

mind or conduct which rarely fail those men who 'change their party' after their revolution of sentiment, and who are in danger of taking action against their former beliefs, where they should not, and are led into regrettable affiliations. The elevation and originality of the position you have taken in religion is truly admirable. The world does not feel its power; but will it not some day?—Alas! the world is far from God! And is not Europe menaced to descend to the level of China, where religion is but superstition, and morals a more or less binding fagot of social convention?"

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#### THE WIZARD'S PROFESSION IN ANCIENT JUDÆA.

We know from cuniform inscriptions that the ancient Babylonians believed in the immortality of the soul, and on special occasions they found satisfaction and comfort in calling upon their dear departed ones to communicate with them in affliction, and to ask for advice in tribulations. The same practice seems to have prevailed at times also in Israel. The Old Testament describes how Saul went to the witch of Endor to see Samuel's spirit rise from the realm of the dead, and to question him concerning the outcome of an imminent battle with the Philistines. Witches and wizards were an important profession in Hither Asia at that time, and their methods must have resembled the séances of modern mediums. They must have been quite prosperous, but with the rise of monotheism they were ostracised in Judæa by the priestly party as recorded in the priestly sections of the Mosaic law, and we may very well assume that before they were entirely suppressed, many a tragedy must have been enacted such as forms the historical background of the thrilling story of David Clarallen which appears in the present number of *The Open Court*, and will be concluded in the next. The author, who apparently is well acquainted with Old Testament history, writes that the suggestion of this weird tale, so dramatically related, came to him while conducting an advanced Sunday school class, and we hope that it will help our readers to form a realistic picture of the ancient Jewish hierarchy with its strong contrasts and intense religious devotion. Where there is much light there are deep shadows, and the religious zeal for the one and only true God has but too often been associated with a most narrow-minded and almost barbarous bigotry. The plot is true to historical accounts and bears testimony to the power of the author's imagination, which has restored to life the dry bones of Hebrew scholarship.

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#### THE IGOROTES.

Among the new subjects of the United States there is a tribe of savages living in some remote part of the Philippine Islands, called the Igorotes. They are little known even in Manilla and may have lived in their present homes for many centuries at the time when the Philipinos took possession of the islands. The Philipinos (like the Japanese) appear to be a mixture of Malay and Hindu, while the Igorotes (like the South Sea Islanders) may have to be counted among the first settlers of the country. Obviously they are accustomed to a warm climate, for the men are only covered with a thin rope-like loin cloth, while the women are fully and decently dressed.