

Torch of Reason

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Anarchy!

There are, among our friends, certain peaceable, good-hearted, intelligent people who honestly believe that it would be better for the world if there were no governments. They think that "each individual should be a law unto himself" and that every case of infringement upon the rights of another, or on the community, should have a law when needed, and this law should be made by the parties concerned. We do not wonder that some believe thus, for the great struggle for political and financial power has turned the dark side of even our own free America toward many of us who would fain put on rose-colored glasses—glasses that only turn the blackness red, and we behold blood—the blood of the poor victims who have gone down in the terrible struggle against poverty and in the riotous crimes that always follow in its footsteps. No, we do not wonder. We wonder that it is not worse. But we cannot agree with our so-called Anarchistic friends that no government is the remedy, nor that each individual can be a law unto himself. Men are far from perfect, and the only safeguard of civilization is the highest expression of right by the people. This we call law, and through it we have, or should have, self-government of the people, for the people. The farther governments get away from this idea and become centered in the hands of a domineering few, the more tyrannical they become and the more there will be who learn through false government to despise all government. We think

that to find the causes of these and kindred evils and their proper remedies is the highest work that can engage the minds of men, and we are never happier than when trying to find out, and point out, the things that if removed will leave the human family richer in every true sense. Allow us then to be happy while we point to what we conceive to be the most dangerous thing in our body politic—the worst anarchy in the world—a more dangerous anarchy than anarchy—an anarchy that causes more "confusion," makes more enemies to true government and prevents the expression of more right thoughts, which might be enacted into good laws, than any other evil in the world. Its name is Christianity. Look at it! Behold from its window the red flag of confusion. Open its closet and see its skeletons. Climb to its steeple and, as its great bell rings, hear the screechings of the owls and bats of the dark ages. Is there a greater cause of confusion? Is there any other cause for the disunion of good people? If Christianity was a thousand years out of sight in the past, as it will be some time, what could prevent good people from uniting, and what could stop the great tide of everlasting secular righteousness that would cover the whole earth? Think of the great possibilities! Once the old element of disunion gone, schools of natural and moral science would take the place of the full-blood theological and mongrel schools of superstition, and what would be the effect? Think, O think, of the possibilities! Let us learn a great lesson from a simple thing in Mother Nature's book. Look at this little fly. The sum of the debtor and credit side of its existence is balanced, and we say its life is short. On the credit side we find the resources of its little life, and on the debtor side there is its longevity (net stock) and its liabilities. All on the credit side has helped make its life as long and as happy as it is, while all the liabilities have helped to make its life short, and given it all the pain and suffering it has endured. Now what if from the liability side of fly life there could be taken all, or nearly all, the evils that keep it a puny, short lived creature, would it be long before its longevity would be an eternity compared with its present existence? And is it not true of man? Our lives are too short. Before our bones are hardly stiff enough to support our bodies, the deposit of lime is so great that our bones become dry and hard like dead things that they are. Our muscles only become strong and active to at once begin to be flabby, rheumatic, gouty and soon lose their elasticity. Our nerves are soon weakened, our blood becomes sluggish, and our organs of sense become sense-

less. It may be impossible for man to ever know how to live forever, but it is possible, probable and much to be desired that his prime of life be much prolonged, and also that his strength, physical and mental, be much increased. When children can be born of parents who can see five times as far as we can and can see things five times as small, who can detect five times as readily by taste and smell the presence of poisons in their food; who can hear and feel in the same proportion, what wonderful things will be accomplished. The branches taught in our preparatory course could be mastered in a few weeks instead of taking years, and at the age of maturity they would accomplish things beyond our comprehension, but right in the path of our advancement stands this wolf in lamb's clothing—this Anarchy of all past ages—this Superstition that is the cause of our disunion and stupidity—this ball and chain that is soon tied around the neck of every little life that flutters into this world to be cramped and cursed, and in turn made to cramp and curse others. O, the Anarchy of the gods! Its bombs of poisonous vapors are being thrown even now into our district and our state schools, and the red handed murderers of honest thought are at the doors and in the halls of every state and national assembly. Social life is but one narrow patriotism for "our church" and a broad hate for foolish neighbors who believe in sprinkling, or in immersion, or are Catholics, or Lutherans, or are Methodists, or are lost. And all this comes from clinging to the ideas of old priests, whose books are held sacred by the ignorant and claimed to be holy by the hypocrites—a book which says "thou shalt not lie," but contains more lies than any other—a book which says "thou shalt not steal," and yet teaches that the chosen people stole at their god's command—a book which says "thou shalt not kill," and yet records much murder, and worse than murder, under the leadership of God himself—a book that borrowed from a heathen sage, who lived five hundred years before, the golden rule that "what so-ever ye would that others should do unto you, do ye even so unto them," and then by the doctrine of eternal punishment gives it the lie—a book that is said to emanate from an all wise being, and yet contains theories that every school boy knows to be scientifically impossible. Anarchy? What is Anarchy? Is it confusion? Supernatural religion causes confusion, and is confusion that enters the minds of men as soon as they are old enough to think. It starts in the home, reaches out to the school, affects for evil the social life of young and old, holds governments in its bony clutch and encircles the earth with an atmosphere of its poisonous breath. We are in earnest. This Anarchy of the gods is a deadly and present enemy. We must tear down its strongholds before the world can move at any but a snail's pace. Life is too short at present to waste any time. Let us up and at it!

Dodgers.

The preachers are great fellows for dodging. If you quote scripture to them they will make you feel foolish by showing you that the translators made a mistake and that the bible doesn't mean just what it says. In this way they get way off the track, and if we aren't used to their dodging tactics we will never get on the track again.

Some weeks ago we quoted from the scripture, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom," and remarked that it is not true, but that the love of the truth is the beginning of wisdom. Now here comes a Christian brother and hurls at our wicked heads the "new version", which has changed the word "fear" to the word "love", and thus tries to show that we are "way off".

The bible that has been the guide of Christian people for hundreds of years says "fear", and God is a strange being to allow his word to be so misrepresented, and if men made such a great blunder when they first translated it were not those who translated it the last time apt to make fully as serious blunders? But this does not alter the case, anyway. Neither the fear of the Lord nor the love of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. No one can love a thing that does not exist. Neither can one love a thing that does exist if he has no conception what it is like. If you don't believe it, try to love your uncle whom you have never seen and don't know whether he is alive or dead, or whether he ever did really exist or not.

We repeat, "the love of truth is the beginning of wisdom", and we add that the fear and the love of gods is idiotic.

The Christians are trying to have a Christian Endeavor convention in Silverton, and one of the ministers expressed the idea that God might send a thunderbolt and strike down our Freethought school. Another thinks that if the ministers get together and pray, God might be induced to destroy us.

We are not the least bit afraid of a god, for no one has ever proven that such a being exists, and the only danger is that the prayers and fool talk of these preachers may induce some of their tools to do something foolish. How much better it would be if God's agents could be induced to teach science and morality instead of "stuffing people" with old worn out lies and inciting them to war against those who are teaching the truths that will lengthen men's lives and make them happier, wiser and better.