonah was swallowed by a fish or not.

—Interviews.

July 16.



LIBERTY is the breath of progress; it is the seed and soil, the heat and rain of love and joy.

THERE is no real investigation without freedom—freedom from the fear of gods and men. So all investigation—all experiment—should be pursued in the light of reason.

—The Truth.

July 13.

July 14.

July 15.

July 16.

July 17.



IF a man would follow, to-day, the teachings of the Old Testament, he would be a criminal. If he would follow strictly the teachings of the New, he would be insane.

—Interviews.

SOME people have more confidence in their beliefs than in their own arguments.

—Miscellanies.

July 18.



LIBERTY is the condition of progress. Without Liberty there remains only barbarism. Without Liberty there can be no civilization . . . Without Liberty there can be no worship, no blasphemy—no love, no hatred, no justice, no progress.

—Argument in Blasphemy Case.

July 19.



INFIDELITY is not dying—it is growing—it is increasing every day. And what does that prove? It proves that the people are learning more and more—that they are advancing—that the mind is getting free and that the race is being civilized. The clergy know that I know that they know that they do not know.

—Orthodoxy.

July 20.



SCIENCE is the only civilizer. It has freed the slave, clothed the naked, fed the hungry, lengthened life, given us homes and hearths, pictures and books, ships and railways, telegraphs and cables, engines that tirelessly turn the countless wheels, and it has destroyed the monsters, the phantoms, the winged horrors that filled the savage brain.

—Superstition.

July 17.

July 18.

July 19.

July 20.

July 21.

AND let me tell you that Hope of Immortality never came from any religion; that Hope of Immortality has helped make religions. It has been the great oak around which have climbed the poisonous vines of superstition—that Hope of Immortality is the great oak.

—Unitarian Dinner.

July 22.

BELIEF is not a voluntary thing. A man believes in spite of himself. They tell us that to believe is the safe way; but I say the safe way is to be honest. Nothing can be safer than that. No man in the hour of death ever regretted having been honest.

—Some Reasons Why.

July 23.

NOTHING is greater, nothing is of more importance, than to find, amid the errors and darkness of this life, a shining truth. Truth is the intellectual wealth of the world. The noblest occupations is to search for truth.

—The Truth.

July 24.

YOU need not go back four thousand years for heroines. The world is filled with them to-day. They do not belong to any nation, nor to any religion, nor exclusively to any race. Wherever woman is found, they are found.

—Interviews.

NO man can be honest enough to substantiate, to the satisfaction of reasonable men, the happening of a miracle.

—North American Review.

July 21.

July 22.

July 23.

July 24.

July 25.

SUPERNATURAL religion will fade from this world, and in its place we shall have reason. In the place of the worship of something we know not of, will be the religion of mutual love and assistance—the great religion of reciprocity. Superstition must go. Science will remain.

—Orthodoxy.

July 26.

SCIENCE is the real redeemer. It will put honesty above hypocrisy; mental veracity above all belief. . . . It will put thoughtful doubt above thoughtless faith. It will give us philosophers, thinkers, savants, instead of priests, theologians and saints. It will abolish poverty and crime; and, greater, grander, nobler than all else, it will make the whole world free.

—Superstition.

July 27.

LIBERTY is the reward of labor. Intellectual liberty is the air of the soul, the sunshine of the mind, and without it, the world is a prison, the universe a dungeon.

—Some Reasons Why.

July 28.

TRUTH is the foundation, the superstructure, and the glittering dome of progress. Truth is the mother of joy. Truth civilizes, ennobles and purifies. The grandest ambition that can enter the soul is to know the truth.

—The Truth.

I HAVE never given to anyone a sketch of my life. According to my idea a life should not be written until it has been lived.

—Miscellanies.

July 25.

July 26.

July 27.

July 28.

July 29.



WE have no master on the land—
No king in air—
Without a manacle we stand,
Without a prayer,
Without a fear of coming night;
We seek the truth, we love the light.

—Declaration of the Free.

July 30.



THINK that Sunday should not be a day of gloom, of silence and despair, or a day in which to hear that the chances are largely in favor of your being eternally damned. That day, in my opinion, should be one of joy.

—Interviews.

July 31.



THE church still imagines that phenomena should be interpreted as the signs of the pleasure or displeasure of God. Nearly every history is deformed with this childish and barbaric view.

—Miscellanies.



July 29.

July 30.

July 31.



HE heard the rhythmic sounds of Nature's busy strife, the hum of bees, the songs of birds, the eagle's cry, the murmur of the stream, the sighs and lamentations of the winds, and all the voices of the sea. He loved the shores, the vales, the crags and cliffs, the city's busy streets, the introspective, silent plain, the solemn splendors of the night, the silver sea of dawn, and evening's clouds of molten gold.



Ingersoll's Birthplace,
Dresden, N. Y.

P. F. Berdanier

August 1.



HOEVER labors for the happiness of those he loves, elevates himself, no matter whether he works in the dark and dreary shops or in the perfumed fields. To work for others is, in reality, the only way in which a man can work for himself.

—Farming in Illinois.

August 2.



EVERY fact is an enemy of the church. Every fact is a heretic. Every demonstration is an Infidel. Everything that ever really happened testifies against the supernatural.

—Orthodoxy.

August 3.



HEN cyclones rend—when lightning blights,
'Tis naught but fate;
There is no god of wrath who smites
In heartless hate.
Behind the things that injure man
There is no purpose, thought, or plan.

August 4.



BLASPHEMY is the flag of theology, and it means: No argument and no quarter! It is an appeal to prejudice, to passions, to ignorance. It is the last resort of a defeated priest. Blasphemy marks the point where argument stops and slander begins. In old times it was the signal for throwing stones, for gathering fagots and for tearing flesh; now it means falsehood and calumny. —Interviews.

August 1.

August 2.

August 3.

August 4.

August 5.



REASON is the light, the sun of the brain. It is the compass of the mind, the ever constant Northern Star, the mountain peak that lifts itself above all clouds.

—Superstition.

August 6.



THE church has preached the doctrine of non-resistance, and under that banner has shed the blood of millions. In the folds of her sacred vestments have gleamed for centuries the daggers of assassination. With her cunning hands she wove the purple for hypocrisy and placed the crown upon the brow of crime.

—Some Reasons Why.

August 7.



TRUTH gives man the greatest power for good. Truth is sword and shield. It is the sacred light of the soul. The man who finds a truth lights a torch.

—The Truth.

August 8.



SMILE is the dawn of a doubt. Let us respect the truth, let us laugh at miracles, and above all let us be candid with each other.

—Interviews.

FOR more than a thousand years larceny held the scales of justice, hypocrisy wore the mitre and tiara, while beggars scorned the royal sons of toil, and ignorant fear denounced the liberty of thought. —Some Reasons Why.

August 5.

August 6.

August 7.

August 8.

August 9.



GOOD deeds bear fruit, and in the fruit are seeds that in their turn bear fruit and seeds. Great thoughts are never lost, and words of kindness do not perish from the earth.

—How to Reform Mankind.

August 10.



TO throw away your reason at the command of churches, popes, parties, kings or gods, is to be a serf, a slave.

—Interviews.

OVER the desert of death the sphinx gazes forever, but never speaks.

August 11.



HIS brave and tender man in every storm of life was oak and rock; but in sunshine he was vine and flower. . . . He climbed the heights, and left all superstitions far below, while on his forehead fell the golden dawning of the grander day. He loved the beautiful, and was with color, form, and music touched to tears. He sided with the weak, the poor, and wronged, and lovingly gave alms.

August 12.



PRESBYTERIANISM never made a human being better. If there is anything that will freeze the generous current of the soul, it is Calvinism. If there is any creed that will destroy charity, that will keep the tears of pity from the cheeks of men and women, it is Presbyterianism. —Interviews.

ANNIHILATION and creation are both impossible—unthinkable. A grain of sand can defy all the gods.

August 9.

August 10.

August 11.

August 12.

August 13.

THE foundation of superstition is ignorance, the superstructure is faith, and the dome is a vain hope. Superstition is the child of ignorance and the mother of misery.

—Superstition.

August 14.

EVERY human being should be allowed to investigate to the extent of his desire—his ability. The literature of the world should be open to him—nothing prohibited, sealed or hidden. No subject can be too sacred to be understood. Each person should be allowed to reach his own conclusions and to speak his honest thought.

—The Truth.

August 15.

EVERY child should be taught that the useful are the honorable and that they who live on the labor of others are the enemies of society. Every child should be taught that useful work is worship and that intelligent labor is the highest form of prayer.

—How to Reform Mankind.

August 16.

JUST to the extent that man has depended upon the other world he has failed to make the best of this. Just in the proportion that he has depended upon his own efforts, he has advanced.

—Interviews.

THERE is no office I want in this world. I will make up my mind as to the next when I get there, because my motto is: One world at a time.

—Miscellanies.

August 13.

August 14.

August 15.

August 16.

August 17.



WHEN man has been helped, man has done it; when the chains of slavery have been broken, they have been broken by man; when something bad has been done in the government of mankind, it is easy to trace it to man, and to fix the responsibility upon human beings. You need not look to the sky; you need throw neither praise nor blame upon gods.

—Orthodoxy.

August 18.



BELIEVE in the religion of humanity. It is far better to love our fellowmen than to love God. We can help them. We cannot help him. We had better do what we can than to be always pretending to do what we cannot.

—Orthodoxy.

August 19.



ALL the orthodox churches are obstructions on the highway of progress. Every orthodox creed is a chain, a dungeon. Every believer in the "inspired book" is a slave who drives reason from her throne, and in her stead crowns fear.

—Superstition.

August 20.



IT is far better that we should all go down "with souls unsatisfied" to the dreamless grave, to the tongueless silence of the voiceless dust, than that countless millions of human souls should suffer forever. Eternal sleep is better than eternal pain. Eternal punishment is eternal revenge, and can be inflicted only by an eternal monster.

—The Great Controversy.

August 17.

August 18.

August 19.

August 20.

August 21.



IF I have a creator, I can only honor him by being true to myself, and kind and just to my fellowmen. If I wish to shed lustre upon my father and mother, I can only do so by being absolutely true to myself. Never will I lay the wreath of hypocrisy upon the tombs of those I love.

—Interviews.

August 22.



OUR life is joyous, jocund, free—
Not one a slave
Who bends in fear the trembling knee,
And seeks to save
A coward soul from future pain;
Not one will cringe or crawl for gain.

—Declaration of the Free.

August 23.



HE who threatens the investigator with punishment, here or hereafter, is an enemy of the human race. And he who tries to bribe the investigator with the promise of eternal joy is a traitor to his fellowmen.

—The Truth.

August 24.



NOTHING can be more marvelous than the common and every day facts of life. The phantoms have been cast aside. Men and women are enough for men and women. In their lives is all the tragedy and all the comedy that they can comprehend.

—Tribute to Walt Whitman.

VIRTUE is of no color; kindness, justice and love, of no complexion.

—Orthodoxy.

————— *August 21.* —————

————— *August 22.* —————

————— *August 23.* —————

————— *August 24.* —————

August 25.

SACRED are the lips from which has issued only truth. Over all wealth, above all station, above the noble, the robed and crowned, rises the sincere man. Happy is the man who neither paints nor patches, veils nor veneers! Blessed is he who wears no mask.

—Tribute to Horace Seaver.

August 26.

EVERY brain is a field where nature sows the seeds of thought and the crop depends upon the soil.

—How to Reform Mankind.

EVERY science rests on the natural, on demonstrated facts. So morality and religion must find their foundation in the necessary nature of things.

—How to Reform Mankind.

August 27.

EVERY man should be true to himself—true to the inward light. Each man in the laboratory of his own mind, and for himself alone, should test the so-called facts—the theories of all the world. Truth, in accordance with his reason, should be his guide and master. To love the truth, thus perceived, is mental virtue—intellectual purity. This is true manhood. This is freedom.

—The Truth.

August 28.

DO away with human love, and what are we? What would we be in another world, and what would we be here? Can anyone conceive of music without human love? Of art or joy? Human love builds every home. Human love is the author of all beauty. Love paints every picture and chisels every statue. Love builds every fireside. What would heaven be without human love?

————— *August 25.* —————

————— *August 26.* —————

————— *August 27.* —————

————— *August 28.* —————

August 29.

THE theologians made the Bible a master and the people its slaves. With this book they destroyed intellectual veracity, the natural manliness of man. With this book they banished pity from the heart, subverted all ideas of justice and fairness, imprisoned the soul in the dungeon of fear, and made honest doubt a crime.

—Superstition.

August 30.

SPECULATORS cannot make unless somebody loses. In the realm of speculation, every success has at least one victim. The harvest reaped by the farmer benefits all and injures none. For him to succeed it is not necessary that some one should fail. The same is true of all producers—of all laborers.

—Farming in Illinois.

August 31.

FOR my part I would rather hear Beethoven's Sixth Symphony than to read the five books of Moses. Give me the Sixth Symphony—a sound-wrought picture of the fields and woods, of flowering hedge, and happy homes, where thrushes build and swallows fly, and mothers sing to babes, an echo of the babbling lullaby of brooks that dallying wind and flow where meadows bare their daisied bosoms to the sun, the joyous mimicry of summer rain—the laugh of children and the rhythmic rustle of the whispering leaves, the strophe of peasant life—a perfect poem of content and love.

—Myth and Miracle.

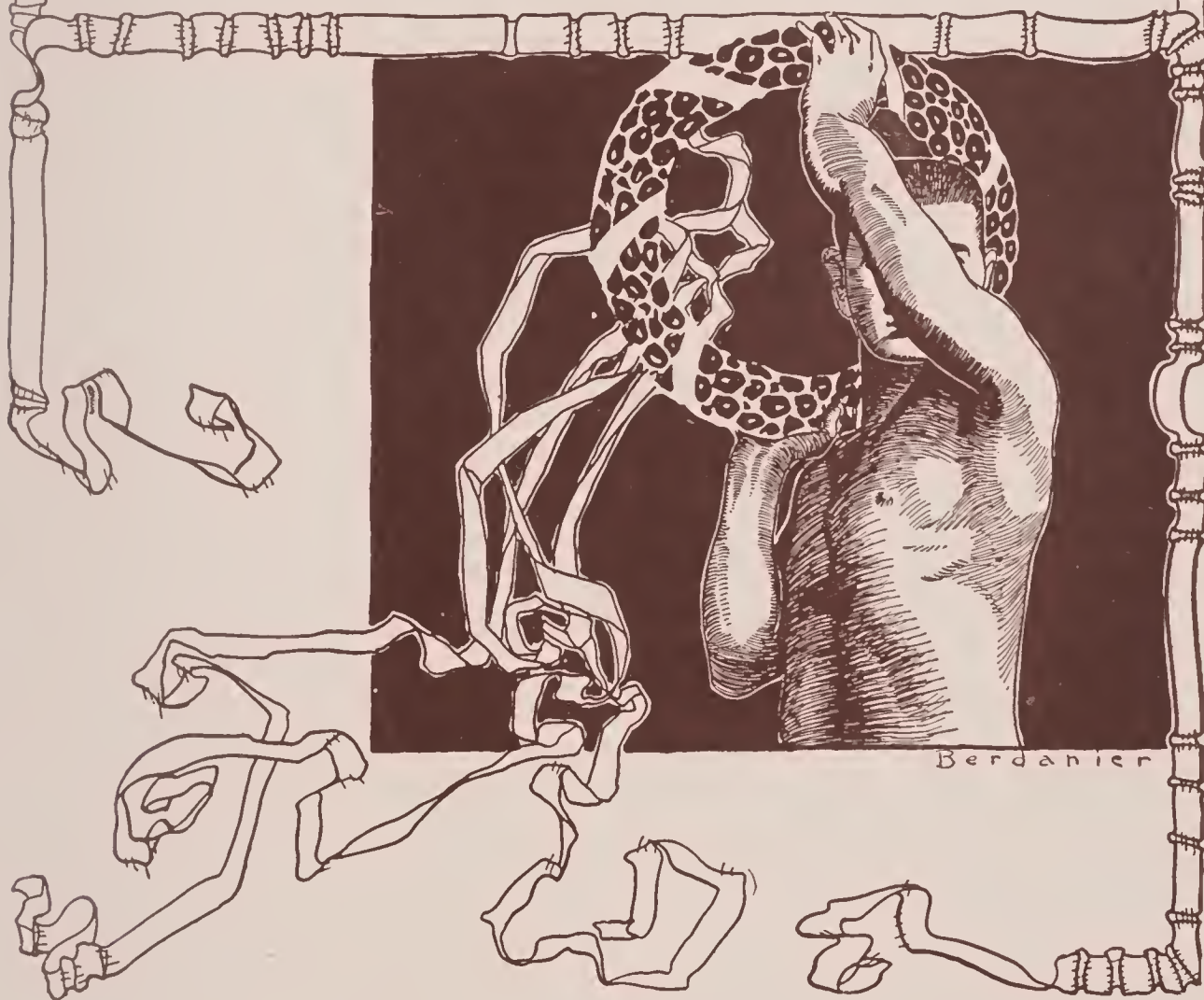
————— *August 29.* —————

————— *August 30.* —————

————— *August 31.* —————



THE picture of a cottage, over which runs a vine, a little home thatched with content, with its simple life, its natural sunshine and shadow, its trees bending with fruit, its hollyhocks and pinks, its happy children, its hum of bees, is a poem—a smile in the desert of this world.



September 1.

MAN should think; he should use all his senses; he should examine; he should reason. The man who cannot think is less than man; the man who will not think is traitor to himself; the man who fears to think is superstition's slave.

—Superstition.

September 2.

WE believe in the natural, in the unbroken succession of causes and effects. We deny the existence of the supernatural. We do not believe in any God who can be pleased with incense, with kneeling, with bell-ringing, psalm-singing, bead-counting, fasting or prayer—in any God who can be flattered by words of faith or fear.

—Miscellanies.

September 3.

IT is not simply the right, but it is the duty of every man to think—to investigate for himself—and every man who tries to prevent this by force or fear, is doing all he can to degrade and enslave his fellowmen.

—The Truth.

September 4.

WHAT can I be expected to give as a substitute for perdition? It is enough to show that it does not exist. What does a man want in place of a disease? Health. And what is better calculated to increase the happiness of mankind than to know that the doctrine of eternal pain is infinitely and absurdly false?

—Interviews.

————— *September 1.* —————

————— *September 2.* —————

————— *September 3.* —————

————— *September 4.* —————

September 5.



WE are all hoping for a day of universal justice—a day of universal freedom—when man shall control himself, when the passions shall become obedient to the intelligent will. But the coming of that day will not be hastened by preaching the doctrines of total depravity and eternal revenge. That sun will not rise the quicker for preaching salvation by faith.

—Orthodoxy.

September 6.



IF the devil does not exist the Christian creeds all crumble, and the superstructure known as "Christianity," built by the fathers, by popes, by priests and theologians—built with mistakes and falsehoods, with miracles and wonders, with blood and flame, with lies and legends borrowed from the savage world, becomes a shapeless ruin.

—Superstition.

September 7.



WE ask, yet nothing seems to know ;
We cry in vain.
There is no "master of the show"
Who will explain
Or from the future tear the mask ;
And yet we dream and still we ask.

—Declaration of the Free.

September 8.



HE who teaches a child the alphabet sows the seed of heresy. I have lived to see the school house in many village larger than the church. Every man who finds a fact is the enemy of theology. Every man who expresses an honest thought is a soldier in the army of intellectual liberty.

—Interviews.

————— *September 5.* —————

————— *September 6.* —————

————— *September 7.* —————

————— *September 8.* —————

September 9.

EDUCATION is the most radical thing in the world. To teach the alphabet is to inaugurate revolution. To build a schoolhouse is to construct a fort. Every library is an arsenal filled with the weapons and ammunition of progress, and every fact is a monitor with sides of iron and a turret of steel.

—The Ghosts.

September 10.

CHILDREN should be taught to think, to investigate, to rely upon the light of reason, of observation and experience; should be taught to use all their senses; and they should be taught only that which in some sense is really useful.

—How to Reform Mankind.

September 11.

TAKE theology from the world, and natural love remains. Science is still here, Music will not be lost, the page of History will still be open, the walls of the world will still be adorned with Art, and the niches rich with Sculpture.

—Interviews.

September 12.

CHILDREN should be taught the importance, not only of financial, but of mental honesty; to be absolutely sincere; to utter their real thoughts, and to give their actual opinions; and if parents want honest children, they should be honest themselves. It may be that hypocrites transmit that failing to their offspring.

—How to Reform Mankind.

————— *September 9.* —————

————— *September 10.* —————

————— *September 11.* —————

————— *September 12.* —————

September 13.



S there beyond the silent night
An endless day?
Is death a door that leads to light?
We cannot say.
The tongueless secret locked in fate
We do not know. We hope and wait!

Declaration of the Free.

September 14.



HISTORY added another name to the starry scroll of the immortals. The world is his monument; upon the eternal granite of her hills he inscribed his name, and there upon everlasting stone his genius wrote this, the sublimest of truths: "The universe is governed by law."

—Humboldt.

September 15.



SUPERSTITION is, always has been, and forever will be the enemy of education and the assassin of freedom. It sacrifices the known to the unknown, the present to the future, this actual world to the shadowy next. It has given us a selfish heaven, and a hell of infinite revenge; it has filled the world with hatred, war and crime, with the malice of meekness and the arrogance of humility. —Superstition.

September 16.



TAKE theology from the world and the churches can be schools and the cathedrals universities. Take theology away from the world, and the money wasted on superstition will do away with want.

—Interviews.

THE star that shines above that dawn, the herald of that day, is Science, not superstition; Reason, not religion.

—Orthodoxy.

————— *September 13.* —————

————— *September 14.* —————

————— *September 15.* —————

————— *September 16.* —————

September 17.

REAL education is the hope of the future. The development of the brain, the civilization of the heart, will drive want and crime from the world. The schoolhouse is the real cathedral, and science the only possible savior of the human race. Education, real education, is the friend of honesty, of morality, of temperance.

—How to Reform Mankind.

September 18.

CHRISTIANITY did not come with tidings of great joy, but with a message of eternal grief. It came with the threat of everlasting torture on its lips. It meant war on earth and perdition hereafter. . . . It has filled the future with fear and flame, and made God the keeper of an eternal penitentiary, destined to be the home of nearly all the sons of men.

—Christmas Sermon.

September 19.

NOTHING but falsehood needs the assistance of fame and place, of robes and mitres, of tiaras and crowns. The wise, the really honest and intelligent, are not swayed or governed by numbers, by majorities.

—The Truth.

September 20.

EVERY man who has taught his fellow man to think, has been a benefactor. Every one who has supplied his fellowmen with facts and insisted upon their right to think, has been a blessing to his kind.

—Interviews.

CONSCIENCE is born of suffering. Mercy is the child of the imagination.

————— *September 17.* —————

————— *September 18.* —————

————— *September 19.* —————

————— *September 20.* —————

September 21.



MAN should examine all questions presented to his mind, without prejudice—unbiased by hatred or love—by desire or fear. His object, and his only object, should be to find the truth. He knows, if he listens to reason, that truth is not dangerous and that error is.

—The Truth.

September 22.



BELIEVE in the religion of the family. I believe that the roof-tree is sacred, from the smallest fibre held in the soft moist clasp of the earth to the smallest blossom on the topmost bough that gives its fragrance to the bonny air. The family where virtue dwells with love is like a lily with a heart of fire—the fairest flower in all the world.

—Orthodoxy.

September 23.



TO every one except a theologian it is easy to account for these mistakes and crimes by saying that civilization is a painful growth; that the moral perceptions are cultivated through ages of tyranny, of crime, and of heroism; that it requires centuries for man to put out the eyes of self and hold in lofty and in equal poise the golden scales of justice.

—Some Reasons Why.

September 24.



INFIDELITY does not fear contradiction. It is not afraid of being laughed at. It invites the scrutiny of all doubters, of all unbelievers. It does not rely upon awe, but upon reason. It says to the world: It is dangerous *not* to think. It is dangerous *not* to be honest. It is dangerous *not* to investigate. It is dangerous *not* to follow where your reason leads.

—Interviews.

————— *September 21.* —————

————— *September 22.* —————

————— *September 23.* —————

————— *September 24.* —————

September 25.



S often as we can exchange a mistake for a fact, a falsehood for a truth, we advance. We add to the intellectual wealth of the world, and in this way, and in this alone, can be laid the foundation for the future prosperity and civilization of the race.

—How to Reform Mankind.

September 26.



MAN should weigh the evidence, the arguments, in honest scales that passion or interest cannot change. He should care nothing for authority—nothing for names, customs or creeds—nothing for anything that his reason does not say is true.

—The Truth.

September 27.



INTELLIGENCE must be the savior of this world. Humanity is the grand religion, and no god can put a man in hell in another world who has made a little heaven in this. God cannot make a man miserable if that man has made somebody else happy. God cannot hate anybody who is capable of loving anybody. Humanity—that word embraces all there is.

—What Must We Do to Be Saved?

September 28.



WE waste no time in useless dread,
In trembling fear;
The present lives, the past is dead,
And we are here,
All welcome guests at life's great feast—
We need no help from ghost or priest.

—Declaration of the Free.

————— *September 25.* —————

————— *September 26.* —————

————— *September 27.* —————

————— *September 28.* —————

September 29.

WITH knowledge obedience becomes intelligent acquiescence—it is no longer degrading. Acquiescence in the understood—in the known—is the act of a sovereign, not of a slave. It ennobles, it does not degrade.

—The Ghosts.

September 30.

IN YOUTH the time is halting slow and lame,
In age the time is winged and eager as a flame.
The sea seems narrow as we near the farther shore.

Youth goes hand in hand with hope—old age with fear.
Youth has a wish—old age a dread.

In youth the leaves and buds seem loath to grow.

Youth shakes the glass to speed the lingering sands.

Youth says to Time: O crutched and limping laggard,
get thee wings.

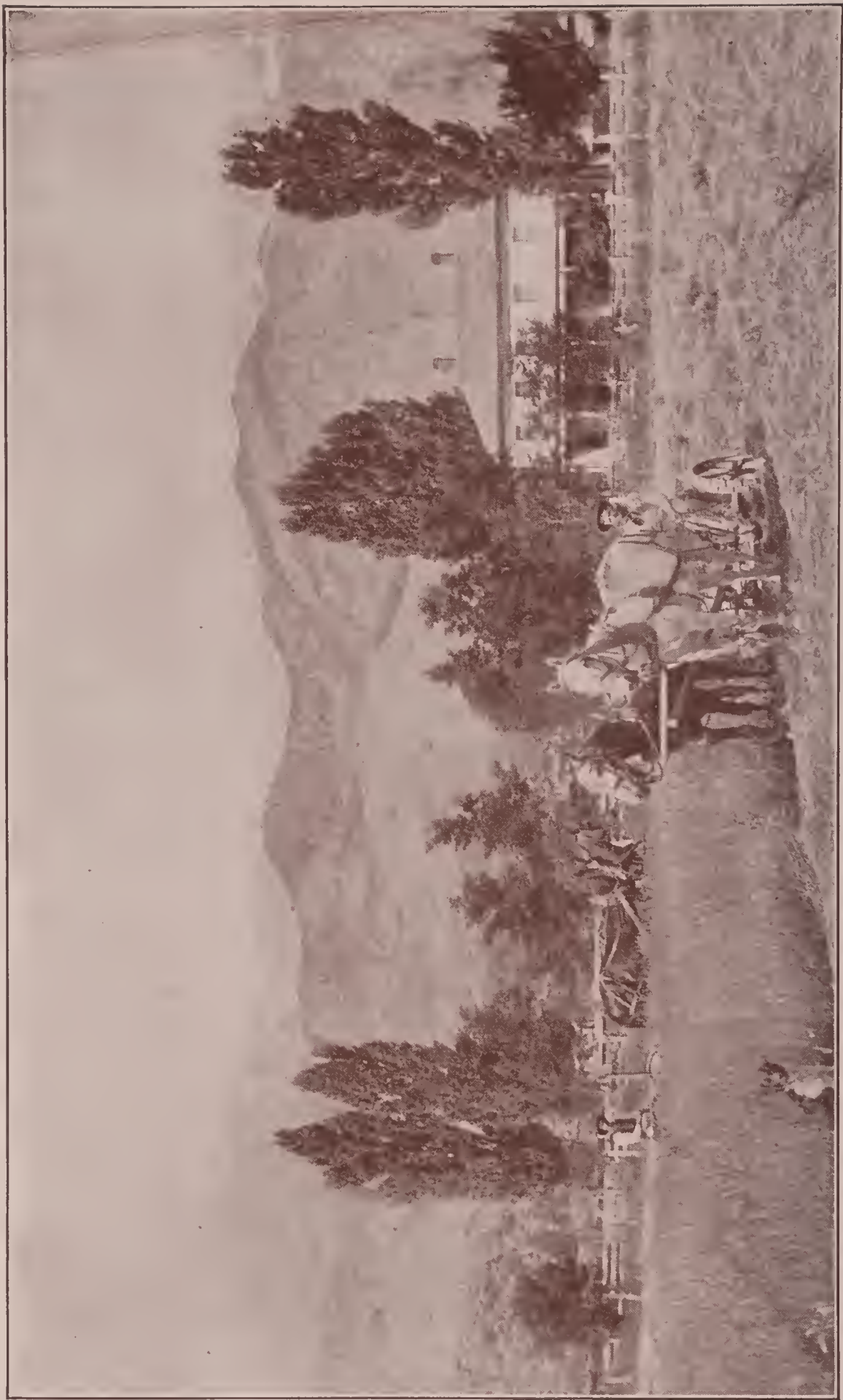
The dawn comes slowly, but the westering day leaps
like a lover to the dusky bosom of the Ethiop night.

—Fragments.



September 29.

September 30.





HE loved the mellow Autumn fields, the golden stacks, the happy homes of men, the orchards' bending boughs, the sumach's flags of flame, the maples with transfigured leaves, the tender yellow of the beech, the wondrous harmonies of brown and gold—the vines where hang the clustered spheres of wit and mirth.



October 1.



THE progress of the world depends upon the men who walk in the fresh furrows and through the rustling corn; upon those who sow and reap; upon those whose faces are radiant with the glare of furnace fires; upon the delvers in the mines, and the workers in shops; upon those who give to the winter air the ringing music of the axe.

—The Ghosts.

October 2.



THEOLOGY is, always has been, and always will be, ignorant, arrogant, puerile and cruel. When the church had power, hypocrisy was crowned and honesty imprisoned. Fraud wore the tiara and truth was a convict. Liberty was in chains. Theology has always sent the worst to heaven, the best to hell.

—Myth and Miracle.

October 3.



LOVE'S sacred flame within the heart
And friendship's glow;
While all the miracles of art
Their wealth bestow
Upon the thrilled and joyous brain
And present raptures banish pain.

—Declaration of the Free.

October 4.



NOTHING should be taught in any school that the teacher does not know. Beliefs, superstitions, theories, should not be treated like demonstrated facts. The child should be taught to investigate, not to believe. Too much doubt is better than too much credulity. So, children should be taught that it is their duty to think for themselves, to understand, and, if possible, to know. —How to Reform Mankind.

————— *October 1.* —————

————— *October 2.* —————

————— *October 3.* —————

————— *October 4.* —————

October 5.

THE real searcher after truth will not receive the old because it is old, or reject the new because it is new. He will not believe men because they are dead, or contradict them because they are alive. With him an utterance is worth the truth, the reason it contains, without the slightest regard to the author.

—The Truth.

October 6.

WE love no phantoms of the skies,
But living flesh,
With passion's soft and soulful eyes,
Lips warm and fresh,
And cheeks with health's red flag unfurled,
The breathing angels of this world.

—Declaration of the Free.

October 7.

ALL that tends to develop the bodies and minds of men; all that gives us better houses, better clothes, better food, better pictures, grander music, better heads, better hearts; all that renders us more intellectual and more loving, nearer just; that makes us better husbands and wives, better children, better citizens—all these things combined produce what I call Progress.

—The Ghosts.

October 8.

ALL the advance that has been made in the religious world has been made by "infidels," by "heretics," by "skeptics," by doubters—that is to say, by thoughtful men. The doubt does not come from the ignorant members of your congregations. Heresy is not born of stupidity—it is not the child of the brainless.

—Interviews.

————— *October 5.* —————

————— *October 6.* —————

————— *October 7.* —————

————— *October 8.* —————

October 9.



GREAT man throws pearls before swine, and the swine are sometimes changed to men. If the great had always kept their pearls, vast multitudes would be barbarians now.

—Voltaire.

October 10.



UT on the intellectual sea there is room for every sail. In the intellectual air there is space enough for every wing. The man who does not do his own thinking is a slave, and is a traitor to himself and to his fellowmen. Every man should stand under the blue and stars, under the infinite flag of nature, the peer of every other man.

—Liberty of Man, Woman and Child.

October 11.



BEAUTY is not all there is of poetry. It must contain the truth. It is not simply an oak, rude and grand, neither is it simply a vine. It is both. Around the oak of truth runs the vine of beauty.

—Tribute to Walt Whitman.

October 12.



LET us become investigators, not followers, not cringers and crawlers. If there is in heaven an infinite being, he will never be satisfied with the worship of cowards and hypocrites. Honest unbelief, honest Infidelity, honest Atheism will be a perfume in heaven when pious hypocrisy, no matter how religious it may be outwardly, will be a stench.

—Liberty of Man, Woman and Child.

————— *October 9.* —————

————— *October 10.* —————

————— *October 11.* —————

————— *October 12.* —————

October 13.



AMINE and faith go together. In disaster and want the gaze of man is fixed upon another world. He that eats a crust has a creed. Hunger falls upon its knees, and heaven, looked for through tears, is the mirage of misery. But prosperity brings joy and wealth and leisure—and the beautiful is born.

—On Shakespeare.

October 14.



HERE is one good—Happiness. There is but one sin—selfishness. All law should be for the preservation of the one and the destruction of the other.

—The Ghosts.

October 15.



HE jeweled cup of love we drain,
And friendship's wine
Now swiftly flows in every vein
With warmth divine.
And so we love and hope and dream
That in death's sky there is a gleam.

—Declaration of the Free.

October 16.



HEN the will defies fear, when the heart applauds the brain, when duty throws the gauntlet down to fate, when honor scorns to compromise with death—this is heroism.

—Decoration Day.

SUPERSTITION is the only enemy of science in all the world.

————— *October 13.* —————

————— *October 14.* —————

————— *October 15.* —————

————— *October 16.* —————

October 17.

THE nude in art has rendered holy the beauty of woman. Every Greek statue pleads for mothers and sisters. From these marbles come strains of music. They have filled the heart of man with tenderness and worship.

—Art and Morality.

October 18.

YOU need not fear the anger of a god that you cannot injure. Rather fear to injure your fellow-men. Do not be afraid of a crime you cannot commit. Rather be afraid of the one that you may commit.

—What Must We Do to Be Saved?

October 19.

MAN is greater than these phantoms. Humanity is grander than all the creeds, than all the books. Humanity is the great sea, and these creeds and books, and religions, are but the waves of a day. Humanity is the sky, and these religions and dogmas and theories are but the mists and clouds changing continually, destined finally to melt away.

—The Ghosts.

October 20.

IBELIEVE in the gospel of good clothes: I believe in the gospel of good houses, in the gospel of water and soap. I believe in the gospel of intelligence; in the gospel of education. The schoolhouse is my cathedral. The universe is my bible. I believe in that gospel of justice that we must reap what we sow.

—What Must We Do to Be Saved?

————— *October 17.* —————

————— *October 18.* —————

————— *October 19.* —————

————— *October 20.* —————

October 21.

THE great men are the heroes who have freed the bodies of men; they are the philosophers and thinkers who have given liberty to the soul; they are the poets who have transfigured the common and filled the lives of many millions with love and song.

—Voltaire.

October 22.

HE has uttered more supreme words than any writer of our century, possibly of almost any other. He was above all things a man; and above genius, above all the snowcapped peaks of intelligence, above all art, rises the true man.

—Tribute to Walt Whitman.

October 23.

AND I believe, too, in the gospel of liberty, in giving to others what we claim for ourselves. I believe there is room everywhere for thought, and the more liberty you give away, the more you will have. In liberty extravagance is economy. Let us be just. Let us be generous to each other.

—What Must We Do to Be Saved?

October 24.

THE time must come when churches and cathedrals will be dedicated to the use of man; when minister and priest will deem the discoveries of the living of more importance than the errors of the dead; when the truths of Nature will outrank the "sacred" falsehoods of the past, and when a single fact will outweigh all the miracles of Holy Writ.

—Some Mistakes of Moses.

————— *October 21.* —————

————— *October 22.* —————

————— *October 23.* —————

————— *October 24.* —————

October 25.



UPERSTITION is a beggar—a robber, a tyrant.
Science is a benefactor.
Superstition sheds blood.
Science sheds light.

—The Truth.

October 26.



HE first doubt was the womb and cradle of progress, and from the first doubt, man has continued to advance. Men began to investigate, and the church began to oppose. The astronomer scanned the heavens, while the church branded his grand forehead with the word “infidel”; and now not a glittering star in all the vast expanse bears a Christian name.

—The Gods.

October 27.



HE time will come when the world will be anxious to ascertain the truth, to find out the conditions of happiness, and to live in accordance with such conditions; and the time will come when, in the brain of every human being, will be the climate of intellectual hospitality.

—How to Reform Mankind.

October 28.



HERE is no authority in churches or priests—no authority in numbers or majorities. The only authority is Nature—the facts we know. Facts are the masters, the enemies of the ignorant, the servants and friends of the intelligent.

—The Truth.

HAPPINESS is the only possible good, and all that tends to the happiness is right, and is of value.

————— *October 25.* —————

————— *October 26.* —————

————— *October 27.* —————

————— *October 28.* —————

October 29.



GREAT man is a torch in the darkness, a beacon in superstition's night, an inspiration and a prophecy. The place does not make the man, nor the sceptre the king. Greatness is from within.

—Voltaire.

October 30.



RELIGION was the lullaby of the cradle, the ghost story told by the old woman Superstition. Science is the man. Science asks for demonstration. Science impels us to investigation, and to verify everything for ourselves.

—Interviews.

October 31.



THE arguments used to-day against what they are pleased to call infidelity would have shut the mouth of every religious reformer from Christ to the founder of the last sect. The general objection to the new is, that it differs somewhat from the old, and the fact that it does differ is urged as an argument against its truth.

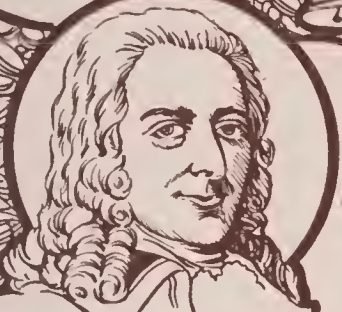
—Appeal to the Cemetery.



————— *October 29.* —————

————— *October 30.* —————

————— *October 31.* —————



Francois Voltaire

November

AUTUMN with the laden boughs, when the withered banners of the corn are still, and gathered fields are growing strangely wan; while death, poetic death, with hands that color what they touch, weaves in the Autumn wood her tapestry of gold and brown.



P. F. Berdansen.

November 1.



THE maples are clad in tender gold, and little scarlet runners are coming, like poems of regret, from the sad heart of the earth.

—Liberty of Man, Woman and Child.

A BELIEVER is a bird in a cage, a Freethinker is an eagle parting the clouds with tireless wing.

—Individuality.

November 2.



IN the republic of mind, *one* is a majority. There all are monarchs, and all are equals. The tyranny of a majority even is unknown. Each one is crowned, sceptred and throned. Upon every brow is the tiara, and around every form is the imperial purple. Only those are good citizens who express their honest thought, and those who persecute for opinion's sake are the only traitors.

—The Ghosts.

November 3.



LOVE and virtue are the same the whole world round, and Justice is the same in every star.

—Some Mistakes of Moses.

REFORMATION is a hospital where the new philosophy exhausts its strength nursing the old religion.

—Auguste Comte.

November 4.



THE volume of Nature should be open to all. None but the intelligent and honest can read this book. Prejudice clouds and darkens every page. Hypocrisy reads and misquotes, and credulity accepts the quotation. Superstition cannot read a line or spell a word. And yet this volume holds all knowledge—all truth, and is the only source of thought.

—The Truth.

————— *November 1.* —————

————— *November 2.* —————

————— *November 3.* —————

————— *November 4.* —————

November 5.



HE inventor of pins did a thousand times more good than all the popes and cardinals, the bishops and priests—than all the clergymen and parsons, exhorters and theologians that ever lived.

—A Thanksgiving Sermon.

November 6.



ALL the known truths of this world—all the philosophy, all the poems, all the pictures, all the statues, all the entrancing music—the prattle of babes, the lullaby of mothers, the words of honest men, the trumpet calls to duty—all these make up the bible of the world—everything that is noble and true and free, you will find in this great book.

—Argument in Trial for Blasphemy.

November 7.



HE religion that has to be supported by law is without value not only, but a fraud and a curse. The religious argument that has to be supported by a musket, is hardly worth making. A prayer that must have a cannon behind it, better never be uttered. Forgiveness ought not to go in partnership with shot and shell. Love need not carry knives and revolvers.

—Declaration of Independence.

November 8.



IN the great struggle between the supernatural and the natural, between gods and men, we have passed midnight. All the forces of civilization, all the facts that have been found, all the truths that have been discovered are the allies of science—the enemies of the supernatural. We need no myths, no miracles, no gods, no devils.

—Myth and Miracle.

November 5.

November 6.

November 7.

November 8.

November 9.

EVERY fact has pushed a superstition from the brain and a ghost from the clouds. Every mechanic art is an educator. Every loom, every reaper and mower, every steamboat, every locomotive, every engine, every press, every telegraph is a missionary of Science and an apostle of Progress.

—The Ghosts.

November 10.

NO one should attempt to refute an argument by pronouncing the name of some man, unless he is willing to adopt all the ideas and beliefs of that man. It is better to give reasons and facts than names. An argument should not depend for its force upon the name of its author. Facts need no pedigree; logic has no heraldry and the living should not be awed by the mistakes of the dead. —Appeal to the Cemetery.

November 11.

WE do not bow before a guess,
A vague unknown;
A senseless force we do not bless
In solemn tone.

When evil comes we do not curse,
Or thank because it is no worse.

—Declaration of the Free.

November 12.

OVER the grave bends Love sobbing, and by her side stands Hope and whispers: We shall meet again. Before all life is death, and after all death is life. The falling leaf touched with the hectic flush, that testifies of autumn's death, is in a subtler sense a prophecy of Spring.

—Tribute to Walt Whitman.

————— *November 9.* —————

————— *November 10.* —————

————— *November 11.* —————

————— *November 12.* —————

November 13.



VERY creed is a rock in running water; humanity sweeps by it. Every creed cries to the universe, "Halt!" A creed is the ignorant past bullying the enlightened present.

—Thomas Paine.

November 14.



ELIEF is, and forever must be, the result of evidence. A promised reward is not evidence. It sheds no intellectual light. It establishes no fact, answers no objection, and dissipates no doubt. Is it honest to offer a reward for belief?

—The Truth.

November 15.



WITH the idea that labor is the basis of progress goes the truth that labor must be free. The laborer must be a free man. Free labor will give us wealth. Free thought will give us truth.

—The Ghosts.

November 16.



THE meanest hut with love in it is a palace fit for the gods, and a palace without love is a den only fit for wild beasts. That is my doctrine! You cannot be so poor that you cannot help somebody. Good nature is the cheapest commodity in the world; and love is the only thing that will pay ten per cent. to borrower and lender both.

—Liberty of Man, Woman and Child.

————— *November 13.* —————

————— *November 14.* —————

————— *November 15.* —————

————— *November 16.* —————

November 17.



AMONG the most ignorant nations you will find the most wonders; among the most enlightened the least. Ignorance believes, intelligence examines and explains.

—Some Mistakes of Moses.

November 18.



THE simple truth is what we ask,
Not the ideal;
We set ourselves the noble task
To find the real.
If all there is is nought but dross
We want to know and bear our loss.

—Declaration of the Free.

November 19.



WHEN you go home you ought to go like a ray of light—so that it will, even in the night, burst out of the doors and windows and illuminate the darkness.

—Liberty of Man, Woman and Child.

November 20.



OBSTRUCTION is but virtue's foil. From thwarted light leaps color's flame. The stream impeded has a song.

—Tribute to H. W. Beecher.

WHEN women reason and babes sit in the lap of philosophy, the victory of reason over the shadowy host of darkness will be complete.

—Individuality.

————— *November 17.* —————

————— *November 18.* —————

————— *November 19.* —————

————— *November 20.* —————

November 21.

ON Sunday, the twenty-first of November, 1694, a babe was born—Voltaire! a name that excites the admiration of men, the malignity of priests. Voltaire was the greatest man of his century, and did more to free the human race than any other of the sons of men.

November 22.

NATURE does not hurry. Time cannot be wasted—cannot be lost. The future remains eternal and all the past is as though it were to be. The infinite knows neither loss nor gain.

—A Thanksgiving Sermon.

November 23.

MENTAL liberty means the right of all to read this book [the volume of nature]. Here the Pope and Peasant are equal. Each must read for himself—and each ought to honestly and fearlessly give to his fellowmen what he learns.

—The Truth.

IGNORANCE is the mother of mystery and misery, of superstition and sorrow, of waste and want. —The Truth.

November 24.

THANK the brave men with brave thoughts. They are the Atlases upon whose broad and mighty shoulders rests the grand fabric of civilization. They are the men who have broken, and are still breaking, the chains of superstition. They are the Titans who carried Olympus by assault, and who will soon stand victors upon Sinai's crags.

—The Ghosts.

————— *November 21.* —————

————— *November 22.* —————

————— *November 23.* —————

————— *November 24.* —————

November 25.



THINK it is better to love your children than to love God, a thousand times better because you can help them, and I am inclined to think that God can get along without you. Certainly we cannot help a being without body, parts or passions!

—Orthodoxy.

November 26.



HAT which is founded upon slavery, and fear, and ignorance, cannot endure. In the religion of the future there will be men and women and children, all the aspirations of the soul, and all the tender humanities of the heart.

—The Ghosts.

November 27.



WE do not pray, or weep, or wail;
We have no dread.
No fear to pass beyond the veil
That hides the dead.

And yet we question, dream, and guess;
But knowledge we do not possess.

—Declaration of the Free.

November 28.



EVERY man should be mentally honest. He should preserve as his most precious jewel the perfect veracity of his soul.

—The Truth.

EVERY man should be the intellectual proprietor of himself, and intellectually hospitable; and upon every brain reason should be enthroned as king.

—Interviews.

November 25.

November 26.

November 27.

November 28.

November 29.



VERY man should have the courage to give his honest thought. This makes the finder and publisher of truth a public benefactor.

—The Truth.

November 30.



OR the vagaries of the clouds the Infidels propose to substitute the realities of the earth; for superstition, the splendid demonstrations and achievements of science; and for theological tyranny, the chainless liberty of thought.

—The Gods.



November 29.

November 30.





THERE had been a snow, and after the snows a sleet, and all the trees were bent, and all the boughs were arched. Every fence, every log cabin had been transfigured, touched with a glory almost beyond this world. The great fields were a pure and perfect white, the forests, drooping beneath their load of gems, made wonderful caves, from which one almost expected to see troops of fairies come. The whole world looked like a bride, jeweled from head to foot.



December 1.



MAN must learn to rely on himself. Reading bibles will not protect him from the blasts of winter, but houses, fires, and clothing will. To prevent famine, one plow is worth a million sermons, and even patent medicines will cure more diseases than all the prayers uttered since the beginning of the world.

—The Gods.

December 2.



EVERY child should be taught to doubt, to inquire—to demand reasons. Every soul should defend itself—should be on its guard against falsehood, deceit, and mistake, and should beware of all kinds of confidence men, including those in the pulpit.

—The Truth.

December 3.



MEN should be liberated from the aristocracy of the air. Every chain of superstition should be broken. The rights of men and women should be equal and sacred—marriage should be a perfect partnership—children should be governed by kindness—every family should be a republic—every fireside a democracy.

—The Ghosts.

December 4.



GROWTH is heresy. Orthodox ideas are the feathers that have been moulted by the eagle of progress. They are the dead leaves under the majestic palm, while heresy is the bud and blossom at the top. Every heretic has been, and is, a ray of light. Not in vain were the splendid utterances of the Infidels, while beyond all price are the discoveries of Science.

—Heretics and Heresies.

December 1.

December 2.

December 3.

December 4.

December 5.

THE complex, tangled web of thought and dream, of perception and memory, of imagination and judgment, of wish and will and want—the woven wonder of a life—has never yet been raveled back to simple threads.

—Preface to Brain and Bible.

December 6.

SHALL we not become charitable and just, when we know that every act is but condition's fruit; that Nature, with her countless hands, scatters the seeds of tears and crimes—of ever virtue and of every joy; that all the base and vile are victims of the Blind, and that the good and great have, in the lottery of life, by chance or fate, drawn heart and brain?

—Preface to Brain and Bible.

December 7.

APROPHECY that depends for its fulfilment upon an impossibility, cannot satisfy the brain or heart. There are but few who do not long for a dawn beyond the night. And this longing is born of and nourished by the heart. Love wrapped in shadow, bending with tear-filled eyes above its dead, convulsively clasps the outstretched hand of hope.

—Preface to Men, Women and Gods.

December 8.

BBELIEVE in the medicine of mirth, and in what I might call the longevity of laughter. In a world like this, where there is so much trouble—a world gotten up on such a poor plan—where sometimes one is almost inclined to think that the Deity, if there be one, played a practical joke—to find, I say, in such a world, something that for the moment allows laughter to triumph over sorrow, is a great piece of good fortune. —Robson and Crane Dinner.

December 5.

December 6.

December 7.

December 8.

December 9.



HERE never was a man of true genius who had not the simplicity of a child, and over whose lips had not rippled the river of laughter—never, and there never will be.

—After Dinner Speeches.

December 10.



HILE Reason is the pilot of the soul, Humor carries the lamp. Whoever has the sense of humor fully developed, cannot, by any possibility, be an orthodox theologian. He would be his own laughing-stock. The most absurd stories, the most laughable miracles, read in a solemn, stately way, sound to the ears of ignorance and awe like truth.

—Interviews.

December 11.



HE teacher, the mother, should be absolutely honest. The nursery should not be an asylum for lies. Parents should be modest enough to be truthful—honest enough to admit their ignorance. Nothing should be taught as true that cannot be demonstrated.

—The Truth.

December 12.



ND yet, after all, what would this world be without death? It may be from the fact that we are all victims, from the fact that we are all bound by a common fate; it may be that friendship and love are born of that fact; but whatever the fact is, I am perfectly satisfied that the highest possible philosophy is to enjoy to-day, not regretting yesterday, and not fearing to-morrow.

————— *December 9.* —————

————— *December 10.* —————

————— *December 11.* —————

————— *December 12.* —————

December 13.

TO be self-respecting we must be self-supporting. Nobility is a question of character, not of birth. Honor cannot be received as alms—it must be earned. It is the brow that makes the wreath of glory green.

—After Dinner Speeches.

December 14.

BUT where harmony is preserved by the proper exercise, even old age is beautiful. To the well developed, to the strong, life seems rich, obstacles small, and success easy. They laugh at cold and storm. Whatever the season may be their hearts are filled with summer.

—After Dinner Speeches.

December 15.

THESE myths filled the veins of Spring with tremulous desire, made tawny Summer's billowy breast the throne and home of love, filled Autumn's arms with sunkissed grapes and gathered sheaves, and pictured winter as a weak old king, who felt like Lear, upon his withered face, Cordelia's tears.

—Myth and Miracle.

December 16.

LIBERTY is the birthright of all. Parents should not deprive their children of the great gifts of nature. We cannot all leave lands and gold to those we love; but we can leave Liberty, and that is of more value than all the wealth of India.

—Fragments.

————— *December 13.* —————

————— *December 14.* —————

————— *December 15.* —————

————— *December 16.* —————

December 17.

THE man who thinks on his feet, who has the pose of passion, the face that thought illuminates, a voice in harmony with the idea expressed, who dresses the ideas of the people in purple and fine linen, who has the art of finding the best and noblest in his hearers—that man is an orator, no matter of what time or what country.

—Orators and Oratory.

December 18.

THE real truth is that men change their opinions as long as they grow, and only those remain of the same opinion still who have reached the intellectual autumn of their lives; who have gone to seed, and who are simply waiting for the winter of death. Now and then there is a brain in which there is the climate of perpetual spring—men who never grow old—and when such a one is found we say, “Here is a genius.”

December 19.

THE man who builds a home erects a temple. The flame upon the hearth is the sacred fire. He who loves wife and children is the true worshiper. Forms and ceremonies, kneelings and fastings, are born of selfish fear. A good deed is the best prayer. A loving life is the best religion. No one knows whether the Unknown is worthy of worship or not.

—Fragments.

December 20.

MAGNETISM is what you might call the climate of a man. Some men, and some women, look like a perfect June day. . . . There are people who are autumnal—that is to say, generous. They have had their harvest, and have plenty to spare. Others look like the end of an exceedingly hard winter—between the hay and the grass the hay mostly gone and the grass not yet come up.

—Interviews.

————— *December 17.* —————

————— *December 18.* —————

————— *December 19.* —————

————— *December 20.* —————

December 21.



JUDGE should either sit beyond the reach of prejudice, in some calm that storms cannot invade, or he should be a kind of oak so that before any blast he would stand erect.

—Interviews.

December 22.



CHARACTER cannot be made by another for you. You must be the architect of your own." There is to me unspeakably more comfort in the idea that every failure ends here, than that it is to be perpetuated forever.

—Replies to Clergy.

December 23.



TAKE from loving hearts the awful fear. Have mercy on your fellow-men. Do not drive to madness the mothers whose tears are falling on the pallid faces of those who died in unbelief. Pity the erring, wayward, suffering, weeping world. Do not proclaim as "tidings of great joy" that an Infinite Spider is weaving webs to catch the souls of men.

—Replies to Clergy.

December 24.



WE know that acts are good or bad only as they affect the actors and others. We know that from every good act good consequences flow, and that from every bad act there are only evil results. Every virtuous deed is a star in the moral firmament.

—The Christian Religion.

————— *December 21.* —————

————— *December 22.* —————

————— *December 23.* —————

————— *December 24.* —————

December 25.



THE good part of Christmas is not always Christian—it is generally Pagan; that is to say, human, natural. . . . Christmas is a good day to forgive and forget, a good day to throw away prejudices and hatreds, a good day to fill your heart and your house, and the hearts and houses of others, with sunshine.

—Christmas Sermon.

December 26.



WE love our fellow man, our kind,
Wife, child and friend.
To phantoms we are deaf and blind;
But we extend
The helping hand to the distressed.
By lifting others we are blessed.

—Declaration of the Free.

December 27.



IN the search for truth—that everything in nature seems to hide—man needs the assistance of all his faculties. All the senses should be awake. Humor should carry a torch, Wit should give its sudden light, Candor should hold the scales, Reason, the final arbiter, should put his royal stamp on every fact, and Memory, with a miser's care, should keep and guard the mental gold. —Gladstone Discussion.

December 28.



DO you not see that if men have done good and bad, the future can have neither a perfect heaven nor a perfect hell? I believe in the manly doctrine that every human being must bear the consequences of his acts, and that no man can be justly saved or damned on account of the goodness or the wickedness of another.

—Field Discussion.

December 25.

December 26.

December 27.

December 28.

December 29.



ANY people suppose that poetry is a kind of art, depending upon certain rules, and that it is only necessary to find out these rules to be a poet. But these rules have never been found. The great poet follows them unconsciously. The great poet seems as unconscious as Nature, and the product of the highest art seems to have been felt instead of thought.

—Robert Burns.

December 30.



HAVE said that the golden bridge of life from gloom emerges, and on shadow rests. . . . Life is a shadowy, strange, and winding road on which we travel for a few short steps, just a little way from the cradle, with its lullaby of love, to the low and quiet wayside inn, where all at last must sleep, and where the only salutation is "Good-night."

December 31.



NOTHER year has joined his shadowy fellows in the wide and voiceless desert of the past, where, from the eternal hour-glass, forever fall the sands of time. Another year, with all its joy and grief, of birth and death, of failure and success—of love and hate. And now, the first day of the new overarches all. Standing between the buried and the babe, we cry, "Farewell and Hail!"

—The Old and New Year.



————— *December 29.* —————

————— *December 30.* —————

————— *December 31.* —————

Index to Birthdays.

A

B

The image shows a large, empty T-shaped structure. It consists of a horizontal line at the top, which is divided into two sections by a vertical line extending downwards from its center. The left section is labeled 'A' and the right section is labeled 'B'. The vertical line extends down the page, creating a narrow column in the center. The rest of the page is blank.

Index to Birthdays.

C

D



Index to Birthdays.

E


F

The image shows a large, empty table structure. It consists of a horizontal line at the top, which serves as the header line. Below this line, a vertical line descends from the center, creating a single column. The letters 'E' and 'F' are positioned above the horizontal line, indicating the start of the 'E' and 'F' sections of the index. The rest of the page is blank, suggesting that the names and birth dates for these sections have not yet been entered.

Index to Birthdays.

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Index to Birthdays.

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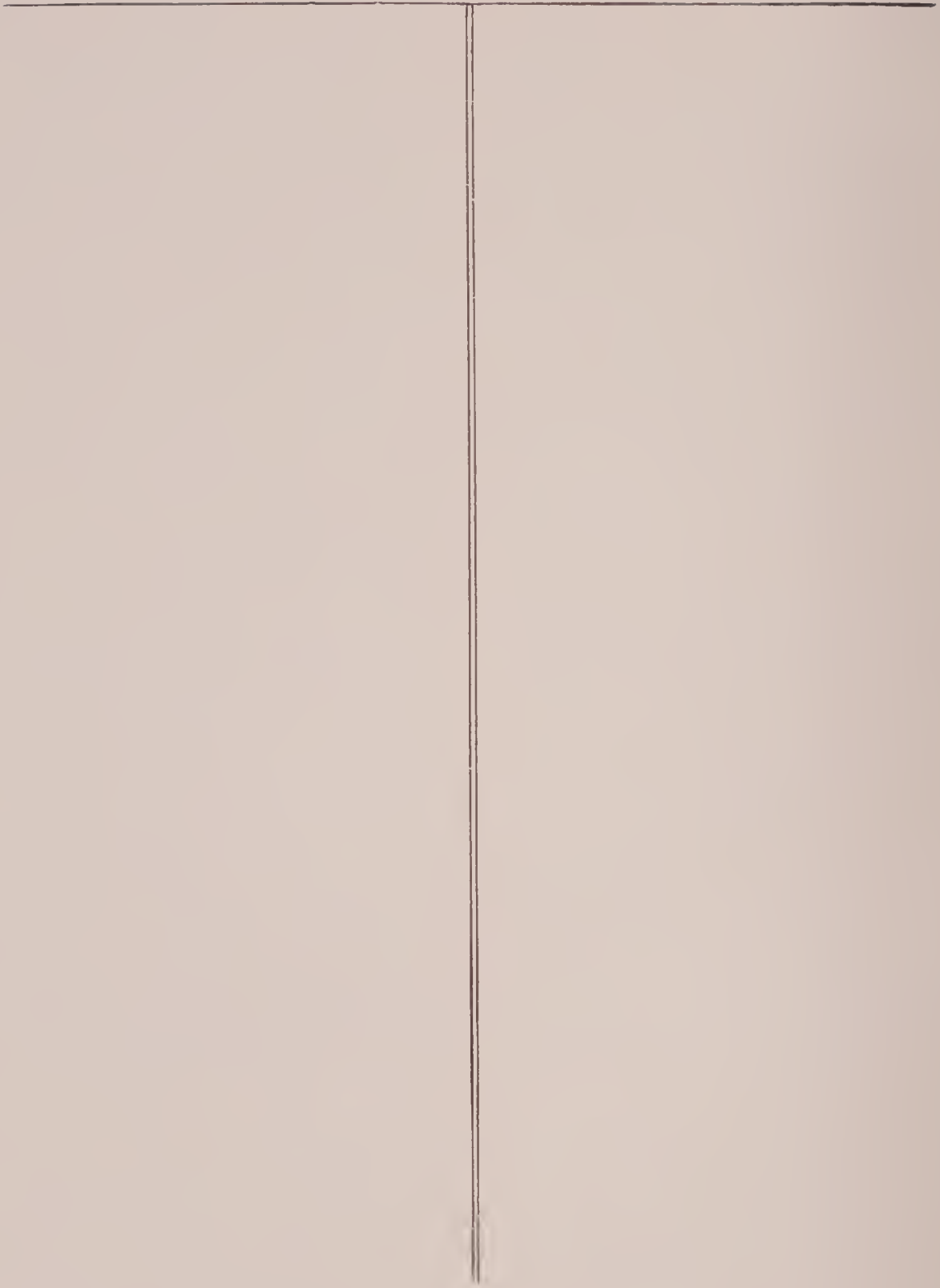
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Index to Birthdays.

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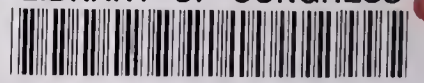
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