

## Torch of Reason

The Only Paper of Its Kind.

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We request you to send us the names of Secularists who might become subscribers and we will mail sample copies.

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### We Must Keep Moving.

Surrounded as we are by a host of people whose belief in gods and devils makes them strongly desire our defeat and by those who are co-operating with them either through opposition to the moral stand that the O. S. S. U. has taken or their inability to see that we were obliged to go ahead with the work as we have, or have it entirely crushed out, we sometimes wonder at our past successes and look forward to our future labors with anxious questionings. We never doubt that there are Freethinkers enough who are willing to help lay the pipes for this grand fountain of truth however, and the only question with us is one of time. We said in our issue of Aug. 19th that we needed \$1000 right away but this is not all we need. The \$1000 that we want now is only for immediate expenses and what we really ought to have is not less than \$40,000. This amount we are confident will come in time. What we who are interested want to do is to keep the work on the move. We must get more subscribers to the Torch, get every one we can interested in our work and be sure to do all we can ourselves. We will do this and the work will grow lighter and more extensive as the many workers come to our aid.

We must remember that a very little from each Freethinker will build a wonderful institution of learning and we who are pioneers must do the most of the work now in order to get it started, then others will help. We must not neglect to do what we can even if it is but little, for the "many littles make the mickle." Now friends lets keep the work moving. Do

something be it ever so small. We expect soon to go down the Columbia and make our friends in that locality a visit and tell them about our work.

In every locality there are a few leading liberals and we sincerely hope that they will consider themselves appointed to take subscriptions for the Torch and help in any other way they can. A good plan is to take a sheet of paper and go around, get the names of those who will help in building the University and the amount they will subscribe. If some one in each locality will do this, see what a mighty help it will be to us.

### Orphan's Home.

As soon as we get our school on a firm basis we hope to be able to have in connection with it, not only a sanitarium and an industrial department, but also an orphan's home. Of course all these things will cost money but the Liberals throughout the United States have no nunneries to support nor do they pay large sums to be kept out of hell, so we can easily make one school a grand success when all understand its importance to our cause. The boys and girls who have no homes could, under right management have a home here where they can be properly educated and almost if not quite pay their way after we get the work properly arranged for them, and many that are now sent to reform schools and branded for life as criminals could be saved not only from the disgrace but from its horrible effects. Friends of humanity we are undertaking a great work. How much can you help us?

### The Disease of Nations.

Christianity like all supernatural religions is like a contagious disease, and while the people of civilized countries are getting over its evil effects the heathen people are just "coming down" with it. To be sure there are many in civilized countries who can't get rid of the disease yet, but the pure, fresh air of a free country is working wonders, and in a few years the only victims will be found in heathen lands and they in turn will be cured by coming in contact with the higher civilization.

We sometimes think it would be nice to live a thousand years to witness the great change that will surely come, but when we realize that this is not best and not possible we conclude that the wisest thing we can do is to preserve our own health as best we can, do all in our power to cure humanity of this dreadful mental fever, see as much good come to the world as is possible, and know that we have done something toward the healing of the nations.

### The Pearl of Greatest Price.

"I've found the Pearl of greatest price!  
My heart doth sing for joy;  
And sing I must, for Christ is mine!  
Christ shall my song employ."

This is sung over and over again by those who no doubt think that they have found the gem of life, the pearl of greatest price, but when they think they have the pearl all secure and guarding it dilligently is when they are guarding a worthless pebble and allowing the real pearl to slip from their grasp. Yes, we believe that many are making a fatal mistake; that they have not found that which is most precious to human beings—that they have not found what all men are dilligently searching for. When we meet people on the street hurrying to and fro, some going to their place of business to earn money, some on errands of mercy, patriotism, devotion or revenge, we can see that although many are ignorant of how to gain it, they are all working, striving, fighting for the same great gem of life, the same pearl of greatest price, the alpha and omega of human existence. What is it? What is the pearl of greatest price, the one thing we all want most, the one thing all are striving for, that is free to all, but in the struggle, overlooked and trampled under foot? It is simply a pure unalloyed condition of happiness. Now there are many agents or factors which are essential in securing this most precious of all pearls. And here we may sit at the feet of Mother Nature and learn some precious truths. We may learn to know the true pearl of greatest price and we may learn how and where to search. Does she tell us that we can find it in any religious belief? Can we be happy if we believe that many are to suffer untold agony after this life? Is this artificial frenzy of trying to keep people from a fiery lake or direct them to a happy condition way off somewhere after they are dead, happiness? Is the belief that we possess an interest in a Jew who lived 1900 hundred years ago and who was executed for his infidelity and whose body has long ago returned to the elements—does belief in him without other very essential conditions bring happiness?

When men secure that for which they have been struggling, whether it be some religious belief, some office, honor, or wealth, it is a great source of satisfaction for a time but none of these things alone can secure for us the great treasure of happiness. Men with honor, with wealth, with health, with a firm belief in Jesus Christ and his power to save to the uttermost may be very unhappy. Don't you believe it? Just think for a moment! The most devout Christian mother could not be happy if she knew that a poisonous serpent was slowly creeping toward the cradle of her

sleeping child. Suppose she knew it and had no power to prevent it. Would more proof that Jesus is the son of a god make her perfectly happy? No, the only thing that could make the mother happy would be the removal of the horrible reptile; and now my friends that is what we Secularists must do. Others are trying to prove a problem that is impossible to prove while we are just beginning to try to save the babes.

These problems of religion have cost us very much. Can we realize how much? Not one of them has yet been solved and are no nearer a solution than they were when first propounded, and men—honest men—men who have the happiness of the world at heart begin to think it is best to turn our attention to work of more importance, and to enquire if these problems of the priests are so very important after all. We believe that they are not important, and, as they can never be solved, we should search for the pearl of greatest price elsewhere. Suppose life is everlasting and that there is a God and that Jesus is his son and is now begging his father to allow poor mankind a seat in his great city with pearly gates, what in the name of common sense do you suppose he would care whether we believed it all or not if we knew how to behave ourselves when we got there; and then it is so absurd and so utterly impossible to prove, why not turn our attention to trying to solve the great problem of the happiness of mankind here on earth?

Here is the problem then that is worthy of our best thought: Given, a world of beauty and productiveness—a wonderland filled with beautiful light, with flowers and birds and beautiful rivers, with forests and plains and lovely valleys, and above all, companions who, under proper environments, are far better company for us than angels or gods. Given all this, and the problem is to make the best use of these things and secure the pearl of greatest price, the happiness which is due every human being who enters the world whether he believes anything without proof or not.

After we shuffle off this mortal coil, unless we can be in company with the angels of earth, just as they are here, we beg to be excused. We'll call it "quits." And so we are anxious to do our work here—right here—for there is no proof that we'll ever get another chance. Everyone ought to improve his opportunities and help secure for the world the real pearl of greatest price; then all will enjoy life, and thinking, conscientious men and women will not suffer as they must now, when they think of the misery in the world caused by ignorance, superstition and fear.