

modern universities in the United States, for there are but very few that are not tangled up with some form of theology. The establishment of our University is an undertaking of so gigantic proportions that we must not expect nor wish it to be of too rapid a growth. Here students of all ages are to learn to have aims which are "purely scientific" or in other words they are to become philosophers (Truth Seekers) in the broadest sense of the term.

There are many things favoring this locality for such an institution. There is more freedom of thought in the West. The climate is not too warm in the summer nor too cold in the winter for the best work of students.

This is a great fruit country and we hold that fresh fruit in its season is a great advantage to those of sedentary habits. There are never any hard thunder storms, cyclones nor blizzards here to worry or distract one's mind from its work. Within very short distances we have represented all the different topographical, geographical and geological structures of the earth. One who wishes, may climb to the top of a snow-capped mountain, study the leaves of the great stone book from the lowest strata, or the wonderful life-forms of the great ocean. Truly it will not be Nature's fault if our school for the study of her laws does not mark an epoch in the history of human progress.

From Eliza Mowry Bliven.

Between now and the first of September, I shall not have time to write much; but a little each week will keep our work moving on. Besides answering inquires, and obtaining helps towards the tracts, I want to find one or more, in each of several States who will obtain and send me lists of Liberal people there. I want to obtain addresses of about 100 Liberals in each state, by the time the first tract is ready, say Oct. 1st. Then I want printed and sent to each, a pamphlet in as cheap a form as possible (or a TORCH Supplement) to contain the original plan for the Evolution of Freethought and Wisdom. The pamphlet must also contain the Enrollment paper and the first tract.

It seems almost necessary that we have all of it together to send to inquirers and for use in obtaining Tract Distributors and other Promoters.

Perhaps some others would help pay for part of the printing if they knew about it, so we could distribute more free copies. I think we can make the March 25th and June 24th TORCHES do till this little pamphlet is ready. All who become Promoters, all other Freethinkers, and also those who are almost Freethinkers, should have a copy of the pamphlet but all the rest of mankind should receive only one tract at a

time. After this free distribution, each Promoter should pay 2 cents a copy, or 15 cents for 10, for all copies of the pamphlet they are willing to use, and 10 cents for 50 copies of either tract, or \$1, a year which the Tract Distributors are to pay for 50 of each of the 12 tracts.

Each promoter should subscribe for the "TORCH OF REASON" if they wish to keep track of how the work progresses. I would like to answer all appropriate inquiries through the TORCH, and give credit there, for whatever helps I may receive. Whenever a very good argument for either of the tracts is sent me, or I find any by reading or thinking, I believe I had better send it right on to the TORCH; and thus keep your readers interested, and feeling that the work is moving on, and thus win them into thinking, and hunting up helping arguments to send me. But I must answer some inquirers direct, and select and send for some freethought pamphlets, and write to some who may help on the enrollment, tracts, etc. and I intend to complete the first tract and the revised plan for the pamphlet between Sep. 1st and Oct. 1st, so whatever I write for the TORCH for some time must be brief, (excepting such parts of this as you can use).

I have 12 "pigeon holes," to be labeled with the 12 subjects, ready for the arguments, papers, books, etc., that I get hold of, appropriate to help in the preparation of the 12 tracts: so when I am ready to write each, whatever materials have come to my hand for that tract, will be together. I want a request put in the TORCH that all who have any pamphlet, old paper, or book, containing appropriate arguments for any of the facts will send such to me, or copy off whatever is appropriate and just send that, as well as arguments they think out themselves. If they have only one brief argument, send it. All helps for the first tract should be sent me by Aug. 20; all for the second tract by Sep. 20, and so on.

All who favor the movement enough to help it along, in any way should send me their addresses to be enrolled as Promoters, stating what they will try to do. Each name counts only one, but each addition to our numbers encourages the leaders, adds to the strength and influence of the cause, helps to make it popular, and leads others to make up their minds to join us and help it on. So the sooner each sends in his or her name the better, with a promise to do something, however little that may be. If any one or several besides myself will try their hand at writing any of those 12 tracts, I shall enjoy the competition. We have been promised two columns at least in the TORCH OF REASON for carrying ahead this work and I would like to fill that space every week for a year with these

rival tracts. The editor or the public may decide which writer wins the honors. I shall rejoice to be beaten, for my object is to secure the best tracts obtainable for the promotion of Scientific Wisdom everywhere.

All who enter the lists on the first tract must send in their attempt so it can be printed, and the contest thereon close by the middle of September, because my pamphlet must contain the successful tract, or one compiled from the best of each, and be in print by Oct. 1st.

The subject of the first tract as given in the enrollment paper of June 24th is "Character of God and Bible immorality; how religion promotes licentiousness, dishonesty and wars. Scientific knowledge of sins and punishments promotes morality." But I am afraid that is so bold a statement that Christians will refuse to read it. So while the tract must prove this, the subject will be simply "Can sins be forgiven?" We may find it necessary to modify or obliterate some of the other subjects in that list, to win their being read; what they must prove is mapped out in that list.

Though only one can win the honor on each tract, all who try will be developing their own brains in the right direction, and learning to write in that clear, concise, strong convincing style which makes the ideal author. Most all writers and public speakers are too wordy, for the few new ideas they give us.

Perhaps some may prefer to choose a subject that I have not selected, and write such a powerful tract, that it will be used in place of my subjects. Let us have a year of developing power in beneficent freethought tract writing to open the way and lay the foundation for the evolution and propagation of Scientific Wisdom through Sunday Scientific Schools and meetings.

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