

Freethought, which is the necessary condition of political freedom, which was and must be preserved as the foundation of the Republic itself.

Never has any time or occasion more impressively called for the assertion of this fundamental Liberty than the present. In all ways this is true we dare not begin to state, for our space and time fail to cover what must rise in the mind as the shadows darken the future, which future was made clear to us by the teachings and example of the great Liberal, Thomas Paine and his co-workers.

At one time we thought that the only way for whom we are pleased to call the real Secularists to have their ideas fairly represented and pushed to the front was to build another national organization, but we look forward to this twenty-third Congress with great hopes, and believe that the most important questions will be settled in a way satisfactory to the workers and to the interests of mental liberty.

We understand that among the important matters to be passed upon by this Congress will be that of further and thorough organization of Liberals in each State. The time for that great measure was never more opportune. All the differences which have troubled and unsettled the past have scarcely left a ripple behind. The administration of Pres. Remsburg seems to have been like that of Pres. Monroe, "the era of good feeling" and reconciliation. Such is the time when the future may be placed upon a solid basis of Secular harmony in each and every State of the Union.

Let the Liberals from the Pacific Coast who can attend prepare to be candidates as delegates, and those who may be in the East on business or pleasure, signify that they will act as such if appointed. For the great West ought to be well represented.

#### To The Freethinkers of America.

The twenty-third Annual Congress of the American Secular Union and Freethought Federation will be held in Boston, Nov. 17th, 18th and 19th. For the first time in the history of the society a Congress is to be held in New England. Paine Hall has been tendered for the occasion and Boston Freethinkers will do all in their power to make it a notable gathering. The success of the coming Congress is assured.

While the results of the present year have not been all that could be desired, the society has accomplished much good. Thousands of pamphlets and papers advocating the principles of Freethought have been distributed. Documents relating to state Secularization have been sent to members of Congress and State Legislators.

In California, Montana and other states, legislation inimical to religious liberty have been defeated. In several states bills for the repeal or modification of the Sunday laws were introduced and found many supporters. In Nebraska a bill providing for the taxation of church property was passed by the House. The society is preparing for more effective work in this field. In nearly every state committees have been appointed to look after legislation and other matters of interest to the society. In every state, a bill for the taxation of church property, the repeal of the Sunday laws, or the prohibition of religious teaching in the public schools, should be introduced at the next session of the Legislature. The Union is now in a condition to render efficient aid in this work and all efforts for that or similar purposes should be reported to the secretary, so as to receive the support and aid of this national organization.

The further organization of the Liberals in every state will be prominently brought before the Congress, and representatives from every section of our country are necessary to make this union of the friends of intellectual liberty effective, both for our own defense and the furtherance of the cause they have at heart.

Let every Eastern Freethinker attend this Congress. Let as many as possible of our Western friends attend. Able speakers will address the Congress, inspiring music will be furnished and good fellowship will abound. With the roses of joy will be mingled the rue of grief. Since we last met two of our Presidents have died our great and beloved leader, Col. Ingersoll, and our able and worthy brother, Dr. Westbrook. Arrangements have already been made for an Ingersoll Memorial meeting to occupy one session of the Congress.

The expenses attending a great National Convention are large. To meet these expenses we shall rely as heretofore upon the generosity of our Liberal friends. Contributions for the purpose should be sent at once to the Treasurer, Otto Wettstein, Rochelle, Ill.; to the Secretary, E. C. Reichwald, 141 S. Water St., Chicago, Ill.; or to the Editor of this paper.

J. E. REMSBURG, Pres.,  
Atchison, Kas.

E. C. REICHWALD, Sec.,  
141 S. Water St., Chicago, Ill.

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.

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\*Dr. Leonard has consented to take this chair until some one can be found to fill it permanently.

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