

Good Without God is the title of a rationalist pamphlet by Robert Chamblet Adams, President of the Montreal Pioneer Freethought Club. It is an arraignment of current Christianity from the standpoint of the freethinker, technically so called. (New York: Peter Eckler, Publisher. Pages, 113. Price, 25 cents.)

The phallic derivation of religion has been briefly and vigorously treated by Jabelon in a pamphlet published by Simpkin, Marshall, Hamilton Kent & Co., of London. Many of the author's analogies are far-fetched and uncritical. The exposition is not without its pertinent remarks, but it is hard to understand that from the 1400 books and papers which the author says he used in the preparation of his essay more apposite material could not have been adduced and sounder conclusions reached on this important subject. (1902. Pages, 48.)

The literary diary of Ezra Stiles, President of Yale College during the Revolutionary War, having recently been issued by Scribner's of New York, Mr. George Alexander Kohut has taken advantage of the occasion to cull from the work passages relating to the Jews and Judaism. It appears that Dr. Stiles was a passionate Hebraist, going so far as to compel his family to learn the sacred language, and presenting his graduates on graduation day with a small edition of the Bible in Hebrew and Greek. His diary, therefore, has afforded much material in commendation of Jewish ideals and traditions. (New York: Philip Cowen, Publisher. 1902. Pages, 155.)

NOTES.

We just learn on the authority of Prof. A. H. Sayce, that the Assyriological scholar Father Scheil is said to have unearthed the Code of Laws of Hammurabi, the Biblical King Amraphel and contemporary of Abraham. A picture of Hammurabi was published in *The Open Court* for April, 1902, page 210, in the article "Babel and Bible" by Professor Delitzsch.

We learn from *The Indian Mirror* of July 26th last that the orthodox Hindus have agreed to discuss the evils of Hindu child-widow remarriage at Benares, in a conference where the orthodox as well as the liberal partisans shall be duly represented. Several Maharajahs will be present, and the Maharajah of Calcutta will preside. Three English gentlemen well versed in Sanscrit and Hindustani will be appointed as umpires, and all parties have agreed to accept their decision. The Vedas will be used as authoritative books, and no other language will be spoken except Hindi and Sanscrit, the latter for purposes of quotation.

Attempts have been made to reform the Hindu customs through laws, but the best course seems to be that the reforms should come from the Hindus themselves, and be endorsed by representatives of the orthodox parties.

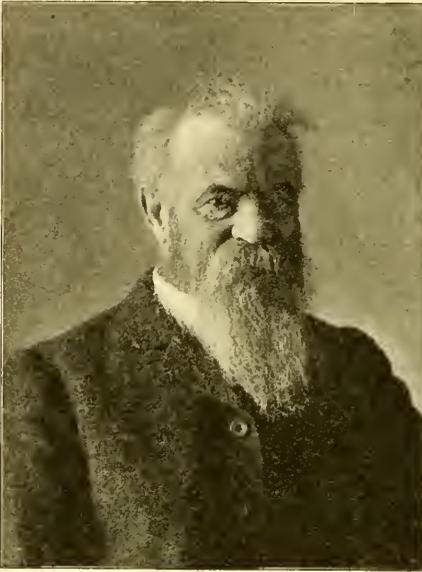
MAJOR JOHN WESLEY POWELL.

DIED SEPTEMBER 23, 1902.

As we are going to press, we find in the daily papers the following dispatch from Washington, dated September 23:

"Prof. John Wesley Powell, director of the bureau of ethnology, who died to-day at Haven, Me., was well known in Illinois, where he lived in early life,

In the last quarter century he won for himself a high standing in scientific circles as director of the geological survey and by his researches in American ethnology.



JOHN WESLEY POWELL.

He was born at Mount Morris, N. Y., March 24, 1834; attended school in Ohio, Wisconsin, and Illinois, graduating at the Illinois Wesleyan University and occupying the chair of geology there. He served through the Civil War in the Second Illinois Artillery, reaching the rank of major and losing the right arm at Shiloh.

“Major Powell’s most notable scientific work, from the viewpoint of scientists here, was his exploration of the Grand Canyon of the Colorado in the sixties. His fellow-workers say that he was not only the first man who ever went through the Colorado canyon, but the only one who so far ever has travelled its entire length from Green River station to the mouth of the canyon. This exploit, scientists say, was one of the most notable geographical, geological, and ethnological explorations and surveys in the history of North America.

“In 1879 he was appointed director of the bureau of ethnology. In the following year he also became director of the geological survey, and discharged the dual duties until 1894, when he retired from the geological survey, retaining his position at the head of the bureau of ethnology.”

Major Powell was a rare man, a brave soldier, a clear thinker, a great leader and path-finder, an amiable superior, a faithful friend, and a gifted speaker. He held the foremost rank among the geologists and anthropologists, not only of this country, but of the world, and was identified since the early sixties with the scientific work of the United States government. His philosophy, which forms the corner-stone of his scientific views, is embodied in a book entitled *Truth and Error*,¹ and he shows himself here, as in his scientific labors, both original and suggestive. As may be expected from the idiosyncracies of his mind, Major Powell was also a poet, and his poems are distinguished by loftiness and a trend of scientific thought. He was conscious, however, that his muse would not cater to a large public, but appealed only to a few thinkers, which caused him to withhold his lines from publication, and therefore the greatest part remained unpublished.²

We intend to publish in *The Open Court* at an early date a sketch of Major Powell’s life which will contain many interesting facts that throw light upon the career of this extraordinary man.

¹ Chicago, 1898.

² One long philosophical poem, “The Soul,” by Major Powell was published as an Appendix to Vol. V., No. 3, of *The Monist* (April, 1895).