

Correspondence.

Editor TORCH OF REASON: In a discussion with one of our Methodist neighbors a few days ago, I denied the theory of man having an immortal soul, or any preeminence above a beast, and to prove my assertion I read the following scripture. The dead know not anything. For there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom in the grave whither thou goest—For that which befallth the sons of men befallth the beasts, as the one dieth so dieth the other; yea they have all one breath; so that a man hath no preeminence above a beast; all go unto the one place. [Eecl. 9:5-10. 3: 19-80.]

Now Mr. Editor, I thought I had my "immortal soul" man in a corner, but "Great Scott," you can only imagine how foolish and disgusted I felt when my saintly friend gave a look at me with a sickly smile on his face and said, Oh, you don't understand that scripture. That only hath reference to man and beast dieing and returning to dust from whence they came. That scripture hath nothing to do with the soul of man whatever. Well I saw there was no use for me to waste any more time with my inspired neighbor, so I retired and went to sawing wood.

After regaining my senses I came to this conclusion: There is but little use to waste our time trying to convince these godly-inspired saints that they do not understand the wonderful book (Bible) any better than those who do not claim to have been born the second time, and had their sins (that were committed in the Garden of Eden) forgiven by God.

There is no doubt in my mind that the person who only claims to live, breathe and die the same as all other animals, can read and understand the bible just as well as those who claim to be christians and also claim to be possessed with an immortal soul. No, Mr. Editor the biped animal that claims to have a "soul" and is moved about by a "holy spirit" can never be so tightly cornered but he will make his escape. Yours for common earthly beings. H. C. P.

Editor TORCH OF REASON: In your issue of February 4, is an article headed, "An Ethical Basis." The writer seems to infer that Secularists have no platform (or creed as the churches call it) and I think it a mistaken idea. I have been a life member of our National Secular Union for years, also of our O. S. S. U. and it has ever been my understanding, that the Nine Demands of Liberalism, was, and is, our platform. The eighth demand of our platform gives us a moral code and reads thus: "We demand that all laws looking to the enforcement of Christian morality (as

such) shall be abrogated; and all laws shall be conformed to the requirements of natural morality, equal rights, and impartial liberty."

Now it seems to me, if we study nature, and find out our true sphere in life, that will be as high as our idea of morals can reach. Our lecturers have for years been educating our people along this line, breaking up or plowing as they call it, getting the minds of our people ready for a more thorough organized field of labor. There has been a great deal to do in the way of tearing down the old ideas of superstition. Yes, a great deal has been done. Lecturers have been all over our United States, at a great expense, exposure and hardships; many have even given up their lives in the defense of true Liberalism, and all this had to be, in order to make it possible, under the existing influence of superstition, for the liberal element of society, to even dare to speak a word against the bible. It seemed that time and money were being thrown away on our lecturers, but thanks to our martyrs, we are now beginning to reap the harvest of their labors. Now if all who profess to be Secularists would only put their shoulder to the wheel, deny themselves of some of the luxuries of life in order to help our cause of humanity, we would drive away the clouds of superstition much faster than ever before. Educating our children in the laws of nature, will soon tell for good. In union there is strength, I send you a copy of our Nine Demands of Secularism, hoping you will give them a prominent place in your paper, in order that all who read it may know just what our platform is.

Yours for the truth,
A SECULARIST.

We are sure that the above article was written by one who wishes to do all in her power to help our grand cause, but, after thinking carefully of the subject with all the main facts in mind we feel confident that she will understand the conditions as we understand them.

Our space will only allow us at this time to give a few of the convincing facts in the case, but, if we consider these well, we are sure to see that something more than we have had as a platform is absolutely necessary for the success of our work.

The Nine Demands of Liberalism is not our platform. They have not, to our knowledge, been adopted by the O. S. S. U. and as we can find no evidence that we are auxiliary to the A. S. U. we have nothing to do with the Nine Demands, other than that some of the ideas embraced in them are found in the by-laws of our union and that there is a tacit understanding among most of the members, many who like our friend, the writer of

the above article, are members of the A. S. U., that the Nine Demands of liberalism is our platform. But let this matter be as it may; a little study will show us that these demands are not all we want for a basis.

We cannot have the success that our labor deserves until we have something more than these. We can not secure these demands until we have something more for our platform. Why can't we? Because we can never have a harmonious, effective organization until our platform is such as to attract and hold together the best class of men and women and this the Nine Demands can not do. They are good, but they belong to the tearing down process and if the reader will kindly consider each one separately he or she will discover that each declares against christianity. This is all right and we are not criticizing any of them, but they are not all we want for a basis. Now is it not true that a person who is a vile wretch, a person who is morally depraved can stand on the Nine Demands as a platform and still remain a slave to folly and crime? Secularism means far more to us than the Nine Demands of Liberalism. It not only means fighting the evils that superstition has brought upon us but it means fighting every evil, and we are sure that any real, true Secularist will not object to an ethical basis when he understands that it does not reject the Nine Demands of Liberalism but it is the surest way of building up an organization that will be able not only to demand, but to force these ecclesiastical robbers of our freedom into obeying the demands of Liberty, Justice and Truth.

Nine Demands of Liberalism.

1. We demand that churches and other ecclesiastical property shall be no longer exempt from taxation.
2. We demand that the employment of chaplains in Congress, in State Legislatures, in the navy and militia, and in prisons, asylums, and all other institutions supported by public money, shall be discontinued.
3. We demand that all public appropriations for educational and charitable institutions shall cease.
4. We demand that all religious services now sustained by the government shall be abolished; and especially that the use of the Bible in the public schools, whether ostensibly as a textbook, or avowedly as a book of religious worship, shall be prohibited.
5. We demand that the appointment by the President of the United States, or by the governors of the various states, of all religious festivals and fasts shall wholly cease.
6. We demand that the judicial

oath in the courts and in all other departments of the government shall be abolished, and that simple affirmation, under the pains and penalties of perjury, shall be established in its stead.

7. We demand that all laws directly or indirectly enforcing the observance of Sunday as the Sabbath shall be repealed.

8. We demand that all laws looking to the enforcement of "Christian" morality (as such) shall be abrogated, and that all laws shall be conformed to the requirements of natural morality, equal rights and impartial liberty.

9. We demand that not only in the Constitution of the United States and of the several states, but also in the practical administration of the same, no privilege or advantage shall be conceded to Christianity or any other special religion; that our entire political system shall be founded and administered on a purely secular basis; and that whatever changes shall prove necessary to this end shall be consistently, unflinchingly and promptly made.

The invention of geometry is attributed, by some, to the Assyrians or Chaldean philosophers, by others to the Egyptians. Geometry was brought into Greece by Thales, in 900 B. C. The study was greatly improved by Pythagoras and brought to perfection by Euclid, 300 years B. C. The researches of Archimedes were made in the third century before Christ.

Katie Kehm Smith Monument Fund.

E Stewart.....	\$5 00
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Hugh Purdin.....	2 50
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Albert Officer.....	2 50
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Robert Taylor.....	1 00
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W J Dean.....	1 00
J A Leeber and wife.....	50
Total.....	\$76.75

Anyone desiring to contribute to the monument fund will please write to Warren Carsner, Wauger Oregon.