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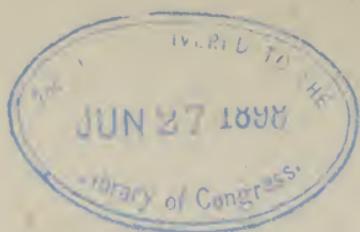
-CHRISTIAN CULTS

SPIRITUALISM

THEOSOPHY

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

BARRINGTON



Anti-Christian Cults.

AN ATTEMPT TO SHOW THAT

Spiritualism, Theosophy and Christian Science

ARE DEVOID OF SUPERNATURAL POWERS AND
ARE CONTRARY TO THE CHRISTIAN RELIGION.

— BY —

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WITH A COMMENDATORY BY
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Commendatory.

To the Reader :

THE request to commend this book, coming from a valued Presbyter in this Diocese, and also a dear personal friend, is one to which I very cordially give heed. If only to testify publicly to my warm confidence in him, as a devoted servant of God, in the Ministry of His Church, the request could well be granted.

But beyond this range of personal feeling, one is always glad to commend every honest effort made to stem somewhat, if it may be, this wholesale delusion of the reading public, going on to such a wide extent to-day, by the many clever tricksters, the enchanters, the smooth and easy talkers, the magicians of every degree—great and small—male and female—who come before the public daily with their wares for sale: the new philosophies, their recently patented systems of religion, their fresh panaceas for all our many human

ills; and who do thus, in a strange measure, bewitch the public eye; and withal do most egregiously fool the people, lead many weak and unstable Christian folk away from the old faith, aside from the rough and narrow path.

“Cults,” these are well called; make-shifts, patent medicine processes; and all thoroughly “Anti-Christian Cults,” most veritably and far too effectually, they always prove to be. New they also are, in one sense; and yet not new, in a more true and exact sense. Old and very old, full of decay and moral rottenness; full of foul odors and intellectual poison, and the germs of a fatal spiritual disease hid beneath—as all history well shows. Old ghosts of old-time heresies, they are—each one. Ghosts that will not lie down in their graves; sure to rise again each passing century, or even decade; assume some new and more fanciful dress, perhaps a shade more picturesque and fashionable than before; and so they live again, parading the old lie under changed terms and in smart language; beguiling many weary and sin-laden souls, fooling the people, attracting the unwary, shaking the unstable; as the latest fashions, the last mental “cult,” the newest and freshest “religion” always has done, always will do: something that has come to “reform,” to supersede and dethrone the old.

Nor are we at all hopeful or expectant that these innumerable “ghosts” will ever permanently die. Stop them all to-day, and they will all rise up again on the

morrow, at least in some other place, and in some other way. "There is nothing new under the sun," not even in these subtle lines of moral and intellectual heresies. And so the long spiritual combat of truth against error, of the Church against the devil, of Christ against Belial, of God against the worldly mammon of unrighteousness, shall ever go on—until "this tyranny be overpast"; and until that bright day of "the new Heavens and the new earth" shall come; when this slow probation of our earthly schooling is done, under the patient discipline of Almighty God; and until His "Fulness of Time" shall be accomplished. We well know Who and What shall win, in that Great Last Day; but we "know not the times or the seasons, which the Father hath placed in His own Power." For this culmination we can only patiently wait, and lovingly "work our work betimes," until that Day shall dawn, and our many earthly shadows shall "flee away."

Yet, let us welcome each and every earnest effort made by every preacher of the old-time Gospel, every lover of the changeless Creed of the passing ages, as he does his share in upholding the Eternal Truth of God, and the Revelation of Jesus Christ; each one standing in his own lot, where his Master may have placed him, narrow though that lot is, modest and humble though his effort may seem to be. Hence, our humble prayer and our affectionate hope is, that the blessing of God may rest upon this book, now issuing from the press, sent out by our dear

brother for the helpful reading and the reasonable comfort of his many friends in the Church; and we trust also, for the help of some others who are beyond and without. We well know he sends it out, not for the purpose of controversy, but from a heart and mind full of devotion to the Adorable Person of Jesus Christ our Blessed Lord, "Who of God is made unto us, our Wisdom, our Righteousness, our Sanctification, and our Final Redemption."

ISAAC LEA NICHOLSON,

Milwaukee,

Bishop of Milwaukee.

WHITSUN: 1898.

Author's Preface.

THESE lectures were written for, and delivered before, the parishioners of Christ Church. They are published in the hope that they may enlighten others who are being led astray by Spiritualism, Theosophy, and Christian Science. Sooner or later they must find, to their sorrow, that though there be elements of truth in each of these cults, yet in scope and purpose they are false, subversive of the Christian Faith, and totally unable to afford true comfort and consolation.

Among the many books used in preparation of these lectures, we would specially mention *Earth's Earliest Ages*, by G. H. Pember, M.A., and *Hypnotism*, by Dr. Albert Moll.

Christ Church Rectory,
Janesville, Wis.,
EASTERTIDE, 1898.

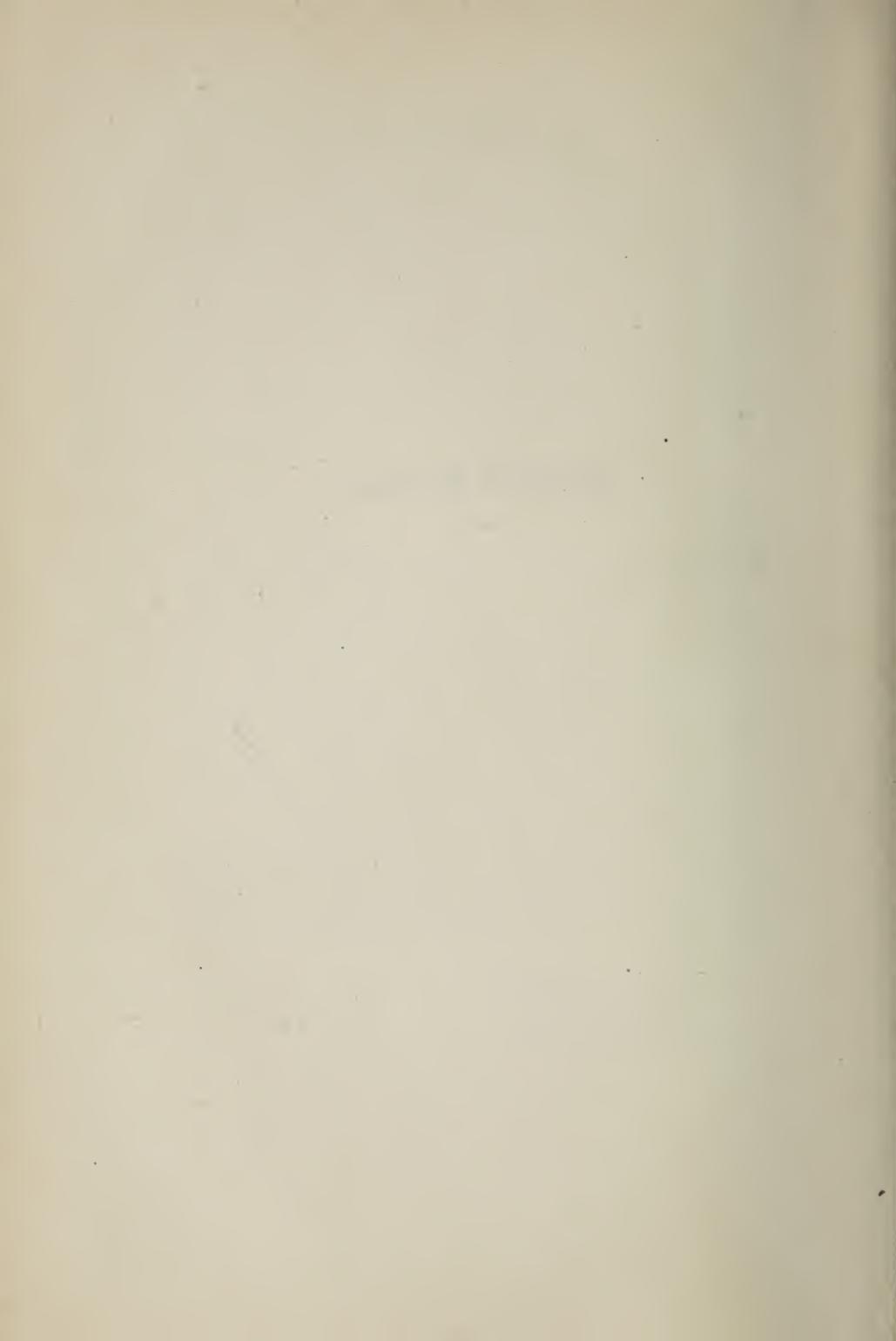


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ANTI-CHRISTIAN CULTS.

The Case Stated.

WELL spake Rabbi Gamaliel of old when he cautioned the Sanhedrin to "take heed" as to what they intended to do concerning the new faith, which was increasing with such alarming rapidity. "Take heed . . . lest haply ye be found even to fight against God." He referred to incidents in the history of the chosen people and then declared: "If this counsel or this work be of men, it will come to nought; but if it be of God ye cannot overthrow it."¹

¹ Acts v. 34-39.

**CHRISTIANITY IMPREGNABLE, CHRISTIANS
UNSTABLE.**

That Christianity is of Divine origin and part of the eternal plan and purpose of the Almighty, we have not the shadow of a doubt. That it can be overthrown, is impossible. We are not, therefore, alarmed about its ultimate success. Nothing could be further from our thoughts. Men do, however, "*fight against God.*" They are timid, and too easily turned from the straight and narrow path. They are readily deceived and to their own hurt. They, like the Athenians of old, are attracted and won over by anything new and strange, till, actually hoping for more light, they are plunged further into darkness. Too many (if there were but two or three, it were too many)—too many are being deceived, and blinded, and led astray to-day, by the false hopes, and promises, and claims of certain religious yet anti-Christian cults which in vain would undermine the truth as it is in Jesus. Undoubtedly, like other fads which spring up in the night of darkness rather

than in the light of eternal truth, these shadows of good shall come to nought, as they are unquestionably of men; but, in the meantime, the effect upon the adherents of such substitute religions cannot but be disastrous. History repeats itself and there is no reason to note an exception here. Light and life are found only in the service of Almighty God. To deny Him or to assume to worship Him, while rejecting the light that He has given us, is to plunge into darkness and to invite disaster. Therefore we plead earnestly, lovingly, and in all sincerity, with those who have willingly listened to these false and deceptive ways, to turn from these vanities to serve the living God.

ISRAEL'S FLIGHT.

Gamaliel's counsel was ignored, that the chosen people might "even fight against God." Behold the result! They were looking anxiously forward to the coming of their Messiah, rightly basing all their fondest hopes upon Him, yet when He came they

would not accept Him, they could not abide His counsels, but their rejected Messiah is to-day the Christ of history.

It is written: "Cursed is everyone that hangeth on a tree," and the Jews in their desire to heap ignominy upon the hope of all the earth, though His own people, hanged Him to a tree; but behold, the Cross was transformed into the throne of the Lord of lords and King of kings, and Jesus was lifted up thereon, "that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

The Jews consigned their Messiah to the tomb, and from that very moment the glory of Israel faded, while the curse which they would invoke upon their Redeemer has fastened itself upon that people even until now.

Israel sealed her doom at Calvary, yet out of the sepulchre arose "The Light to lighten the Gentiles;" and how the nations, that have seen that great light, have been illuminated; how they have advanced; how they have prospered; how completely have they