

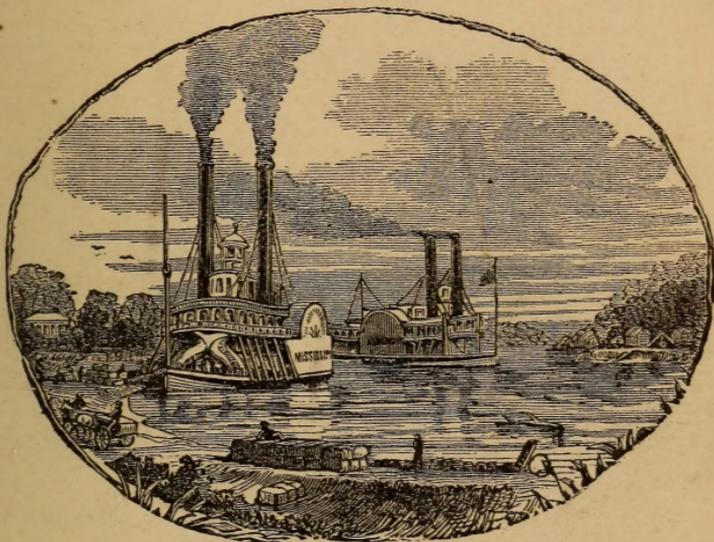
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STERLING'S

SOUTHERN ORATOR:

CONTAINING

STANDARD LECTURES IN PROSE AND POETRY FOR DECLAMATION
AND RECITATION IN SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES.

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PROF. RICHARD STERLING, A.M.,

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RICHARD STERLING,

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that we should make a profitable bargain, in case of a new war, by exchanging the song of Yankee Doodle for fifty thousand foreign soldiers led by a field marshal? This is a kind of property you cannot trade away with profit. You cannot profitably part with your lofty thoughts and noble sentiments any more than we can profitably part with our own souls.

This kind of property we can create in this convention. You can utter noble thoughts, you can erect imperishable monuments, that shall live from age to age. It is the proudest object of the human mind to utter a thought that shall live through all coming time. Mr. President, if this convention and its three predecessors shall succeed in uttering one single thought that shall live through all time, it will have amply repaid the labor of its members, and have given them the happy assurance that they have done something for their country and their age. It has been said that a monument is the embodiment of a single lofty sentiment in marble. I would have this convention aid in building such a monument, not in marble, but in iron—an arm of iron extending across the continent and clutching the Pacific in its grasp; and when that monument is built, that embodiment of the great idea of the age, if some one standing near it while the commerce of the world goes rushing by him as on the wings of the wind, and after our bones have mouldered into dust, should say with truth that to this convention now assembled in New-Orleans that great work was in any degree owing, we should be amply repaid for all our labors in the cause of our country.

CLXIV.

CHRISTIANITY MORE THAN A PHILOSOPHY.

REV. B. M. PALMER, D.D.

REMEMBER that Christianity is not to be accepted simply as a philosophy, explaining the otherwise insoluble problems of human life. If it were nothing more than this, the Bible would still deserve to be studied above all the tomes of human wisdom under which our bookshelves

groan; for it contains the utterances of divine wisdom. But the Gospel reveals not a philosophy which explains man's wants, but a religion which meets them. It proposes reconciliation with God through an atonement which satisfies all the requisitions of law; and it renews and sanctifies the soul, fitting it for an eternal and blissful communion with its Maker in this world and in that which is to come. If in this aspect you accept it, you can only do so by an inward experience of its power. Let me impress upon you this distinction. The Scriptures may be to you only the grove of Academus, and Jesus Christ but a diviner Socrates.

Initiated in all the mysteries of its philosophy, you may wither and die whilst standing at the very fountain of life. Remember, I pray you, that, if Christ be a teacher, His are "the words of Eternal Life." You must touch the hem of His garment and be healed. You must be sprinkled with His blood, so as "to have no more conscience of sins." You must have fellowship with Him in His death and resurrection. You must experience the renewing and sanctifying influences of the Holy Ghost; or, nominally Christian as you may be, you will sink from the very shadow of the Saviour's cross into eternal perdition. Young gentlemen, I speak these words in deep solemnity of soul. Through your partial kindness I am here to-night; but I am here as a minister of God, to speak His words upon which the destiny of souls is suspended. This night has the kingdom of God come nigh unto you: and if you receive it not, I say unto you, it shall be more tolerable in that day for Sodom than for you. "If ye were blind, ye should have no sin: but now ye say, we see, therefore your sin remaineth." "But I hope better things of you, and things that accompany salvation, though I thus speak." "To God and to the Spirit of His grace I commend you." May His guardian providence shield you in this life from sorrow and from sin! and may it be yours and mine to hear together the benediction of the last day, "Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world!"