

Let Us Organize.

EDITOR TORCH OF REASON:

It seems that the greatest difficulty in promoting Freethought at the present time is to bring the people to a clear understanding of the situation. The question has been neglected too long. Not enough interest and enthusiasm is awakened to make it what it should be. What I want to do is to point out a few things to show all lovers of universal liberty how necessary it is to unite and form strong organizations to overcome the opposer of liberty—the church.

The question is oftentimes asked me, "Why do you attack the Christian religion so fiercely? Haven't we as much right to our belief as you have to yours?" In the first place let me say I have no objection to any one believing in the Christian religion. I think Christians have the same right to believe in a future life that I have to disbelieve in it. But, in the second place, Christianity is not content with having the right to worship a god according to the dictates of their own conscience, but it seems they are determined that all mankind shall bow and acknowledge their narrow, bigoted views to be paramount. Through all ages and at all times Christianity has placed a stumbling block in the pathway of progress and liberty. At no time has she made concessions to freedom, only as she has been forced to.

Did it ever occur to you that there is about \$1,000,000,000 worth of untaxed church property in the United States at the present time? Think of this vast amount of church property untaxed while so many homes are being sold for taxes! Justice and equality demand that this church property must be taxed.

Another thing to consider is the amount of money that congress appropriates every year to these begging institutions. It is unjust and unfair that we are taxed to support the Christian church; but as long as we sit idly by and do nothing but find fault, that long will we be subjected to tyrannical Christianity. What we must do is organize, if we ever expect to secure our rights. Organized, we stand every show to win; unorganized, we stand no show at all.

M. P. GIFFORD.

Council, Idaho.

Wrong Reasons,

Religion seldom gives the right reason for doing right, as the following passages from the bible will show: "Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them (idols), nor serve them; for I, the Lord, thy god, am a jealous god." People ought not to waste time worshipping idols, even if God were not a jealous god. "Thou shalt not take the name

of the Lord, thy god, in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain." People should not waste words either praying or swearing, for both are vain.

"Remember the sabbath day to keep it holy. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth." People should rest because they need recreation, and not because the Lord has rested from the sixth day to the present time.

"Honor thy father and thy mother, that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord, thy god, giveth thee." A child should love his father and mother because, as a rule, they are his best friends.

"And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever." Removing temptation removes crime, and leading people into temptation causes crime, and is therefore wrong whether or not God has any kingdom, power or glory.—[Independent Pulpit.

Love Your Enemy, and Pray for Him.

In Mrs. Oliphant's posthumous book about the Blackwoods occurs a letter of Hogg's, which contains the following specimen of the grim Calvinistic humor of the time:

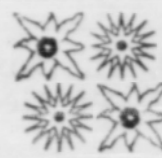
"Laidlaw and Cow Wat went to loggerheads about free will. The dispute was carried on with such acrimony that Wat had several times heaved his cudgel and threatened to knock his opponent down. Laidlaw, perceiving that the tailor and I were convulsed with laughter, joined us for some time with all his heart, but all at once he began to look grave and a tear stood in his eye. 'Aye, ye may laugh; ye have mair need to pray. I'm really sorry for the puir scoondrel, and troth I think we should join and pray for him. For my part I sal lend my mite.' The prayer was so cutting that Wat rose up, foaming with rage, heaved his stick, and caied, 'I tell ye, gie ower, Jamie Laidlaw; I winna be prayed for that gait.' If there were several hells, he prayed that Wat might be preferred to the easiest. 'We couldna expect nae better a place for sic a man, and indeed we would be ashamed to ask it. But on the ither hand, if the object of our petitions'—perpetrated such and such specified iniquities—'really we have not the face to ask any mitigation for him at a'."

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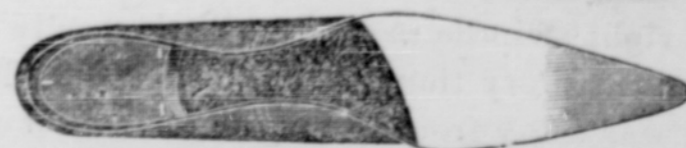
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