

Torch of Reason

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J. E. Hosmer, Editor
P. W. Geer, Manager

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THURSDAY, OCT. 20, E. M. 208

The Exposition.

We had the pleasure of attending the Oregon Industrial Exposition one evening last week, and such a display of cunning work of hand and brain as we saw inspires us with patriotism and admiration for our great race and the wonderful civilization it has ushered in. What changes Secular thought has brought about since invention and agricultural lands became free from church domination!

One of the most wonderful and useful things we saw was the acetylene light. This light is produced by the burning of a gas which is thrown off from calcic carbide, which is formed by fusing coke and lime with the aid of electricity. When this substance is wet, the hydrogen of the water unites with the carbon, forming acetylene gas, which burns with a beautiful, white light. If this light is what it is said to be it is certainly the cheapest and most brilliant illuminant which the genius of man has brought forth in the nineteenth century.

A machine for the rapid drilling of iron and steel interested us very much, as it is so simple and yet saves so much labor. There were many other inventions, but space forbids further mention. It seems too bad, however, that such labor-saving machines should work a hardship on those that need the most help, i. e., the laboring man; but we believe that, conditions will be equitably adjusted some time so as to make these wonderful inventions a blessing to all.

The display by the different business houses and the fruit and grain

raisers was excellent, but the artificial hatching of salmon was peculiarly interesting, more perhaps on account of its being something new to us. The eggs are placed in long narrow boxes and water of a certain temperature caused to flow over them and as the little, tiny fish are hatched they seem to wiggle themselves through screens at the end of successive boxes till they come to the last one, where thousands of these little baby salmon wriggle and twist with the larger part of the egg from which they are hatched still clinging to them and from which they are nourished until they are old enough to secure food for themselves. It is said that 95 per cent of all the eggs hatch.

The side shows as usual were plentiful and we suppose must have been amusing judging from the patronage they received. We had to be satisfied with visiting one and that was "the fat man" and a wonderful sight indeed he is. He weighs 631 pounds and is said to be getting fatter all the while. What a great mass of human flesh, but it may be possible that men and women of the future will weigh as much or even more. If they do it is to be hoped that they will be more symmetrically built, strong and free from disease and as large and strong mentally. There will be "giants in those days"

We did not see the performance of the evening nor hear the speeches for the crowd was so great that the seats and standing room were all taken.

At the close however we managed to creep into range of two fine projectoscopic views, one of which contained our gallant ship Oregon.

The one thing that pleased us most was the children's department. Although it was not very extensive it attracted our attention because we hope to have similar work done in the industrial department of our school. As we look back over our past life we find that the work of making little brackets, comb cases, etc., for mother was perhaps the very best part of the mental training of which we can boast and if we ever have money enough to build and fit up an industrial building it will be done. We can see in our minds' eye a large room fitted up with foot power bracket saws, lathes, drills, ect., and other larger machines run by power; and in this heaven of industry we can see young stalwart boys and healthy, jolly girls training their hands and eyes and best of all learning to take pleasure in doing something useful instead of wasting the golden moments of life. The older ones superintend the power machines and are learning their trades. They also assist the younger students and thus assist and teach themselves how to teach. A few hours each day of this kind of work in addition to the study of books will

accomplish wonders with the individual and make our school one of the principal factors in bringing our great principles of Secularism before the world of thought.

Quick, Decisive Action Needed.

There are many, perhaps we ought to say the majority, of educated people believe just as we do in regard to the falsity of the Christian dogmas, and yet do not see the necessity for overthrowing them. Some claim that if the notions of heaven and hell are taken away the people will "go to the bad"; that they will have no incentive to do right, and although these notions are false, yet they are a good thing for the people.

This is an insult to the human family. Truth is a good thing for the people, and no one need be afraid of letting it be known too soon. Oh, professors in our common and state schools, Oh, scientific truthseekers everywhere, do not hide your light under a bushel. Let it so shine that men and women now groping in the darkness of ignorance and superstition may stand erect in the glorious light of truth. We know that many think it better to teach scientific principles and let these work the change, but think of the misery in the world and its cause! What is hindering scientific research today? It is the church and the church's anti-scientific doctrines. The little circle that you affect by "keeping still", of course, will be benefitted by your scientific work, but think of the great good you might do by coming boldly to the front and declaring ALL the truths you have found in digging for these most precious metals.

You might lose your position? Yes, but you will gain a higher one. Your family demands that you keep silent on the religious question? If your family needs anything, it needs an honest, progressive, noble, fearless man at its head, and your excuse shows lack of these principles. Think over the names of all the men in the past who have done the most good — those whom you admire most, and ask yourself if they offered such excuses when the great questions of the times needed their opinions in order to find their true solutions.

Do you love science and what it has given to the children of earth? Go to church and listen to the unscientific nonsense forced upon the people. Think of the magnitude of the lies, the evil they are doing, and the organized ignorance that is blocking the way to those saving truths which you know so well and which the world needs so much.

Come, speak out! Let school boards and boards of regents do their worst. Saw wood and talk! Drive nails and lecture! Shovel sand and write a book! But whatever you do, be quick; be active; be

decisive, for "yet a little while and you the all-beholding sun will see no more".

Thou Canst Not Steal.

No one is so safe from the fear of thieves as he who has property that cannot be stolen. We have just that kind of property and that in abundance. It is our large stock of happiness, and no one can take this away. We are far more happy than we were when we thought that a god loved us and that we had a good chance to inherit eternal life. That was only a crazy sort of longing to understand the superstitions with which priests have flooded the world—a half joy thinking that we had found our savior and more than a half suspicion that the story is false. Perfect faith in the bible story does not exist in a sane mind and therefore no Christian is made happy by his faith; but faith in one's power to do good may be enjoyed by all, and this with the thought of perfect mental freedom makes us happy indeed. When we see young men and young women enjoying the work of securing an education, and when we think of the great good their knowledge will do for years and ages to come, we are filled with joy. Then other students are coming all the while. Our school, for which we have labored and planned for months and months, is prospering more and more.

Secularists are on their way to our Mecca of Freethought; one has placed his name on the list of Twenty Forerunners, kind words and financial aid are coming from all over the world, and we have that peace of mind that "passeth all understanding", that peace that comes from the thought that we are making a success of our work. Try as hard as they may, Christian fanatics and Infidel traitors can not steal the peace, the happiness that comes with every honest endeavor.

The four principles of truth, justice, love and wisdom are the four rivers of paradise and the four winds that blow from the four quarters of the earth on the dry bones and cause them to be clothed with flesh and become living souls. They also correspond to the four seasons of the year; truth to winter; justice to spring; love to summer; and wisdom to autumn, the time of seed and fruit. Whoever rejects one of these principles, rejects all; and whoever violates one violates all, for they are all woven together as a seamless garment, a coat of many colors but of one texture throughout.—New Dispensation.

The people never had so much personal freedom as at present. The world grows better, wiser and more liberal.—Ex.