

LITTLE TORCHES.

By W. E. Johnson

He who casts a vote to give the poor a chance to make an honest living does a work for the Lord.— [New Era.

If the Lord is so good and of omnipotent power, why does he not himself "give the poor a chance to make an honest living"? Why should poor folks work for the Lord, who always lets them starve, so far as he is concerned?

Eternal life is a germ; planted in the human soul, as the seed in the ground, it will grow, if the conditions are favorable, in its order and in due time to branch, blossom and fruitage. — [Methodist Recorder.

But God made the "conditions" as well as the "germ". Why should God make "unfavorable conditions" and then damn humanity for the result?

The spirit of God comes to your heart's door and knocks. He stands there while storms gather and break upon his unsheltered head, while the sun declines and night comes on with its chill and its heavy dews. — [Christian Advocate.

God ought to provide himself with an umbrella to ward off the storm, or with a jimmy so that he can break in without waiting. If God made the heart, he ought to know how to get into it.

Christ sent his disciples as sheep among wolves; and therefore said they should exercise great prudence. They go in faith, but they should at the same time act with good judgment.—[United Presbyterian.

A real wise "sheep" who "acts with good judgment" keeps away from the "wolves". God first made the wolves and then made the sheep to send in among them, just to see the fun. Another evidence that God is a savage.

The Difference.

EDITOR TORCH OF REASON:

The paper by Katie Kehm Smith published in a late issue of the TORCH, "What Shall Liberals do to be saved?" outlines an excellent policy. No mistake will be made in following it. A person in a locality whose business it is to work up the matter of organization and conduct the services, to be the exponent and advocate of Secularism for its adherents, who distributes literature for them, gathers information for them, receives misrepresentation and abuse for them cheerfully and industriously and who is backed by his state and national unions, from which he receives his commission and authority, can accomplish good according to his ability and industry and the intelligence of the people among whom his lot is cast. But a lecture now and then by some chance pilgrim cannot do as

much good. The speaker lectures and goes away. The Christians have kept away everybody they could and can "do up" the speaker at their leisure, behind his back, and to an audience of their own choosing. And there is "none to molest or to make afraid". The local Secularists are aspersed and their lecturer misquoted the people are misled and are like sheep without a shepherd when "the wolf cometh."

With a regular lecturer around, matters would wear another aspect. When the person who misrepresents facts knows that his statements will probably be corrected and his sophistry shown up, he will naturally keep more within bounds. Then again, the Infidels have an advocate and defender, and each does not have the burden to carry isolated and alone. And an organization, though small in numbers, can exercise more influence than ten times as many persons without the strength that union gives. "What is everybody's business is nobody's business." and nothing is accomplished. Make it one person's business and make it an object for that person to do that business, and the work moves and progress is made. But there is nothing in sacrificing one's self, one's business and other interests for the fun of it.

It is worth much to the children now here and to those of the future to be taught in these matters, and not be left in ignorance to be the prey of the priest. Parents owe it to their children that while they are spending money, time, care and labor to educate them for the battle of life, this part of their education be not neglected, so that in adult life they may be free from the wiles of the priest and life be worth living.

F. S. MATTESON.

"England would be a beautiful country," says Herbert Casson, "if it were not for the English. It would be a prosperous place if it were not for business. It would be a noble country if it were not for the nobility; and a moral country were it not for the churches."—Ex.

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