

## Torch of Reason

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

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### The Coming Church.

As soon as enough Freethinkers have a true conception of the movement now on foot, the old orthodox filth will be swept from our country and in its place will stand the most beautiful and beneficent organization that the world has ever seen. Some think that there should only be one organization, and that that should be the state (in a broad sense) and that, as people become more perfect, this organization will grow more simple until it will take but little time from our regular work to properly govern ourselves; but it little matters what the ultimate outcome is to be, it is certain that an organization of all good men and women into a creedless, Freethought, Secular organization for the uplifting of humanity from the low, superstitious, criminal state in which we now find it, is needed, and when enough of us learn that nothing short of perfect abandonment of everything which destroys reason—everything which prevents development, will succeed, then we will see the old churches crumble and the new Church of Humanity blossom like the rose.

The Christian churches have had great success in getting members by making people believe that some wonderful change, called conversion, has come upon them, and oftentimes the victims of this blunder have really been changed (converted) to better conditions as far as this secular life is concerned. But what is now needed is a church that will contain no deception, for such a church will convert thousands to the true religion of progress

and right living while the orthodox churches are converting one to the love of Jesus with an occasional benefit of better morals. This Church of Humanity is coming! Many now working in the ranks of orthodoxy will "leave the poor old stranded wreck" and join, while all true Secularists will hail the happy day.

That element among the orthodox which is so filled with the holy ghost that they can not see straight will still skirmish around the borders with their little bands until death relieves the world of their superfluous presence; and many social pirates now trying to sail under the banner of Liberalism will finally individually kick themselves to death, and the world will sail on to higher things than its dark night of ignorant supernaturalism and its riotous sensualism.

By looking into the magic glass of history, ground smooth and polished by the friction of contending religions, we behold the religion of the future. Stop it? The popes, priests and preachers of superstition, the proselytes of the devil of wantonness and all the corruptionists now occupying high places can no more stop it than a band of ignorant fishermen can stop the tide.

Children who are brought up to self-control, honesty and purity will join the church without conversion. They are already natural members, and will only have to seek the fellowship of those who are working for righteousness in an organized form to be admitted. Others who are tainted with the life-destroying habits and thoughts condemned by philosophers of all ages and, by experience, proven to be detrimental to our race, will be converted to honesty, purity and mental freedom before being allowed the high position of a worker.

The rules of the coming church will be very easily understood, but they will be very strict. There will be thorough conversion before fellowship is gained, and if one lapses back into the barbarous ways of our ancestors he will be immediately placed outside the gates by these latter-day puritans.

The coming church will be a church of education. Those who have grown up in the work of teaching know that education is the hope of the world. They also know that if they could pick out the right thinking boys and girls, some of them now grown men and women, and organize a school, it would be a wonderfully progressive school and one that would do much good; for good people of mental capacity coming in contact with each other will evolve many great and beneficent ideas. Now there are many teachers, and every one of them knows of many such people. They are scattered all over the world. Their teachers respect

them and they love each other as brothers and sisters. There are also others who have never had the advantages of such school relations but nevertheless are of the same kind. They not only want to do right, but they do right. The coming church will be the school of schools, and will gather these willing and capable ones into an organized, working form, and then the world will begin to come to its senses. People will rapidly be converted to Secularism. The mists will roll away, and instead of being known by names of hatred—Infidel, Methodist, Jew, Catholic, Mohammedan—the past enmities gone, and a' that and a' that, we'll brothers be for a' that.

There are many whose conception of the causes of the ills of humanity is so poor and whose own shortcomings so prejudice them against the real remedy, that they will combat every attempt along the lines of the coming church, but no great idea ever entered the world a perfectly welcome guest, and so this, the true religion with science, the true savior of man, as its guide, may wait the baptism of a few more in the Jordan of rational thought; but we who expect to do all our work this side of the stillness we call death, are very anxious to see all we can of this good work before we lie down to sleep.

How can we best apply our energies?

### Sectarian Schools Favored.

A. W. Prescott, of Salem, Ore., in the Oregonian of the 13th inst., writes an article we wish every reader of the Torch of Reason might read. It shows what the orthodox people will do when they have a chance and what they are doing. Mr. Prescott says:

"The people of Oregon may well view with alarm the relations which exist between the State University and the Eugene Divinity School." Then he shows the facts, quoting from the announcements of both schools and the late bill passed by the legislature, which proves beyond doubt that the state is aiding the preacher mill at Eugene.

Why, think of it! The State University is largely made up of these embryonic preachers, who get full credit for their work from the one without examination in the other, and pass from the state school into the divinity school, just as from one grade into another of the same school.

But what can Freethinkers expect? We are too easy-going, and allow the fanatics to monopolize everything and stand coolly by and see our own people driven to the wall. Freethought teachers must now keep their mouths shut or be blackened as black as tar by foul slander while the advocates of the

old dogmas are honored for their hypocrisy and ignorance.

A Christian thinks of his church (his god) first and of the people he serves afterwards. Nearly all the state schools in the state of Oregon are practically sectarian institutions, and the only reason that people do not know it is because of Christian deceit.

The divinity school above mentioned is within a few steps of the State University, and the following are quotations from its catalogue:

"The university department of Greek under Professor John Straub is so complete and thorough, including New Testament Greek, that it meets all our requirements in the divinity course. The same may be said of all the departments with which we have associated our course of study, such as the departments of elocution, mental science, literature, geology, philosophy, sociology, etc.

"Although these schools have no ORGANIC CONNECTION, our students may avail themselves of all the advantages given by the University of Oregon. We make a specialty of the divinity course, and offer no studies given in the university. . . We present below the ministerial course. It is so arranged that part of the studies MUST BE TAKEN IN THE UNIVERSITY. . . THE UNIVERSITY GIVES CREDIT FOR CERTAIN WORK IN THE DIVINITY SCHOOL."

Then follows the list of studies, specifying which are taught in the university.

"Do you wish to study for the ministry? Then consider: that the university affords ample facilities for training in elocution and voice culture."

Then follow over three pages setting forth the advantages of the UNIVERSITY CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS and two pages devoted to the university:

"This growing institution, located in the city of Eugene, and adjacent to the campus of the University of Oregon, WITH WHICH ITS RELATIONS ARE MOST CORDIAL, had its inception in the brain of the present dean, E. C. Sanderson. . . And without tuition and within one block are all the advantages offered by the University of Oregon."

In the twelfth biennial report of the superintendent of public instruction is found these statements, among others, in regard to the divinity school:

"The terms begin and end with those of the university. Divinity students may avail themselves of all the advantages given by the University of Oregon. They are admitted without examination on the recommendation of the dean. No studies given in the university are offered in the divinity school. . . All students looking toward the ministry are invited to