

## Torch of Reason

The Only Paper of Its Kind.

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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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### ON THE TOP WAVE OF PROGRESS.

Many things that all Christians believe today would have been considered rank infidelity a few years ago. The Infidels of the olden time have thus gained a great victory, and history still goes on repeating itself. The despised heretic of today will leave his mark and pass into the great general ocean of matter and force, and others of other times will take up the burden until a majority have found the truth, and then no longer will it be despised.

"We do not absolutely know that there is a god and a heaven," says a Methodist of the latter days of the 19th century. "We believe there is and hope to meet our savior and enjoy the mansions not made with hands, prepared for the faithful." But are those who own that they "do not know" faithful? How can one be faithful to something of which they have no proof? There is not an Infidel who would not gladly be faithful to a god if one exists, but as there is nothing left to hang our faith on since the revelations of science, it is very foolish to go on believing and being faithful without evidence.

We have no gods, and this gives us a chance to turn our attention to Humanity and serve it better than ever before. Christians who still cling to the old theories place themselves in the same position that the old persecutors and conservatives of the past did. They do not want to know the truth if it is against their religion, and their fear of progress is far worse heresy

than the Infidel's contempt for the golden city in the sky and its brainless ("spiritual") mayor.

Those Christians who have had no opportunities to learn on what we Secularists base our "faith" and works, imagine that we have no foundation at all, but, the truth is, we are the only people that have a foundation at all. We build on what we do know—on scientific facts—on a sure and everlasting foundation. This makes us happy. We are the only truly happy people, for we are not trying to believe anything and are not worried for fear that a doubt will creep in and destroy our eternal prospects. We do not fear gods, death nor the devil. Why should we when we fully understand them all? It is only ignorance that makes people afraid, and we find that those who base their conduct on faith are generally the greatest cowards.

We do not believe in war and contention only as a defense. An honest contest to help discover the truth we encourage, but it is always for the betterment of the weak as well as the strong, and not to crush them or to force them into a slavish submission.

We are in harmony with the great, eternal laws of the Universe. We see our little island home as it spins in the ethereal ocean around the sun; and we see the sun with us and the other members of his family rapidly gliding along in his great gulf stream. We see the other suns and systems and we see that beyond the reach of our great eye, the telescope, (Christianity did not encourage the study of astronomy), that vast worlds and suns and systems undoubtedly exist. But what meanwhile are the faithful Christians seeing? They look through a little hole in the dark background of history and there they see Jesus on the cross. They see Moses and the lamb. They see the golden city, or some indescribable something—a reward of merit that the God of heathen Israel has promised to present to his people.

Science, our savior, has given us the microscope and we pry into the secrets of the Most High God of the Infidels—Truth. We learn what the great life-giving elements are; that water can not be changed to wine. We learn of the microbes that cause diseases, and leap for joy when we think of the human suffering that will give way to health and happiness. We care not for money, only as it is necessary to promote our researches. But what, meanwhile, are those who have been made selfish by the selfish teachings of the-heaven-for-the-faithful idea doing? Money here and heaven hereafter. Gold on earth and golden harps and crowns in the sweet bye-and-bye is what each little individual is mostly thinking about.

An old German friend of ours

says that there are two kinds of people in this country who do not belong to our great movement. One class looks through a little hole and sees nothing but a dollar, and the other looks through a little hole and sees nothing but Jesus Christ; and so it is. The great universe and our world, with its millions of human beings with their troubles and joys, are all hidden by the desire to get rich or to serve a myth.

But here we are, dear Secularists, on the top wave of human progress and we can declare the truest prophecies that were ever prophesied. The old sun, moon and stars will forever disappear, and the clouds of myth and religious hate will roll up like a scroll. The fires of patriotism and love will burn out the evil in the world like stubble, and in the twinkling of an eye we shall be caught up to meet Science, the sun of righteousness, as it comes with a flood of glorious light. And verily, verily, we say unto you, this generation shall not pass until these things begin to come to pass, and we must do all we can "while it is yet day", "that the prophesy may be fulfilled." Amen!

### A NEW SPECIES.

It is the same with the species of religion as it is with the species of the fauna and flora of a country. There are branchings and rebranchings, and, as a rule, the later species, on account of natural selection, are of a higher order than any preceding ones. Thus we have good reason to think that Secularism, the latest product of the world's thought is superior to all preceding schools. Of course there are always off-shoots of the main branch which do not have characteristics which fit them to live long and they soon die out, and are only found in the great fossil beds of the lower stratum of humanity. In the field of thought there are new species being born, others becoming extinct, many only known by digging deep into the old rocks of history or by searching the revolutionary mountains, and witnessing still on the surface the remains of lower orders of ancient times still represented by a remnant as it were of the weaker days.

The influences which have been at work during these latter days have developed a subsidiary species that, as far as our knowledge goes, is comparatively new. It seems to be a cross between the Infidel and the Christian, and, for the want of a better name, we might call this new species Infidel-Christian. They are a very peculiar set of humans, and their peculiar manner of navigation is beginning to attract much attention among the sociological biologists of our time.

When several other kinds of

human species are present the Infidel-Christian either plays 'possum or travels in the same direction that the majority is going, and if it so happens that the minority gets a heavy reinforcement it is perfectly laughable to see the funny creature "crawl-fish."

There are quite a number of these peculiar people in the West, and Dr. Chapin, who has been traveling in some of our eastern cities, reports that they are quite plentiful east of the Rocky Mountains. The individuals of this species differ somewhat as others do, but they have the same general characteristics, which are very destructive to the progress of truth and right. They put one in mind of the hybrid called the mule. They have long ears and long heads. They look meek enough and are all right if you keep on the right side of them, but it won't do to trust them too far, and often, just as you think they are very friendly you get lifted off your feet completely. There is one great consolation, however, and that is that their immediate ancestors are so different that like the mule they can not propagate their kind. Nature goes only so far and then quits, and we feel confident that with the Infidel-Christian she can go no further.

Moral: Men should be men. They should be honest and not afraid to express their honest thought at all times. They should not claim to be Christian while being Infidels, or talk like Infidels when it serves their purpose, and then "crawl-fish" when the fear of losing a dollar or their popularity comes upon them. Why not be men, and neither murder the innocent minds that are growing up around us by the poison of hypocrisy or by stealing the atmosphere of thought by our silence when our voice should be heard. "Be a man or a mouse," but don't, like the Infidel-Christian, be a mule.

### "PRETTY IS THAT PRETTY DOES."

One of the Liberal University's best friends, Mr. D. Priestley, writes to us after seeing the photograph of the faculty, that we look as if we would make the University a success and that he believes we will.

We are making it the grandest success Freethought has ever seen. Now don't think for a moment that this is an exaggeration, dear Secular reader, for it is not. Of course there is much to do to get things as they ought to be. We need most everything yet, and we are teaching at a very great disadvantage on account of our lack of apparatus, the unfinished state of our building and the eternal vigilance necessary to make "both ends meet." But in spite of all this we are indeed succeeding. New influential and talented students entered our school this week; everything is perfectly harmonious and our whole great search for truth seems like a great, beautiful poem. Well, if we look well, well; but we are doing well, and that is very well indeed.