

From an Ex-Catholic.

EDITOR TORCH OF REASON: Your sample copy was received and read with great interest. I am glad there are so many minds like my own. My motto and greatest pleasure is to produce the greatest amount of pleasure and happiness to fellow friends. I ask no one to do my thinking or praying for me. I do not pray myself, consequently value no other. Catholic priests did my thinking for about thirty-five years until I finally told them that I had plenty of their superstitious, lying, humbug utterances.

At first, because they could no longer dictate to me, they boycotted me. That was in Granville Ia where all were catholics. I was post master at the time and I lost the office through the conspiracy with the U. S. post office inspector. I was arrested and taken out of bed at 2 o'clock in the morning, taken to Sioux City and placed in jail for 8 hours until my friends bailed me out.

I was charged with opening letters robbing the mail etc., but I proved myself innocent of every charge and came out a free American citizen but lost the post office just the same through the strong hand of Rome on our government. The boycott cost me not less than five thousand dollars, and this whole trouble came about because I was director of the public school. A few days before the school was to begin the priest went to the other two directors and told them to hire a catholic sister, as the population was mostly catholic, with only about twelve protestant families in the town and it was their duty as directors to hire a catholic sister and convert the funds into the Parochial school and let the dupes go free. They consented and he came to me, also a catholic, but of a different type. I told him that if I went back on my word to the other teacher I would be a liar. He said it was no lie as long as it was for the catholic church. I told him "to h— with the catholic church;" a lie was a lie and I was not brought up as a liar. He could not make me go back on the other teacher I hired and make a liar out of myself for the benefit of a despotic priest and his followers. I was a free American, freethinking citizen and he nor the old Pope of Rome could not make me go back on my word. Then he got mad and said "We will have the sister teach as the majority rules." "Certainly," I said "but not with my say so." Then my wife spoke up and said, "why yes, father Turney, if you allow a catholic to teach the public school it will cause the few protestant families to sell out and move away." "Mrs. Stoll," the Holy Father said, "the quicker they sell out and move away the better for the country." This flamed my true American heart and I said, "yes, you had better go back

to Ireland where all the laity have rings in their noses and are led around like so many cattle, but you cannot do that in this free and glorious country." "He left saying, "I will fix you." "Fix nothing" I said. "I will show you that there is one catholic true to his country first and not to the old Dago Pope of Rome."

Thus the fight begun, but I fought him to a finish and finally his own congregation that tried to starve me out starved him out and would not pay him another cent after they found out I was right.

Now where there was a little one story school house with twelve to twenty pupils, there stands a two story building with three teachers and an attendance of from seventy to one hundred pupils, and the Parochial school that once had three sisters teaching ignorance and superstition to over one hundred pupils now stands with locked doors and the sisters all gone. This is the fruit of my labor as a true supporter of the "red schoolhouse." The Priest they have now has a hard row to hoe as his people think for themselves to some extent. I am now in a town with only two catholic families and they are about like myself except they are not quite as strong against it as I am. I presume if a catholic Priest was near they would confess their sins. It is different with me for I have none to confess. I always aim to make others happy and always treat everyone as I like to be treated.

If I should go to a despotic Priest that is likely five hundred times worse than I am, I would tell him things perhaps I never did, just in order to have something to confess. I can well remember when I used to go to confess and many times I would tell of some small sins that I never committed so I would have something to confess, and several times when I did wrong I did not tell him. I thought it none of his business. I thought I could make that all right by avoiding bad and by doing good in the future.

I am a Freethinker from head to foot and so is my family. I belong to the K. P. and am a full fledged Liberal in all that is good for the elevation of my fellow men.

Fraternally yours,
Dr. L. S. STOLL.
Sioux Center, Ia.

Little Points.

A little pain (Thomas) sometimes makes a big convulsion in the mental stomach of a would-be angel.

The most destructive animals the world has ever known are the spooks. They have invisible skins; they travel as fast as thought and their poisonous sting robs the victim of all desire of seeing things as they really are.

Hypocrisy has become a fashionable vice and every fashionable vice passes for a virtue.—Moliere.

We never can escape punishment for wrongdoing.

People may suffer on your account but no one can suffer for you.

Men created the gods and not god the men.

If such a being as a god could exist, it would be as silly for us to claim an understanding of his (her or its) will, as it would be for an ant to claim a knowledge of Pres McKinley's idea of a future life.

Is it wrong to teach a lie? Is it wrong to teach a child that there is a Santa Claus? Is it wrong to teach that there is a god? Is it a lie to teach a thing that cannot be proven? Can any one prove that there is a god? Who lies?

We should pity those whose minds are diseased with superstition and hypocrisy; we should not condemn them but we should be plain and outspoken in condemning the conditions favoring the continuation of these mind diseases, and do all in our power to show people their great injury.

If religion is necessary to all men, it should be intelligible to all men.

The Unitarians.

Some of our greatest statesmen and scholars have been Unitarians and we have great respect for that organization for we believe that it stands next to Secularism in the great onward march to religious freedom. Many of their members are simple secularists and have discarded all superstition including the god myth and all.

In Rev. Copeland's excellent Memorial Sermon which appeared in the last issue of the TORCH OF REASON we were glad to see that he referred but very little to the old myths and although we do not think Unitarians are quite free yet we must remember that we are not perfect ourselves; and then again, we must remember the long dark ages that fear and superstition has hung about the human mind as heavy clouds are thought to have enveloped the earth during the early part of its geological history.

All of the elements of reform are working together to expell the darkness and at some happy, future time the full radiant light of the beautiful sun of truth will shine forth upon a world fully fitted for a free happy people.

A Statement.

When the Liberal University and the TORCH OF REASON were started in Silverton last fall, the parties interested acted in good faith, believing that the Oregon State Secular Union was perfectly capable of carrying on the work. A printing outfit was purchased for \$275 and the paper was begun. Solicitations were made for money to pay for the outfit and up to this time, \$100 only has been raised. Efforts have been made to raise funds for the building of the University and all

was progressing nicely until a few days ago when we were ready to begin work on the building. All at once there seemed to be a sort of a misunderstanding and a dissatisfaction as to the stability of the organization and its ability to build and maintain the institution. The work was brought to an abrupt stop and the main promoters were brought to realize that it would be impossible for the Oregon State Secular Union, in its present condition, to carry out the work.

The enterprise has in no way failed, but a change was necessary to carry it out. A meeting of the executive board of the union was called and the property was sold to Pearl W. Geer for the sum of \$321. The TORCH OF REASON will be conducted as before in the interest of Secularism and morality and the whole institution including the university and all has been placed in the hands of parties who will see to it that the work is carried out on a proper plan and the business will be placed on so firm a basis that no one will be afraid to donate liberally.

No one will be asked to donate to the cause who is not satisfied as to its stability, and those who have promised to donate may use their own pleasure in paying the same.

It is now the duty of all to help this cause along. The University must be built as soon as possible and in order that no time may be lost let every Secularist make it his business to come to our aid at once.
PEARL W. GEER.

Where Our Lecturers Are.

MRS. HOSMER AND MISS DEPEATT.
EASTERN OREGON.
Lexington, Ore. June 26
Heppner Ore. June 27-28
Lone Rock Ore. June 30
Wagner Ore. July 3-4-5

A Success.

The drama, Jane, played by home talent at Silverton last Saturday evening was a decided success in every way and was attended by a large and appreciative audience.

Every part in the play was acted with great credit to the players.

Miss Wolf, our elocution teacher, acted the part of Jane, in her usual creditable style which testifies to her ability as an impersonator and an elocutionist. J. Ralph Benton played the part of an aged English gentleman with great credit, making it one of the prominent features of the play. H. L. Eisenhart as the young man in trouble acted well his part, and Mrs. M. P. Hosmer as the dashing widow brought rounds of applause. Talien Eisenhart impersonated well the Irish woman, while Grace Wolfard as Miss Norton was splendid. The part of the English waiter was well played by Pearl W. Geer; Harry Desart as the Irishman and Charley Page as the "boy" both did nicely.

Mr. J. C. Johnson of Woodburn "made up" the faces of the actors which added greatly to the success of the play. Mr. Johnson also impersonated "Ole Oleson" and the Italian between the acts and was well received. Music was furnished by the Marine Band Orchestra and after the drama, two hours were pleasantly spent in dancing.

Taking all in all, the drama was a great success, long to be remembered by all who witnessed it. The Liberal University realized \$39 from the proceeds.