

thought you would be a candidate for this; and here you are in flesh and blood."

"I fought it out as long as I could. I'd got so fitted to theology that I didn't see how I could live without it. I thought I must have a sort of celestial machinery, but that answer of Ingersoll knocked it clean out of my head. I couldn't get round it. I squirmed mightily. But conviction tussled with me, and I yielded. I said to commonsense: I give myself up to you without reserve. I hold nothing back. What you teach I will believe; and, if need be, I will leave all and follow you. The moment I said that, I was happy, I could see things straight. I was free from all the universe, and it did seem as if everything had a new color. Like a child, I began again, and reason has led me into smooth and pleasant paths. I don't know much, but what I do know I find very useful. Just look at my farm and stock barns. I get enjoyment out of these every day that beats theology all hollow."

Bobbins did look happy, and no mistake,—a bluff, hearty fellow, browned with toil, strong, and healthful.

"You have been wonderfully prospered," said Paddie. "You were a poor devil, when we saw you before. Now you are rich. Your own toil is not the secret of all this?"

"No. It's a miracle, partly. The very moment I became an infidel I had good luck. An uncle of mine was somewhat sceptical, and left some books that I never dared to read. When I threw the Bible aside, I overhauled them, and read Paine the first thing; and what do you think I found there?"

"Truth, I s'pose, and courage."

"Yes, and besides a lot of mining stock certificates tucked away in the book, the property of my uncle. I, being his heir, they fell to me. I didn't know whether they were worth anything; but, when I took them to market, I found 'em booming. I sold at a high price and bought this farm; and all because I read Tom Paine just in the nick of time."

"Put that down. We'll call it a miracle. Do you grow in grace?"

"I reckon I do, in the right sort. I can't describe the perfect wonder with which I have read Paine. He is such a marvellous writer, so weighty and keen. His sentences ring through me like a trumpet. He's so pat, not a word wasted; and withal there's such a moral force, such elevation of sentiment! How infinitely he transcends the miserable crowd of ministers that bay at him and try to cover him with the filth of their imagination! He is like a mountain of snow touching the heavens, while they are like the crawling serpents."

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

Active Enemies of Liberty.

"But outside of business or trade circles, the trust, properly styled 'federation,' has become a veritable slogan. The one which, perhaps more than all others, is endeavoring to include everything in sight, is the Bureau of (so-called) Reforms, with headquarters at the national capital. Its object is to control Congress, and, by means of plausible measures with innocent exteriors, to eventually commit the government into the hands of that class of religionists who would enforce their ideas of religion by civil law. This bureau, or religious lobby, adopting political means, is the outgrowth of a federation of interests on the part of various associations whose idea of national reform in general is religious legislation."

The above clipped from an adventist paper tells us what we believe to be true, that the enemies of Mental Liberty are active in the work of gaining control of this government. These fanatics are very aggressive. They know no defeat and will as surely fasten the chains of religious slavery around the limbs of the American people as they get the power.

The only way to prevent this calamity from falling upon us is through education and by education we mean something besides mere knowledge of books. In order to resist the on-coming hosts of religions intolerance, active young men and women must be educated to work in organizations; they must be trained to be faithful to their principles; they must learn to sink self, stand shoulder to shoulder and meet the enemy with the same determined, resistless energy that the superstitious warriors exhibit.

Patriots of this great secular republic shall we allow the enemies of Liberty to chain her to the stake and repeat the religious crimes of the past?

Never! To arms! We must organize and drill, for the enemy's well drilled soldiery is upon us. Our forts must be our Secular churches,—Secular schools, Secular Sunday schools, and Liberal Universities. There is no time to be lost! The capital of this nation is surrounded. The enemy has established forts and arsenals in every school district; their officers are insolent and tyrannical and are beguiling the children, weak men and emotional women into following them, by claiming to be the chosen agents of a god.

The peoples' great defense against ignorance, the public school, has been captured and the very weapons (school books) that are furnished the young are loaded with religious poison that finally kills every noble, and free thought, and fits the victim for the enemy's service.

"A single individual cannot accomplish great physical deeds, but a body of men joined together with one purpose can perform wonders. The Romish branch of the Christian church is probably the strongest religious and political power on the earth today. It is the result of a thorough and effective organization. Whether for good or for ill the result is the same. 'In union there is strength.'"

Secularists, let us unite!



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