

Torch of Reason

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We Must Wait.

We have been somewhat disappointed in not getting money enough to pay for our lumber, and we will be obliged to wait before putting more of it into the building. We paid all we possibly could, but we are determined not to go too fast. One of the greatest dangers to educational enterprises is that of running in debt and becoming so involved as to prevent their ultimate success. We have gone now just as far as we can without danger, and we will go no farther until we can "gather up the slack".

Of course it would be a great advantage if we had a few hundred dollars and could pay for the lumber and put eight or ten men to work now while it is fair weather. In this way we could soon get the roof on, and then we could all work inside during the rainy winter. The temptation is to borrow money and go ahead, but we positively refuse to do this. We have already some small debts that worry us, and thus prevent us from doing our best work, and we consider it the wisest plan to wait.

The tuition is a very small consideration after taking out the amount already paid by those who paid in work, produce, etc., and take it all in all, although it "grieves us to the heart", we are sure it is the part of wisdom to let the work of building rest until the rest of the lumber is paid for.

When that will be, we suppose God knows, but he seems to have a Hard-shell Baptist's head on his

shoulders and his thoughts "are past finding out".

Let us pray!

O great and allwise God, if you are really and truly everywhere or anywhere, please get over thy revengeful, jealous, hell-fire attitude and let thy orphan children, the Infidels, know how long they must work and wait in order to build one school in honor of the truth. Please come thyself, or send thy carpenter's son, to help us, and thou wilt have as much honor as an allwise being who has acted so foolishly in the past deserves. Amen.

P. S.—Please don't send thy holy ghost, for his reputation is not good among our virtue-loving people. Amen No. 2.

Truth will Make Us Free.

To a Christian friend.

Many things that seem pleasant to one who has been brought up to believe them, are false, and although they make the believer happy for a short time or during his whole life, yet falsehoods of all kinds keep the world in darkness. When we hear a Christian say, "Well, this belief makes me happy, and I don't want to believe anything else," we cannot help pitying him for his gross selfishness. How self-centred one must be to care more for his own comfortable feelings, only for a short time at the very best, than for the great, beautiful, redeeming TRUTH! THE TRUTH WILL MAKE US FREE.

Long years after we are dead and perhaps forgotten, the truths that we have believed and taught and lived will go marching on to victories for higher, better and happier times.

O Christian friend (and you are our friend or at least we are yours), do not say that you do not want to believe anything that contradicts your holy book! We know how you feel, for we have felt the same, but it is a false idea and one that leads to much sin, to much insanity, to much sorrow, to the deepest, darkest hell in the universe—the hell of an ignorant, degenerate, deceived, priest-ridden people. Say, rather, that you do not desire to believe anything that is not true, and no matter if it causes you some unpleasant, unhappy feelings, for the sake of coming generations and what the real, genuine, honest truth will do for them, investigate all sides of the greatest problem of our times.

Do not be afraid to stand alone if need be. Go where your reason leads you and if the universe rolls up like a scroll stay with your honest convictions. It is dishonest not to investigate. It is wicked not to study both sides. You stand condemned before any honest judge if you have refused to give ear to the testimony on both sides. Have

you read the noted works of the noted Infidels and Freethinkers of ancient and modern times? Of course you have not, and if a just god should call on you today and ask you if you are an unprejudiced witness in this case, and found that you have only heard one side, he would cast you out from the great white witness box of eternal truth. There will be wailing and gnashing of your mental teeth when you wake up to find that your whole life has been a narrow, selfish, bigoted prejudice and an endeavor to avoid your part in lifting your fellow men from the gloom and misery of a semi-barbarous condition to a free, happy, united brotherhood.

In every age there have been the reformers and the conservatives. There have been those who have dared to be the first to step forth and receive the pointed spears of the enemy and make way for liberty. There have been those who when the battle was with the strong but false hastened to the weak but true. Will you be one of the common herd to follow your divine masters, the priests and preachers of today, or will you be one of those who, even as the heroes of the past, dare stand firm and fight for liberty?

This is as important an age as the world has ever seen. You are as great, if you are in love with the truth, as any hero that ever lived. Will you love the truth, or will you cringe like a belabored hound under the lash of your own comfortable feelings, the popular cry to crucify the savior of Freethought and your cowardly fear of hurting your financial prospects? Go(o)d will help you in the one case and your imaginary gods will damn you in the other. Which shall it be?

Be Not Deceived.

One reason that Infidels are infidelic is that they are people who very much hate to be deceived.

A Christian cares but little if he be deceived if it brings him happiness here and a good chance of happiness hereafter. The one is characterized by a large development in the front part of the head, i. e. the perceptive are highly developed, while the other has more development on top of the head, i. e., the head runs up to a peak. There are exceptions to this general rule, of course, and many who have peaked heads are not Christians, but worship some other fantasy, on account of their environment, and those who naturally have great perception have been so neglected that their ignorance, although oftentimes after a great struggle, allows them to be led into the error of TRYING to believe the absurd doctrines of the gods and devils, angels and witches, ghosts and holy ghosts, heaven and hell,

blood atonement and miraculous "monkey work".

There is one great danger for Infidels. We must be careful and not let our mental pendulum swing too far, now that it has started back away from these absurdities, and land us into others fully as bad. When we have reached the point on the arc of vibration marked Common Sense we must "stop short, never to go again". And again we must not let our Infidelity make us infidel to true principles nor to institutions which promote them. Here we are trying to build an institution of learning, one founded on the principles that every Infidel professes to believe in, yet some who make the loudest professions are, for no other than petty reasons, infidel to our work and circulate lies fully as black as those of orthodoxy.

We had a kind letter from a friend who lives in the East, who had just visited a large eastern city. In his letter was the statement that many of that city would help but for the story afloat that J. E. Hosmer, the president of Liberal University, is an ex-Methodist preacher, and that great fears were entertained that as soon as the institution was fairly on its feet he would go back to his first love and turn the institution into a Christian school. Now this lie came from an Infidel in the first place, who is of course criminal in the sight of all who know the truth, and honest Infidels should be on their guard lest they be as much deceived by these mischief-makers as others have been by the lies of Moses and the lamb, and thus prevent the onward march of our great Freethought army. The facts in the case are that J. E. Hosmer never was a Methodist nor a Methodist preacher. His first lecture was radical against the humbuggery of the orthodox churches and his last was ditto, and all those in between have been the same, and those to come will be more so. But this is not all. The president is not the only spoke in the wheel of a better fortune than the ownership of certain lots in a tinsel heaven, but "there are others", and the institution is as stable as the United States government.

These peddlers of lies will do us some harm, to be sure, but we can only do our best, and we call on all honest thinkers to give us a fair chance and not be led into error by these infidelic Infidels. One of these peddlers took pains to get word to a patron and friend that at the opening of school this year we had only three pupils. It would have been no disgrace if that had really been the number, and our teachers would have done good work with the three; but it was a lie calculated to keep back the patronage that these friends will give. We had from the very first, count-