

Torch of Reason

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Notice!

A pencil mark here denotes that your subscription will expire with the next number. You are earnestly requested to renew so that you may receive the paper without interruption. We have decided that it is best for all concerned that we do not send papers longer than the time paid for unless so ordered. This will prevent any loss on the part of the Union and we will know just where we stand. We request you to send us the names of Secularists who might become subscribers and we will mail sample copies.

THURSDAY, JUNE 3, E. M. 297

Traitors.

The great principles of Secularism have been belittled and dragged in the slime of wantonness and corruption by those who have joined our ranks on account of our attacks upon Christianity, but now that we condemn other crimes against society besides the great crime of hypocritically teaching superstition those whose adhesion to some particular corruption is stronger than their love for Secularism, will prove traitors. The only question in regard to our successful erection and maintenance of the University and establishment of Secular Sunday schools and churches is, have we left enough honest, true secularists, i. e., those who really do care for the work of humanity.

We believe that there are enough people who are willing to sacrifice for the cause to put the work right on its feet and make it the greatest object lesson the world has ever had. A few of us here are devoting our whole time without pay to this work. Of course some who have no feelings of philanthropy will say that we have some selfish motive, but this is not true and whenever some one will take hold of our part of the work, who can and will do better, we will be glad to let them, and will help them all we can. The most discouraging feature of the whole thing, and we will admit that sometimes we get a little "down in the mouth," is, that people who have talked much against the evils of superstition and the great need of constructive work and who are abundantly able to help, will only give about what a postage stamp is to us. Of course we are glad to get anything, but the selfish, grasping, pay-a-

dollar-and-get-one hundred ideas of some men is simply ridiculous. Traitors! Cowards! Slaves! Cling to your golden god and when others are dying happy in the thought that they have tried to do good, you will be miserably dragged away from your treasure and know that your life has been a miserable failure.

Be on Your Guard.

We who believe in organized work against the evils of our time should be ever on our guard against those so-called liberals who do not believe in organization.

They join only to break down. There are only a few of this class but the damage they are capable of doing to our work with their tongue and pen is very great. Instead of taking right hold and working to build up, they tear down everything that others build. You will hear them say that liberals cannot organize, that we ought not to try to build Secular churches and Sunday schools, that a person ought not to be obliged to pass an examination and receive a license before lecturing for the O. S. S. U., that the ethical basis is a creed, that free lovers and spiritualists ought not to be debarred from lecturing on our platform, etc. etc. Now what we want to do to make our work a success is to go right ahead, pay no attention to croakers do the very best we know how and our organization will grow in numbers and in power. "Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty."

Local Workers.

Heretofore our Sunday Schools have mostly been established right after some enthusiastic lecturer has been to a place and pictured the horrors of the teachings of the orthodox Sunday schools and the great beauties and benefits of the Secular Sunday schools. What these lecturers have said is true but oftentimes the work has proven a failure soon after the first excitement was over. Now the principal reason for this is that many times the parties who take hold of the work do not understand the sacrifices that must be made in order to keep a Sunday-school running; and the opposition, that is always met by reformers, soon overcomes them and our cause has been injured instead of being strengthened. Now there can be a successful Secular Sunday school started in every place where there are a few secularists if they can understand how simple a thing it is. The main thing is to meet every Sunday promptly at the regular hour. The superintendent should be a person of perfect habits and should be on hand every time, or in case of necessary absence have it perfectly understood who is

to take charge. If you cannot afford to pay rent meet in a private house until you can do better. If only a few come at first never mind that but you be there and perhaps next time others will come. If you have no money and can't get any, don't let this stop you. Read from any books or papers you have, sing some songs, have a sociable time and HOLD THE FORT. We have a few back numbers of quarterlies and those who can't afford the new ones may get some of these to start with. Do the best you can; study how to make the work interesting for each other and by and by you will be rewarded by seeing the little seeds you have sown grow to beautiful flowers of truth and love.

Of course our lecture work is necessary and just what we must have, but we must learn that there are other things necessary as well. We must have earnest, faithful local workers.

A Heavy Load.

If we were orthodox we would pray! But not believing in prayer we are going to tell our friends our troubles instead of laying them at the feet of a imaginary savior.

The load we have undertaken to carry is more than we can lift alone, but with a little help just now the work will move on to a grand success. We are not joking as the following facts will show: One reason we closed our first year's work a little early was our desire to keep from getting the school into debt.

We borrowed money to pay for the press and that (\$138.50) will be due in a few months. It should be paid at once to stop interest. Then we should have at least \$2000 more before we start the University building; and again we have to pay an \$80 paper bill in a short time and also the expense of typos etc. Now we can do all we can but we need help. A little money now would save us much embarrassment and we could do better work, putting in our time at something besides worrying. Now liberals, we want this work done right. Are we going to have the needed support or not? We would gladly do this educational work, which is so much needed, alone if we could; we are not begging but just asking for the privilege of serving. We will never give up the work, but working alone is a slow process. Can't you do something for the cause now?

Work for Vacation.

Freethought boys and girls can make money for themselves and help boom the Torch at the same time. Canvass your town and we will give you 25 cents for every subscriber you get. Send us a club of five subscribers, retain \$1.25

and send us \$3.75. After the first club you may retain 25 cents for each subscriber no matter how small a number you send. Try! Show everyone a sample of our paper! Tell them about the University and ask them to subscribe!

Education vs. Salvation.

The Salvation Army is about as badly "split up" as the rest of god's children and if the "splitting up" process goes on it will be hard to find out what is really the Army of Zion. We understand that one division of this branch of orthodoxy is giving object lessons in the streets of Portland. The soldiers march along clinging to a rope with one hand and swinging the other, keeping time as they march and sing. On the other side is one of their members dressed as the devil, long tail, horns and all; and as they march the devil motions for them to come over the line, but, none seem willing to go to the devil, in public at least. From another quarter we hear the report of a salvation song that strikes us in three places at once. It seems appropriate, laughable and sad. Here are the main words of this gospel hymn: "There's flies on me and there's flies on you but there ain't no flies on Jesus."

Just as long as such information as this is regarded as paramount to the facts of science, just as long as money and time are sacrificed to teach these orthodox ideas, to the neglect of those things which promote prosperity and genuine, lasting happiness, just so long will poverty, ignorance and crime stalk unchecked through our land. Our young men and women should be educated in the natural sciences and in the principles of morality and the work of all the salvationists would die out for lack of material.

If.

If our work should be delayed for any length of time of course our friends the enemy would say, "I told you so," and of course would think that our failure was on account of our principle being wrong; but this would not be the case.

Enough people may not have evolved out of their superstition, greed and ignorance to build Liberal University yet, but if anything should happen that the Liberal University at Silverton fails for lack of support you may be sure that sometime conditions will be more favorable, for the people cannot always remain in the clutches of the priests nor always think more of their "stuff" than they do of doing good.

But what's the use of such vain speculations? The University is going to be built. Those in favor of the motion make it manifest by doing something to help it along.