

Little Torches.

BY W. E. JOHNSON.

The one lesson which we need to learn above everything else is to have complete confidence in God.—[Advance.

That is the identical lesson which the bunco man seeks to teach his bucolic acquaintance before selling him a gold brick. Yes, "confidence" is essential in swindling enterprises.

When we seek to stand only with and for God, he will, without any seeking on our part, give us the favor of all whom we need and whom he can use.—[Omaha Christian Advocate.

Then wherein is the object of prayer? Is it to pull God's leg for something that you ought not to have?

Let any of his friends or followers ask themselves this one question, What good did he (Col. Ingersoll) ever do? Leaving God out of the question, in what respects was man made the happier or the better?—[Presbyterian Journal.

He chased a cruel monster out of the skies with a whip of small cords.

He made it possible for a person to express his honest thoughts without being boycotted in society and business.

He scourged the Christian church until it acquitted their God of damning innocent babies.

He forced clerical leaders to admit that Moses filled the Pentateuch with colossal blunders.

As a result of his labors, the fires of hell have been put out and the infernal regions are for rent.

He compelled the Christian church to substitute a god capable of love for the horned dragon Jehovah.

He forced Christian theologians to confess that God did not inspire the blunders, falsehoods and obscurity of the Bible.

He made the high water mark in oratory of his generation. The sweet fragrance of his home life has been breathed into ten thousand Christian kraals.

If you wish to know of any more "good things" which Col. Ingersoll did, ask any one of the thousand unfortunates who have been fed at his table, who have been clothed from his purse, and who have personally shared in four-fifths of the money which he ever earned.

Our offer of the Torch of Reason and the Oregonian for \$1.50 is at an end and we now return to the old rate of \$1.75, which is very reasonable, and we hope to get many subscriptions to both papers. Torch of Reason, \$1.00; Oregonian, \$1.50—\$2.50 for only \$1.75.

Are you acquainted with the merits of the Forstner auger bit?

A Revision of Definitions.

The meanings of words often used in religious controversies have been unsettled by recent changes. I suggest the following definitions:

1. **SECULARIST:** One who believes in the complete separation of church and state, in the taxation of church property and the freedom of legislation from favoritism to sects.

2. **HIGHER BIBLICAL CRITIC:** One who, while adhering to the church and the essential doctrines of religion, denies the plenary literal inspiration of the 66 books of the Bible, subjects each one to the rules of historical and literary criticism and carefully separates religious truth from legends, national traditions, literary embellishments and errors in matters of science.

3. **CHRISTIAN:** One who is born of Christian parents, or in a country known as Christian, or who is a member of some sect which professes the religion of Christ in some form. Unitarians and Universalists are included, although they deny theological dogmas regarded as essential by the evangelical sects. Mormons are excluded, although they believe in the inspiration of the Bible.

4. **FREETHINKER:** One who rejects the right of the church and the clergy to prescribe his beliefs, and maintains his individual right to think for himself in matters of religion.

5. **SKEPTIC:** A non-church member who doubts the credibility or sufficiency of the evidences of Christianity.

6. **INFIDEL:** An opprobrious epithet applied by Mohammedans to Christians and vice versa, and by Christians to an offensive unbeliever.

7. **UNBELIEVER:** A Pagan, or heathen, or other person, who has not accepted the religious belief of the person who uses it.

8. **DEIST:** A person who believes in one God, a divine providence and natural religion, but rejects mythologies and theologies.

9. **PANTHEIST:** One who believes that the universe, with its forces and laws, is God.

10. **ATHEIST:** One who denies that there is any God. Denying that the Jehovah of the Old Testament is God, does not make a man an Atheist.

11. **AGNOSTIC:** One who, in regard to important tenets held by the Church, says "I do not know."

Submitted for consideration,
WILLIAM BIRNEY.
—[Boston Investigator.

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