

RELIGION IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Charge That the President of the State University Is an Agnostic.

The following was taken from the Spokane Spokesman-Review:

Rev. Dr. Temple, of Plymouth church, in his sermon on Sunday morning, remarked:

"It is said that the president of our state university is a professed agnostic. The charge is important enough in the eyes of the public to demand an answer. In the meantime I desire to say that no professed agnostic should be allowed to sit in the presidential chair of any university in this Christian land. I will go still further and declare that in every university there should be a chair endowed for instruction in the evidences of Christianity, * * * so that our growing youth who desire to investigate the basis of our holy religion may have the opportunity so to do."

The claim advanced by Rev. Dr. Temple that this is a Christian land is not upheld by the constitution of the United States. Neither can the claim be supported by the constitution of the state of Washington. In proof of this, the attention of Rev. Dr. Temple and the public is called to the school laws of this state, which strictly prohibit the reading of the Bible and religious instruction in any school or institution of learning supported wholly or in part by state funds. The state university, of course, is included. In order to respect and fully obey the laws in such cases made and provided, Dr. Edwards is just the man to fill such an important position as president of our state university. A person of Dr. Temple's ideas is not eligible. It is indeed fortunate for the people of these United States that Dr. Temple had no hand in framing the said constitution.

General George Washington, a higher authority than Dr. Temple, said: "The government of the United States of America is not in any sense founded on the Christian religion."—Treaty with Tripoli, 1793.

Judge Story, on the constitution, says: "It was under a solemn consciousness of the dangers from ecclesiastical ambition, the bigotry of spiritual pride, and the intolerance of sects, exemplified in our domestic as well as in foreign annals, that it was deemed advisable to exclude from the national government all power to act upon the subject of ecclesiastical establishment. The situation, too, of the different states equally proclaimed the policy, as well as the necessity, of such an exclusion."

Again: "Guard with jealous attention the public liberty. Suspect one who approaches the jewel."

Patrick Henry.

"It is proper to take alarm at the first experiment on our liberty."—President Madison.

Religion is not in the purview of human government. Religion is essentially distinct from government and exempt from its cognizance. A connection between them is injurious to both. —President Madison.

The divorce between church and state ought to be absolute.—President Garfield to congress June 22, 1874.

Perfect religious liberty requires not only that every man shall be free to exercise his own faith, but also that no one shall be taxed in any form to support the religion of another. — J. P. Thompson in Church and state.

The above being contrary to the ideas of Dr. Temple, but not to the taxpayers of this state the doctor's attention is especially called to the above statement from a fellow Christian. I respectfully call the attention of the Rev. Dr. Temple to the following:

The free school is the promoter of that intelligence which is to preserve us a free nation. Let us all labor to add all needful guarantees for the more perfect security of free thought, free speech and free press, pure morals, unfettered religious sentiments and equal rights and privileges to all men, irrespective of nationality, color or religion. Encourage free schools and resolve that not one dollar of money appropriated to their support, no matter how raised, shall be appropriated to the support of any sectarian school. Leave the matter of religion to the family altar, the church and the private school supported entirely by private contribution. Keep the church and state forever separate.—President U. S. Grant.

In conclusion, if Dr. Temple desires our growing youth to investigate the basis of our holy religion, I recommend that he circulate freely among his followers the best book extant on the above religion, History of Christianity, by Edward Gibbon, Esq.

H. D. BURROWS.

All Must Work.

EDITOR TORCH OF REASON:

Believing that the success of Secularism depends largely on the hearty co-operation of freethinkers, it is my earnest desire to see all lovers of freethought flock to the standard of truth and reason, and with willing hands help to spread the go-pel of humanity and liberty throughout the whole world. Secularists, it is to our interest and to the interest of our children that we do the very best we can to remove superstition and in its place establish truth and reason.

It is useless to think that christians will ever give us the freedom of thought and action. Past history will prove this, and today things have not changed on the part of christianity.

Christians are working hard to make the Sunday law universal, and they are working hard to get God recognized in the constitution and wherever they have power they always use it to their best interest.

The arresting and tining of adventists would never be called equal rights therefore it is necessary that we all give a helping hand in the great work before us. A great many freethinkers like myself are unable to help to any extent financially but many are the ways we can help if we are only so disposed.

Do what you can and the good that will follow from our success will be ample repayment. Christians must not think that we intend to interfere with their form of worship. Such is not the intention of Secularists. Let every man exercise his own reason on such matters. But Secularists want the right to spend Sunday as they see proper. If we will only work together and help the poor and needy and use judgment and reason success will crown our efforts and generations to come will recognize and appreciate the true worth of Secularism.

MORGAN P. GIFFORD.

UNIVERSITY NOTES.

The final survey of our University grounds reveals the fact that there are eighteen fine prune trees enclosed.

While the work of excavating and building the foundation is going on

a large dining room two stories high will be constructed.

The lumber is already paid for and will be placed on the ground as soon as wanted.

The back part of the dining hall will be partitioned and used for our printing office for a time.

Those wishing to help construct the first and only Liberal University in the world should send their donations to J. E. Hosmer, Pres.

Five cents from each liberal of the United States will build the largest University in the world.

Secularists should leave the old hide-bound states, come to Silverton and help us build our University. Compared with some of the eastern states, this is truly the land of the free.

Little Points.

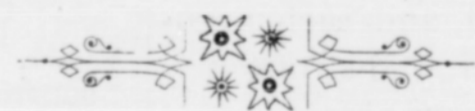
What has belief in miracles to do with having a good moral character.

The father became angry and commanded innocent women and children to be slain; the son never was married and the Holy Ghost never forgives.

Is it right to allow people to believe a lie when we can easily prevent it? Why does God leave people in doubt respecting the creeds?

God so loved the world that he made his only begotten devil that whosoever dares disbelieve what the preachers say will get "hell and repeat." Its better to be on the safe side.

Take a little reason for thy children's sake and thine often stupidity.



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J. E. HOSMER, President, Silverton, Ore.

Announcements will be out the first of August.

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