

"converted"? Alas! How can you fight a religion that is based upon the stultification of the intellect and the crucifixion of the brain? Some of those poor children will recover from their attack of mental sickness called religion, but the weaker ones never will. Those who believe in free brains and untrammelled thought, in teaching how to investigate, not how to believe, should try to help the Liberal University.

D. PRIESTLEY.

For the Torch of Reason.

**Not War But Peace.**

Great standing armies are no guaranty of peace. They are rather menaces of war. There is the greatest danger of war in the countries where the armies are the strongest.

Nations with powerful armies and navies are tempted to make use of more pretexts for declaring war against weaker nations, to secure portions of their territory, to take from them certain strategic or commercial advantages, or even to turn attention from discontent and threatened insurrection at home. Powerful armies tempt to conquest and plunder, to national injustice and crime.

Yet such is the disposition and the military preparation of the great nations of Christendom—nearly 1900 years from the time that Jesus exhorted men to love their enemies and to return good for evil—that when nations are contiguous to one another and have great common interests, each find it necessary to keep a large standing army which can be mobilized at a moment's notice. Without such an army no European nation—except by the general agreement of the powers—could preserve its nationality.

The result is that the great Christian nations of Europe keep millions of men armed and equipped for fighting, and great navies on the sea in constant readiness to move to whatever point they are ordered. These millions of men whose business it is not to produce, but to destroy, have to be supported by taxing the poorly paid, poorly fed and poorly clad people who toil like slaves for a living. All the costly business of war is carried on at the expense of the people, whose real interests are advanced only by peace and the pursuits of industry.

The United States, separated from Europe by the ocean and not in need of alliances with any European nations, either for offensive or defensive purposes, does not need a great standing army.

There are many people in this republic, who are so much under the influence of the military spirit which has deluged the earth with blood and debased and enslaved vast populations, that they talk as

if war would be "a great thing for the United States."

Many who talk thus do so, parrot-like, repeating what they hear or read from jingoes, not knowing really what war means. If they could have experience of war; could see the killed and wounded; the destruction of the products of labor; the widowhood, orphanage, poverty and wretchedness; the burden of heavy taxation continued through years to pay for the loss and expenses caused by the war; the brutalizing effects of war upon the ignorant or those needing the restraints of home and peaceful social life: the general demoralization which results more or less from war; if they could have experience of these, they would be less flip-pant in talking about war, less noisy in shouting for war with England, Germany, Spain, Japan and other nations whenever anything occurs which may be a possible subject for controversy between the United States and those countries.

"Peace hath her victories," which beautify the earth and bless mankind. These are the victories for us to achieve to become permanently preeminent among the nations of the earth. War is to be advocated only when our rights are invaded and when all the resources of peace have been exhausted without obtaining justice.

B. F. UNDERWOOD

**If All Will Help.**

DEAR SIR:

I have heard recently that you are trying to found a Liberal University in your city, and although only a poor boy myself, I think I can spare a dollar for so worthy a cause, and consequently you find it enclosed. I think Silvertown is to be congratulated upon the energy and industry of her Infidels in thus founding the first University in the U. S. in which young people can be taught that which is useful, without a mixture of superstition. If every Liberal in the U. S. would contribute even the small sum of one dollar, the University would soon be a grand success. Hoping that the Freethinkers everywhere will respond financially in behalf of the University. I am fraternally,  
HARRY T. SMITH.

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