

## STATUE OF BUDDHA IN A CHRISTIAN CHURCH - SCIENTISTS AND SAINTS.

New-York.

Confucius, Buddha and Mahomet, as well as Christ, are among the figures carved in stone above the main doorway of the new Riverside Baptist Church New-York, the largest Nonconformist Church in the world, on which untold millions of dollars have been lavished.

The new age of religious toleration is strikingly symbolised in the choice of immortals thus commemorated in statues, for great scientists and philosophers (many of them condemned as heretics in their day) take rank with saints, angels and religious leaders.

Old-fashioned Fundamentalists are aghast to find Charles Darwin, their pet aversion, given a place of honour and the presence of Einstein has also jarred them. Einstein, incidentally, is the only living man represented, and I hear that his choice was urged on the Church by leading scientists of America and Europe, who declared he was the greatest living man.

Other scientists carved over the door are Hippocrates, Euclid, Archimedes, Hipparchus, Galileo, Kepler, Newton, Dalton, Faraday, Pasteur and Lister. The philosophers similarly honoured include several who, in their day, were attacked as atheists, the list including Pythagoras, Plato, Sokrates, Epicurus, Aristotle, Seneca, Epictetus, Plotinus, Saint Thomas Aquinas, Descartes, Spinoza, Kant, Hegel and ending with Emerson, the only American among these immortals, and himself the victim of a heresy hunt.

### Religious Leaders,

In the ranks of religious leaders Moses stands shoulder to shoulder with Confucius, whilst after Buddha and Mahomet follow Origen, Saint Francis of Assisi, Dante, Luther, Calvin, Bunyan and Milton. William Carey, the pioneer missionary and David Livingstone are the only figures of modern times in this group. Christ is the central figure of the whole design, about whom all the rest are ranged.

While Dr. Harry Emerson Fosdick has thus given visible proof of his broadmindedness, another celebrated leader of liberal thought, Dr. John Haynes Holmes, of the Community Church, New-York, has come out with the assertion that the present churches are rapidly disintegrating, and that the churches of the future will represent a synthesis of the great religions of the world.

"It is not difficult", he said in a recent sermon, "to forecast the future of religion as it will be practised by men when they have shaken off the dogmas of theology and the private interests of sects and denominations. In the future, when science has done its work and the new society has come, there will be no Baptists, or Presbyterians, or Methodists, or Unitarians, no Protestants or Catholics, no Christians, Jews or Buddhists but only men united in one spirit of religion.

"Churches will be open daily as clinics of healing, schools of culture, and agencies of reform, and will be gathering places for people to consider questions of public moment. There will be no professional ministry as we have it to-day." - The "Daily Gazette".



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