

not make right. There is a better way to civilize and conquer inferior people than to kill and subdue them by force of arms. The same amount of energy and money, with the great loss of life, that has been expended in the war with poor Spain and the innocent Philippines could have been applied in such a manner as to have been far more productive of good to all nations; but as it is, the children of today and those yet unborn, in all nations concerned, are cursed by this hellish war, which some are pleased to call a war for humanity. Spain was cruel to Cuba. Did the good men of this nation really and truly want to save the island for the people to whom it rightfully belongs? Then do these wise men not know a better way than bloody war?

The amount of money paid for warships, for big and little guns, for powder and bullets and bombs, for uniforms and useless red tape, for officers' salaries, for transportation and for the millions of other expenses would have established schools of science in Spain, in Cuba and in the Philippines, furnished them with books, apparatus and professors of the highest grade, and this in such numbers as to have really converted all to the beautiful, saving religion of Humanity and Science. But no! the schools (including churches) that are established and that Christians propose to force upon these poor, ignorant people uphold the devilish doctrine of destruction—of hell here and hell hereafter, excepting for a few elite who are to occupy mansions in the skies.

War is never best. It can now be avoided if we only know how, and science, freed from the dry rot of myth and mystery, will show us the way. "The world is my country; to do good is my religion," said one of the noblest of men, and we believe this is true Secularism. As we contemplate and try to comprehend it, our mental arms go searching to clasp the poor American boys who have been made to think it the height of courage and honor to subjugate others by brute force and stratagem; they go to Cuba and there would clasp our brothers who have suffered so much because of the wrongs of war; they cross the ocean to old Spain and there would comfort the old fathers and mothers whose sons were killed while obeying the awful commands of this evil demon; they stretch across the Pacific to the dusky brothers of the Philippines, who are being slain or forced to yield to a slavery whose yoke appears more cruel to them than death.

The peace that is purchased by murder is not honorable. Let us as individuals and as nations learn to earn the good things we enjoy by labor, not by rapine and plunder.

Let the brains of the coming men and women so abhor war and its everlasting, evil effects that peace on earth and good will to men will really and truly come. Call it lack of patriotism, if you will, but we have no more desire to kill a brother across the Atlantic or the Pacific, either alone or with an army, than we have to kill a brother across the Willamette or the Mississippi; and we would run some risk of losing our own life before we would do such a bloody deed. The wholesale murder called war is wrong, WRONG, WRONG!

The Greatest Enemy.

The enemy which all should dread most and fight hardest is fraud. No matter what the end in view may be, if an enterprise is one of deceit, it is an enemy to human society and should be treated as such.

The Torch of Reason caters to no fraud. If it makes mistakes, it makes them ignorantly and is more desirous of their correction than any one else can be.

The Liberal University is yet weak financially, but it is strong in its foundation of absolute honesty of purpose. We are sometimes afraid that our friends' imaginations will picture the work we have done in such a way as to make them feel, when they become better acquainted with it, that we have misrepresented things. All know that the tendency of those who are trying to inaugurate a great enterprise of this kind is to exaggerate and make things appear as rosy as possible; but we have always endeavored to tell the exact truth, and really do not want to deceive any one. We invite investigation. We frankly admit that we have accomplished little compared with what we would like to have accomplished. Yet we have done our best.

There are many frauds in the world, and we do not care to add another to the list; so if the people who are interested in Free-thought work honestly believe, after our three years' struggle, that we are not worthy of their support, we invite them to let us die. Those who are our natural enemies, because of their own weakness which we may have touched upon, should not, however, be allowed as witnesses against us. Our friends, those who know what our work has been, and our most intelligent students should be heard before the black cap of neglect is drawn over our eyes.

Freethinkers, there are many frauds which might be destroyed by the establishment of our Liberal University. Which must live, the Christian fraud, its offspring and assistants, or shall we who know the truth come to the front? It takes but little help from each one to make our institution a great triumph.

What is your verdict?

...The .

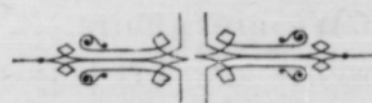
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