

Torch of Reason

UNIVERSAL MENTAL LIBERTY.

ONE WORLD AT A TIME.

The Only Secular Paper Published on the Pacific Coast.

Published Weekly by the Oregon State Secular Union.

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Entered at the postoffice at Silverton, Oregon, as second class mail matter.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

One Year, in advance..... \$1.00
Six Months, in advance..... 50
Three Months, in advance..... 25
In Clubs of 5 or more one year, in advance... 75
Money should be sent by registered letter or money order.

Please send us the names and addresses of Secularists who are not regular subscribers.

THURSDAY . . . JANUARY 28, E. M. 297

Our Worst Enemies.

The cause of humanity has always had a great deal to combat and in our work of establishing the Liberal University we do not expect to be an exception.

The worst enemies however will not be from the ranks of orthodoxy, but will come from those professing to love our cause, who will endeavor to use us for their own personal schemes. Enemies of this kind who are skilled in deceit, having practiced it for years, are the worst enemies of all, for the very nature of our work requires friends in whom we must trust, and workers being few, we are always ready to accept help from one who professes to love our work, and then what a shock it is to find that we have again been deceived; but we will not lose faith in humanity for we know that under the conditions that we are trying to bring about, "Man's inhumanity to man" will not exist and so we'll push forward and hope that others may see our light and come to our assistance. Help us to hold the TORCH OF REASON aloft now while we need your help and when our work is fully established it can easily withstand the attacks of traitors from within and the enemies from without.

What Is Your Motive.

It is said that Joseph Smith's reason for introducing polygamy into the Mormon church was that he had several wives and by so doing he would justify his own actions. Now, whether this is true or not, we know that many have very poor motives for their work, and that in our ranks as well in christian churches some people work very hard but with motives not to be commended, for if ones motives

are poor his work is sure to be defective and sooner or later it will fall for want of a true and lasting incentive. Our idea is that the motive which should inspire every Secularist's work is his love for his fellow men. We should not endeavor to tear down the works of others just because their ideas differ from ours nor because they call us bad names but because we want to do good and because in order to get our brothers and sisters on the right track we must show them the folly of treading the old trodden paths of error.

Secularists let us see to it that our motives are pure and reasonable and our work will prosper as it never has before.

Salvation.

The theories of immortality are not worth wasting our time on and they sink into insignificance when we think that there is so much to be done to help along the grand work of solving the great problems of our present condition which is so important and essential to the advancement of our race. Why, this story of immortality, is like telling a child a fairy tale when the poor little creature is starving for the want of a crust. When we look around us and see the miserable condition of thousands who lack nourishment for their bodies and minds we feel like preaching a salvation for this earth—a salvation that will not be limited to individuals but will save the whole human family.

Can theology do this? No, a thousand times no. What can save us then? A development to a higher appreciation of our powers and privileges through the teachings of secularism.

Concentrate.

It is a well known fact that in order to accomplish any reform, it must be done by organized work, and the reason that Secularists have not accomplished more is that we have not been well organized.

Our real earnest workers are scattered and it is very much to the interest of our enemies to keep us scattered; but now we have a good opportunity to concentrate our forces and build up such an organization as will be the means of completely putting to route the hosts of superstition.

Let us decide at once to concentrate. Where shall we muster our forces? At Silverton, for we have a goodly number here who have enlisted for life, and no better place can be found in the world.

Old veterans and young recruits come on, and we'll build up an army that will conquer the whole world and issue the greatest emancipation proclamation that mankind has ever known.

Let Abuse Cease.

All our lives we have heard infidels called bad names, and infidels and skeptics both dead and living are the subjects of ridicule and abuse from the ranks of orthodox pulpits and religious papers today. Now isn't this true? And isn't it true that secular lecturers and papers have just as much right to call orthodox preachers fools and liars and make fun of them as they have of us; but my brother, does this kind of work pay? How would it do to stop calling names and see who can produce the best reason for his modus operandi? Our reason for discarding the worship of your gods, and for working for one world at a time is very easy to comprehend. We think that our valuable time is all needed in working for humanity and that we can best do this by bringing about a union of all good men in the secular work. Now this can only be done by showing that creeds are very unimportant compared with the earthly salvation of our race. "One world at a time" is our motto. Now friends, who still cling to some old musty creed, we believe it is your duty to let go, and put in your time working with us to make this world what it ought to be.

Can you give any good reason for not leaving the gods, if there are any, to take care of their own business and for not putting in what time you can spare from your struggle for existence, in bringing about a union of all liberty-loving, humanity-loving worshippers of good, and help to save the world for the sake of poor, suffering, down-trodden humanity?

Now, if our ideas are wrong don't abuse us, but show us where we are at fault and if you think we are right, come with us. We need help and your help may be just what is needed to turn the scales in favor of justice and right.

Fire and Dead Laws.

We see from one of our exchanges that the management of a free reading-room in Snomish, Wash., burns all Freethought literature that is brought in, and from the Oregonian we learn that the members of a large audience in one of the cities of Maryland were ordered arrested for holding a meeting on Sunday, because it is against the law in that state to hold meetings on Sundays that are not religious; and yet some people think there is no danger.

If our ideas are to be burned and we are to be arrested for meeting on Sunday in these United States where is our liberty? Suppose we should take a notion to burn all christian books and papers. We have just as much right to as christians have to burn ours and perhaps more for our literature is clean and moral while the book which is considered the foundation

of all christian literature is in many parts perfectly filthy and scarcely fit for people to read.

No we will not burn your books dear christian friends but you have no right to burn ours, and when you do, you are as bad as the Jews who crucified your Messiah, and the wretched mob that burned Bruno for teaching that the earth moves. We believe that it is best for people to examine both sides of every important question and christian literature is welcome in our free reading room at Silverton; in fact we not only have the bible in our library, but christian papers may be found on our tables. No one but a coward is afraid to examine both sides.

Our Best Friends.

There have been, in all ages, a few men who have not been afraid to step out alone and advocate their views and it seems that the higher these men could hold the banner of their principles, the better it suited them. No matter whether kings or priests approved, no matter if they were imprisoned, scourged or burned at the stake; they could not be silenced until death took away their power of thought and speech. O, how the world applauds such men after they are dead, but this age has its share of heroes and they are today the friends of liberty who boldly stand alone, if need be, and in contempt of the sneers of hypocrites and hirelings dare to lift aloft, for all to read, their declaration of independence.

Only a few men at one time advocated the principles now universally accepted, and so it is in this age; only a few dare boldly, and on all occasions, proudly show their colors. These are the ones who will make the pattern for coming generations however, and while the silent, two-faced human hyenas are stealthily and craftily picking at dead men's bones, they, the best, the only true friends of humanity, are tearing away the rubbish of decayed dogmas and building a foundation on which coming generations may erect a more beautiful civilization—a civilization in which the real and imaginary hell will have vanished and a real heaven enjoyed here, which will fit men to enjoy any good that may come hereafter.

Rev. Hastings Randall, Dertford college, Oxford, says in the International Journal of Ethics that "it is quite easy to show that at the present day there are few clergymen whose private belief corresponds with the letter of the formulæ to which they profess adherence." He says that there is a wide difference between the belief of men and the creeds they profess, he claims that "if anybody supposes that the articles of the church of England really express the actual views of the clergy, he must be singularly inobservant of their pulpit and other utterances."