

Torch of Reason

The Only Paper of Its Kind.

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Notice!

A hand pointing to this notice denotes that your subscription has expired. You are earnestly requested to renew so that you may receive the paper without interruption. We have decided that it is best for all concerned that we do not send papers longer than the time paid for unless so ordered. This will prevent any loss and we will know just where we stand.

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

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OUR REWARD.

Friends of the Liberal University know it to be a fact that we have never temporized or catered to the opinions of any one. We have done our very best to "hew to the line," and now our reward for not being hypocritical begins to come in. And what is the reward we most highly prize? It is recognition, help and sympathy in building up such an institution as will be what the Liberal University is fast becoming—a perfect terror to the old orthodox world of thought and "glad tidings of great joy to honest, progressive thinkers. Read Mr. H. L. Green's communication in this issue regarding an Ingersoll Fund. Is not this a reward for our stick-to-it-iveness?

The following, taken from a private letter, speaks for itself:—

"I admire your persistency, and I hope you will succeed without lowering your educational and ethical ideals. Temporizing is the business of small minds. High ideals will win in the long run. Cordially,

B. F. UNDERWOOD."

This should teach us all a lesson that the Liberals of the world have been long in learning. We should not try "to be popular" but try to be honest; we should not try to secure aid by pretending to be everything, but we should take our stand and "stand firm," only changing when convinced that we are on the wrong track. If we had not followed this plan from the beginning we would never have been blessed with a Prof. Wakeman; and just see what his ability and influ-

ence means to our struggling institution.

Yes, true Liberals will never forget this, the first lesson of the Liberal University—to be faithful to their convictions, neither turning this way nor that way for the sake of a short-lived advantage. Let us all "hew to the line, let the chips fall where they may."

INNATE CUSSÉDNESS.

There exists in the minds of many people what some call innate cussedness. They seem to care to do nothing excepting to keep others from doing something to make the world better, and it is remarkable what great pains these anarchistic human harpies will take in order to destroy the good works of others.

When Prof. Wakeman was making preparations to leave his home in New York and join the great hegira of Secularism that is gathering force in Silverton, he received letter after letter from these poor children of destruction warning him not to come. The president of the University was represented as a bad man, as narrow, as unjust, as selfish, etc., etc.

It seemed strange that such interest should be taken in a perfect stranger, as Prof. Wakeman was to the writers of these letters, and he concluded to "stay by the people who were doing the work", and in spite of false prophesies and warnings of many disinterested(?) friends(?) he came, and now those who have read the Torch since his arrival know his opinion. Freethinkers must investigate for themselves if they want to know the truth. Come and See!

UNJUST CRITICISMS NOT WANTED.

Many of the so-called Liberal people in the United States have become chronic critics. They have gotten into the habit of criticizing the church until they know but little else.

The Liberal University Company is not up for criticism, especially that species of fault-finding that only annoys and does harm. We want kind advise and help. We may differ on minor points, but no Freethinker can say that a University built on the broad basis of liberty of thought will not be a good thing, and therefore we must stick to this fact and build it. All these minor points of difference can and will be settled and adjusted after we have succeeded in getting the school firmly established on our platform as outlined in our incorporation papers. Those who do

not want to help this great work along are not forced to do so, and those who think that it will ruin the eternal prospects of the souls of the coming generation are expected to fight us; but the chronic kickers, grumblers and fault-finders in our own ranks are invited to take a back seat for a while, as time is too precious to waste on trifles. Come on now, Freethinkers, do as a few of the very best representatives of our cause are now doing! Isn't the fact that Dr. Foote, N. F. Griswold, Susan Wixon, Mrs. M. M. Turner, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, B. F. Underwood, T. B. Wakeman, George Jacob Holyoake and other well and very favorably known workers are doing what they can, sufficient to arouse us all to action? "Let us now hang together" and build up along the main line, and forget all the little side issues and petty notions.

Don't find fault but help us to build!

WHAT WE WANT.

If we do not, in some way, make our wants known to our friends, how can we ever expect to get help? The Torch of Reason is our letter to our friends, and to let them know what we want is our duty.

So here we go again! We want our building finished; we want our debts paid; we want more blackboards and other apparatus.

There are other wants, but these are very pressing, and it seems to us that they are imperative. We care not for money, only as it can be used to make our University a success. "Our (school) days are gliding swiftly by", and if we don't hurry up our long vacation will come before we get our alphabet learned, let alone the great ability to conjugate such a great verb as Luo (I set free). Students of the Universal University of Secular Thought, we must help each other learn to open the doors of the old prison houses of thought and set the captives free.

Andersonville prison, in Great Rebellion times, is what orthodox institutions are to the minds of men today. Some are trying to dig out. Shall we help them? Others are being captured and forced into its crowded and filthy walls. Shall we help them to escape? Some have gone insane. How long, O, how long must the tender minds of our youth be driven into confusion, recklessness and debauchery by the dark and dreary doctrines of the gods? How long? How long?

We must all do all we can, and we all know that will be little enough. Look into any prison house of superstition and see the poor victims drinking of the filthy stream that is polluted by the waste matter of ancient myth! See the

guards as they mount to their perch (the pulpit) and shoot with their old blunderbusses (the Bible) every poor soldier who dares to reach beyond the deadline of his creed. Talk but a moment with some of these poor wretches and discover that mental gangrene has set in and that the strong right arm of thought (the reason) has been shattered and that the remaining part, unattended, has become a disgusting and a pitiable sight.

We are building a fort. We are in earnest. It is liberty or death with us. We need palmetto logs, bales of cotton, sand, rock, powder, lead, hard-tack, beans, socks, blankets, canteens, and a letter from home. We need the sinews of war. We have stopped bushwhacking and are building a fort, we repeat—an arsenal—a strong tower; and by the gods that die young, we will hold the fort as long as a drop of emancipated blood circulates through our Freethought veins. For the love of Humanity, we must not let our thoughts of freedom, our labor of love and our fight for the right be in vain.

MUSIC IN THE L. U. O.

Perhaps nothing drives away our cares and puts us into the heaven of harmony as well as good music, and therefore our University would not be complete as a Secular Heaven-builder unless it puts much emphasis on the art of music. Now, in order to get this great work started we have, in addition to special lessons, organized a brass band, an orchestra and a choir, all composed of members of the L. U. O. Our plan is to eventually have the University own all the instruments of music, so that when a player goes away it will not break up the band or orchestra, and we feel sorry that we are not able to buy a full outfit at once; but we have organized, and those who have instruments and those who have been able to borrow will have regular practice.

The brass band is composed entirely of young ladies; the orchestra of young men, but the choir is composed of both ladies and gentlemen. We wish all of our friends could be in Silverton tonight, attend the Thought Exchange at Liberal Hall and listen to the Secular music as from piano, violin and the throats of young Freethinkers peal forth the anthems of the free. But we can't all be here, and the next best thing is to be here in thought. So we have written this that all the members of our great Freethought family may know that we are not neglecting the great factor of music in our grand march to Universal Mental Liberty.