

New Lebanon, Nov. 1853.

Cat. No.
4553-A

Theodore Parker,

Respected friend, your recent and valuable work on "Theism and Atheism" has just been put into my hand by a brother whom you will recognize as a particular and well tried friend - Robert White,

I have not read the whole book, ^{yet} altho' I purpose to do so in a careful manner; but my attention was directed to, and arrested by the following passages.

"In all forms of religion that I know, from the book of Moses, to the book of Mormon, from Confucius, to Calvin, woman is degraded before man; for in all forms of religion hitherto force has been preferred before all things" "Woman's right of nature has been trodden under foot by man's might of nature" "This degradation of woman is obvious in all forms of religion; it is terribly apparant in the Christian Chh.

I am the more emboldened to communicate on the subject from the fact that I regard you as an honest, outspoken, fearless champion of pioneer truths, in the rudimental or generative order of the human race. That order is, as I apprehend, a preliminary of, and preparatory to the regenerative or resurrection order, which is the ultimate of all the reformatory and progressive efforts and movements that are now so life among the children of men. Now my deliberate conviction is, that the foundation

principles of that long predicted and anxiously expected
Millennium order have been revealed and are being pro-
gressively developed among the microscopic people cal-
led Shakers.

The proposition contained in
the above quoted passages, I beg the liberty to say
is entirely reversed among the "Believers of Christ's
second ^{appearing} in and through the order of the female".

Inasmuch, as you guardedly apply the charge only
to "all forms of religion that you know", it seemed
right and proper to thus inform you that there
is, and has been in existence for more than 2000 years
"a form of religion" that was brought forth and es-
tablished thro' the instrumentality of "a woman"
that is the counterpart of, and that ^{includes} and "em-
braces" the religion originally ushered into this world
by the "man" Jesus, which religion has been used
and abused by man ever since for the enslavement
and "degradation of woman" in particular, and man
in general, in all Christianized nations, just as
you have asserted. "God helps those who
helps themselves", and if in this system or form
of religion, woman is not restored to all the rights and
privileges, honors, profits, and emoluments, that are for
her own best good, she has no one to blame but herself,
for the lack or deficiency. But here my friend
Theodore, love, not force, is the ruling element, con-
sequently woman, who as you state has "eminence

reference in this last production of your prolific
and influential pen, to the feminine element in
Deity. This lies at the foundation of "woman's rights"
of all true Reforms. I implore you to come out
still more fully and with your characteristic bold-
ness on that subject; I was strongly impressed with a
desire that you should do so before I saw your last
book. It is the pioneer truth of the age, that God is du-
al - male and female. Christ is dual - a son and daughter
of God, - even as man is dual, and as the first fruit
of the work of redemption was dual first a man
- Jesus; then a woman - Ann, hence none of the
Apostles or any who have followed in their footsteps
were "sons of God" only "by adoption", because as the
first fruit was a man the second must be a woman
and the interregnum existing between the two ^{of course} men of
necessity imperfect, "in part," broken and confused.

Inasmuch as a practical demonstration is preferable
to a theoretical one, we would call the attention of those
interested and engaged in the "woman's right move-
ments" to a more particular acquaintance with
the theological and civil system of Shakerism.

As in the days of Jesus he was thirty years of age before
he was publically known, and a special witness sent
to the Jews "one standeth in the midst of you whom
ye know not," so may it prove yet in this in-
stance, of Christ's second appearing, and even our learned
and would wise friend Theodore Parker, may learn
of the existence of a religion included, tho' not named or
numbered in the Catalogue from Moses to Mormon,
"that has redeemed and freed her who is said to have

been the first to degrade and enslave man - woman,
by raising both man and woman out of that order
of natural propagation in which they first corrupted
themselves, and which is perverted post redemption

Asking pardon for intruding unbidden in to the list
of your numerous correspondents with such a pro-
sely epistle, permit me to offer for your acceptance
two of our recent small publications; and also to
^{to you} renew an invitation for you to visit the North
Family of Shaker, at New Lebanon, at your ear-
liest convenience. Respectfully yours friend
in the earnest pursuit of truth, F. W. Evans.

Theodore Parker.
Boston.

Letter to Theodore
Parkes.

Copy
of a letter to
Theodore Parkes

Copy
Theodore Parkes
November 1853.

New Lebanon November 7th 1853.

Theodore Parker

Respected Friend

Your recent valuable work on "Theism and Atheism," has just been put into my hand by a brother whom you will recognize as a particular and well tried friend Robert White.

I have not yet read the whole book, but I propose to do so in a careful manner. My attention was directed to, and arrested by the following passages: "In all forms of religion that I know, from the book of Moses to the book of Mormon, from Confucius to Calvin, woman is degraded before man; for, in all forms of religion hitherto, force has been preferred before all things." "Woman's right of nature has been trodden under foot by man's might of nature." "This degradation of woman is obvious in all forms of religion; it is terribly apparent in the Christian Church."

I am the more emboldened to communicate on the subject from the fact, that I regard you as an honest, outspoken fearless champion of pioneer truths in the rudimental or generative order of the human race. That order is, as I apprehend, a preliminary & and preparatory to the regenerative or resurrection order, which is the ultimatum of all the re-formatory and progressive efforts and movements now so ripe among the children of men. And my deliberate conviction is, that the foundation principles of that long predicted and anxiously expected Melchizedek order have been revealed, and are being progressively developed among the microscopic people called shakers.

The proposition contained in the above quoted passages, I beg the liberty to say, is entirely reversed among the Believers of Christ's second appearing in and through the order of the female.

Inasmuch as you guardedly apply the charge only to "all forms of religion that you know", it seems right to inform you, that there is, and has been in existence for more than seventy years "a form of religion," that was brought forth and established through the instrumentality of "a woman," that is the counterpart of, and really does include and "comprehend" the religion originally ushered into this world by the "man Jesus;" which religion has been used and abused by man ever since for the enslavement and "degradation of woman" in particular, and of man in general, in all Christianized nations, just as you have asserted.

"God helps those who help themselves;" and if in this system or form of religion woman is not restored to all the rights and privileges, honor, profits and emoluments that are for her own best good, she has no one to blame for the lack or deficiency but herself.

But here my friend Theodore, Love, not force is the ruling element; consequently woman, who, as you state, has "eminence of man in all the superior elements of her physical and spiritual organization," being an ascending procedure from, and therefore "the glory of the man," is treated with justice, truth & tenderness, by the Children of the resurrection, among whom "marrying and being given in marriage" are alike repudiated and ignored.

This therefore I think, must needs be "the Absolute religion"; for, for the first time in the history of our race so far as I know, in an ecclesiastical organization woman is secured in the free exercise of all the immunities and brotherly property pertaining to her sex and sphere. And this equally and as completely as man is secured in the exercise of the same things appertaining to his sex and sphere. And this too, in all matters of a physical, intellectual & spiritual nature.

All offices in this "New Creation" are filled equivalently by male & female, a concurrent examination and a subsequent union being essential to the final decision of all questions touching the well being of the Community.

I fully accede to the position laid down in your work, that the abstract ideas which men have formed of Deity, in their inmost souls, will work itself out at the ends of their fingers; and that the monstrous "unmotherly God" which Christendom has created and worshipped for centuries past, is the real author of the past and present degraded position that woman occupies under the so called Christian Religion. I therefore return you my thanks for the frequent reference in this last production of your prodigious and influential pen, to the feminine element in Deity. This lies at the foundation of "Woman's Rights" and of all true reforms.

I implore you to come out still more fully, and with your characteristic boldness, upon that subject. I was strongly impressed with a desire that you would do so, before I saw your book last week. It is the pioneer truth of the age, that God is dual - male and female. Christ is dual, a son and daughter of God - even as man is dual, and as the first fruits of the redemption were dual: first, a man - Jesus; then a woman - Ann. Hence none of the Apostles, or any who followed in their footsteps were "sons of God" except "by adoption"; because, as the first fruit was a man, the second must of course be a woman. The interregnum which occurred between the two, was of necessity imperfect, in part, broken and confused. For how could there be either "sons" or "daughters of God" even after there was a "man of God" - Jesus - until there also was a woman of God to cooperate with him?

Inasmuch as a practical demonstration is preferable to a theoretic one, we would call the attention of those interested and engaged in the "Woman's rights" movement, to a more particular acquaintance with the theological and civil system of Shakerism.

As in the days of Jesus, he was thirty years of age before he was publicly known; and a special witness said to the Jews "there standeth one among you whom ye know not." so may it yet prove in the instance

of Christ's second appearing. And even our erudite world-wise
friend Theodore Parker may learn of the existence of a religion
included, though not named or numbered in the catalogue
from Moses to Mormon that has redeemed and freed
her who is said to have been the first to degrade and enslave
man — Woman — out of that order of natural propagation
in which they first corrupted themselves, and which is
perverted from redemption.

Asking pardon for intruding, unbidden into the list of
your correspondents, with so proxy an epistle, permit me
to offer for your acceptance, two of our recent small pub-
lications, and also to renew to you an invitation to visit
the North Family of Shakers at New Lebanon at your
earliest convenience. Respectfully your friend
in the earnest pursuit of truth.

T. M. Evans

To Theodore Parker
Boston.

P.S. If found worthy of your time
and attention, a line expressing of your views of the two
works sent will be very acceptable. T. M. E.

Elder Andrew to
Theodore Parker

cat. No.
9553-B

Penn 14th Nov. 1893.

Dear Friend,

I thank you for the kind letter you wrote the other day, & still more for calling my attention to the omission which you point out. I was speaking in a very general manner, of the great forms of Religion which might be called the World Sects. But I think it would have been better to have pointed out the exceptions which is shown by the Shakers & by the Quakers also. I will amend this error in the next Edition.

I thank you for the Books you also sent me & shall value them all the more because written by a friend of so excellent a man as Robert Phillips. I shall read them with interest; Believe me

truly your Friend,

F. W. Evans.

Thos. Parker

Your letter did not reach me till 11th Nov.

Theodore Parker Letter

Boston Nov. 14. 1853.