

Torch of Reason

The Only Paper of Its Kind.

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We request you to send us the names of Secularists who might become subscribers and we will mail sample copies.

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We Pay for Prayers

Many people who would scorn to go to a priest and pay direct for his prayers, are willing and anxious that our high priests, the chaplains in congress, in state legislatures, in army, in navy, in state prisons, in insane asylums, be paid bounteous salaries or occupy valuable time in praying to their imaginary gods and groaning their instructions to their Jewish savior. We object, but we are obliged to pay for these useless mumblings just the same.

Here is a sample of a high priest's tussle was his Santa Claus of the sky to keep him on our side in trying to conquer a semi-barbaric nation of less than two-sevenths our number:

"Chaplain Milburn opened the senate the next day after the news of the battle of Manila was received with the following prayer: 'Almighty God, who art a strong power of strength to them that trust in thee, we give thee hearty thanks for the good news coming to us from across the sea of the success with which thou art crowning the conduct and valor of the officers and sailors of our Asiatic squadron. We bless thee for the magnificent, unexampled spectacle, of a nation waging war, not for the greed of land and treasure, or power, or the gratification of revenge, but in the cause of the poor, the needy and the oppressed. We beseech thee, O Lord, to let the light of thy favor shine upon us and bring the war to a speedy and triumphant end, and thine be the glory.'

We do not complain of the sentiment expressed, but we think it a downright swindle to steal the little honor and glory there is to be gained in war away from the brave soldiers and those whose cunning, civilized brains have invented the wonderful ships, and guns, and ex-

plosives which make it possible for us to defend our little island neighbor. We beseech thee, O men at the head of this great nation, let the light of thy favor shine upon us and bring the war to a speedy and triumphant end, and oh, protect us from the great, costly, standing armies of superstition, whose officers eat up our substance in times of peace and in times of war.

A Lifetime of Hard Work.

Not many Freethinkers who are unacquainted with the cost of running a school, realize what the Liberal University Company have undertaken. There are some intelligent people who have never had the opportunity of learning about this, who perhaps imagine that "there is money in it".

This is very far from the truth. There are many state schools that can scarcely "keep their heads above water" while receiving large appropriations from the state, besides numerous donations from friends. If the Liberal University should succeed in securing two hundred students in the near future and the average tuition would amount to \$5.00 each for a term of ten weeks, it would amount to \$1000 per term, \$100 per week, or \$400 per month. This is a very small sum with which to pay the actual, necessary expenses of a school. At a low rate of wages, this would not pay the necessary teachers' salaries, even if the president and other members of the company give their services free, as they are obliged to do. Then again, the two hundred students may be quite a long way off. If we get one hundred next year we will be doing very well, under the existing conditions.

Now, with these facts staring us in the face, how do we expect to build, equip and sustain a large Secular School? And these facts are not all that we have to combat. We are surrounded by people who look upon our work as the work of the Devil, and whose abnormal minds are delighted to conjure up any miraculous story to show that our work is evil.

Friends of Truth and Right, we see ahead of us a lifetime of hard work; and even this will not build the Liberal University. We can not teach this grand object lesson to the world alone. If it had not been for the help of a few noble-minded men and women, we would have perished ere this; but we have "faith" that our offering of labor will finally be fully accepted by the Freethought workers and the Liberal University be placed, where it can easily be placed, at the head of the schools of the world. No Freethinker who is worthy of the name should be content until he has "acted well his part". This school can be made the savior of Fre-

thought, but it does not need to be crucified, as Jesus is said to have been, nor does it want to be allowed to crawl off, as poor Judas did, and hang itself, or fall down and die, as he did, according to another author's account. It needs to be clothed and fed and kept in its right mind, and the money changers will be scourged and the legion of devils now in our midst will finally drop over the bank of time into the dead sea of ancient superstitions.

This start toward educational Freethought will not only cause old orthodoxy to disappear, however; it will put something better in its place. It will give young thinkers a chance to be educated along right lines so as to be entirely free from the weakening influence that now surrounds them in nearly every community. Then other "free" schools will be started; Secular churches and Sunday schools will have organizers and supporters; ancient lies will die for the want of support, and modern scientific truth and wisdom will make us a happy, prosperous, united people.

Our school is small now, but we must remember that some of the largest and most useful plants evolve from very small seeds. Good soil, enrichment and cultivation are now necessary. Will you, dear reader, make it a part of your life work to assist the growth of this tree of knowledge, eat of its priest-forbidden but enlightening fruit and help generations yet unborn to enjoy its beneficent influence?

No Money and No Sense.

A Christian friend made the observation the other day that he did not see how we could build a university with neither money nor sense. Brass, mingled will gall and hard work, will accomplish much, brother. But our Christian friends must not forget that we are not building the University alone. The Liberals of the United States are building the School, and some of them have more money than some Christians have, and as far as sense is concerned, we can find no place in "holy writ" where it says it is the gift of the Holy Ghost. It must be a matter of inheritance and training, and as many of us have been born of Christian parents, we have a LITTLE sense; and now if we can go ahead with the training, we feel that there is hope for even such as we.

Stand by Our Guns.

As we sit in the "house God" we can see hard-earned Infidel dollars all over the walls, and what insult those dollars offer as we read the motto that Infidels are forced to circulate: "In God we trust."

The Christian churches all over our land have been built by the aid

of Infidels, but we have become so used to bearing insult and wrong that we think it "very good" if God's agents will even permit us to live.

A minister said the other day that an Infidel had no right to a seat in the church unless he paid something into the box for his entertainment. This was said in a church, too, that would not have been built had it not been for Infidel money and Infidel muscle. When will insult cease to be added to injury? Ah, friends, the Liberal University is sounding the death note of superstition, and soon the new era of progress and freedom will be ushered in, if we stand by our guns.

Ridicule.

There is no one who wishes to be ridiculed. This leads some to think that Secularists should be very careful not to hurt the Christians by making fun of them, for fear of hurting our cause. This question has puzzled us somewhat, and we are free to admit that we are not able to give a general rule in regard to it. We sometimes think that the very fact that the Christians do not like to be ridiculed shows that it is a good reason for "giving it to them", for although it may make them mad for a time, it may make them think of their actions and be more careful to analyze their thoughts before making their superstitious statements. On the other hand, it is natural to dislike those who ridicule us, and people often lose their influence for good by so doing. It is a hard question and one which we would like to hear discussed through the Torch. With a person who can and will reason, it is certainly far better to use reason, but it is a fact that some cannot, and many will not, listen to the highest authority of the intellect; so the question arises, should the Torch of Reason try to reach these unfortunates also, whose reason might be awakened by a little ridicule.

Perhaps the very best way is to write and talk just as one feels. At times one feels disgusted with trying to reach unreasoning people with reason, and by following his inclinations he may do much good. At other times one may have a more persuasive feeling, and then perhaps his will and the higher faculties of his intellect should be allowed to work accordingly. Different people differ much also in their powers. One may be able to do the best work he is capable of by his power of bringing to notice the ridiculous aspect of those whom he wishes to reform, while others may do much better in other ways. It matters not so much in what way we work, however, the main thing is for us all to get right down in dead earnest and each one will