

tributaries, and the kingdoms of this world become the kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ. It seems to me that this is a somewhat adequate view of the office and work of the second paraclete, the Holy Ghost, and quite in the spirit of the divine representation from which we have drawn it.

---

ART. IV.—THE SAVING INFLUENCE OF CHRISTIANITY IN  
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA DURING  
THE LAST HUNDRED YEARS.

---

BY REV. F. FOX.

---

THE blessings which Religion enjoys under our Republican form of Government are so numerous and glorious, that it behooves us as a loyal people and true patriots to prove ourselves worthy of the great Trust committed to our care, and in future maintain intact the glorious freedom enjoyed by these United States of America! This Religion has in return exerted the most blessed influences upon the public; and it is *these* we desire briefly to review.

There are and have been other Republics in the world than that of these United States. The Republic of France, lately established, is about as populous as the American, but too young to determine its future destiny. The former experiments of this nation at a Republican form of Government, have failed, because France was proud, it was hopelessly materialistic—it substituted license for law, and wickedness for godliness, prostitution for religion, and the Devil for the Holy and Almighty God of heaven! It fell; and so low it sank in moral degradation, that its vaunted freedom resolved in bloody anarchy. Cursed is the nation that forgets God! The Swiss Republic is

older than the American, but compared with the broad expanse of the latter, like an ocean island, or a bird's nest perched upon some inaccessible mountain peak or ensconced securely in some untrodden rock-ravine, sheltered against fire and tempest by nature's battlements. As in the days of Austria's tyranny, Switzerland's snow-capped Alps and threatening mountain passes proved mighty helps to freedom, so has the geographical position of this small land, in the midst of modern monarchy and greed for conquest of neighboring powers, maintained its government and identity as a people.

But we think there are signs appearing on the political sky of Switzerland, that portend not good for that country. Switzerland is apostatizing from the living God. Prussia has her secret civil engineers everywhere, espying out the land; and the Swiss Republic may yet, at no remote day, be absorbed by the great Empire of Germany! The Dutch Republic and the Spanish lived and died and are no more. The ancient Republics of Greece and Rome, though illustrious and mighty, were short-lived and died in ignominy. And before this array of births and deaths of Republican forms of Government in the world, may we not ask: wherefore this instability of freedom of the former, and whence the glory and permanency of our American Republic? The answer lies in the Psalmist's teachings, when he says: The wicked shall be turned into hell and all the nations that forget God. Ps. ix. 17. And: Blessed is the man that maketh the Lord his trust. Ps. xl. 4. Yea, is it not the *Truth of God*, in which this Republic was established, at the first, freedom from civil and religious tyranny, the right of self-rule and honest and hearty worship of Almighty God, in Jesus Christ, the Lord, that has also preserved this nation hitherto?—these hundred years?—and that at this Centennial Year, it looms up, before the nations of the world, as the glory of all the earth!

There are other Republics on this American Continent, and

there are other large portions of inhabitable land in the world, but to none other, in so short a space of time, than these United States, have flocked by the hundred thousands, from all lands and nations, both good and bad, rich and more the poor, to seek and find an asylum from oppression at home, and a field of labor for the diligent hand, and bread enough for the hungry mouth, and above all else, the *right* to worship God according to the dictates of each one's own conscience! All the riches of Mexico, with its boasted freedom, form no attractive power to the other nations of the earth. Its mongrel population of the adventurous Spaniard and warrior Indian, or even the servile Negro intermixed with both, form this envious nation, until lately inhospitable to other nationalities, and bound in chains of religious bigotry, is semi-civilized; and in material prosperity only beginning the march of progress. And not until the *Truth, as it is in Jesus Christ, the Lord*, has made Mexico free also, as are these United States, may we claim for her the Republican, as the divinely ordained form of Government, an honor to her sister Republic, sharing with her the more than imperial title: "Land of the free and home of the brave!" "The truth shall make you free." John viii. 32.

These words of the blessed Saviour have been gloriously fulfilled in the history of this American nation, during the last hundred years; or to the saving influence of Christianity, or God, is due the glory of our Republic. Praise the Lord!

Owing to the independent relation of Church and State in America, Christianity has had a fair opportunity to prove itself the religion of freedom from sin, and every kind of tyranny and oppression, and the great regenerator and elevator of the world. What it has required other lands and nations, a thousand years to attain has here been accomplished more largely and successfully in a hundred. As is the American nation pre-eminently Christian, so is their country emphatically the model theatre of Christian activity. Of course, America is not Paradise, but

neither is any other country—there is no more Paradise on earth anywhere. Owing to our nation's youth and necessary material activity, and influx of heterogeneous elements from abroad, by immigration, much remains yet to be accomplished, morally, spiritually, intellectually, ere we shall have reached the full measure of development as a nation of freemen! We are thankful to God for the good accomplished thus far, and the blessed freedom enjoyed by us, and all who in this broad land seek refuge from home oppression, and comfort for body and soul. Much of this good we attribute to the hallowed influence of the Christian Religion.

Of the eleven million communicant Christians in the United States, not to mention the still greater number of baptized, and many believing young persons and children attending Sabbath-School, making all due allowance, in the enumeration of this army of the Lord, by immigration from foreign lands, yet of these millions, how many are the immediate product of the enlightening, regenerating and sanctifying influences of the Holy Spirit, as operative in His blessed work of salvation, in the means of grace, in the American Church! And it is not among the poor, in the humble walks of life only, as the illiterate, but by Presidents, senators and statesmen, philosophers, poets and scholars—artisans, merchants, soldiers and farmers, the religion of Jesus is owned, honored and professed as the power of salvation unto many. Was there ever a greater, more general, more thorough, more liberal and more glorious missionary work accomplished, in so short a space of time, in the history of Christianity, than in the history of America, for America, during the past hundred years? We think none! Let the infidel sneer at this statement and assertion; facts are stubborn things; to these we appeal; to the statistics of the Christian Church in America,—its small beginning at the time of the Revolution—its gradual and steady growth, its present host of illustrious professors with their exemplary intelligence,

zeal and liberality, a marvel in history and a glory to God on high! When the last Evangelical Alliance met in New York City, composed of most learned and godly representatives from all Protestant Christendom of Europe and other lands, they admired our material progress in the building of large cities, extended commerce, inexhaustible natural resources, our ingenious mechanical skill and restless enterprise; and American character as foremost in every sphere of activity, but above all—*American Christianity!* Books and religious periodicals teem with laudations of the mighty and glorious work of salvation accomplished by the Church of the living God, in this land!

And what does infidelity testify in public harangues, through its blasphemous press—in its street gossip and saloon brawls, than that there is too much religion in America, "too many priests," too many rich and noble, too many mighty and wise, professed followers of the despised "Nazarene!" There is too much religion in America for the godless and wicked. Oh may there never be less and still more in the future.

Thus, while the higher classes in America, honor alike with the humbler our holy religion, it is a distinguishing characteristic of the American Church, that to the poor *the Gospel* is preached, and *well, earnestly, successfully!* In heathen lands, knowledge and religion are the special property of the upper classes. In monarchical countries the aristocracy principally preach the word and govern the Church. America's glory, as in the State, so in the Church, as in the days of Apostles, not unfrequently is: that fullers, shoemakers, tanners, tailors, carpenters, farmers, laborers, preach the everlasting Gospel to the multitudes, to raise the fallen, to cheer the blind, to heal the spiritually sick, and resurrect from the death of soul sinners bad by nature and worse by practice! The influence exerted for holiness by the laity of the American Church is invaluable. The unpractical foreign religionist hearing for the first time the Methodist local preacher, on the Sabbath-day, teaching our

holy religion, and exhorting a congregation of hundreds of fellow-townsmen to holiness, seems to him incredible. He remembers from his reading of Christian biography, how now and then a person of humble birth, and station in life, was elevated to a position of influence; how the poor miner's son—Martin Luther—became the great Reformer, and Young Stilling—the tailor boy—the famous physician and Christian scholar—but that so many Christian farmers and mechanics, should pretend to be teachers and preachers of the world of God, is a marvel! But herein is American Christianity superior; as it is free, it is bold, aggressive, earnest, zealous! And here is illustrated the saying: "One is your Master, and ye are brethren." "And he hath made us kings and priests unto God, and His Father." The American Christian, as he is a freeman, is he a king; as He is a believer in the Lord Jesus, is he a priest!

As the religious character of the Christian poor, has thus been elevated to a comparative equality with the rich, also the material and temporal condition of this class has largely been meliorated. The Christian charity, which this nation dispenses and has exhibited during the last century, is truly astonishing in the establishment of poor-houses, orphan-asylums, widows' homes, churches, colleges, and all manner of relief, religious, educational and protective associations, too numerous to name, not only for bodily comfort and mental culture, but likewise for spiritual peace, and the soul's salvation! And what the Church as an organization omits, or is unable to accomplish in this respect, the numerous secret benevolent orders in the land, founded on the Master's great command: "Love thy neighbor as thyself," complement and supply, by a parallel system of generous, praiseworthy, beneficence. If it were not for the occasional frauds among the poor, shaking human confidence and hardening human sympathy, no man in America would need to want for daily bread. So ample are the provisions for the bodily comfort of the unfortunate, naked

and hungry. If anywhere, it is here, where the true intent of God's word is understood and practiced: James i. 27. Pure religion, and undefiled before God and the Father is this: To visit the fatherless, and widows in their affliction and to keep himself unspotted from the world." We do not say to our poor: Go and be fed, be ye clothed. We take pleasure in doing both with our own hands and means, systematically, constantly, generously, freely, from pure love to our fellow-men, as our brethren according to the flesh, and joint-heirs of heaven by the glorious faith in Jesus Christ! To see and painfully feel the difference in this respect, between most foreign nations and ours, you must go abroad and there witness the starving, wretched caravan of paupers in other lands, piteously crying for food and raiment, for shelter, for home comforts and the enlightening benefits of civilization, but in numerous cases receiving neither. Truly America is the poor man's paradise. Let him not forget this; and as once stood the angel of the Lord, with flaming sword in hand at the gates of Paradise, to prevent fallen man, and wicked Satan from a return to its hallowed bowers, to pollute them, so let him ever be found armed with the love of liberty and devotion to America, to preserve them intact an asylum, and home for generations yet unborn in this and other lands.

Another saving influence of Christianity appears still more strikingly in the *American Christian family life*. I freely assert, there is no Christian country in which there are so many praying families, who as parents, children and servants have erected in their humble or lofty home, an altar of prayer, a shrine of pious devotion, where daily God's word is read for instruction in the way of life—confession of sin made—almighty God asked for pardon and peace; and where praise and thanksgiving are offered to our heavenly Father! And yet some would doubt whether this is a Christian nation. If every heathen has his shrine of idolatrous devotion in lowly hovels,

ought not every Christian family, at least, have arranged a mercy-seat within its communion?

Again, in America, woman has found her true position in all the relations of life. In heathenism, woman was never, and is not now, co-ordinate to man, but ever and always inferior; now the slave of mere lust and again the beast of burden. And let me tell you, it is not only in heathen lands, where this female inferiority theory abounds; some boastful civilized lords of creation, having luckily nothing else to rule, but rule their wives with the severity of a task-master. The law-book of the proud and learned Hindoos, teaches, "that the wife is dependent on her father, her husband, her sons, her nearest male relations, and must never govern herself. And if the life of the husband be depraved and he live in illicit love with other women, she must never remonstrate, but honor that adulterer as her God!" Among the Chinese, the birth of a girl is a family calamity, and not a few of them are killed at birth. Among Mohammedans, the husband may have four wives and as many more concubines as he is able to support, none daring to remonstrate, and all the bonded slaves of lust in harems and dark, stupid, concealment. We hope the provinces now in battle array against Turkey, will carve well that slothful bird of proud pretensions, and consume bone and all, and not only secure their own Christian freedom, but unlock the prison door of woman's long captivity under Islam's rule, and restore to her, her God-given heirship of free, honored, useful helpmeet to man! Christianity alone, not even Judaism, much less heathenism or infidelity, has restored woman to her normal position and relation in the world. Is it therefore a wonder, so many true, hearty, zealous disciples of the Lord Jesus, are found among the female sex in every Christian country? By woman salvation has come into the world—to her was preached the glad tidings of peace alike with man—she was Jesus' friend and comforter, when the stronger sex fainted.

She was last under the cross and first at the grave of the blessed and risen Lord! and hence the Apostle teaches: "In Christ there is neither husband nor wife;" and "the woman is the glory of a man." Henceforth is the wife of the Christian man, his joy and glory, the faithful mother of children, the precious gem and invaluable diamond of his precious household treasure; her Christian daughters, the servants in the house of the Lord, and the sisters of mercy in every time of need. At this spectacle, even a prominent ancient heathen exclaimed: "Oh, what wives these Christians have." And the intelligent foreigner, now traveling through these United States, visiting and enjoying the superior comforts of American Christian homes, is surprised at the many virtues that characterize our Christian wives and mothers, their general intelligence, their cleanliness in their own persons, the sprightliness of their children, their orderly households, their piety and their diligence as a class. There is no rule without exception. But compared with foreign countries, the American woman and Christian mother, is undoubtedly a model in many ways. I attribute this superiority to the elevating influences of Christianity, as the truly enlightening and purifying power in the world. "Cleanliness is next to godliness," and "godliness is profitable unto all things."

In a well-organized American family, also the children occupy a superior position, as the hope of the future Church and State. The servant, though a mere laborer, feels that he is yet a freeman, and must be honored for his manhood's, his works', his citizenship's sake, as an American, according to Bible teachings: "In Christ there is neither bond nor free." There was a time, and not long ago, when one portion of humanity in this land, held the other in servile bondage and misery, but that evil has been corrected and bitterly atoned for by a mountain of gold and hecatombs of human lives. And at this Centennial Jubilee, let us reverently and gratefully remember

the slain patriots, who fell a sacrifice to freedom, and sleep in death on this Union's "thousand battle-fields!" The slave also is free! In Europe, not unfrequently, the servant though not a slave, is maltreated besides his nominal remuneration for hard work and wearisome toil. In America, both Law and Gospel, boldly rebuke and severely punish every insult and abuse of the honest laborer. In evidence of all this we point to the thousands of foreigners who came to this land, not only to find bread and a home, but to enjoy that respect from their fellow-men, which their many virtues as honest, laboring men and women did not receive in their native homes. Poor laboring man of America, never forget to honor the land that has ever honored you! And American capitalists and masters, remember God's word which says: Col. iv. 1, "Masters, give unto your servants that which is just and equal, knowing that ye also have a master in heaven."

The wholesome Christian influence exerted upon the general government in these United States, from the first, is remarkable. And though there is no provision made in the national constitution, recognizing any religion or God, we are told that this omission was not the result of enmity to any faith or worship, but rather out of profound respect for the great dignity of the Lord Jesus Christ and His holy religion, as too excellent to be thus, in a very imperfect manner, allied to an instrument of human device, and for temporal happiness, yet is the genius of this government Christian. To this the Christian prayers offered in the National Congress, in the various State Legislatures, and our military academies testify. Chaplains are appointed and sustained for the army and navy by the national government. Our Sabbath-day is legally secured and generally worthily observed; and all the infidel blasts against the Centennial Commissioners, did not shake that noble body of good American citizens from its *lawful, patriotic, Christian* resolution: "The American Centennial World's Exhibition shall be

closed on the Lord's day." National fast and thanksgiving days are fixed by law and regularly announced by Presidents and Governors. The Christian and Christian-like regard by our law-makers and executives of the same, for the Christian conscience and Christianity's holy rights, the moral tone of the public press, and readiness to aid the cause of true religion and benevolence by dignified accounts and notices of the Gospel cause in the Land, testify to the same position. Any *respectable* American journal is ashamed to traduce and wickedly malign the holy religion of Jesus as the nation's law! and slander the Lord's honored, self-denying servants, as "ignorizing," "debasing," "priests" and "cheats." That dirty work is largely performed by the imported would-be superior lights escaping from the miasmatic bogs and marshes of a semi-heathen civilization of parts of Europe, where Christianity is the professed religion of the State, but the State is not Christian as much as is America without such hypocritical professions!

Look again! The Christian principle of a common brotherhood of mankind is exemplified in these United States, as nowhere else: All nationalities, colors and tongues have here found a free home, honor and protection, in person, property, and the common pursuits of life. The foreigner has even been invited and welcomed to share this freedom and general prosperity of this land. But not only as a father cares for the material welfare of his offspring, did this nation provide for the stranger; above all have the enlightening influences of our holy religion been exerted upon him, and *savingly*, to many! The German Turner who thought it an easy matter, when coming to America, to pervert his countrymen en masse, from the faith of their fathers, finds himself confronted, on every hand, with the professors of Luther's, Melancthon's and Zwingli's faith and righteousness in the million German Christians in America! and thousands of imposing, costly, spacious and *crowded* houses of German Christian worshipers in these United States! Little

band of thirteen thousand German Turners in all America, with immorality for its principles, folly for its practice, and carnalization of the world for its aim—conglomeration of living revolutionists, escaped convicts, hypocritical communists, saloon kings, apostate Jews and literary mountebanks, will that revolutionize American Christianity? Infidel Turner, let your grandsire, the monkey, henceforth do the turning and the frog your boasted singing, they are your models and your peers. America has no need of you! It is base ingratitude, is it treason to seek to infidelize this nation, that was founded in Christian faith, and has prospered in righteousness these hundred years, and thus ensure and hasten the ruin of this Republic and endanger her civil freedom, when generously, graciously, she opens her gates wide and offers an asylum and refuge for all who may need or seek to clothe their nakedness and shame with the sacred folds of her star-striped banner of liberty and happiness to man, and honor and glory to God!

Shall I speak of the influence which Christianity has exerted upon the intellectual culture of this nation? Its numerous and well-endowed institutions of learning, secular and religious, founded and maintained by Christian liberality, and mostly superintended by sound Christian educators—even by ministers of the Gospel! Many of the teachers of these institutions, male and female, are earnest Christians. They are scholars, and compare favorably with the teaching force of Europe, and as a class, surpass it in good morality and sound, intelligent, undoubted orthodoxy. To illustrate: When a boy, I had two teachers, in Europe, appointed by the State, who were both intemperate. Where is there a drunkard allowed as a teacher of Public Schools in all America? A notorious drunkard, the notorious Strauss, who wrote that most dangerous of books: "The Life of Jesus," was a professor of theology in Switzerland, and the State supporting him, continued thus, until the Christian farmers of Zurich dismissed that blasphemous at the

point of the pitch-fork! Who of German and American scholars does not know of the ruinous teachings of German rationalists in that country's universities, sustained by the civil government and ignorantly upheld by the people for a time. Nothing of the kind ever takes place in American Christianity or schools of learning. "As Spiritualism evaporates in free love, so does infidelity seek refuge in the saloon and theatre."

And as are the faculties of institutions, so are the students, moral, religious; though not unfrequently young in years, yet gentlemen in behaviour! In not a few of our Colleges, God's word is daily read, a hymn sung, and prayer offered, by a member of the faculty, in a consecrated hall, and God in Christ, worshiped by all the members of the institution, on the Sabbath-day. Intemperance and blasphemy are especially forbidden as dishonorable and disgraceful to an *American citizen!*

Time does not permit to speak of the influence Christianity has exerted upon the productions of these minds thus normally cultured. Their works of art, their literature and science, their oratory and poetry! Their name is legion, and their labors glorious, exhibiting America not only as a nation of freemen, but also a land of scholars, of good men, and the home of the blessed religion of Jesus, in the heads and hearts of millions! Not the growth of centuries, but the fruit of one hundred years, all told, not reaping simply the harvest of others' seed-time, but cultivating the virgin soil, first producing the seed, sowing, cultivating and harvesting, by toil and hardship, and all begun in a wilderness, an hundred years ago! This has America accomplished with the help of God. The Truth, as it is in the Son of God, has made her free, mighty, great, happy and glorious!

This same Truth is able to preserve our civil freedom and Christian religion to us. Let us accept of this Truth in our hearts, cherish it in our lives, profess it with our lips, exhibit it in our daily walk and conversation, and communicate it unto others, until the world shall be filled with its power as is heaven with its glory! The Truth shall make you free!