

# Torch of Reason

THE ONLY SECULAR PAPER PUBLISHED ON THE PACIFIC COAST.  
Published Weekly by the Liberal University Company.

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Entered at the postoffice at Silverton, Oregon, as second-class mail matter.

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One year, in advance.....\$1 00  
Six months in advance..... 50  
Three months, in advance..... 25  
In clubs of five or more, one year, in advance..... 75  
Money should be sent by registered letter or money order.

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THURSDAY, JULY 1, E. M. 297

## Right and Wrong.

Ever since man has had intelligence enough to speculate in regard to what is beneficial and what is detrimental to the whole brotherhood of mankind, there has been a continuous war going on between philanthropists and those who ignorantly worship self and fail to see that the first concern of all men should be for the human family and not for their own family to the detriment of the whole race.

To illustrate: If each member of a family thinks of the prosperity of his family i. e., his father and mother and brothers and sisters instead of first greedily appropriating all that his strength and cunning will permit, and then patronizingly helping those he has robbed, the condition of the whole family will be better and of course every individual therein.

So it is with the human family; those who have sacrificed self and worked for the upbuilding of the race have made the whole world better, and although they have sometimes suffered from the greed and narrow selfishness of their unfortunate brothers, they have been happier and have become immortal through their good works.

To further illustrate: A very young child knows nothing about helping the members of its family; it cries when others have the headache, and cares nothing about how much work it makes, simply because it does not yet know enough to think of other's feelings. The whole human race is the same as the individual and before written history began there must have been a time when man was as selfish as the lower animals are now. Even in early historic times we find that patriotism was very narrow and

but very few men had such grand ideas as Thomas Paine expressed when he said, "The world is my country."

Men with minds broad enough to encompass the whole human family in their affections are not less kind to those around them and when we have reached the round in evolution's ladder where all men are concerned with the welfare of all men then indeed will this life be worth living and the desire for future worlds of bliss be swallowed up by the happy conditions on earth.

Those poor unfortunates who have no idea of helping the world to a better condition, we will not now consider, but we wish to show our ideas in regard to the right and wrong impressions of those who wish to do good, for we must all know that among this class there are many whose methods are wrong and productive only of evil. To them, their actions are right, but, in the sense we are using the terms, they are wrong, because they are an injury and not a benefit to mankind.

Now, although men do right at one time and wrong at another and our whole lives are made up of right and wrong actions yet we should study carefully the problems of our time and then act in accord with our best judgment. This is the only thing an honest man can do. It is the very best that can be done, and although the world suffers from poor judgment and reason, yet these higher faculties are developing and good is conquering evil.

Every step an individual takes is in the direction of right or wrong. There is no middle ground. Let us draw a line then and place on the one side what we believe to be right and on the other that which we believe to be wrong, and by comparing our ideas we may the sooner discover the truth and rejoice together in the happy results which will be sure to follow.

We who agree in placing freedom of thought upon the right side and who believe in working for happier conditions here in this life without reference to an imaginary one after death, are called secularists and we wish to call the attention of the whole world to the consideration of our ideas in regard to right and wrong. We claim that Mental liberty is right; that superstition is wrong; that the true religion does not consist in blindly worshipping imaginary beings, but in living up to our highest conceptions of right.

In fact Secularism is as Ingersoll says, "the religion of humanity; it embraces the affairs of this world. \* \* It means living for ourselves and each other. \* \* It will put out the fires of eternal pain. It is striving to do away with violence and vice, with ignorance, poverty, and

disease. \* \* It has no mysteries, no mummeries, no priests, no ceremonies, no falsehoods, no miracles and no persecutions.

Secularism to us is the embodiment of all that is right and will eventually destroy all the wrong that is possible for man to destroy. For you, dear reader, to study its principles carefully, and then act in accordance with your best judgment, is the wish of every true Secularist.

## Campmeeting.

There is a campmeeting being held on the Abiqua not far from this city and we understand that one hundred dollars was raised in one collection for foreign missions. Couple this with the fact that most of the contributors are in debt on account of hard times; that the more money we send away the harder the times will become and that this money is to be spent in teaching the poor heathen to believe in holy ghosts, angels, devils etc. and it makes an absurdity that is positively sickening; but what won't superstitious people do when worked up by their priests.

While Secularists are building happy homes and schools for the children of America, these fanatics are taxing themselves to teach humbuggery to savages who when taught christianity will be like a friend of ours, who has lived among christinized Indians, claim they are. He says they do not really believe, but know enough to pretend to believe in order to please their teachers and receive the reward that the teachers give them.

If the American people are able, we have no objection whatever to educating and civilizing people of foreign countries as fast as their wild state will permit, but to send money that is needed at home to teach them such hellish doctrines is not only ridiculous but is absolutely criminal, and is largely the cause of our present financial crisis.

If there are freethinkers enough in the United States to build the Liberal University and support the TORCH OF REASON, we hope to be able to educate a few of these poor deluded fanatics to better ideas and prevent millions of young people from being caught in the evil snares of priestcraft.

## Whale.

From some remarks of a christian friend we should judge that we are regarded by the orthodox churches as the Jonah that must be thrown over board and swallowed by their great whale in order to bring us to our senses and save the great ship of christianity.

Everything is possible with Secularists, and if we don't soon demonstrate the fact that Jonah

swallowed the whale, it will be because Secularists have not yet learned that it is about as easy for a man to swallow a whale as for a whale to swallow a man.

## Thoughts in a God-House.

A new minister is to preach in the M. E. church this evening says a friend and you had better indulge. And, thinking the advice good, we sally forth to the house of worship and find that the man of God who is to speak is a Baptist. This suggests the idea to us that the different christian denominations are getting close together and that probably in a few decades all, not excepting the Catholics, will be driven into one huge national church. Of course many christians think that this would be a great victory and so it will for free-thought, for, if we can get them to combine, the sooner will this battle be over. We believe that nothing can now keep them from coalescing.

The protestant denominations will unite first and then it will not be such a great step for this combination and the catholics to find common ground on which to stand and fight infidels and my infidelic friends as sure as we have been lied about we will win in this battle if we will but unite.

But to get back to church. The choir music was good, but, as is very often the case, the singers are mostly infidels who are willing to take advantage of opportunities and the benefits of a free singing school. The word infidel is hardly the right name for some of these singers however. The title anythingarian would fit the case better with some.

The prayer was a very solemn occasion, being instruction to God in regard to his awful character and a few hints concerning our weaknesses ending with the usual piece of information that all was asked in the name of his dear son which is still necessary in order to appease the awful wrath of the old gentleman.

The scripture lesson was the CXXXIX Psalm, which is supposed to have been written by a man after God's own heart but the reader seemed to forget the sentiment of hate expressed therein was contrary to the son's ideas of things. "Surely thou wilt slay the wicked, O God. \* \* Do I not hate them, O Lord, that hate thee? \* \* I hate them with a perfect hatred." Compare these words with words supposed to be spoken by the son, "Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you bless them that curse you and pray for them which despitefully use you and persecute you." It seems strange that such a cruel God, one who would slay those who could not believe in him would have such a good son.

We mistrust, by the manner in