









WHO IS CHRIST.

This is one of the most important questions that can be asked, and one that has been variously answered. Scripture says that the Word which was God became flesh i. e. man,—God became man. What is the difference between God and man? God is an Absolute Spirit, man is a finite spirit with a soul and body. Did then the infinite become finite? No, that would be impossible. Then is it not impossible for God to become man? No. The Divine being is able to act under human limitations. With a human soul and body the Logos so limited himself that all the knowing, feeling and willing, in connection with that soul and body, were limited and human. Therefore Jesus Christ was a perfect man, and all His knowledge, even though it was marvelous and often miraculous, was only such as was possible to a man. All His emotions were likewise human, and all His acts. On the other hand because He was the Logos, who was in existence "in the beginning," when the first creation began, and because His character cannot change, every thing in the character of Jesus Christ is a revelation of God, even though under limitations. The rays of the sun must be shorn of their brightness and separated by the prism, before they can be examined successfully by men, and men can only fully know the character of God, the sun of righteousness, by His laying aside His glory and appearing under human limitations. In no other way is an incarnation possible. Such an incarnation is necessary for men. Such an incarnation is proved by evidence to have taken place, and only one such is claimed by any one.

We do not consider Christ divine because of anything He did, (except the resurrection), but because He claimed divinity, and then worked miracles to prove that He was to be believed. Others have worked miracles to prove that they were divine messengers, but no one else has made that claim for himself. What shall we answer to this claim? Was Christ a liar or a fool? No! a thousand times no! He was God become man, and therefore is to be worshipped by us.

REPORTS.

We have received several Administration Reports of Revenite in the different provinces, and the Judicial Report for the Colony. In these is much interesting reading, especially in the latter. We note that the Crown Counsel of the North thinks that Jaffna's comparative immunity from crime may perhaps be 'the result or an effect of the extensive systems of education prevailing in the peninsula.' We quite agree with him, and are glad to have the fact recognized. He discusses the deaths reported to have taken place from the bite of a "venomous lizard," the "arani," and thinks that if authorities decide that it is not venomous, as books say there is no venomous lizard, such deaths should have a *postmortem* held to ascertain the real cause of death.

The Crown Counsel of the South speaks of a periodicity of crime, "the population being at times more excitable from physical causes and crime recurring epidemically, and he recommends inquiries to ascertain general causes as a guide to remedial legislation. There is no doubt that causes which affect periodically the rainfall, the harvests, pestilences, the general health, etc. must have their effect also in crime. The Solicitor General says that the employment of Ceylonese as Police Magistrates has passed the experimental stage and has turned out a success. From their knowledge of the laws of the country and the language, manners and cus-

toms of their fellow-countrymen, they are in some respects better fitted to administer justice than the young civilians." "I hope that the day is not far distant when at least a certain number of the minor judicial posts will be reserved for the Ceylonese, thereby affording encouragement to the just aspirations to participate in the government of their country."

ORIGINAL SIN.

Our critic says that we deny the existence of original sin, and yet he says that it is not "actual sin," and goes on to give a parable which illustrates the nature of original sin. As we agree that it illustrates the subject well, we quote it,

"A man was raised by his king from the lowest grade of society to the highest rank and nobility. Immense riches and greatest dignities were also conferred upon him; and, moreover, all these benefits were hereditary and were to be transmitted to his children. But he committed a crime; he was guilty of high treason against his benefactor and rendered himself deserving of the most severe punishment. Degraded, despoiled of all his goods, and sold as a slave, he died, and left his children overwhelmed with disgrace, and inheritors of his misery and his slavery. The miserable inheritance of these children is a representation of original sin in the descendants of Adam."

He finds faults with us for saying that sin consists in a choice, and yet he says that sin is "a voluntary transgression of the Law of God." This very word means a choice and we do not see wherein his definition differs from ours.

PRACTICAL THOUGHTS.

1. Drunkenness is not merely a blunder; it is a sin against which God's wrath is flaming. 1. The drunkard may put God out of his thoughts, but he cannot escape God's woe. 3. The judgment of a drunkard man cannot be trusted. 4. We may call evil good and darkness light, but we only show our folly by so doing. 5. To save the drunkard from the consequences of his sin should be our constant aim and effort.—Rowland.

LIKE CHRIST.

He who would be most like Christ must pay the cost. If a furnace is needed to purify and brighten you, do not shirk the furnace. Patience is an admirable grace; but it is not oftenest worn by those who walk on the sunny side of the street in silver slippers. It is usually the product of head winds and hard fights of crosses carried and of steep hills climbed on the road to heaven. "The trial of your faith worketh patience." So it is with all the noblest traits of a robust, healthy, and symmetrical character. No man is rocked into godliness in a hammock. Christ offers you no free ride to heaven in a cushioned parlor-car. John Bunyan sent his sturdy "Pilgrim" to the "Celestial City" on foot, and some pretty rough walking and hard conflicts did he encounter before the pearly portals welcomed him to the streets of flashing gold. His piety was self-denying, stalwart, and uncompromising; he relished even the stiff severities of duty, and was never contented with confectonaries. Self-indulgence is the besetting sin of the times; but if you long to be a strong, athletic Christian you must count the cost. It will cost you the cutting up of some old favorite sins by the roots, and the cutting loose from some entangling alliances, and some sharp set-backs with the temper; it will cost you the submitting of your will to the will of Christ.—Dr. Cuyler.

We toil and moil and scrape, and make our lives anxious about the dust and dross of earth, and all the while God is holding forth to us in vain the crown of immortality and the golden keys of the treasures of heaven.—Canon Farrar.

ETHICS OF TOBACCO-SMOKING.

Count Lyof Tolstai furnishes a strong article on this subject to a recent number of the *Contemporary Review* from which we make a few extracts.

It is claimed for tobacco that it gladdens the heart of the smoker, clears up his thoughts, attracts and gratifies him in precisely the same manner as any other habit he may have acquired, but that under no circumstances has it the effect possessed by alcohol of paralyzing the activity of the conscience. But it is only necessary to analyze more carefully than is the wont, the conditions under which a peculiarly strong craving for tobacco manifests itself, to acquire the conviction that brain-clouding by means of tobacco fumes like brain-clouding by means of alcohol, exerts a direct action on the conscience, and that the need for this kind of stimulant is peculiarly intense precisely when the desire to stifle the voice of conscience is at its height. If it were true that tobacco only gladdens the heart and clears up the thoughts, no such passionate craving for it would be felt under such clearly defined circumstances, and people would not be heard averting that they are ready to dispense with food rather than deny themselves a smoke, a statement which, in many cases, we know to be literally true."

"Every smoker can, if he will, discern the same clearly defined need of stupefying his thinking faculties with tobacco fumes at certain critical moments of his life. Speaking for myself, I can distinctly call to mind the times when, while yet a smoker, I felt this peculiarly pressing need of tobacco. It was always on occasions when I was desirous not to remember things that were thrusting themselves upon my memory, when I was anxious to forge, to suspend all thought. At one time I would be sitting alone, doing nothing, conscious that I ought to be engaged at my work, but averse to all occupations. I would then light a cigarette, smoke it, and continue to sit in idleness. Another time I would remember that I had an engagement for five o'clock, but that I had lingered too long in another place and it was now too late. The thought that it was too late being disagreeable to me, I would take out a cigarette and drive it away in tobacco fumes. If I felt cross and peevish, and was offending another man by the tone or contents of my speech, and recognizing my duty to cease, yet resolved to give way to my peevishness, I would smoke and continue to show my ill-temper."

"To what extent can smoking stifle the voice of conscience? We have no need to seek for the materials for a solution of this question in exceptional cases of crime and emotion, it is amply sufficient to observe the behavior of the ordinary—one might almost say of any—smoker. Every smoker abandoning himself to his passion, loses sight of, or rides roughshod over, certain of the most elementary rules of social life, the observance of which he demands from others, and which he himself respects in all other cases, whenever his conscience is not completely silenced by tobacco. (To be continued.)

ITEMS OF INTELLIGENCE.

The Emperor William is on a visit to England. Imposing ceremonials extending over nine days were arranged. At His Majesty's request a review of twenty thousand volunteers will be held.

Lady Macdonald, widow of the late Canadian general, has been created a peeress in recognition of the services rendered to the Empire by her husband.

It is reported that a group of American financiers have arranged for the immediate importation from London of gold to the value of five million dollars.

A severe shock of earthquake was felt in San Francisco on the night of June 29th, causing panics among the inhabitants.

It is reported that French troops have occupied the province of Luang Prabang in Siam.

Mr. Charles Pratt of Brooklyn, New York who has recently died, is an example of a phila-thropist of the best type. A man of wealth, he was constantly doing good with that wealth. It was largely devoted to the cause of education. He gave more than a quarter of a million of dollars to the Adelphi Academy of Brooklyn, bringing it up to the standard of a high grade university, orated library and scientific college. A few years ago he established the Pratt Institute for manual training and scientific instruction generally, and has spent over one million of dollars upon it. Upon the principle of the Peabody building in London Mr. Pratt established a large house in Brooklyn containing 120 suites of rooms, affording homes to working men at a moderate cost.