

GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION

AN AGNOSTIC'S METAMORPHOSIS

Interesting Letter From One Who, After Thirty Years, Knows Nothing on the Subject of Religion. Now Views the Work and Plans of the Creator With Amazement and Admiration—The Causes That Opened the Eyes of One Who, "Seeing, Saw Not."

To the Editor of The Observer: In my pastoral duties lately I have had my attention drawn to the following private letter which so impressed me as well as some others who were privileged to see it, that with the permission of the necessary parties, I have requested The Standard to give it a wider opportunity for helpfulness.

Concord, March 23, 1906.

My Dear D—: This is Sunday, and I have concluded, after much earnest cogitation and after much painful, reluctant deliberation, to try to write you a letter befitting the day and the new departure I have taken from the old beaten track over which I have been journeying all my life.

For the past thirty years I have been a constant agnostic, a "know-nothing" on the subject of religion; looking upon the Christian as merely the best form of the various religions of the world, and as to the Supreme Being—He was utterly unknowable, had for His own purposes set things going under certain fixed and unvarying laws, withdrawn Himself personally and let those laws govern, and His viceregent developed upon us poor forlorn creatures placed here without any option in the matter to study and find out these laws and make the best we could of our deplorable condition.

For the last two years I have been compelled to stand beside the highway and see the procession pass, not taking any part myself. It has been a most bitter and worried over my helplessness beyond the conception of one who has never had a like disagreeable test. By degrees, I had learned to accept the situation and to endeavor to make the best of it. During that time I have, on an average, devoted eight hours every day to studious and thoughtful reading of the works of the greatest thinkers who have lived on our planet or are now residing on it.

For nearly three months of each of these years I have, in our mountains, been thrown into the society of many of the creme-de-la-creme of our Southern people. They were all extremely select people, in every respect. Among the men, I have never seen one under the influence of whiskey, never heard an oath uttered and have never heard a word bitter and trying experience. Some few of them—the exceptions—were somewhat skeptical on the subject of religion, but never obtruded their views under any circumstances. I dropped down among these people an utter stranger and found that somehow to make an acquaintance was to make a friend. My age, my sufferings, my inability to join them in their little excursions and the pleasure I found in everything going on around me, won me their respect, and, in many cases, their warm affection. I correspond with more than a dozen of these people, at intervals, and with some regularly. To illustrate: a beautiful, winning, refined and highly cultivated young girl, about 20 years of age, had only a few days leave of absence from her work, and the amount of pleasure she got out of these few days was a delight and a revelation to the rest of us. She knew only one person when she came but when she left there were the whole of us, and she, a little, at the station to see her off. This young woman, from the very first, went out of her way to show me little kindnesses and we became great friends. She is helping to support her mother and family. They were, up to the death of the father and husband, a few years ago, in affluent circumstances, but now are dependent upon their own exertions for a living.

Now, D—, my admiration, regard and worshipful respect for this young lady—and she is but a type of thousands in this broad land—is simply inexpressible in words. When her image is recalled an exhilaration as of the strains of the sextette of Lucia di Lammermoor is experienced and I thank God that poor human nature can develop such a fragrant and beautiful flower. In fact, company with us or with each other? Of late, however, wireless telegraphy has been offering several marvelous suggestions in a crude way on this mystery, and, being, she may not have ever ended those worlds, and, then, over all is the Almighty who will attend to all that.

Now, that I should be singled out, as it were, in this way and made to feel that my sins are forgiven me, is the most wonderful occurrence of my life. I look upon myself as a clear-headed man. What I read, I weigh and ponder over; I receive it as the truth. Yet my whole life gives the lie to its few closing hours. It is not fear that did it. I never had doubt but that my position was correct, viz: that I didn't

know and couldn't know anything about a future life. I believe that it was the Spirit of God, Himself, who said to me as He did to Paul, "why persecutest thou me?" If you have done some, or are prepared to do some, or a great injustice and, all at once, it dawns upon you that this person is your best friend and loves you and is dying to do you a favor, really the one favor you desire above all others, one that will affect your wife and children and all your friends—wouldn't a great revelation take place in your feelings? It has been so with Jesus and myself. D—, pardon me, if I seem officious in this letter, but I mean you well; Yours,

A VERY DELIGHTFUL ENTERTAINMENT BY MRS. W. J. MONTGOMERY—LIBRARY CONSOLIDATION DISCUSSED. Special to The Observer.

Concord, March 24.—Mrs. W. J. Montgomery entertained the Virginia Dare Book Club most delightfully on Thursday afternoon at her elegant home, No. 1100 Union street. Mrs. Montgomery, though not a member of the club, is one of its staunchest friends. In the hall and parlor was the perfume of spring flowers, jonquils, which were scattered about the meeting of the club there was no programme, so the guests were soon shown to the dining room. The table looked fresh and spring-like decorated in quantities of nasturtiums. An elegant three-course luncheon was served.

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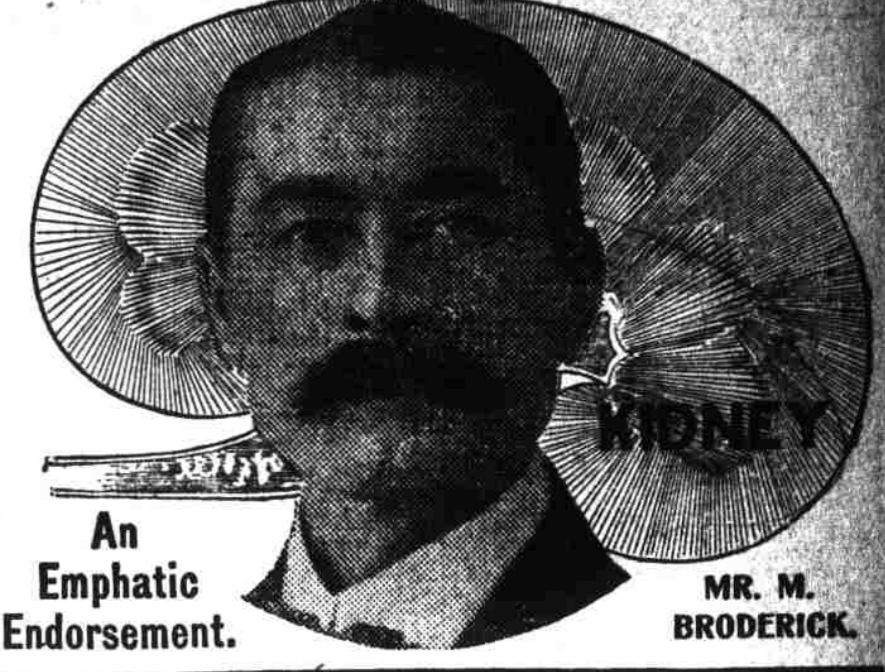
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"FOR KIDNEY TROUBLE AND A WEAK BACK."

"Pe-ru-na Has No Equal."

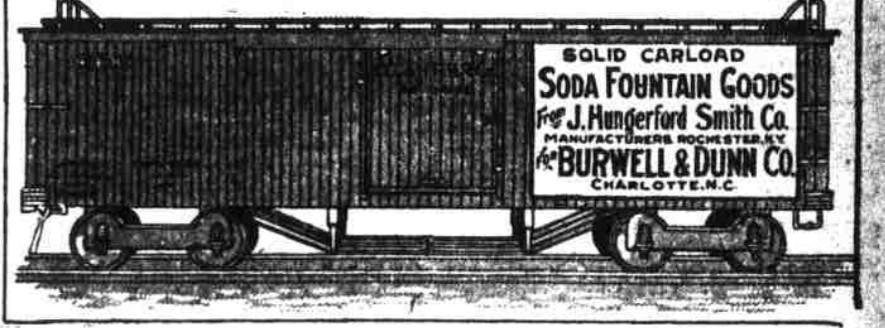


An Emphatic Endorsement. MR. M. BRODERICK. Mr. M. Broderick, 436 E. 46th St., Financial Secretary Stable Employees Union, No. 104, Chicago, Ill., writes: "I have been suffering from a weak back and kidney trouble for some time and have been able to find relief only through the use of Pe-ru-na."

Kidney Trouble is Not Always Recognized as Catarrh—Pe-ru-na Relieves Kidney Disease because It is a Remedy For All Phases of Catarrh.

Like catarrh, it pervades the whole system, and counteracts the effects of the disease. A great many people believe that they have been cured of chronic Bright's Disease by the use of Pe-ru-na. It is certainly true that in the earlier stages of Bright's Disease, Pe-ru-na is an effective remedy. Numerous testimonials on this point establish the fact beyond all doubt. Mr. Otto A. Fleissner, American epicurean, formerly Chief of Col. W. J. Cody, 1412 Sixth Ave., Seattle, Wash., writes: "I suffered with kidney and bladder trouble until life did not seem worth living. I had tried many medicines, but did not get any relief until I took Pe-ru-na. It was really wonderful how much better I was after I used this medicine only a week. At the end of six months I found to my relief that I had rid my system of all poisons and I was cured to stay cured."

A Solid Carload Crushed Fruits and Fountain Flavors



This car is in and being rapidly distributed. We offer Manufacturers' Prices on All Fountain Goods. Apparatus and Outfits from \$50.00 to \$2500.00. Ice Shavers, Steel Founts, Glasses, Holders, Spoons, Rock Candy Syrup, Extracts, Coca Cola, Nerve Coca, Root Beer, Straws, Bowls. Burwell & Dunn Company, WHOLESALE ONLY, 295 South College Street.

TRADE COSMO MARK ASK FOR COSMO BUTTERMILK SOAP. It's the Best for Complexion, Toilet and Bath. SOLD EVERYWHERE. BURWELL & DUNN CO., AGENTS FOR CHARLOTTE. The Cosmo Company, Sole Mfrs. Philadelphia.

Is Your Insurance Insured?

Insurance, or would you be forced to surrender your insurance? Can you afford to take the risk of leaving your loved ones unprotected for after your death. There is a way to protect yourself and those dependent upon you against such an unfortunate contingency, and that is to insure both your life and earning power by the purchase of an Income Indemnity Policy

The Income Indemnity Policy is the best and most satisfactory life insurance contract ever devised. It provides absolute protection for everything that should be protected by a legitimate insurance policy, and guarantees the highest dividends and most liberal settlement options. It is sold only by the Greensboro Life Insurance Company

You may have a sufficient amount of life insurance to create an adequate estate for your dependant ones, but what would become of it should disease or accident make you a non-producer during the remainder of your life? Would you be able to maintain yourself and family and continue the payment of life insurance premiums against such an unfortunate contingency, and that is to insure both your life and earning power by the purchase of an Income Indemnity Policy

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