

**Secular Organizations.**

In the Freethought Magazine for March, Editor Green writes that "the real Freethinkers of the country who believe in purity, decency, and the marriage institution, should come together and organize a great Freethinkers' Association, that shall by its character and high aims and purposes, command the respect and admiration of the respectable people of this country."

Mr. Green says further:

"That, in our opinion, is the only sure way out of our present difficulty. We feel sure that every Freethought journal in the country, when its editors and Freethought patrons fully investigate this matter, will favor this movement. For our part, we are too old to take any active part in such a new society, but we believe there are hundreds of young men and women, in every state in the Union, if the matter was brought to their attention, who would cheerfully and gladly enlist in such a movement, and we know of a number of men of wealth and of high moral standing who unitedly would gladly contribute a number of thousands of dollars to assist in such a movement. The organization should be as perfect as any christian organization—should be run on business principles, and should, by its constitution, be strictly guarded against the bad influences that have wrecked and disgraced the old association. Such an organization would draw to its membership, within one year, after its organization, ten thousand names, at least. We hope to see such a grand institution as a society of this character would be, in full operation regenerating humanity before we take our departure from this mundane sphere. Its motto should be: 'Truth, Justice, and Purity.'"

Editor Green, in my opinion, is right. Let us ORGANIZE and be sure that we start on the right basis. Heretofore in Secular organizations so little attention has been paid to business and morals that we have accomplished little compared to what we would have accomplished, had we organized on solid business principles and an ethical basis.

Orthodoxy is organized on sound business principles and if we expect to effectually battle against its tyrannies, we must adopt some of its principles. We very often hear people argue that it is wrong to organize Secular Sunday schools and churches, as that is too much like orthodoxy. Most of them object mainly on account of the names. Many object to taking up collections at our meetings, while I noticed that collections figured prominently in the program of the late Freethought congress at Chicago. People seem to be undecided as to just what is and is not orthodox.

It would be sensible for reform political parties to refuse to elect their candidates by ballot because their opponents elect in that way as for Secularists to refuse to adopt business principles and names because orthodoxy has used them. It would be as sensible for Gen. Weyler to refuse to fight with guns and attempt to win the battles against the Cubans with clubs as it would be for Secularists to abandon their organizations and attempt to battle superstition and free the mental slaves by pointing out the absurdities of old dogmas, with no regard to morality or sociability.

Have we no right to use the word church for our organization, simply because our orthodox friends have used it? Have they the sole right to it? Methodists use the name league for their young people's organizations and Baptists use the name union. What will we do, will we have to manufacture some new names?

Now let us lay aside our prejudices and get down to the good earnest work of Secularism, regardless of the fact that our orthodox friends use some of the principles we would wish to adopt and that will bring us success if we do adopt them. Let us organize Secular churches and Sunday schools wherever possible, elect delegates to our state conventions and then to our national convention which should be held once a year composed of delegates duly elected from every state in the union. But first let us decide on a definite plan of organization when we can all work for the same end, and go unhesitatingly, unrestingly at it.

I do not want people to misunderstand me. Much good has been done in the past by individual and organized work in the ranks of Liberalism but I maintain that much more good could have been done had a different plan been adopted and now that we realize this, let us lose no time in making a start.

Yours for Truth and Justice,  
PEARL W. GEER.

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Fraternally yours,  
MICHAEL JOHNSON.

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