

A Worthy Example.

EDITOR TORCH OF REASON:

Inclosed please find draft for twenty-six dollars, \$1.00 of which is for tracts of Scientific Wisdom, and \$25.00 toward the building of the Liberal University.

I am glad to be able to contribute this without ever expecting a personal benefit resulting from it to me at this distance. I could use it to promote my personal welfare, but I do not expect to take all I have with me when I cease to be, and it is doubtful whether the leavings will be expended in as grand a cause as the upbuilding of a nursery of uninctured science and mental liberty. I wish many others could see it the same way and contribute what they can. The beginning appears small but it promises much. Secularism has not grown more because its principles have not been understood by the masses. It has had but meagre presentation and has been much abused and misrepresented from every monument of superstition. Now we have an opportunity to organize ourselves around an institution that (if we make it a good one) will give us standing and show the superiority of our principles over those of our enemies. It is not just for us to shirk our duty, and as soon as we loosen the chains of superstition from our intellects through some self-sacrificing liberals, to feel self-content and refuse to support that which would break the chains from others. Each one of us could at least give as much as what would be exacted from us for the propagation of orthodoxy.

With the best of hopes for the future, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Dakota. A. SLAMAN.

What We See.

That extraordinary interest has been excited among many of the citizens of Springfield, Mass., in the case of Josephine Wands, the eleven-year-old daughter of Rufus P. Wands, of No. 37 Holyoke Street, who, as many of them profess to believe, is a spirit medium;—

That on every night for the last two months strange rappings have been heard on the wall near the girl's cot which have been so loud that they have disturbed the families in the upper tenements of the house; her parents have been kept awake night after night; and she has herself become so hysterical that nobody can do anything with her;—

That an investigation of the case by several physicians and specialists in nervous diseases reveals the fact that the girl produces the raps herself while under hypnotic sug-

gestion, and that there is nothing of a supernatural character about them;—

That any considerable number of persons should believe these and similar phenomena to be owing to the intervention of what they are pleased to call "spirits" is an indication of a want of intelligence on their part which in this enlightened age is truly deplorable.—Investigator.

The Skunk.

The skunk is the onion of the animal kingdom. He is a thing of beauty that is not a joy forever. He is not a joy after you smell him. He is so very strong-scented and weak-minded that he rarely visits a poultry yard without being detected and killed. Since he only eats the brains and drinks the blood of chickens he is a most expensive marauder and no mercy is ever shown him. People who believe that the skunk is the handiwork of an omnipotent God of infinite love and mercy have strange reasoning powers. If there were no other quadruped on earth but skunks these sort of people would still see nothing but goodness and mercy in the world. These pious folks who compile readers for school children collect many stories about squirrels and rabbits, foxes and beavers, rats and mice, but not a word about skunks; they are afraid some bright little fellow will wish to know why God made such animals as skunks.—E. L. Merrill in Independent Pulpit.

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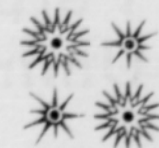
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