

CORRESPONDENCE.

An Earnest Worker.

EDITOR TORCH OF REASON:

We read all the Freethought books and papers that we can get hold of and we see that all seem anxious for organization in all the states, but one thing we seldom see, and that is one word in regard to the Freethought University at Silverton, Oregon, the only school of the kind that is in operation. Why is it? Is it because Freethought is narrow and selfish?

There is seldom a week passes that we do not get letters asking for donations for something public or private to assist some one in the east, and we have searched in vain for a record of anyone in the east doing anything of great consequence to help our school, which is trying hard to keep above the ice that is closing in around it.

How can we expect to spread and strengthen Freethought unless the young are educated in that light? For my part, I see the need of an education, and shall do all in my power to help educate the young to think for themselves. As the twig is bent, so stands the tree. I have only one boy, and he is in this Freethought school, and if I live to see my grandchildren grow up, I shall do all I can to give them a start in the world without their being burdened with superstition as I was.

Yours for Truth and Justice,

Mrs. J. L. BARNHOUSE.

Caleb, Ore.

God in Everything.

EDITOR TORCH OF REASON:

I prize the Torch of Reason above every other paper. While reading your paper this evening a thought came to me like an inspiration, that if God is omniscient he is everywhere, in us, in mules, in hogs, reptiles and all animals, including liquor sellers, liquor drinkers, thieves, robbers, murderers, and of course he must have been in the herd of swine that Jesus drove into the sea and he must have had a devil of a time with those devils in the swine and he must now be having a hell of a time in hell. We know he is there, for we find it recorded in the blessed inspired word of God by his holy servant Job that if he descended into hell, God is there. Again, if God is in everything, he must be in the crocodile and we must not hinder the Hindoo from worshipping him. How about all this?

I think the Torch improves with every issue. Your controversy with the Christian is just the thing, for some of his brethren may like to read it who would not look at it if their "brother" had not written for it, and perhaps the reflection of the light of the Torch on their brains

may cause them to see things they never saw before.

Yours for the diffusion of the light and knowledge of the truth,
C. R. COOK.

McMinnville, Ore.

Liberal University Leads.

EDITOR TORCH OF REASON:

Many thanks for the continued favor of your gleaming Torch—long may it blaze and grow brighter and brighter to banish the haze. I have not written anything of late for the Torch because you had other good pens at your command—last but far from least, Annie Tufts, who is too "tuff" for blood-washed sinners and is a good match for Grace Gruber, the brightest new star in the constellation of Reason.

Do not get discouraged, for Reason is your friend, and joined with Perseverance you'll succeed in the end. Your success thus far with your school and the Torch, is much greater than might have been expected, with your conditions. Harvard has its site in the proud yard of Boston, its fine buildings over its head, its millions of dollars to its assets and its thousands of students on its lists—kicking football and breaking bones—but your little wooden University in the Oregon mountains is of more interest to the real thinkers and scholars of the world than are Harvard and Yale and the whole cabal of pseudo-science schools from Montreal to Mexico; for you are teaching facts, not fables; how to think, not what to believe; how to do good, not how to please god; how to make heaven on earth, not how to graft one in the sky. The few that you send out will be a leaven to leaven eleven thousand, who will leaven the globe—to the level of rational purpose, manly effort and womanly honor.

You call your school "liberal". I wish you would use a different title. Liberal means anything, everything and nothing, and some of the papers, societies and churches calling themselves "liberal" are most illiberal in everything, except perhaps their own special cussedness; the term being used as a veil by those too timid or too turbid to declare themselves, or too unprincipled to have any principles to proclaim.

Meantime, stick to agnosticism in regard to those things you don't know. If you don't know a theory to be untrue, don't be kicking those who believe it; if you don't know it is true, don't blame those who doubt it. Yours in light,

JOHN PRESCOTT GUILD.

Remember, if you send us the names and addresses of 25 of your Liberal friends and acquaintances, we will make you a present of a copy of the Torch of Reason Song Book No. 1. This will only cost you a few minutes' work and a 2 cent stamp.

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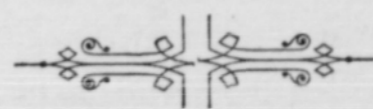
Liberal University



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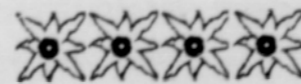
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