

A REVIEW.

(Continued from fourth page.)

turn the proceeds into the university fund. These and many other absolute falsehoods were told and they served the purpose of checking our work, and to cap the climax, Miss Olds declared to us that the work ought to stop for one year, or until after another convention. But it did not. We finally spared time enough from running two weekly journals and our many other duties, to put things to rights. We concluded that it was an impossibility to go ahead with our work of building the school under such conditions. We were giving our whole time to the work and getting nothing—not even an assurance that our work would not be used as a foundation for a Freeloze institution, or turned into a Spiritual seance. Of course we could not continue under these conditions. Think of working day after day, and month after month, and then having the work all kicked over by those who are bitterly opposed to the most essential principles for which we are working! And then the uncertainty of the thing! The organization being composed of these widely differing elements, the school might be controlled by Materialists this term, but next term pass into the hands of the Spiritualists and Freelozers, and still at another time the Theosophists might get control. This is not merely speculation, for we are satisfied that there was a plan on foot to deprive the materialistic Secularists from conducting the school.

Now, the question arose, what ought we to do? We could not work longer under the conditions, and if we stopped entirely our hopes of building a Secular school would be all crushed. The people who had donated money to the work would be offended at us, and perhaps justly so. Honest people have been used that way so many times, it is no wonder that Freethought organization has been so unsuccessful. They have been fooled by tricksters who cared more for their own glory than for making the world better. Well, the most honorable way—the only way that we could think of to save our work, was to take things into our own hands and conduct the work as we at first intended; so at a meeting of the executive board Mr. Geer made the proposition that instead of stopping the work and leaving the O. S. S. U. with a debt of over \$300 on its hands, he would buy the outfit, consisting of the printing plant, a few books, and some promises to pay, which we made no attempt to collect. No money had been paid in and the university owned no other property. He was to pay the indebtedness (more than the outfit cost) and see that the work of continuing the

paper and building the university went on. This was bitterly opposed by Miss Olds and E. L. Smith, one of her supporters, and the president and other members were called hard names, but without any serious damage, and finally the question was put to a vote and carried. The offices of secretary and treasurer having been united at a previous meeting, Mr. Smith held both offices and proposed to cast two votes, one as secretary and one as treasurer. Of course this is against all laws of parliamentary practice, and the president's decision was that Mr. Smith could vote but once. The vote was very close, but the resolution was carried by one majority. The record of the vote was kept, but it was discovered at the next board meeting that Secretary Smith had recorded his own vote twice and had left out the important decision of the president. He stubbornly opposed correcting the minutes, thus wishing, we suppose, to make it appear at a coming convention that the resolution was not carried, and that the president and other members of the board were thieves. The result of this conduct on the part of the secretary resulted, as was stated in the TORCH some weeks ago, in his removal from that office, and the appointment of Miss Kate DePeatt to fill the vacancy.

And now the good work could go on. Those who started the work immediately formed themselves into the Liberal University Company and purchased the institution, announced the change through the TORCH, and solicited help, with the result that the land was purchased at once and the building started. But you may be sure that our opposers have not been idle. Many who have had no way of knowing the truth have been deceived, and we have thus lost their immediate support. Mr. Smith refuses to give up the secretary's books and application blanks, so that the business of issuing membership certificates, the collection of quarterly dues, and much other important business has been delayed.

At a regular meeting of the Silvertown Secular Church recently an unsigned resolution was read, calling for the expulsion of the members of the Liberal University Company from the church. When put to vote, out of a large attendance only two voted to pass the resolution, and these were J. E. Hammond and E. L. Smith. Miss Olds—or Nettie Olds—Haight, as she is now called—has not been idle. She has evidently read the TORCH OF REASON, for after announcing our lecturer's dates in the TORCH, we find that the prominent Freethinkers along the lecturer's route have received letters from her which are detrimental to our reputations and to the cause we represent. We have some of these letters now in our

possession, and friends who are in doubt are welcome to see against what kind of underhanded conspiracy we are obliged to work. Students who were all ready to come have been robbed of the opportunity of gaining a Secular education and of helping our grand cause; money has been promised and then withheld; good words that might have been said have been suppressed. And why is it thus? Because the vastly different elements calling themselves Liberal cannot affiliate. We must draw the line! We must cling to the ethical basis! We must learn that the hope of Secular organization is in getting on a foundation that will recommend itself to the highest and best types of manhood and womanhood!

We regret that it seemed necessary to write this review of our year's work, for it may look to some as though it had been all strife, and as though we had accomplished but little; but, dear reader, there is another side to this picture. Although some whom we thought ought to stand by us in our work opposed us, on account of some little imaginary slight or difference of opinion in some non-essential points, yet the true Secularists have had no strife among themselves. There are many here and in other places who are true to the cause, and believe that the building of the Liberal University must go on. We have brothers and sisters in this work with whom it is impossible for us to have strife, for we understand each other, and are of like opinions on all essential points. Others, whom we have never seen, we feel are the same, for they write as though they understand us, and their letters have that unmistakable tone of the true man or woman who is capable of understanding that there are people in the world who think more of their principles than they do of little pet schemes of notoriety, financial gain or revenge. These are they who know that such characters are possible by their own experience. They are true Secularists.

The year's work has been very productive, considering the opposition. The school has been conducted with good results, and although we have had opportunities to have discovered if there had been any dissatisfaction, we have failed to hear one complaint from a student. The TORCH OF REASON and Little Candle have been kept burning one whole year, and although they are far from our ideal, yet we are sure that none of our readers can say that they are not far better than no papers. Then we have paid \$400 for a fine building site for the university. The basement is excavated, and on an average of three feet of the wall of the tower and one wing built. A diving hall, 20x50, is built, although it is not yet finished inside, and a barn

partly erected. Add to this the Sunday school work, entertainments and lectures, here and in other parts of the state, the addition of Miss Kate DePeatt, who is as faithful a worker as the cause ever had. Mr. and Mrs. Mason and other earnest, active workers, and we think that we have great cause to rejoice.

And now for the next year's work! There has been too much friction in the past year, but as far as we are concerned, we condemn no one. We recognize and admire many good points in the characters of those who have opposed us most, but Secular work in the past has suffered too much from accepting hearsay as authority, and we hope that our friends will investigate our standing and our work before neglecting to assist us. If those who have ideas that are antagonistic to ours wish to build schools or run papers, we certainly will not, by private letters and other underhanded schemes, try to pull them down. We may use all our force in trying to show that certain principles are not correct, but we would do this in an open, daylight manner, and will use a true Secularist's only weapon—that of reason.

What we have said we have thought was for the best interests of the cause of Secularism, and we commence the work of the coming year with malice toward none, and with the same hope that we expressed in our first editorial one year ago. We appeal to Liberals everywhere to help us hold aloft the TORCH OF REASON, and in exchange for the support which we hope to receive we promise to use the TORCH in more closely uniting true Secularists, in organizing new churches and Sunday schools, in building and maintaining a Liberal university, and finally in accomplishing the noble objects for which our society was organized. Let the ranks of the lovers of purity and mental liberty present a solid front to the ranks of corruption and religious intolerance, and the victory will be ours.

Notice our ad for our New Song Book. These little books have cost us much labor and we want to sell them. Send for one and write to your friends about it.

PATENTS

Caveats, and Trade-Marks obtained and all Patent business conducted for MODERATE FEES. OUR OFFICE IS OPPOSITE U. S. PATENT OFFICE and we can secure patent in less time than those remote from Washington.

Send model, drawing or photo., with description. We advise, if patentable or not, free of charge. Our fee not due till patent is secured.

A PAMPHLET, "How to Obtain Patents," with cost of same in the U. S. and foreign countries sent free. Address,

C.A. SNOW & CO.

OPP. PATENT OFFICE, WASHINGTON, D. C.