

people of our time ought to have.

In order to show the weakness of orthodox argument we wish to refer to one or two of our good friend's errors. In illustrating man's weakness, and especially his lack of knowledge of things outside of his own experience, he gave an illustration of a bird in a cage. The bird knew nothing of the use of its wings, and might think that its little narrow cage was the whole world, and never dream of the trees and flowers and running brooks and sunshine, unless it had reason and asked itself what its wings were made for. So he said a reasoning man shut up in his narrow cage of life may well reason in regard to his soul and its use when set free from its narrow cage. This sounds very well unless one has already escaped from the narrow cage of orthodoxy and is free to think. If the bird was superstitious and had been told by a crow that it had a little balloon inside its skin that would carry it up to a great big cage above the clouds where it could have a golden swing and sing a new kind of song, it might believe it and reason(?) about as the average Christian does. The bird has wings, but has man a soul? The comparison would have been better if some organ of man was used that we know he has. Thus we might reason as the Indian does, that our legs will be used in hunting in that happy hunting ground beyond the sky.

His next idea showed clearly to our mind the principle cause of most of the orthodox error. It was the idea of spirit control over matter. This old myth is a "stick tight" and we must hit it hard whenever we get a chance. Our friend's idea was that when he raised his hand it was his spirit that caused it to act, and in speaking of the lower animals he did what very few ministers do, that is, admitted that he did not know whether they have spirits or not, although John Wesley was quoted as believing that they have. He should go one step farther and admit honestly that he does not know that man has a spirit. He does not, and why not be honest like Robert Ingersoll is?

Dear brothers of orthodoxy, the same energy that opens the little flower on the hillside is manifest in the actions of man. More complicated, to be sure, and it is more complicated in the flight of a bee, but there are no reasons for thinking that the bee or that man has a spirit.

The idea of spirit control of matter comes more from ignorance of the properties of matter and an attempt to easily solve a hard problem than anything else. Some students who are too lazy to work are dishonest with themselves and look at the answer in "the book" instead of gaining strength for the next problem by digging into the

philosophy of the thing. The holy answer-book would be a good thing in the hands of an honest student if its answers were true and up to date, but who would put works on mathematics which were published when the books of the bible were, in the hands of our children? And yet on questions of vital importance this Jewish book of fables is said to be infallible and Sunday after Sunday children and older children are taught old, exploded theories of spirits and gods, of holy books and celestial cities, of holy mothers and savior sons, of eternal agony and eternal bliss.

'Tis false! 'Tis all false! Awake, ye sleeping hosts of a tyrant religion, and join the ranks of Liberty and Humanity.

You are in a worse bondage than were the children of Israel when in Egypt. Think of a tyrant who will not allow his subjects to read excepting it be in his favor! Ah, we would soon rescue poor, Superstition's slaves, but they dare not even touch their mental chains.

**A Pointer for Priestley.**

We have all heard of the person who "talks through his hat," no doubt, but thinking through a wall or across a continent is a new perpetration by the editor of the New Dispensation. Possibly we have located the former individual in the person of the latter. He says, giving a "first lesson in metaphysics":

"You cannot put two lamps or bottles or stoves in the same space at once. Two solid bodies cannot occupy the same space at the same time. But if you light two lamps, the light all goes together into one light. If you heat two stoves, the heat all combines in one volume. Heat, light, electricity and magnetism penetrate solid bodies. . . . Mind penetrates through solid bodies more rapidly than light. You can think of a person through a wall or across a continent as easily as you can look through a pane of glass."

His statements of physics are true and demonstrable; but the very first break he makes at metaphysics he loses his head completely. But he has anticipated this criticism by saying that "to the average person pure truth means pure nonsense or pure nothing". But truth will always bear investigation; and when we begin to investigate this statement we are confronted at once with the inference that, if when we think of a person on the opposite side of a wall the thought actually penetrates the wall and reaches that person, the object of all thought must really have existence, otherwise it is unthinkable. You could not possibly think of a person as being on the opposite side of a wall if he happened to be somewhere else. That makes imagination infallible, and when I think of a god, or a devil, or any sort of a spook, the spook really exists, and the thought will penetrate worlds and space until the spook is found.

Mr. Priestley, in a late number of the Torch, tried an experiment in physics to see if he could find God. But the metaphysical method seems to be better adapted to god-hunting. You have only to think, and the thing is done. The trouble is, you don't know any more about your god after you find him than you did before. J. H. M.

# LIBERAL UNIVERSITY

THE ONLY SCHOOL OF THE KIND

Free from Superstition  
Strictly Non-Sectarian

Pupils are Given Every Opportunity to Learn Without Being Hampered by Superstitions and Dogmas.

Location Healthful,  
Society Good.  
Expenses Moderate.

A Splendid Corps of Teachers and Good Facilities for Teaching. For information, address  
J. E. HOSMER, Ph.D., B.S.D., President,  
SILVERTON, OREGON.

## Cusiter & Davenport

DEALERS IN

....GENERAL MERCHANDISE

Corner Main and Water Streets,  
SILVERTON, ORE.

## Hicks & Ames

DEALERS IN

Hardware, Tinware, Stoves,

AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS

Guns, Fishing Tackle, Cutlery, Sporting Goods, Etc., Etc.  
SILVERTON, OREGON.

## Secularists

Or anybody

SEND US YOUR JOBWORK

We Will Do It For You

Neatly, Quickly, and

For Less Money

Than You can Get It Elsewhere

We

Print anything

Try the Torch for Jobwork.