

Torch of Reason

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We Will Conquer.

Some people are slow to grasp the idea of what certain causes will produce. They are obliged to see the effect and can form no idea of future results. This class of people are not worth very much in helping a great cause. They are too slow, and so the pioneer work of any movement must be done by those who can see the effect when a cause is presented to their minds. They have reason and from past experiences of themselves and others, and from the general nature of the causes, they can read the effects. Some may look upon the work of the Oregon State Secular Union as a small thing because the beginning is small and unassuming, but if these short sighted people live long they will be astonished at the wonderful effects of the little seeds of truth that are being sown in this far Western State.

The right conditions must exist for any thing to succeed; here we have the right conditions and our work will march on to a wonderful, and glorious victory. Before commencing a hard problem, a student should read it over very carefully and become acquainted with its every detail; and the problem of organizing a powerful army to drive out the dead religions and vile superstitions of the past, and establish in their place a religion of science and morality, has been carefully studied and the foundations are being laid, slowly at first but surely; every stone or plank is carefully examined and everything that is damaged by the dry rot of ancient religions or the worms of hypocrisy and fraud are rejected.

We must not expect too much

help at first but keep at work on the foundation. Some may become weary or provoked because some of their pet ideas are rejected but others will labor on, and the foundation will be completed, strong and beautiful.

Amid so much clash and din of contending forces our little army appears small, but we have the weapons of modern warfare while others are using the old spears and war clubs of a heathen ancestry. Truth is mighty and it will prevail!

Bidding for Popularity.

Some organizations, like some individuals think first of what they should do to please this set or that set, and then declare their principles accordingly but this is not honest nor the best way to do.

The right way for an individual to do is to ask himself, "what do I really believe to be the honest truth," and then to declare his principles accordingly no matter if he stands alone. Acting on this principle the Oregon State Secular Union in the late convention adopted its Ethical Basis and now, believing that we are right and that the right is far more apt to win in the long run, we stand firmly upon this foundation and no matter if we do lose the help of some whose principles are opposed to secularism a few of us will hold the fort until others who believe as we do, learn of our work and then we will make things move.

We want the earth and nothing less. Others may long for heaven and may talk of hell but we will confine our labors to the upbuilding of happy homes here and fight to a finish every thought that is opposed to home, purity and happiness during the only life about which anything is known.

Religion in Politics.

When Christians fight each other we often learn things that otherwise would be hidden. The American Sentinel is christian but it is opposed to that large class of Christians who are working continually to unite church and State. The following appears in the issue of May 13.

"It is an unfortunate statement of truth that is made by the president of the Portland (Oregon) branch of the National Municipal League," in the following:—

"The church membership and following is sufficiently numerous to impose its united will upon any political or municipal party in any city of the United States. It could, if united and determined, set up a political or a municipal ideal and compel politicians of every party to conform to it."

The unfortunate thing about it is that the 'church membership and following' are being wheeled into line to accomplish this very thing."

Now if this christian statement is true and we believe it is, we are rapidly drifting into an ecclesiastical slavery that will make every Infidel, every Liberal, every Secularist, every Jew, every Spiritualist, every one who does not believe in the orthodox religion either a hypocrite or an outcast. For the love of liberty let us awake before it is too late!

Mysteries.

While honest people have been working for an honest living, or studying how to make the world better by delving into the truths of nature, priests have been working to get control of the people so as to be supported in comfort and ease and receive the honor and adoration, of which all rulers are so fond. This accounts to a great extent for the priests' study of the dead languages.

Mystery is a great lever for lifting the ignorant into awful submission, and Latin and Greek not being very practical or at least not as important for gaining a livelihood as other branches, have therefore been neglected by the masses and are something of a mystery.

So we hear the fishers of men mumbling Latin while the poor suckers, charmed with the shining mystery are hooked and used to satisfy the anglers' cannibal appetite for power.

Latin words or words from any foreign or dead language, that are familiar and can be used for emphasis or to better express one's ideas i. e., to make his meaning clearer to his hearers or readers may be to the advantage of all concerned but nothing seems more absurd to us than the ridiculous use of speech when the hearers or readers have no way of finding out what is meant.

But the Roman Catholic priests are not the only ones who put their flocks into a comatose state and then rob them of time and substance. There are those who take a dead word and apply it in such a way as to mystify their poor victims as one might use a toy to attract a child while having its photograph taken or as John Smith did the compass when trying to control the Indians. Take for example the Latin word ego which is the first person singular of the personal pronoun i. e., it is the same as the word I in English, and see how it is used to mislead those who are easily guiled. Instead of using this word as a pronoun the medium or priest uses it as a noun and talks just as though it was a settled fact that each and every one of the congregation had an ego in him and that egos are all about us. These ego-crank like the other priests are simply deceivers or very much deceived and we hope that before being deceived by such bait the readers of the Torch will at

least use their reason and if no real, honest, open-day-light proof can be found for such assertions they will not be insane enough to be captured by a little mystery.

The protestants do not use the above mentioned tricks to capture their devotees but the well known mysteries of the miracles, the holy ghost and hundreds of other absurdities are used with great success but these are gradually losing their power and as Secularism, which has no mysteries whatever, gains ground, the false priests and prophets of the miracles and mysteries will disappear and that peculiar type of mind that reaches out after these things will give place to strong, reasoning, active minds that can not be deceived by such priestly display.

Mind.

Perhaps nothing has been more prolific of evil than ignorance of the nature of the mind. The mind is thought to be a material substance by some and that it can exist separate from the body. This belief gives rise to nearly all the ideas of spirits which have cursed the world by drawing away our attention from the practical things of this life to the vague, drunken imaginings of a future life, separate from the body or in connection with a refined, spiritual body. Now if we can show that mind is what we honestly believe it to be, the manifestation of matter and not a material substance that has any or all of the general properties of matter then we will have done away with much of the nonsense about the happy hunting-grounds and the other heathenish idea of reincarnation.

Seeing is part of the mind. What is seeing? The light which is reflected from an object produces an effect on the retina of the eye and the optic nerve is thus affected. The brain in turn is affected and the effect is called sight. The brain is material and at death decomposes and the elements combine in other forms and the effect can not exist as a spirit for it is not a thing but an effect only. Of course the effect on others may live on and on and our seeing may thus live forever, e. g. if we should see a wonderful natural phenomenon and describe it to a child, the picture thus formed in the child's mind may be retained long after we are dead, and in turn, given to others and thus kept alive for ages and ages; and we believe it to be a fact that in this way every thought and every action of our lives have an immortality. Everything as a cause produces an effect and every effect becoming a cause produces another effect but this is the only kind of immortality that there is any proof of whatever. What is true of seeing is true of all the sense perceptions and what is true of