

Scientific Wisdom.

I cannot get time to finish revising the "plan". Writing the tracts and securing their distribution is of first importance. They opened the way for Sunday scientific meetings here, and will elsewhere if the Freethinkers have confidence in themselves and really want such meetings in their own homes. I find it is not necessary to wait for lectures nor lessons. We have had three meetings, and anybody else can have meetings who want them enough to put forth any effort. Half the Christians do not like the bible well enough to read it. They would rather hear something that will teach them something practically beneficial. It is our own cowardice, laziness or indifference, if we do not start and keep up such meetings.

Distribute some tracts, and find which of your neighbors like them. Invite those to your house for a Sunday Scientific meeting. Have whatever music and singing you can get that is free from religious cant. Read an article from a scientific Magazine or high-school book, or on some political or reform question for the main paper. Don't select anything long or dry. Read a short article from a Freethought paper, then read a selection from a school physiology or a health magazine for the hygienic lesson. Discussion may follow either of these. Then be sure to read the morality and nature lessons in the "Little Candle", using the questions or not, as you have time. Have the children learn the stanzas at home and recite them at the meeting. Select the best readers to read these lessons and selections, and use pictures, minerals, and whatever else you can to illustrate. You will find your neighbors have more appreciation of what is good and willingness to learn, than you ever gave them credit for. When we secure the hygienic and morality lessons and lectures, we shall be glad of such helps, but there is no need of putting off the starting of scientific Sunday meetings till then. If your own CHARACTER is what it ought to be you can do it. Don't be afraid to distribute the tracts to everybody. Just ask them to read and tell you what they think of it. Be sure to keep good natured no matter what they say. You will find more church attendants that will favor and help you, than those usually called infidels. Try it.

I have bought Parshall's "Proofs of Evolution," Judge Ladd's "Commentaries of Hebrew and Christian Mythology", and Kersey Grave's "Sixteen Crucified Saviors" to secure the right material for the Fourth Tract. Now I have plenty. To help me write the Fifth Tract, I want everyone who is interested in these tracts to send to the TORCH right away one sentence or paragraph on either of these three

topics, "How Souls Grow and Decay," "No Future Life," "Annihilation Preferable". Send either your own opinions or quotations. If you do not make it brief, the editor will probably cut it down, for we want the opinion of between twenty and fifty on one page of the TORCH. Just state what reason you would give if anyone attacked you on either of those subjects. Fifty Freethinkers ought to have a ready answer and be glad of a chance to put it in the TORCH. My answer will be in the TORCH with yours. It contains forty-three words.

ELIZA MOWRY BLIVEN.

FREETHOUGHT NEWS-NOTES.

The London Freethinkers' annual dinner took place early in January, and was a great success. "In point of numbers," says the Freethinker, "this gathering beat the world."

A Limited Liability Company is to be started to carry on the publication of Secular Thought and the work of the Canadian Secular Union. The Capital is to be \$5,000 in shares of \$5 each.

Col. Ingersoll is going to Europe in 1899, and will "take England on the way", in announcing which prospective event in the Freethinker, Mr. Foote jubilantly exclaims, "That will be a golden year in our history."

F. H. Bond, a Freethinker late of Winona, Illinois, in his will set a good example for others possessed of means. He left a fund of \$5,000, the proceeds of which are to be devoted either to the establishment of a Liberal Library or a Liberal Hall.

William J. Linton, the veteran Freethinker, poet and artist, died at New Haven, Conn., Dec. 30. He was an Englishman and a Chartist in early life, and stood at the head of his profession—that of wood-engraving. He was a noted writer and author of a Life of Paine.

The Manhattan Liberal Club have passed resolutions commending the life and character and regretting the death of "Henry M. Taber, an earnest and outspoken Freethinker, a writer of insight and ability, and a member of this club." This ought finally to dispose of the charge that Mr. Taber was a hypocrite, pretending to be a Christian for business purposes up to the time of his death. The requests made in his will as to funeral exercises and the disposal of his remains were carried out to the letter by the club of which he was a member.

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