

## Torch of Reason

The Only Paper of Its Kind.

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

THURSDAY, JULY 6, E. M. 299.

### OUR PLAN COMPLETE.

Ever since we started the Liberal University, three years ago, we have been working to find some practical and safe plan to incorporate and place the institution on a firm, perpetual basis. For this purpose we have engaged the best legal talent in our state and in the East, and at last we have found what we want. The plan is very well outlined in this issue by Mr. Geer and Mr. Wakeman, therefore we need not enlarge upon that. But there is one thought we wish to emphasize. It now lies in the power of the representative Liberals of the United States to take stock in what can be made, if they will but take stock, one of the greatest movements of our age. Every stockholder will have a voice and vote in the institution, and that without ever being assessed to help support it. It is practically impossible for our University to fail now for we have engaged the hearty sympathy and co-operation of the best and highest Freethought talent in the world. How can it fail with such friends as are now actively engaged in the work?

We must begin building right away in order to get the building ready before winter sets in, or we cannot finish it this year, thus blocking the work and preventing our continuing the school. We are obliged, on account of conditions imposed by one of our main stock purchasers, to sell \$10,000 worth before we can go ahead. Now, if every Freethinker will take right hold in dead earnest and purchase as many shares as he or she can, we can simply astonish the orthodox natives of this great republic in short order. Come on; let us do it! We have already sold over two thousand dollars' worth, but

our experience is that such things lag along toward the last. Let us prevent this by every one doing his best promptly. Every Freethinker should be identified in this great work to the full extent of his ability. Thomas Paine said, during the great revolutionary struggle of our republic, "These are the times that try men's souls," and we feel that, now we Freethinkers have an opportunity to show our mettle in an educational battle to wrest from the hands of ignorant bigotry the instrumentalities of civilization, we should not prove ourselves to be "summer soldiers," by waiting for others or for more favorable conditions. The army of Freethought needs our strength as a breastwork against a worse tyrant than a King George; and now, shall we not all move on, shoulder to shoulder, in a grand, onward movement, and, with our banners of freedom flying, gain a glorious victory?

### LEAVEN OF INTELLIGENCE.

When the Liberals have schools, Sunday schools and lecture rooms, how long will the orthodox institutions survive? The main cause of our many defeats in the past is on account of the superior organizations of our opposers. And what has been the cause of our lack of ability to organize? Is it not that we have tried to take in everything that is against orthodoxy? We believe it is. If there were no Christian churches today, and some one would endeavor to organize all who now claim to be Christian, he would have a big job on his hands. The various ideas of the various sects might not cause more bloodshed than has been in the past on account of different interpretations of God's word, but it must be acknowledged that much contention and, at last, complete defeat would be the result. Neither can all who are not Christians form a progressive, working organization. Moral Secularists, that is, those who believe in, and work for, the good of this world without reference or belief in a life after death, can very nicely affiliate and build up organizations of the highest and most progressive type. The one thing lacking now is a sufficient number who are able and willing to organize and conduct such unions. The Liberal University proposes to overcome this difficulty by educating workers for this, the most productive field of human thought. To be sure, all who graduate from our institution may not become lecturers, but many will; and it will not take many Ingersolls to make a glorious change in the spirit of the old orthodox nightmare, and those who do not become lecturers will become writers, teachers, intelligent farmers, merchants and mechanics, and this leaven of intelligence will leaven the whole lump.

### Why a Liberal University.

BY T. B. WAKEMAN.

The statement of Mr. Pearl W. Geer and his coadjutors in regard to the establishing of the Liberal School at Silverton, Oregon, shows that it has been so far successful that it surely indicates that a trend has been struck which only needs to be followed to bring most useful and desirable results—desirable to all those who appreciate that our country has reached a stage of progress in which the higher Liberal education and Secular culture of a large mass of its people is the condition of further progress under Republican institutions, and probably of their continuance.

Our Republic must be saved by a higher Secular Education.

Our common school education is excellent as far as it goes, but it only covers "the three Rs" and those rudiments of learning which are merely the instruments by which any higher education must be reached. The sciences, such as economics, politics, ethics, art, and the religious meanings of science and humanity, in a word, the higher and final motives and purposes of life, and all of its higher hopes and aspirations remain to be determined.

The universities and colleges which were founded in the past to reach this higher education were, with rare exceptions, brought into existence to educate clergymen of the "revealed religions," or their supporters in other professions, which then and now generally dominate the ultimate hopes, aspirations, and hence the morals and general conduct of the masses of the people; except in so far as they have been left to drift into the indifference and degradation of a nothingarian vanity, brutality, and selfish pessimism. The result is an interregnum as to the higher religious, social, moral, aesthetic, and aspirational nature of men.

The old religions and their clergy and churches complain that our public education is "Atheistic," and wholly deficient; but they cannot remedy the deficiency in the face of science, which has thoroughly discredited them as to their revelations, methods, and objects. Nor can the existing colleges, even those most free from theology, furnish the remedy. They were not organized to take the place of the churches, and do not even try to do so; but in the meantime they are in mortal fear of offending the powerful churches and their supporters, and thus losing their patronage. Therefore any scientific or other teaching which would be inconsistent with the theologies, and the "vested interests" which sustain them is dropped, omitted, or modified. Our young people who go to colleges therefore cannot get

an education which is fit for Liberals, that is, emancipated peoples, and which would fully and impartially cover and stimulate the modern higher culture and motives of life. That has been left to the family, the Sunday schools and the churches, and their special colleges, all notoriously deficient, and not in the modern world at all.

It results that Liberals cannot find the sciences fully and fairly taught, but only such science, and in such a way as the popular superstitions happen to believe may be "safe" to their catechumens, and the people at large; all other science is avoided, or warned against as "science falsely so called." The prevailing religionists find "no conflict between science and religion," only when they can control, or dictate or nullify scientific instruction as they like. When this is not done by perversion or omission, it is done by overwhelming the student by details, mostly useless or ornamental, under the pretense or motive of "thoroughness." Thus the uses and meaning of the great laws of the sciences in replacing superstition with truth are lost. The student is fenced in and stunted, or worse, and only learns enough to be a good Catholic, Presbyterian, or other religionist. This was the method adopted by the Jesuits to defeat the Reformation, and it has been followed by every religious sect and denomination since, for it is the most easy, cruel and effective mode of arresting growth and progress known.

This is using science to defeat its main object; for it should never be forgotten that the first and main object of science, as set forth by the original Greek scientists—beautifully re-stated by Lucretius—was not so much to practice utilities, astonishingly great as these have been, but its power to remove superstition, emancipate the heart and mind of man, and develop and expand his nature in the highest degree. True education instead of defeating this primary object, should never lose sight of it as a purpose to be attained.

Such is the general nature of the education open to the comparatively wealthy few, who alone have the means and opportunity to enjoy the privilege of a higher education. It is fearful to think that the masses of the people have no opportunity for a higher Liberal education at all. Yet upon them the future of progress and of the Republic rests. Those who are taught to live and pray for a "kingdom" to come, are even worse off than those who live only for themselves and the necessities of the hour. The latter may have no mainspring of aspiration to sustain the Republic, but they have not a false one, pressing one for its destruction. Thus the spell of the old religions still hangs like a pall of darkness