

## Torch of Reason

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### The Play of Life.

Let's play a play and suppose that we are inspired by Go(o)d and able to look into the past as well the future and discover the hidden meaning of the hieroglyphics of life. And why should we thus play? Life is all a great play and the actor who said that "Life is real, life is earnest," is but one who has said his little part and left the stage. So we see that we must play our part any way, and if we can touch a chord that will give some of our fellow players the cue that will make their lives happier we may enjoy our part much more; so, let the play go on.

Hush! Listen to the songs of the great actors of the past now that the lights of life are turned off. Can you catch the meaning of their song? Ah! here too come the living actors and their voices seem to harmonize with the past, only it is fuller, richer, and the words more easily understood. What are they saying? What is the song? What means this pointing of the finger to the future? Hark! Can you catch the words?—"There is a God, a real true God; a God that feels a pity, and a boundless love for all!"

This must be the Lord's day and we are in the spirit for we hear a voice, and look! There are the lights and in the midst one like unto the Son of Man, and see! His garments are white as snow; and the voice! Listen to the voice! It is like the sound of many waters. And there is the two-edged sword coming out of his mouth! His countenance is truly like the sun; and as he speaks unto us the blessed words: "Fear not; I am he that liveth and was dead, and behold, I am alive forever more," we fall at his feet as dead.

"Awake!" says the voice, "and know that dreams are but the imaginations of a troubled brain." But can we not use our dreams to our advantage? Can we not interpret them so as to learn a valuable lesson? Yes; and here is our interpretation of the dream. The great God is the great principle of Good that is in Humanity. The powerful Devil or Evil is at war with this Good, but through the sacrifice of

Christ, i.e., those who have suffered far the sake of Humanity, goodness may conquer and fill the whole world with peace, and plenty and happiness.

The Lord's day is this day when all are awakening from the spell that has been cast over us by the evil spirit of selfishness, and in the spirit, i.e., the right spirit, we can hear the great voice of the Good that is in mankind and we know that it is the goodness of man, and not a mythical god, that we should serve. With garments (characters) white, and the two-edged sword of truth, and with a bright, beautiful face, the true savior of man fills us with reverence and love and we bow ourselves, not in slavish fear, but we yield our whole lives to the service of Humanity. In one of the early dreams of man, when he was but a child and had not attended the great school of science and his young mind was filled with the fantasies of childhood, a cruel, angry, demon-like God seemed to permit his only son to be crucified, but this was only one of those peculiar freaks of a dream when things seem to go by contraries, and now our dream is to crucify the devil (evil) and release the anointed kings of truth and right, that they may save the world by laying on the hands of love and reason.

### A Big Confidence Game.

All institutions are creatures of growth and, like a polliwog, no institution can tell what it will be like when it is full grown. If the old Romans who first started that great and wonderful civilization had been told just what their later religious and political institutions would be like they could not have believed or even understood what was meant. The Mohammedan, the Buddhist, the ancient Jews have all grown into their religions and if one had been asked to believe what was taught his progeny a few hundred years later he would have been much offended. This is true of the dominant religion in our country today. If the christian of a few years ago had advocated what the strictest of any sect does today they would have been put to death. It hardly seems possible that this is a fact but all we have to do to prove it is to mention Bruno who was burned in 1600 for teaching that the earth moves and that there is a plurality of worlds.

The changes come so gradually that many people do not realize that any change is taking place and such people are not open to conviction; they will not investigate all sides; they are not freethinkers or truthseekers. They claim that their religion is the whole truth, the seek-no-farther and so instead of trying to advance they

have not the proper incentives and are even afraid to investigate.

So in the course of time it has come about that the religion of Jesus has grown into a huge confidence game and those who are swindled the worst are the loudest in its praise.

Ministers, who are the worst confidence men in our country, are often ignorant of the fact themselves which makes their work of deluding other innocent parties more complete and this big game with its millions of agents has so tangled our machinery of progress that at times we seem almost at a standstill. Heavy taxes are paid by those already burdened almost beyond endurance in order that these confidence men may have their place of business go free. The pennies, the nickels and the dollars are taken from our starving people and sent across the ocean to a heathen people to teach them to help perpetuate this confidence trick. Our young people are driven wild with excitement and in this state yield themselves a willing prey to any foolish work that the preacher may ask, even to giving up their reason and believing anything that is told them. Women who have good, kind husbands are induced to confide in the priest or preacher instead of their own husbands and thus oftentimes a coldness springs up, causing dissention, separation and misery. How long will the people stand this evil which has crept upon us like a thief in the night? Secularists say that it will continue to curse the world until something better is put in its place. Dear reader, if you are bound by the chains of sin, or if you have ignorantly become a victim of the greatest confidence game on earth, for the sake of Humanity break your bonds and help us to lay the foundation of a purer and a truer civilization.

### An Explanation.

The Secularists and friends who do not live in or near Silverton may need a word of explanation in regard to the blanks on the last page of this issue of the Torch. The sole object of these blanks is to raise as much money as we can to build and furnish the Liberal University.

The men whose names appear on the blanks as finance committee are staunch Liberals and were appointed on account of their well-known business qualifications. They are men who have no "ax to grind" unless we choose to call building up the cause of Secularism an ax, and we know that all Freethinkers who know these men will help all in their power.

Now we need money. If you are in favor of the principles of Secularism do not hesitate if you can't give a thousand dollars, but cut

out one of the blanks or copy it and sign what you can. If every Secularist does what he or she can we will have a fine University building into which we can move at the opening of the next term, and the prophecies of the false prophets be proven false.

We must not listen to Mr. and Mrs. Croaker, but all take right hold and the good work will be done.

Blank No. 2 was put in so that those who wish to pay something but who haven't the money on hand may let us know what they can pay after awhile. This will give us an idea of what we can do and furnish a basis for our future work.

Now if you can't pay for more than one bunch of shingles, let's have the shingles—with your prayer? No, a kind word to the friends of progress who will be apt to hear our call for help.

### Stand Fast.

The enemies of purity and those who do not believe in our motto, "One world at a time" will do all they can to combat our work, now that we have amended our by-laws so as to make it amount to something; but if every one who believes in Secularism will now stand fast, all the hosts of superstition and crime can not move us from our position.

Let every subscriber to the Torch get a new subscriber at once. This will double our circulation. Do something for the Liberal University. It is our hope. If we can graduate a class of young men and women we will then have more workers in the field.

Don't forget to write to us. Send a short article if you can. The young man who wrote the song published last week entitled Torch of Reason did more good perhaps than he thought. We have been singing his song in the University and in the Sunday school and all are inspired by it to greater endeavors to help bring truth and reason to the minds of a sin and superstition cursed people.

The organized host of reason-wreckers are against us but if we stand firm now, we will not only have the satisfaction of seeing our beneficent work grow, but we will gain the gratitude and respect of generations yet unborn. Stand firm and work today; rest tomorrow!

### Heaven.

People have been taught that it is all right to suffer here and receive a greater reward in heaven. This is one of those humbugs that has raised hell here. Away with such fool ideas! Let every one cry out against it and work to make our heaven on earth.