

And President Coolidge who said:

Religion is the foundation of states.

And in the centre, and above it all, there should be a picture of the Divine Christ, with His prayer to the Father:

Sanctify them through the truth, Thy Word is Truth.

I content myself, in closing, with pointing out that while these fancies of the evolutionists come and go, while there is scarcely a scientific book that is ten years old that is not already out of date, the Bible, after all these thousands of years, is still doing business at the old stand!

Measured by its age-long and continuing influence upon the habits and faiths of the human race, the remark of Jean Paul is well founded. He said:

The first leaf of the Mosaic record outweighs all the folios of the philosophers and men of science combined.

SANCTA

THROUGH endless change the record runs
Confused by all succeeding suns.
“Our Lord was rich; our Lord was poor;
In meekness bowed; in state secure.”
And so our life is glibly shriven
And dull earth rimmed by a bastard Heaven.
But rich or poor are still but one
And high and low are scarce begun,
While you and I must seek alone
The rugged path to the ancient throne.

—*Herbert H. Longfellow*

THE NEW RELIGIONS OF AMERICA

IV — Ethical Culture — A Second Reformation

JULES BOIS

"LET us cease to discuss the Author of the Law and bend our strength to the fulfilment of the Law." These words sum up the philosophy of Felix Adler, founder of the Ethical Culture movement which, inaugurated fifty years ago, has spread over America and Europe. M. Jules Bois concentrates his attention on the founder of the movement, as the best means of interpreting the ideals of a group of societies which, while departing from the orthodox conception of the godhead, stresses the importance of conduct.

THE Ethical Culture Societies are not ritualistic associations. Neither acceptance nor denial of any theological doctrine is a disqualification for membership. Toward religion as a confession of faith in things superhuman, the attitude of these organizations is neutral. Still they claim to be "distinctly religious bodies interpreting the word 'religious' to mean devotion to the highest moral ends." Thus the history of this movement and a portrayal of its principal leader and founder find a natural place in my series devoted to the "New Religions of America". The most modern spirit in religion expresses itself in Ethical Culture; this spirit began to awaken toward the end of the last century and may be christened "a second reformation". The first one, having discarded the authority of the Church, relied on the Bible, but the second accepts as a supreme jurisdiction the decree of conscience.

The power of a liberated thought, joined to a scientific method of research, would, like the thread of Ariadne, lead the citizens of our republic onward and upward through the labyrinthic life of our age. Therefore, "Not by the Creed, but by the Deed," is the slogan of this new dispensation of Man to Man. Rather a right action than a right belief. Dr. Felix Adler, the founder and philosopher of the religion of Ethical Culture, transmutes the *worship* of the Creator into the *worship* of the creature. "Two things," said Kant, "fill the soul with ever new and increasing admiration and reverence: the star-lit heavens above me and the moral law within me." But Adler declares: "Stars and suns are lesser lights compared with those suprasolar luminaries that constitute the spiritual universe." The real Heaven, according to him, is within us.