

Is it True?

EDITOR TORCH OF REASON:

I was just reading of a peculiar circumstance of which the doctor in attendance said, "It is evidently not a disease of the brain as the mind is unusually bright," thereby recognizing the fact, as all scientists do, that mind is dependent on the brain and not something separated from it and merely playing on it as occasion requires, as Spiritualists claim it is.

Some time ago in answer to the question, "What are the component parts of spirit?" a spirit-guide through a medium said that the mind was the spirit—the thing that lived on after the death of the material body. In an article in the Investigator of July 3, a spiritualist says:

"The brain is the connecting link by which the mind controls the body;" in fact all spiritualists speak of the mind as something separate, distinct and disconnected from the material body—something that can exist independent of organized matter.

In an effort to learn the truth of this idea it is necessary to have a clear understanding as to what mind really is.

Mind is intellect. It is merely the ability or capacity to think. When we say a person has a great mind we mean the same as we do when we say he is "brainy," that is the ability to think deeper and clearer than some others. When we say a person's mind is affected we mean that he has lost the ability to think as well as formerly and the doctors say his brain is affected, and no one denies it because all recognize it to be truth.

If this idea of mind is correct, and I believe it is the universally accepted one, how can it exist after the dissolution of the material organization? That we will have no ability to think after we are dead is as evident as that we had no such ability before we were born.

The same medium under the "inspiration" of the same spirit-guide said in answer to a question that "Life, thought, etc., are the result, and not the cause of material organization." If this is true, and who denies it, will some believer in continued life tell us by what method of reasoning they conclude that the result will continue after the cause has ceased to exist?

I know that a great many cling to the belief in a future life because as they say it is a pleasant belief. But the question with me is, and should be with all, not is it pleasant, but is it TRUE? Is the evidence sufficient to justify us in accepting it as truth; does it appeal to our reason and experience?

What benefit can we get by believing anything that is not true?

Yours for Truth,
J. P. McCLUSKEY.

Iowa.

The Only Way.

EDITOR TORCH OF REASON:

Yours of the 28th ult. at hand. Inclosed find \$2.50 for subscription to University fund and \$1.00 for the TORCH OF REASON for one year.

I am glad to know the University is started, for the only way our cause can be made to prosper is by educating, and how well the churches understand it. Success to the Secular school.

Yours truly,
M. PRITCHARD.

Cal.

A Noble Work.

TO THE EDITOR:

For the enclosed one dollar please extend my subscription to the TORCH OF REASON one year. Perhaps my paper has stopped before this reaches you. In such a case please begin at the last number sent as I do not wish to miss any.

I am very much interested in the work of Secularism and must say that the progress it has made has been much greater than I had anticipated.

Too much cannot be said in praise of the noble work that is being done at Silverton, and it only remains for all lovers of Free-thought to push the plan to a crowning success. Hoping that the TORCH may shine until all superstition has disappeared, I remain,

Respectfully,
E. STEVENS.

Idaho.

Too Much Education.

Says the Springfield (Mass.) Republican:

Prof. Harry Thurston Peck of Columbia university thinks there is too much education in this country for the "masses." Education causes "discontent," and that is the foe of established order. Not even Mr. Rockefeller holds such a view. This multi-millionaire must think that education for the "masses" is a good thing, else he would not found a university and keep giving money to other institutions. It may be too harsh to say that Prof. Harry Thurston Peck is an offensive example of the literary snob.

Godless Education.

Thus men are swayed by words. And when you talk about "godless education," you seem to many to make a great point for the Bible in the public schools. But, in fact, the phrase is utterly irrelevant. What is the trouble about a "godless education," so far as a school is concerned? The school is established to teach things of this world, not of the next. What has "godliness to do with Latin grammar? In what different way would a godly man explain the solution of a problem in quadratic equations, from the way in which an ungodly man would elucidate the same subject? What is the distinction between a godly and an ungodly map of the United States.—American Sentinel?

For Sale.

One hundred and sixty acres of timber land in Tillamook county. One mile from Netarts Bay. House, 16x24. Small clearing. Excellent water. Good bargain. Inquire at this office.

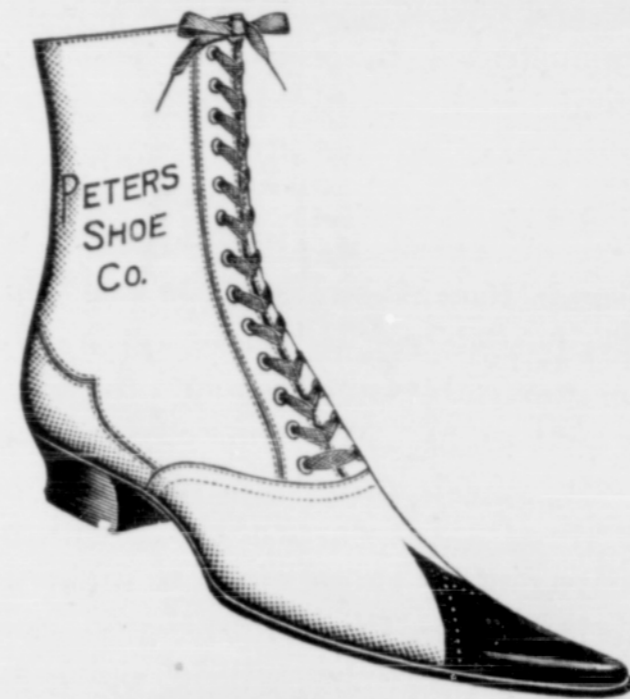
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