

Torch of Reason

The Only Paper of Its Kind.

Published Weekly by the Liberal University Company, in the Interests of Constructive, Moral Secularism.

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Entered at the postoffice at Silverton, Oregon, as second-class mail matter.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

One year, in advance.....	\$1 00
Six months, in advance.....	50
Three months, in advance.....	25
In clubs of five or more, one year, in advance.....	75

Money should be sent by registered letter or money order.

Notice!

A hand pointing to this notice denotes that your subscription has expired. You are earnestly requested to renew so that you may receive the paper without interruption. We have decided that it is best for all concerned that we do not send papers longer than the time paid for unless so ordered. This will prevent any loss and we will know just where we stand.

We request you to send us the names of Secularists who might become subscribers and we will mail sample copies.

THURSDAY, JAN. 26, E. M. 299

Our Cause.

In the last issue of the Freethought Magazine, our friend and co-worker, the editor, writes an excellent article, entitled, "National Freethinker Association for the Twentieth Century". We are fully persuaded that our success depends on organization and will do all in our power to promote such an organization, but our experience teaches us that there must be a test of membership or it will be a flat failure. It must be understood that we do not combat Mr. Green's labor. We are his friends and think his excellent magazine is doing a great work. Neither do we combat his work of organization, but he says that he "spent most of the best years of his life in trying to organize the Liberal people, with very little success." Now others have tried the same thing and it has failed, as it always will fail if the attempted organizations are to consist of all classes who call themselves Liberals. Let the classes organize and the fittest will survive; but actual experience proves that our reasoning is right when we conclude that Spiritualists and Materialists can no more unite in active, progressive, constructive organizations than can the Catholics and Methodists. They might loosely unite on the two-planked platform Mr. Green mentions, but such an organization is capable of doing but little good. The leaders will get the money and use it, but nothing of very great importance will be left to show for it. Then again, among the Freethinkers there is a bold, licentious class, who, if allowed to

control the organization, will make it so filthy with libertinage and free-loveism that the people who are the most to be desired will not be at home in the organization, soon drop out, and down goes the organization, or drags along like a slimy reptile. Our organizations must make some pretensions to morality or they are worse than the Christian churches, whose foundations are laid in immorality, although they will not acknowledge it.

If we can organize on an ethical basis every move our organizations make will amount to something. There is nothing that gives Christianity the lie so much as an honest, moral Infidel, whether it be an individual or an organization.

We do not hope to stop the attempts to organize on the loose lines that the Freethinkers have always been trying, and we have no enmity toward these attempts nor their promoters. We are perfectly well satisfied, however, that they will not accomplish anything of importance, and we will use all our force in organizing on a more concentrated plan; and we wish to say to the honest, moral Secularists of the world, be not deceived; as soon as the best classes in the churches, and out of the churches, find a Freethought organization that is free from filth and superstition they will join by the hundreds and thousands. Of course, after the past record of the so-called Freethought work, it will take such an organization some time to establish a reputation and to get under motion, but after it does it will do that which should have been done long ago, that is, start the world on a rapid march toward its salvation from ignorance and superstitious fear, and almost at once place the government of our civilized land on a purely Secular, scientific basis. This work is a great one, but it can easily be accomplished when a few enthusiastic, well posted, strictly moral men and women in each state are willing to take hold and work.

The constitution of the Oregon State Secular Union is on an ethical basis, and this is a good start. It is not too narrow for broad, liberal-minded Secularists. It provides that every member shall be of good moral character and that the representatives who are sent out to lecture and organize shall have no superstitions and no bad habits to act as stumbling blocks for good men and women who might want to unite with us.

Now we are perfectly satisfied that this definite plan is the only one that can, in the nature of things, succeed, and we invite all who are sick of the old, loose, heterogeneous attempts, to join with us in organizing something that will do some good if it succeeds. We should make no compromise with

evil in any form. We should carefully lay our plans now, and when the morning of the twentieth century dawns we will have a force of true Secular soldiers ready to erect scientific, Freethought forts and arsenals in every state and county in this great country.

Now For It.

Monday morning our new teacher, Miss Jennie Cline, came, and we have commenced to plan the hunt for the wherewithall to clothe our school in a more suitable building. Our present room is crowded to its limit; in fact, it is overflowing, and it is our duty to try to get the two thousand dollars with which to pay our debts and finish the building. Our plans, so far, have only developed to the idea of writing this editorial asking each friend of the cause to do something, and, when our work here is caught up a little, unless some better plan is thought of, we will leave our companions with the "stuff" and we will go in quest of the stuff that is so much needed. Perhaps we will visit the city of Portland first, and if so we may stay there several weeks. But whatever we do we will report through the Torch, and we hope we will not be obliged to stay away long in order to get the two thousand dollars, for the work demands our united efforts in Silverton.

The Wrath of God and His Children.

"By their fruits ye shall know them" is as appropriate for gods and their supernatural religions as for their opposers. The fruits of Jehovah and his doctrines of hell and the bloody atonement are fear, cowardice, worry, insanity, idiotic offspring and crime. How civilization has fought its way up, even to its present position, against such universal, heathenish doctrines is a miracle(?) of the first water.

The fruits of ignorant Christianity is so common among us that many fail to be affected, even though reason tells them that it is ridiculous, fraudulent and injurious. In order to call the attention of our people to the dangers of longer clinging to the old superstitions, let everyone, in some way, publish to the world every infringement which these doctrines lead their devotees to make on the Secular rights of our people, and soon our land will be freed from their hideous, ghostly presence.

Several things have been brought to our notice since our last issue that shows the result of the wrong principles which have been pounded into the heads of Christians from their birth and into the heads of their parents for generations.

A prominent educator of this

county was to be in Silverton at the late session of the teachers' association, but we hear that he was prevented from being present by being arrested for brutally beating a child who was under his care. Whether the gentleman is a Christian or not we know not and it matters not; his use of the rod is Christian doctrine and in accord with the devilish doctrine of eternal punishment.

A few days after the occurrence related above, a lady teacher, who professes the name of Christ and who teaches in the same county, whipped a poor little misguided boy in the face until it bled, the whip leaving cruel red marks at every stroke.

Thoughtless, cruel teachers and parents make the children nearly as bad as they are themselves, and then cruelly beat their tender flesh to revenge the very evils they have taught by example, if not by precept. So it is with their great imaginary teacher, Jehovah, who whips his children into hell for being something like their maker. How these Christian teachers love the children! How their God loves his hell-born creatures! "God is love"? Perhaps he is, but he, and many of his followers, have a poor way of showing it.

At the M. E. church Sunday evening we were entertained by a gentleman whose logic was as faulty as his rhetoric, which is saying much. Only a few of his many blunders and misstatements can be given, but enough to show the weakness of the inspired.

On entering the church, we were unfortunate in seating the ladies and ourself too close to the stove, and not wishing to disturb the worship during a long prayer, we thought of hell several times before we had an opportunity to change our seat. The windows were all closed, however, and we were obliged to disobey one of the greatest laws of health or appear rude, and so we stayed even to the amen of the benediction.

The very first of the sermon put us in a good humor. The preacher spoke of David knowing something by actual experience, and said that probably he had just had family worship. The thought of this old libertine with his many wives having family worship, helped us bear all the abuse heaped upon us poor children of Satan, and, take it all in all, we were glad to be there. The old "song and dance" about there being no hospitals, no charitable institutions, no asylums, etc., where people are not Christians, was dwelt upon; and how we would liked to have shown his audience that when Christianity makes its exit and Secularism takes its place there will be much less need of these things. Christianity is like the cruel teacher whose ex-

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