THE TORCH OF REASON, SILVERTON, OREGON, OCTOBER 26, 1899.

Skepticism and Crime.

Those of our readers who are ac- EDITOR TORCH OF REASON: quainted with the contents of the I received some of your announcelittle pamphlet, The Crimes of ments of the Liberal University and the statistics of religious belief of friends. Some of them said that they prisoners, that have been spread were going to subscribe for the before them from time to time by Torch; but I have been absent for writers for the Freethought press, some time and just returned, and are doubtless aware that all of the have scarcely seen anyone yet, but crime in the world is not due to the you may count on my getting all to influence of skepticism, even if our subscribe that 1 can. clerical friends would have it so unso strongly that the ethical un- slaves to corrupt priestcraft. soundness of supposedly inspired dogmas is perceived. In other in your work, does not express my sult of the perception of wrong in able to give enough to finish the the face of almost universal testi- school. mony that wrong is right. So it is a fair presumption that the unbeliever is one whose tendencies are not toward crime.

Now comes the well known Italian anthropologist, Cæsare Lombroso, who has been investigating certain matters concerning the relation between religion and crime, brave! Nothing so bad about it, and says that church people are about half honest persons and half knaves, and that sometimes the knaves predominate. On the other hand, skepticism he finds to be almost devoid of criminal predilections, and he quotes Ferri as finding but one skeptic among seven hundred criminals. Lombroso attributes this state of affairs to the predominating ethical sense which exists in communities abounding in skeptics. Lombroso further finds that the older a religion becomes, the more marked the line of cleavage between the religious and ethical, or moral, natures is displayed, from which it is to be inferred that the antiquity of the Christian religion ligion and their native land. And is not something upon which to lay this, we may add, is good Catholic particular stress, after all. In new religions, the ethical and moral [Sentinel. mingle; as time passes the religious begins to predominate to the detrireligious exists largely at the expense of the ethical.

Will Help All He Can.

While I am old myself and can derstood. As a matter of fact, the not take time now to get the eduinfluence of Freethought is directly cation that 1 ought to have had in in opposition to criminally invasive my younger days, I like to see the tendencies, for Freethought arises young brought up under the influin a religious community when ence of truth, so that they will be somebody develops the ethical sense an honor instead of disgraceful

To say that I wish you success words, skepticism is the direct re- feelings, and I wish that I was only

Yours respectfully,

K. B. ANDERSON. Albany, Ore., Oct. 19, 1899.

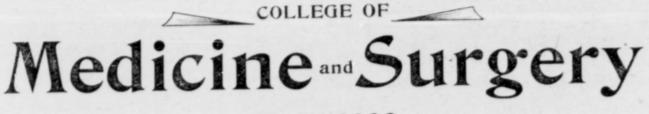
We have to accept the fact of death in spite of our "hunger and thirst" for continuous physical life, why not eternal death? Let us be after all, if Christianity is not true -and we know it is not .-- [Otto Wettstein

We are told that Christian science teaches that the ultimate man is to be god-like. If Christian science will now describe one or two gods, we shall be in a position to get very well acquainted with our descendants .--- [Investigator.

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6

true, by well informed persons, for school.

a long time. We understand that anthropology is not taught at theogator.

The pope has addressed a letter to the Brazilian bishops, in which he tells them they should interest themselves in public affairs, and that leading priests might well even enter congress, for the benefit of redoctrine in the United States .-

A photograph has been taken of ment of the ethical; and at last the the faculty of the Liberal University, and we have them for sale at fifty cents each, postpaid. This is

It is needless to remark that the a splendid picture, $5\frac{1}{2}x8$ inches, results of Lombroso's investiga- mounted on a fine, large card, tions are extremely gratifying to ready for framing. Every friend the Liberal world, though the dis- of the Liberal University ought to tinguished anthropologist simply have one of these photographs. The expresses in authoritative form group consists of thirteen persons, what has long been supposed to be and is a splendid showing for our

Remember, if you send us the logical seminaries, and, indeed, names and addresses of 25 of there is no good reason why it your Liberal friends and acquaintshould be. A faultless mechanism ancces, we will make you a present has no place in a junk shop, and a of a copy of the Torch of Reason useful science has no place in a Song Book No. 1. This will only Christian school.- [Boston Investi- cost you a few minutes' work and a two-cent stamp.

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