

Sunday Reading.

From the German Reformed Banner. MYSTERY IN RELIGION.

There are many Christians now-a-days, who desire the whole of Christianity brought within the narrow compass of their own finite and partially spiritualized understandings.

This desire to have everything within the range of the Christian salvation shorn of its mysterious nature and brought down by means of a false philosophy to the level of the human understanding, is the very essence of cold, barren Rationalism.

From such fatal results the truly Christian mind turns away in horror and loathing. And yet this is the tendency of the age in which we live to a fearful extent.

God—There is but one only living and true God, who is infinite in being and perfection, a most pure spirit, invisible, without body, parts, or passions, immutable, immense, eternal, incomprehensible, almighty, most wise, most holy, most free, most absolute, working all things according to the counsel of his own immutable and most righteous will, for his own glory; most loving, gracious, merciful, long-suffering, abundant in goodness and truth, forgiving iniquity, transgression and sin; and the rewarder of them that diligently seek him; and withal most just and terrible in his judgments; hating all sin, and who will by no means clear the guilty.

Surely one great object of the religion of Christ, is to give its peculiar coloring to that which is seen and temporal, to take off the false gloss from what flatters our pride, to reveal the inherent meanness of human grandeur, the decay that lurks in the brightest scene of earthly beauty, and to secure for the invisible world to which we hasten, that ascendancy which is due to the brightness of its glory and the eternity of its duration.

Who so walketh uprightly shall be saved; but he that is perverse in his ways shall fall at once.

NEW PLATFORM OF THE AMERICAN PARTY.

1. An humble acknowledgment to the Supreme Being who rules the universe for his protecting care vouchsafed to our fathers in their successful revolutionary struggle, and hitherto manifested to us, their descendants, in the protection of the liberties, the independence, and the union of these States.

2. The perpetuation of the federal Union and Constitution as the palladium of our civil and religious liberties, and the only sure bulwark of American independence.

3. American most rule America, and to this our native-born citizens should be entitled for all State, Federal and municipal offices or government employment, in preference to all others; nevertheless,

4. Persons born of American parents residing temporarily abroad should be entitled to all the rights of native-born citizens; but 5. No person should be elected for political station, (whether of native or foreign birth,) who recognizes any allegiance or obligation of any description to any foreign prince, potentate or power, or who refuses to recognize the federal and State constitutions (each within its sphere) as paramount to all other laws, as rules of political action.

for they who work quietly confess that they labor, not in their own strength, but as grace is given them from hour to hour; and that they toil not for themselves, as though they were their own masters and the fruits of their toil were to be their own, but they have a 'Master in heaven,' who is both able and willing to prosper them in their handiwork, because it is done in His name, and the honor and glory of their salvation will be His own; and thus (though outwardly they may pass through a vale of misery) so go on from strength to strength, from the first weak beginnings of faith and love, (which are stronger than the might of the world,) unto 'the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ,' unto the strength of full grown men in the Lord; who not only do that which is right, but also do their right actions in the right way; men, whose every thought, and word, and deed, is one continual offering unto the Lord who, whether they eat or drink, or speak or are silent, or awake or asleep, 'do all to the glory of God the Father, through our Lord Jesus Christ.'

'Faith maketh the good tree, and unbelieveth the evil tree; as the tree, so is the fruit; as a man, such are his works. For all things that are done in faith please God, and are good works; and all that are done without faith displease God, and are evil works. Whosoever believeth or thinketh to be saved by his works, denieth that Christ is his Saviour, that Christ died for him, and that all things pertain to Christ. For how is he thy Saviour, if thou mightest save thyself by thy works, or wherefore should he die for thee, if any of thy works might have saved thee?'

God—There is but one only living and true God, who is infinite in being and perfection, a most pure spirit, invisible, without body, parts, or passions, immutable, immense, eternal, incomprehensible, almighty, most wise, most holy, most free, most absolute, working all things according to the counsel of his own immutable and most righteous will, for his own glory; most loving, gracious, merciful, long-suffering, abundant in goodness and truth, forgiving iniquity, transgression and sin; and the rewarder of them that diligently seek him; and withal most just and terrible in his judgments; hating all sin, and who will by no means clear the guilty.

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any and all alleged abuses of public functionaries and a strict economy in public expenditures.

12. The maintenance and enforcement of all laws, constitutionally enacted, until said laws shall be repealed, or shall be declared null and void by competent judicial authority.

13. Opposition to the reckless and unwise policy of the present administration in the general management of our national affairs, and more especially as shown in removing 'Americans' (by designation and conservatism in principle) from office, and placing foreigners and ultraists in their places; as shown in tracking subserviently to the stronger, and an insolent and cowardly bravado towards the weaker powers; as shown in re-opening sectional agitation by the repeal of the Missouri Compromise; as shown in granting to unnaturalized foreigners the right to suffrage in Kansas and Nebraska; as shown in its vacillating course on the Kansas and Nebraska question; as shown in the corruptions which pervade some of the departments of the government; as shown in disgracing meritorious naval officers, through prejudice or caprice; as shown in the blundering mismanagement of our foreign relations.

14. Therefore, to remedy existing evils, and prevent the disastrous consequences otherwise resulting therefrom, we would build up the 'American party' upon the principles herein before stated.

15. That each State Council shall have authority to annul their several constitutions so as to abolish the several degrees, and substitute a pledge of honor instead of other obligation, for fellowship and admission into the party.

16. A free and open discussion of all political principles embraced in our platform.

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