

Torch of Reason

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

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MENTAL STOMACH-ACHE.

The only true education is the one which leaves the graduate's mind open to new truth, with an intense desire to learn more. There are those who are not capable of being educated, and there are those who are falsely educated. They are stuffed full of dry mental food, or with false mental stimulants, until they can not assimilate what is a great treat to more healthy minds.

The active yet tender brains of our youth, like their stomachs, need what they crave. They want the simple, wholesome truths that lie all around them. Nature has painted the fruits of the earth in the most beautiful colors and placed them within easy reach of all. We may have to climb a little, to be sure, but we have the necessary strength. So it is with the mental fruits in which all youth so much delight. The child's open-eyed wonder, and its desire to handle and taste every new thing it sees, are as well known as its fondness for pears and apples.

But all educational institutions, excepting the Liberal University, either give to their students the poisonous fruits of ancient myth or fail to educate them to detect the good from the bad. Students who have to swallow doses of miracles and divinities are not apt to have mental stomachs fit to digest the truths of science or to enjoy the wholesome fruits of reason. A man or woman may not know just why

everything pertaining to study is disgusting, but in many, many cases the nausea has been caused by an attempt to digest something indigestible—a mental stomach-ache. And what, we would ask, is more indigestible than the religion of Jesus Christ, with its miracles and mysteries, its three-in-one and its everywhere-present god?

It is small wonder that religious teachings begin to be prohibited in our public schools; that in the large cities preachers give "lectures" and entertainments instead of the old-time sermons; that such men as Ingersoll are written about instead of being burned at the stake; that Christian schools are dwindling while the Liberal University is being built, and that the world is growing wiser and better.

Thaddeus B. Wakeman, professor of sociology in the Liberal University, continually reminds us that we should not "despise the day of small things", and it is good advice, Give our L. U. O. (luo) a few more years of as healthy growth as we have had in the last three, and the world will have learned a lesson never to be forgotten. Friends of liberty, let us be up and doing.

"While yet 'tis day astir we must be,
Ere comes the night, when no one can see!"

THE WEST AND ITS OPPORTUNITIES.

It is perfectly natural that we who are building an educational institution in the West should try to induce people to "come over into Macedonia and help us". But we try very hard not to exaggerate, and what we say in the Torch about the great West is exactly in accord with our convictions.

The physical, mental and financial condition of the individual who lands on the Pacific Coast of course makes a difference, but looking at it in a general way, we can't conceive how people can make a mistake by coming to the vast wonder land of natural resources "where rolls the Oregon".

There are great opportunities here for the investment of capital, and those who have money and know how to use it will come and are coming where the raw material is at hand and where the market is at the doors of the manufactories. Millions of pounds of wool are shipped away East, made up into clothing and shipped back West. We have as good a hide producing country as is in the world, and plenty of hemlock (white) bark, rich in tannin properties, yet our hides go across the continent and our shoes (billions of them every year) are shipped from the extreme East.

Why, under these conditions, would it not pay Eastern capitalists to invest in tanneries and shoe

manufactories right here? Nearly all the vast quantity of farm machinery used on the great fields of our Pacific States are made in the East, while our coal and iron lie undisturbed in the bosom of our mountains, and our giant oaks wait to be turned into wagons and plow-beams or are wastefully burned in clearing the land.

Our mountain streams are waiting to be harnessed, and thousands of our people are longing to show their skill and industry. Bicycles by the millions are shipped to the Willamette valley, and in a few years automobiles will be seen in our land. What a great thing they will be for old "Web Foot," but what a tax in the form of freight we will send out to enrich the railroad magnates to the detriment of our producers.

All these things, with the great quantity of sugar (we can raise the sugar beet very abundantly), paper, cutlery, furniture, etc., etc., that could be easily made here makes this one of the greatest fields for the investment of money, brains and muscle in the world. From these facts we conclude that to come West is a great thing for those who are blessed with money, brains or muscle. And our young but growing institution of Free-thought education will hail with delight those who tear themselves away from the orthodox East to gain a foothold on the virgin soil of the more Liberal West. Come and see!

HELL—AN OFFSPRING OF RELIGION.

Every thinker knows that all our ideas of a hell have been forced upon us by the supernatural religions of the world. The idea-hell, is the only hell there is, excepting as the word is used as a figure of speech to represent the misery here on earth. Now it is plain to all Freethinkers that religion is at fault, not only for the horrible idea which has frightened and stunted so many millions of minds, and thus prevented the intellectual growth of the world, but the hell we have on earth has been kept up and its fires fed by these hell-begotten and hell-begetting religions.

Harmony is heaven; discord is hell. And where in all the universe can be found anything that has propagated more discord, more war, more bloodshed, more misery, than the supernatural religions?

But the Christian religion is a religion of love, says a dear sister; but let the suppressed historical fact once be known and thoroughly digested, that the Christian religion has caused more blood to flow from the veins of innocent men, women and children than any other religion, and then it will be abhorred as a religion of hate. But the bloodshed story is only a small part of

the tale of discord and woe. Bloodshed is usually the final result of religious discord, but the discord itself is hell.

A man and wife who disagree on the religious question can not have the same degree of heavenly harmony that they otherwise would have. To be sure they can agree to let the question drop, but there is very little comfort in being obliged to avoid mentioning a subject so very important to the well-being of a growing family, as the discussions of the great questions of the human family's origin and its final destiny. Both partners think they are right, and must necessarily think of the other's religious fancies as a weakness, and this does not promote love and happiness. The children will side with one parent or the other. They can not be as discreet as the older ones. If they all side with the father, the mother is hurt, and vice versa. If they disagree then discord reigns. Now what is true of a family is true of a neighborhood, a nation and a world.

What can't be cured must be endured, and for many years to come families and nations may wrangle and suffer the fires of a discordant hell; but when Secularism has taken the place of all supernatural religions, from the family relations to the doings of nations the foundations of intercourse will be what we do know and what we can learn, and not what many are trying to believe, through their fear of priestly theories, concerning godish devils, devilish gods, a worthless present and a "dreadful to be." Then discord will cease; wars will be a nightmare of the past; good and not God will be worshiped; earthly angels will bless the earth, and heaven will be here!

THE WAY TO HEAVEN.

Harmony is heaven, but discord and war are hell; and the greatest controversies that the people of the world have ever had has been on account of the different ideas regarding the stories of the priests and prophets of more ancient times. For, whenever new truths have been discovered, they have most always contradicted the old religious stories, and of course the priests would naturally try to protect their own theories by subduing the new ones.

Thus we read of the thumbscrews with which innocent, but progressive people were hung up by the thumbs until they promised to believe their own hard-earned discoveries no more. People have been burned at the stake. They have had their limbs pulled from their sockets—murdered in hundreds of awful ways for the sake of what they knew to be the honest truth. In barbarous countries this warfare between priests and honest, advanced thinkers, is