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A New Years Card for friends.

What I believe and What I am.

by A. K. Owen.

Ardent souls, ready to construct their
coming lives, are apt to commit themselves to
the fulfilment of their own visions.

George Eliot.

I hope that real love and truth are
stronger than any evil or misfortune in
the world.

Charles Dickens.

I believe in the future of this Earth.
I believe in the destiny of man. I believe
that a community of 25,000 people which
will thoroughly incorporate to employ its
citizens and to protect and diversify its
home industries will have the most advanced
citizens, physical, moral and spiritual.

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I believe that such a community will take the intelligent lead in the affairs of mankind because it will be the quickest to see and to apply useful ideas. I believe that the citizens of such a community will be the first to cast aside superstitions and to announce a true religion. I believe that truth is in the ascendency. I believe that error, in religious essentials, can not much longer hold our people enslaved. I believe that ignorance must soon cease to be general upon subjects that are for the salvation of man on this Earth.

I believe in a systematic - normal - industrial - moral - aesthetic education for man, woman and child. I believe in such rules as will require old and young to conform to industrial habits and to cultured ways. I believe in forethought, order, purpose and equity in all things. I believe in prevention rather than ⁱⁿ cure.

I believe in educating and training the child, in guarding and protecting the boy and girl from evil influences and false teachings rather than in trying to reform the man and the woman after they have become steeped in irregularities and vice. I believe that Integral-Cooperation put into practice will give a basis for exemplary life and practical religion - a religion which will expand as the intelligence of the people becomes wider and deeper and better.

I am a Reformationist. I believe that there is just as great a demand for reformation outside of "the Established Churches", to-day, as there was at any epoch which has preceded the present. I believe that if we have ^{only} priests and ministers to reform or revise our religions that we will never get anywhere near the truth. I believe that the methods of "division and silence", are as much practiced by the Craft-religions as

by any other craft known to modern or ancient times. I believe that if we ever want a perfect money we must not permit bankers to have a say as to what material must be used or how it shall be issued. I believe that if we are ever to have good laws, adjusted equities and private rights, we should not permit a lawyer to influence us in framing a rule ~~of~~ of life or in drafting an article of association.

I am a Protestant. I protest against person preaching ~~preaching~~ ^{against} "the word of God" for hire. I protest ^{against} Philanthropy and five per cent. I protest ^{against} Salvation for a ~~consideration~~ ^{revenue only} only for cash. I believe that where the greed of man is permitted a true religion is impossible. I protest against religious societies selling Church pews to the highest bidder. I protest against Churches, Cities and States licensing rum-

saloons, bawdy houses, gambling dens,
lottery, swindles and personal vices that
they may receive a ~~tribute~~ ^{tribute}. I protest against
the Churches ~~frightening~~ ^{frightening} the people into worship-
ing, in accordance to ~~sets of degrading dog-~~
mas, rituals and rites, by threatening them
with Hell fire. I believe that the reward
of one good act is the privilege to do an-
other equally as good if not better.

I am a Unitarian. I believe in one God
in the God of love. I believe that as lan-
guages die that races are brought closer
together — that with the destruction of sects,
Creeds, rituals, dogmas and rites that
unity and harmony in religious matters
become possible. I believe that it is a bad
religion which encourages men and women
to pray with each other one day and to
prey upon each other six days in every
week. I believe that persons who make a pro-
fession of praying most in public prey

The most upon the public in ways that
 are dark and by tricks that are mean.
 I believe that the Denominationists are not
 yet agreed exactly upon the Creed, ritual,
 dogma or rite, which is best; or just whe-
 ther there is one or three gods and one wo-
 man for us to worship. I believe that while
 they are themselves at such differences it
 is well for persons, who doubt, not to be for-
 ced to be positive upon non-essentials made
 ridiculous by disputes. I believe that if we
 wish to have truthful children, virtuous
 men and good women, we should not
 deal in false teachings, of any kind or enter-
 tain persons, who look to us for information,
 by what common decency should tell us
 are falsehoods - vile and vulgar - and
 all for the reason that it is thought to be
 "in good form" to deceive ourselves and
 others, as to the truth of things religious,
 during these fat and puffed times."

I am a Non-Conformist. I believe that

to conform to the commands of the
Church is to league oneself with every-
thing that is mean, insincere and irre-
ligious. I believe that the Church has stood
and stands now the protector and en-
courager and sympathizer of what
is wrong, immoral and indecent; and
has been and is the greatest enemy to
truth, to right and to justice. I believe
that there can be no permanent good in a
society where ~~a~~ Church is ~~permitted to~~
~~exist.~~ ^{of ethical cul-}
^{ture is encouraged.} I believe in taking

^{up a very good book.}
I am an Associationalist. I believe
that no one man and that no one woman
can make himself or herself happy or
useful. I believe that the coming Church
will be based upon the religion of Inte-
gral-Co-operation - upon the religion of
equity, inter-dependence and duty. I believe

in a religion which is practiced seven days every week. I believe that a religion only for Sunday is bad. I believe in a religion which will give to its devotees the best food, the finest clothes and the most palatial homes free from tax, rent, interest and tithes. I believe that a religious spirit should so pervade a Community that an inferior article manufactured or sold within its limits should reflect against every member of the Community. I believe that a religious feeling should be so much a part of a City that one unjust act, one false statement intentionally made by a single resident should be sufficient to cause extra vigilance on the part of its entire autonomy.

I believe in "Home-Rule." I believe that the best Home-Rule is a religious rule honored at home. I believe that the sanctity of the home should be kept sacred. I believe that

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a Community founded upon homes will be better, in every particular, than a Community founded upon Churches. I believe that Temples, Mosques, Cathedrals and Churches have disgusted God; for where ever and whenever they have been built, most and best, Mankind has become ungodly, dirty and depraved. ~~and the~~ ^{I believe that} nations, which have fostered ~~them~~ ^{dirty and depravity} long, have perished. I believe that the private home should be the altar of our affections, the palladium of our patriotism and the place of our devotions. I believe that our motto should be: In Home we trust; and I would spell Home with a big H. I believe in a home religion - in a religion which will surround every home with safeguards for the protection of its inmates - in a religion which will make it impossible for a saloon to open, for a prostitute to exist and for a gambling den to survive.

I believe in a religion which will make those who believe in it religious. I believe that any result short of this is a failure in religion - a most contemptible failure. I believe that a religion should insure, here and now, peace and love and happiness to those who profess it. I believe that to profess a religion one must live up to its principles at all times and in every particular.

I believe that a people well housed and well employed may be depended upon to be receptive of the best impulses, intellectual, moral and spiritual. I believe that a people living in tenement houses and having no organized system for their self-employment and culture are on the down grade to perdition, revolution and anarchy. I believe that we are all creatures influenced by the conditions which

surround us, for good or for bad. I believe that where there are 37,318 tenements, housing 1,250,000 persons, whoeke out an existence, each for him or herself without rule or forethought, as there are, on this New Year's day, in New York City, that all the Law and all the prophets of Christendom will have no effect to make good morals or spiritual advancement in that Community. I believe that where competition is permitted to encourage man in his greed and selfishness that each year will add to the percentage of physical and moral wrecks over those who struggle, by accident, to a temporary shelter from the general destruction of lost confidence and blasted hopes.

I am a Non-sectarian. I believe in a Non-sectarian Church. I believe with Jesus Christ in a Church which will

I believe with Matthew Arnold
in "the eternal, more than ourselves,
that makes for righteousness." I believe
with Thomas Carlyle that the Chris-
tian God is "an absentee God, sitting
idle ever since his first Sabbath at
the outside of the universe, and seeing
it go". I believe with John Fiske in "Cosmic-
theism" - in the belief, as Herbert Spencer
puts it, in an "Infinite and Eternal Energy
from whom all things proceed." I believe
in the "unknowable". I believe with the
quiet man who said: "Let others wan-
gle, I will wonder." I believe with Goethe:
"seek to name him as we will, unknown,
within himself, he abideth still." I be-
lieve that Mark Twain caught the truth -
the inwardness of the subject - when he said:
"I don't know what to think; and I have lots of
friends on both sides."

"prove all things; (and) hold fast (to) that which is good". I believe with Jehovah, "let there be light." I believe with Disraeli that Christianity is but completed Judaism, if it be anything." I believe in the doctrine taught by Buddha: "In truth, justice and love." I believe that "to know the doctrine one must live the life." I believe with Mrs Bollington Booth that "The day of little ten-cent Gospels and Bibles has gone." I believe that the Mechanical Ministry of the Churches and the Cold Claminess of Charitable Societies are demoralizing upon those who need association and a basis for diversified employments that they may assist themselves. I believe with William H. Seward in "the Higher Law" in the law of humanity. I believe that the law which liberates a human being from slavery -

the fetters of ignorance, from the chains of idolatry, from the miseries of chattel and from the degradations of wage slavery - is a Law mightier than human Constitutions and is to be obeyed in preference to the dictates of religious potentates who arrogate to themselves the presumption to give "Divine Revelation" in the interests of persons, who, for avarice and gain, would enslave their fellow man, by rites and by laws. I believe that the law for the liberty of man, woman and child is "the Higher Law."

I am an advocate of temperance. I believe in temperance in eating, temperance in drinking, temperance in speaking and temperance in all things. I believe that the life a man leads, and not the pledges a man signs or the vows a man

takes, is the true and only test of his belief.

I am an advocate of woman having a control in and a responsibility for public affairs. I believe that the right of suffrage, for woman and for man, should be based upon education and a home. I believe that only those persons having homes are to be relied upon to have good judgments. I believe to permit ignorant and irresponsible persons to act where the requirements are intelligence and interest, is a crime against society. I believe that woman should have all the rights that man has; and more. I believe that woman should be accorded the first place by Courtesy, the privilege of the doubt and the option on her occupation.

I am a protectionist. I believe in the protection of home-industries, home-employments, home manhood and home womanhood. I believe that to have varied and perfected home occupations that the community should protect and foster the same. I believe that the exchange of service for service, when properly systematized, will do this better than has yet been effected. I believe that cities and states should derive all their revenues from the operation of public conveniences for the people. I believe that "tariffs" will be wrong under a properly constituted government. I believe that if an article can possibly be manufactured in a community or in a state then its use, by the citizens of such city and state, should be prohibited when not made

at home. I believe that a method is ^{either} wrong or right. I believe that the protection and the fostering of home-industries are right and that prohibition is the way to bring them about. I believe in a protection that will protect; hence, I believe in prohibiting the use of any article which will lessen the home employments of a home people. I believe that anything bought outside of a community is dear at any price if it leaves one willing arm or active brain unemployed at home. I believe that the one great care of the statesman should be to see that the people are usefully, regularly and remuneratively employed. I believe that where there is one idle person in a community that the management of that community is at fault.

I am an advocate of reciprocity. I believe in the mutual exchange of products and manufactures along parallels of Longitude - between hot and Cold Countries and districts. I believe that the flour of Minnesota should be exchanged for the Coffee of Brazil - the apples of Michigan for the oranges of Florida - the corn of Dakota for the rice of Georgia. I believe that the only intelligent way to support most raw products is to feed them at home to home people employed in home manufactures and afterward to export the ship or the locomotive or the finished linen, cloth or sheeting. I believe in the home employment of the home people, first, last and all the time. I believe that we should have more home employment and less foreign trade. I

believe in looking entirely for the prosperity of a people in their home-industries and home employments. I believe that foreign trade is for people only as a scab is upon an otherwise healthy body.

I am a Dissenter. I dissent from having holy feast-days. I believe that Christmas, Good Friday, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, etc., etc., are the occasions for vice and licentiousness to run mad riots. I believe that persons who are the most zealous in the cause of the Churches and who insist most upon their dogmas, are those who most often break all the Commandments and most frequently demoralize law, order and decency. I believe that priests and ministers are the persons who most

frequently violate the good counsels they themselves, at times, give. I believe that the lawyers are the persons who, more than any other class, break the laws which they themselves huggle muggle into statutes. I believe ~~that~~ with the wit, that "a lawyer lays down the law when he takes up a case." I believe that a minister lays down the truth when he takes up his sermon.

I believe in the Gospel - in the gospel of equity. I believe that humility, faith, rags, dirt and piety are bad factors upon which to base a good religion. I believe in the manhood of man. I believe that God loves a patient inquirer into his methods and wishes. I believe that God despises any person who crawls to him through fear, ignorance and dirt. I believe that the only Almighty that is worshiped

To-day, in Christendom is "The Almighty Dollar". I believe that to "The Almighty Dollar" the sons and daughters of accepted society alone bow.

I believe that The Trinity Church Society in New York City, is the richest and most influential religious association in America. I believe that Trinity Church stands at the head of and as the guardian spirit of Wall Street; and that its protection is reciprocated by those who are at the head of "the Cannibals of Exchange Alley". I believe that St. Pauls, in London, is the pride of those who control "the ways that are dark, and the tricks that are unseen" in Threadneedle Street and that the Canons and smaller guns of "The Church of England" are in full accord with all that is therein done. I believe that St. Peters, in Rome, surrounded with 500

associated Christian Churches, is the protector and encourager of more vice than is found in any other equal population in Europe. I believe that in Russia persons more universally cross themselves and bow oftener to shrines and altars, and show more outward demonstrations toward what is commonly called a religious life than any other Christian people. I believe that the Russians are the most heartless, cruel and deceitful people on Earth.

~~are used only for the vile purposes of
vile men.~~

I believe that we should speak the truth. I believe that the religions of China, Persia and India were and are false. I believe that their results prove this to be so. I believe that the uses for the gods of Egypt, Greece and Rome have passed away. I believe that the people who worshiped the gods and goddesses of mythology were in war, peace, art, literature, engineering and morals, in many particulars, far in advance of those who boast that the Christian religion has made them superior to every people in every particular who have ever existed. I believe that the Jehovah of the Jews, the Moham-med of the Moslems and the Christ of the Christians will not be required

by a people who are sufficiently free and intelligent to assert the honesty of their convictions. I believe that "the Divine Revelations" which are now blindly accepted as the sole truth will be, by science and experience, proven to be false, vulgar and blasphemous. I believe that all these must pass away before there will be a true religion practiced by our people. I believe that gods, so far as history relates, have not at any time or place, given their advocates an example of industrious life, home-life and love-life; or have they encouraged peace, truth and justice among any people. I believe that the Aztecs perished because their gods were suffered, by the people, to remain permanently bad. I believe that a people must change their gods often and in keeping with their

intelligence and advancement or that they will fall out of line with advanced nations. I believe that Spain, with her Saints for every day in the year, headed by the immaculate Virgin Mary, "who was conceived without sin", and by her son Jesus "who was conceived, also, without sin", with Churches upon every hill, altars in every dale and shrines everywhere, has gone down never to rise again, because the nations followed ~~followed~~ Gods, Saints, Virgins and Mammon instead of being devoted to principles. I believe

*. Dec. 9 - 1891. - The doctrine, first formally promulgated by Pius IX in 1854, that Mary's mother immaculately conceived her has no more devoted believers than in Mexico.

Yesterday, the festivities connected with the day of the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin, were celebrated as outlined in yesterday's The Two Republics. And those Protestants who read the statement of the dogma in yesterday's paper should know, as some persons seem not to know, that the feast is not a celebration of the doctrine that Jesus Christ was "conceived without sin", but that his mother was "conceived without sin".

that the nations on our Earth, to-day, suffer because they have too many Gods and not any principles. ~~to~~ I believe that principles ^{not like the old} are what people stand most in need of, to-day, for their intellectual and moral advancement.

I believe that "The Ten Commandments" were made by a person or by persons who knew Society only when it was upon a Jack-ass basis. I believe it was then supposed that every family was always to have a donkey and a servant. I believe that the God of those days had no idea that a person should be Commanded not to steal a railroad, not to cut a rival Company's telegraph wire, not to freeze a stockholder out of his possessions, and not to give a fee simple title in land to an individual. I believe that the Gods of our own day will be better instructed, if they will be patient until man has studied man a little more and has developed

the utilities of equities and electricity, etc. I believe that our Gods, like our Ministers, never see anything useful or moral or beautiful, here on Earth or anywhere else, before man, after patient studies and applications has pointed them out. I believe that there is hope that even our Gods may become intelligent and moral through man. I believe that our Minister of the gospel will be the last person in society to adopt methods which lead to right living and to correct reasoning. I believe, from the fact that the faithful were commanded not to murder, not to steal, not to lie and not to look upon a neighbor's wife, or, ass or servant with an idea of possessing the same, shows conclusively that Jehovah had a very low order of Jews to deal with. I believe that when a God is upheld to be selfish, jealous, suspicious

and revengeful that those who worship him will necessarily try to excel in these his main characteristics. I believe that the Jews and the Christians have been and are worthy followers of the gods they have worshiped. I believe that their gods should look down upon them all and be very proud - should hold forth their hands and say: "bless you my good and faithful servants." I believe that a more slimy, ignorant, dirty, deceitful, lying, selfish, immoral set of idolat^{ous} gods never had than the Jews and the Christians. I believe that if persons keep a low standard of morals constantly in view that they will fall below the same. I believe that a river never rises higher than its source. I believe that in order to be good, persons should be attracted to aim to excel in the highest principles that can be advanced. I believe

that there are plenty of exceptional principles for correct life, if the religious scruples of persons would permit such to be selected from Pagans, Agnostics and Christians. I believe that greater than the Money Monopoly, greater than the Land Monopoly is the Monopoly of the religious views of the people by a few potentates who claim that God stands sponsor for their ~~acts~~ acts and sayings. I believe that the very best principles should be kept before the young and the old without regard from where or from whom they come. I believe that "we should have truth for authority not authority for truth".

I believe that a Hottentot scraping upon his Chac-chac or a Lulu thumbing upon his Gum-gum comes about as near to satisfying the wants of a pure religious feeling as the soldiers of the Salvation Army

do by rattling tambourines and shouting hallelujah to the discomfort and disgust of order-loving citizens. I believe that where the criminal classes increase 40 per cent. while the entire population increases only 25 per cent, as they do in the United States, that there is great and imperative need for a better religion than we now have. I believe that when it is shown, as it has been, that in Massachusetts - in the leading State of New England - in the land of the old Colonies and of the Blue-Laws and of the Puritans - that while the population has increased threefold that the prison classes - those who have to be taken to prison for one offense or another - have increased fifty-fold.

of this and other lands rise up in one monstrous and emphatic exclamation: thus far have the Ministers, who preach hell and damnation, gone, but not one step further shall they be permitted to proceed in their vile depredations and infamies.

I believe that if a religion does not prevent crime and unrest and dissipation, by those who advocate it, that it misses its mission and is worse than useless.

I believe that "there is no religion higher than truth." I believe that majorities no matter how "respectable" will have to yield to this pertinent fact before they do much more injury to society. I believe that any religion which tries to stop honest inquiry and sincere expression ought itself to be suppressed without further trial. I believe that with intelligence there will come light and that a religion will arise based upon

association, experience, science and love. I believe that "the greatest study of man is man." I believe that God-life is found within man. I believe that the better life-motive comes from the inner Conscience. I believe that the inner Conscience depends upon the outward conditions. I believe that "war is scientific barbarism." I believe that peace will be association perfected through integral-Cooperation made practical.

I believe that God loves a man who speaks from his best intelligence and for his kindest purposes even though what he says is not in accord with accepted doctrines. I believe that God despises a hypocrite and that he hates a cringing, creeping, lying, slimy Church sycophant. I believe in the dignity of man. I believe in woman being industriously employed. I believe that intellectual, industrial and moral power is something

distinct and complete in itself. I believe in a religion which will put before the young and the old, every hour of every day, examples of industrious well-doing and of precepts which lead the mind to think of things most beautiful, moral and refined; and each connected always with work.

I believe in the immortality of deeds. I believe that the kind acts which men may perform to others will live forever. I believe that "humanity is as one man always living, never dying, always growing, never decaying." I believe that if a man learns how to live well he will have no difficulty in being able to "die" well. I believe that man lives forever through the work that he does for and through the love that he bestows upon others. I believe that no life can be a failure which is given to association rightly.