

**A Smart Business Woman.**

The latest development of Christian Science must appear to many outsiders as very remarkable. The founder of this sect and its leader, Mrs. Mary Baker Eddy, has just announced to her followers in the United States and Canada that they are enjoined "not to teach a student Christian Science for one year, commencing on March 14, 1897." To this command she adds that a new volume of her own, just published, is the best means of promulgating the faith, and then says: "The Bible, 'Science and Health,' with 'Key to the Scriptures,' and my other published works are the only proper instructors for this hour. It should be the duty of all Christian Scientists to circulate and to sell as many of these books as they can." Those who disobey this command are told that they will be liable to lose membership in the church. Another order is given, that, when her "Science and Health" is read in church, the title of the book and its author are to be announced only once; but this calls attention to the fact that "Science and Health" is treated very much in the same way as the Bible, and is, apparently, put upon a basis of equal authority. The autocratic tone of these orders leads to the query whether a female pope has arisen in this country. Or is it to be assumed that Mrs. Eddy is a sharp business woman and has taken means to secure for her new book the largest sale possible? In any event, these orders are astonishing indications of how one of the most liberal of sects can be made to yield obedience to the autocratic command of a religious leader.—Christian Register.

**Willing to Help.**

Editor Torch of Reason:

Please send me sample copy of the Torch of Reason as I am anxious to assist it to the extent of my subscription. Every little helps and every sound Freethinker ought to give all the support he can toward the Liberal University. I certainly admire the energy and activity of Secularists on the Pacific Coast. As soon as I learn the subscription price of your Journal I will send the amount. Yours for light and liberty. JOHN McARDLE.  
Council Bluffs Ia.

**From Across the Border.**

Editor Torch of Reason:

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your circular and ask to be excused for delay as it has been overlooked. In reply would say that I am always willing to assist the cause of Free Thought. I subscribe for quite a number of papers but still I have room for the "Torch of Reason" for six months, and a small contribution to the University

to be sent as soon as called upon.

Wishing you every success in your field of labor, I remain,

Very fraternally,  
J. JOHNSTON.

Victoria, B. C.

**Queries.**

If an existence necessarily implies a creator, who made God? What was he made out of? Isn't it easier to believe that all organic life is the result of of natural selection and evolution than that it was all made at one mixing. When did time begin? When will it end? Was God in a good business when he made the Devil? What will become of idiots after death? Christian friends "where are you at?" Does nature wait until after a person is dead to punish him for violation of natural law? Z.

**On a Firm Basis.**

Dear friends:

I have been receiving the Torch regularly since it began publication. Our cause has at last been placed, where it all the time belonged, by the declarations of the last convention. Placed on the solid foundation of a moral basis, if we will but be true to ourselves and our cause, we cannot fail to have a great influence in shaping the destinies of the human race, for progress and happiness.

We need no longer occupy the partially defensive attitude, which we have kept so long. We can now wage a fight not only against superstition but against every other violation of reason or natural law.

It is not necessary to remind Secularists that we are building, not for the present alone but that our teachings, we hope and believe, will bear their legitimate fruit as long as time may last. If this were not so our's would be a weary labor indeed. Yours fraternally.

Z. J. MARTIN.

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