

## Torch of Reason

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### The Flag Above the Cross.



The old-time myths of priest and pope,  
With blight like arctic frost,  
Still linger, but our greatest hope,  
Our Stars and Stripes, must proudly float  
Above the bloody cross.

Let mother church and daughter church  
Prate of their gain and loss,  
And heaven above for freedom search,  
Old Glory leaving in the lurch,  
Blood-stained, beneath the cross:

But we will proudly do and dare,  
Remove the ancient moss,  
And, in the torch of reason's glare,  
Pluck laurels for Columbia fair,  
With flag above the cross.

Down, tyrant king, with hireling saint!  
Your gold will turn to dross;  
While on the rack your victims faint,  
We'll spite of hell your preachers paint—  
Keep flag above the cross.

### Patriotism.

One who loves his country is called a patriot, but what is meant by one's country? If there are traitors to everything that is good—if there are evil laws passed by those whose power has been gained by deceit—if there are those who by stealth and greed and love of power try to rob the offspring of those who died that this might be a land of the free and a home of the brave, must men in silence bow and be thankful for what comes or doesn't come, as if it be from the gods?

No, a thousand times no. A true patriot will WORK, will FIGHT, will DIE to preserve his country from evil of every kind; and as he grows in patriotism his love crosses the artificial boundaries of his home and encircles his brothers across the line. To him the boundaries change as his sympathy expands, and by and by he is a full-fledged patriot, whose country is the whole

world, and whose religion is to do good.

To apply the word patriot to one whose narrow mind only embraces his own individual good, or the good of his own class, or the good of his own town, state or nation, is to misapply it; for such a one does not have enough appreciation of his country's powers for doing good, to love it. Perhaps there can be found no better example of a truly patriotic people than has been exhibited by Japan in her recent wonderful growth toward higher things. Loving the good in all nations, she sent her citizens abroad to learn of better ways. Ah, this teachable spirit is one of the paramount elements in patriotism, and what a wonderful love for their island home do the rulers of these dusky people of the east show, when they despise not the good in other lands. Let not our citizens think that patriotism is synonymous with bigotry—let them be teachable—let them have that love for our home of the brave that will keep it a land of the free, and then we will be a nation of patriots whose patriotism will become a rich patrimony to all who inherit the earth.

### Do You Want to Get In?

In any great undertaking it is best not to be in too much of a hurry, but one must be content if his car is MOVING in the right direction. The best advice, perhaps, that has been given to the world by a great educator is to "make haste slowly", but when the time is fully ripe for a great movement which one thinks is the alpha and omega of human progress, it is criminal to delay, and so, as our plans for the great hegira of Secularists to Secular Home become more mature, we hasten to reveal them to our friends. Of course they are not complete, and it may take much discussion to decide all the minor points, but those who are interested may be thinking and helping to plan our future modus operandi. The colony, or community, is not to be composed of individuals who have been robbed of their liberty and who will be obliged to work under a task-master or be expelled, but our constitution will provide that each member will own his own home and work when and for whom he or she chooses. Each member will be allowed one vote only, and members will be given the preference when workers are selected, each one receiving the wages agreed upon, for that class of labor, by the community in council assembled. If at any time a Secular citizen wishes to work for himself or others, he will have perfect liberty to do so, and still get his share of the dividends. In this way those who labor will get their wages and also the dividends from their invest-

ment, while those who do not labor for the community will only receive the dividends on their investment. For example, suppose the company decides to manufacture brick, and the wages for expert brick-makers have been placed at \$1.75 per day, and the wages for common laborers at \$1.00 per day. Now if there is a kiln of 200,000 brick burned, each laborer gets pay for his work, and if, when the brick are sold, it is found that there has been a profit above all expenses of \$400, each laborer will get his equal share in common with all members of Secular Home. In this way we can do much more than can possibly be accomplished by the old methods of co-operation. Our ideas of Secularism can go forth from our press; our workers who are financially unable to live without labor will be assured of good work and fair wages. Those who are able and wish to assist the cause by building a fort and organizing a Secular army may do so, and at the same time make a good investment which ought to produce more than good interest.

There are many industries that can be profitably started here in this great, growing empire of the west, and we have selected a particularly favorable part of the richest valley in this particularly favored state, being as it is the golden mean between the extremes of north and south.

There are some drawbacks, to be sure, but none that cannot be overcome if a few with the right kind of metal in them will invest. Remember that our plans are yet in an embryonic state and that we need help. Those who wish to receive the advantages given charter members should write to us at once for further information.

One industry, and one that properly comes first, has already been started and is now well under way, and that is our University. Come, join our ranks, and we'll compel our adversaries to respect Free-thought, and pave the way to the secularization of the world.

### Now's Your Time.

It does not pay one to crawl away from the warm corner of human sympathy into the cold, dark cellar of pessimism, and it is equally foolish to cultivate the absurd traits of a blind optimist. The world is advancing! And we enjoy many things that our forefathers of a hundred years ago would have pronounced beyond the shadow of a hope of attainment, and yet, as we advance, and greater power than ever before is possible for those who once get control of the situation, we ought to be awake. Eternal vigilance will truly be the price of liberty when we get to running at a twentieth century speed, and it is time for honest men to speak their

little piece and speak it up good and loud. Let us throw policy to the winds and work for our highest ideals. The world is moving rapidly today! Help it to move in the right direction. Down with old lies! Up with the truth!

### A Liberal School.

The Liberal University cannot narrow itself down to one particular course, as most schools do. It must include all courses, and each course must be a special one in the sense that it must be made the very best. It must include a school of Oratory, a school of Science, a school of Moral Philosophy, a Normal school, a Kindergarden, a Common School course, an Industrial school, an Art school. In fact, parents who wish to educate their children free from superstition, it matters not what work they wish their boys and girls to follow, should not be turned away. Let us make this the best school in the world and one that is Liberal in every true sense of the word.

### The Convention.

Before the next issue of the Torch reaches our readers an important event in the history of Secularism will have taken place. The convention of the Oregon State Secular Union at Wagner is looked forward to with great hopes, and we feel that no better place for our council of war against ignorance, bigotry and creedism could have possibly been chosen. There are many Freethinkers in Eastern Oregon, and as Wagner is the place where our martyred Secular heroine, Katie Kehm Smith, died, there could be no place in the state better suited to arouse us to patriotic action.

Our work of organizing churches and Sunday schools in the past year has been almost entirely stopped on account of lack of funds, but now that our constitution provides for a fund for that purpose, we certainly will do some good work the coming year, if the convention does its part and every member is "inspired" with the "spirit" of Secular endeavor. Hoping to be able to give a good account of a glorious time at the convention, and that the celebration of our great republic's birthday may be a practical council—one worthy of the memory of the brave men who in 1776 talked, and worked, and fought for liberty, we decamp for the battle field east of the Cascades.

The attorney-general of Missouri has given his opinion that it is a violation of law to make pupils recite the Lord's Prayer, or for teachers to read from the bible at the opening exercises of the public schools.