

still going on; but among our own dear Caucasian people these heathenish ways of argument are rapidly going, never to return; and we have the glorious privilege of seeking out all the truth we can. Yes, we are urged to do so; and what astonishing strides we have made since, in our own dear America—the land of the free and the home of the brave—in our own dear Columbia—the gem of the ocean, those great Freethinkers, Washington, Paine, Jefferson and Adams formed our great Republic on the principles of Secularism.

We must look at things in a broad, clear light. We must study and think as those brave men did, or, in this wonderful age of scientific truth and progress, we will be nothing but derelicts on the great ocean of life. We owe the liberty we have now to brave men who dared, in the face of opposition, to study, and work and fight for the prosperity of their posterity; and we could not have had a Liberal University if they had not thus toiled for truth, and love and liberty. Let us then do our part and do it well; be happy in thus doing, and live forever by our good words and works in the earthly paradise that will surely come!

For the Torch of Reason.

#### Sunday School Morality.

BY F. S. MATTESON.

Straws show which way the wind blows, and little episodes illustrate the fruits of certain theories and teachings.

There is in this place an old lady who, though unable to do much work, takes considerable pains to raise a few flowers. She has always been very liberal with her flowers, giving them with a generous hand and kindly feeling. Now it is late in the season and she has but a very few left. Some choice ever-blooming roses stood near the fence, and while many persons stopped to admire them, they remained untouched.

Yesterday two schoolgirls came along—the elder about fifteen, tall and well grown, a Sunday school pupil and a member of the M. E. church. She leaned over the fence and gathered all the roses within reach. The younger girl, looking up at the window and seeing that they were observed, spoke in a low tone to her companion and they scudded away like scared rabbits, and the last autumn roses, in which the feeble old woman had taken pride and pleasure, went to adorn the person of a young and physically vigorous Methodist girl, who by her actions showed that she felt herself to be a petty thief.

And of such is the (Christian) kingdom of heaven.

I could give quite a number of instances of this sort, in Turner, all

samples of Christian Sunday school and church morality. Turner is a Christian-dominated place. The money value of these petty pilferings is 'nil', but their moral value is considerable, as showing that Christianity is not a moral force. The Christian Sunday school pupils are, as a rule, much more inclined to be saucy, ill-mannered, foul-spoken and pilfering than those of Infidels.

But this is not to be wondered at when statistics show that Christian priests and preachers are the most liable to criminal acts of any class of people in civilization; and that their crimes are almost all directed to stealing from the helpless, or committed with, or against women; seldom, if ever, committing crimes which require nerve, and grit and daring.

I have also observed, that in Christian persecution of the Infidel, it is almost invariably the timid or helpless against whom their rancor and spiteful acts are directed.

The fighter, who is able and disposed to pay them back in their own coin or otherwise, is left severely alone. The feeble and helpless is the prey which they are hunting for. Any person who is well posted and has courage and is apt to argue, the Christian steers clear of. And so all along the line it is: "Resist the (Christian) devil and he will flee from you."

A very small, but vigorous Secular organization in a place can modify Christian churchanity wonderfully.

Turner, Ore.

For the Torch of Reason.

#### Petty Religious Spite-work.

BY EMMA B. LEE.

I taught school this summer, two miles from home and a few steps from a country church. Of course there had to be a protracted meeting at that church during the term of school. There was preaching every day at 11 a. m. and at night for about two weeks. Well, I made up my mind at the beginning of the meetings that I would attend to my work and let the preacher do his work.

In a few days after the meeting began, however, two of the patrons came to the school-house about church time and said to me, in quite a sharp tone, "We want our children to go to church." I said, "All right," and complied with their command. Some of the other patrons requested me not to permit their children to go to church, because of the whooping-cough and measles prevalent at that time; consequently, every day at church time, I excused those children whose parents wished them to go to church, and continued to teach those remaining. One of the pa-

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