

## Torch of Reason

The Only Paper of Its Kind.

Published Weekly by the Liberal University Company, in the Interests of Constructive, Moral Secularism.

J. E. Hosmer, ..... Editor  
P. W. Geer, ..... Manager

Entered at the postoffice at Silverton, Oregon, as second-class mail matter.

### SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

One year, in advance.....	\$1 00
Six months, in advance.....	50
Three months, in advance.....	25
In clubs of five or more, one year, in advance.....	75

Money should be sent by registered letter or money order.

### 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.

THURSDAY, NOV. 30, E. M. 299.

### Nearer The Truth.

Nearer, the Truth, to thee,  
Nearer to thee;  
E'en though the time is long  
E'er man is free;  
Still all our songs shall be  
Nearer, the Truth, to thee;  
Nearer, the Truth, to thee,  
Nearer to thee.

Though human wanderers  
Have been kept down,  
Darkness held over them  
By Priest and crown;  
Yet, in their dreams they'd be  
Nearer, the Truth, to thee;  
Nearer, the Truth, to thee,  
Nearer to thee.

Then, with our waking thoughts  
Bright with thy praise,  
Out of the love of right  
Science we'll raise.  
So, by our works, to be  
Nearer, the Truth, to thee;  
Nearer, the Truth, to thee,  
Nearer to thee.

If, on the wings of thought,  
We search the sky,  
Sun, moon and stars will bring  
Earth's heaven nigh.  
Then, all our songs shall be  
Nearer, the Truth, to thee;  
Nearer, the Truth, to thee,  
And Humanity.

### LABOR CONQUERS ALL.

The growth of the Liberal University is simply wonderful. Many of our most enthusiastic workers were afraid that students would be very slow in coming, and that it would take years to have anything of a university as far as numbers are concerned; but we are steadily increasing and even now begin to think of what to do for more school room, seats, sleeping rooms, etc. This week several new students entered, and letters from Eastern states bring the news that others are making arrangements to be with us soon. We often feel like the housewife, when, in the midst

of house cleaning, company is announced. But house cleaning does not last forever, and sometime in the near future our buildings and grounds will present a very fine appearance. Much work is yet to be done and considerable money must be expended, but we now have a place on which to stand, and having learned to believe the motto, "Labor omnia vincit," we will endeavor to prove it.

### FOR MEN OF THOUGHT AND MEN OF ACTION.

The effect of each individual human thought and action is underestimated. The supernatural religions are accountable for the utter lack of comprehension of the consequences of the little(?) doings of every man, woman and child. By having the emphasis placed on a future state away from this earth, instead of upon the future of our race, and by being taught, drilled, coaxed and forced for many generations into trusting in a crucified savior and a god's mercy for the enjoyment of that far away heaven, men have gradually learned to belittle the effects of their thoughts and actions—their work here, and have become like their anthropomorphic god, careless of their creations. We must learn that repenting, as God was supposed to do after making man in his own image, does not cure an evil.

How important to the future of our race is our every thought and action! Even when we are alone an evil thought does its work against the happiness of the future children of Humanity, for it affects the thinker. It makes him weaker, and when he next comes in contact with others he affects them for evil in just the proportion to the evil in the thought. Every good thought has its effect also, and goes forth in ever-widening waves until the circle of influence is utterly beyond our comprehension.

We, the people of this generation, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare and secure the blessings of liberty for ourselves and our posterity, should ordain and establish a religion of Humanity, which, instead of inculcating into the minds of men, as the old religions have done, the selfish idea of an exclusive heaven far away and a lake of fire (or something like it) for the wicked, will teach us of a universal, a cosmopolitan heaven that is being builded, not by spooks eternal in the heavens, but by the minds and hands of men and women here and now. This new religion must contain all the good of all religions but must be free to improve. It can not be built on anything but the broadest base of scientific truth. Science

never clings to preconceived notions but is always on the lookout for more light; and on this basis the new religion can expand and never act as a dam to stop the rushing, sparkling waters of human thought.

For this new emancipated religion of love and truth the Liberal University stands; and the only question in regard to its success is the question of time. Have enough people thought themselves out of the wilderness of deceptive supernaturalism and its swamp of selfishness to form a nucleus? We believe enough have. Let us now learn to know, trust and help each other, and soon the world will have learned the importance of every thought and deed, and there will be no need of a frightful hell to force us, nor a fancy heaven to coax us, into doing right. Humanity will then create man in its own image without repenting, and can forever say, "behold it was very good."

### Era of Man and Era of Science 299 vs. "Anno Domini 1899."

Said a Christian to a Liberal friend, "You can't live without being a confessed Christian, for every time you date a letter or look at the almanack, you subscribe to the 'year of our Lord, Jesus Christ, 1899.'" "That's where you are not up to date," replied the Liberal. "I can't help what is printed on your almanacks, but when I date letters or anything FOR MYSELF it reads, 'Era of Man 299,' and don't you forget it."

Liberals who wish to be consistent, independent, and stand on their own bottom, will do well to think over in what ERA of the world they are really living, so as to be able truthfully to make the reply of our Liberal friend as given above. No Liberal is now really living in the Christian Era at all, and it is a good time to realize the truth and to begin to tell it. Now just see how the matter stands:

The Greek era was dated by Olympiads of four years, commencing 776 B. C. The Romans dated their era from the founding of the city, 752 B. C. Nothing was known or is known about the birth of Jesus Christ, or rather of "Jesus the Christ". The name stands for a myth which grew into shape and "personality" years after his supposed birth. It was not until A. D. 572 that Dionysius Exiguus (that is, "the Little"), a Syrian monk, first devised the plan of running a new era from the time of Christ's supposed birth. It then helped Christian papal power, and so it was gradually introduced as "Anno Domini", "Year of Our Lord"; but its first use in England began only in 680, and it did not become general in Europe until 1450. (See "Christian Era" in Johnson's New Encyclopædia, or any other Encyclopædia) The

fixing of the day of Christ's birth on "Christmas", the winter solstice, is simply a part of the mythology of the sun-gods which extends down to the Astrolatry of Egypt. So the "year of our lord" has really no "lord" back of it, nor any date or event whatever. It is purely a fiction and a PAPAL IMPOSITION, and it sums up all of the horrible papal outrages on human nature, which ought to have ended, but did not, with the burning of Giordano Bruno on the 17th of February, A. D. 1600, ERA OF MAN 1.

Bruno was the Martyr of Science because he first put out decisively the modern heliocentric astronomy of Copernicus and gave as its consequences the "Infinity of Space and of Worlds". Thus he entirely upset the old Christian astronomy of the Bible and the church, with its "firmament", "heaven" and rotating sun and stars. For this he was duly roasted alive by the Christians of Anno Domini 1600, and that era ought to be recorded as ending at that date; because it did end THEN, and all Christians ought to be made to know it. It ended because the new Era of Science and of Man THEN took its place. The new astronomy of Copernicus, Bruno and Galileo, then proved, completely knocked out the old Christian heaven and hell and its Cosmogony generally, and made no Christian heaven possible—only an "Earthly Paradise" in the future of the Human Race on this Earth, which all Liberals are living in their hopes and efforts to realize.

Yes, THEN began the Era of Free-thought, of Science and of Man. Queen Elizabeth and the English check-mated popery in England, Europe and America, and thus gave LIBERTY the first chance to get on her feet. Then America was settled, then India and the East was opened up, and the Sanscrit led the way to the precious science of the languages; then Shakespeare founded the new secular theater and thus placed a new joy in the "Heart of Man" which has "set all aspiration free"; then Bacon gave out the new philosophy of Science; then Grotius founded International Law; then Lord Herbert composed the little book, "Truth", the first of Free-thought writings; then many things happened to magnify the glory and happiness of mankind so that more progress has been made in the last three hundred years (our Era of Man) than in the countless ages before. And they all mean and prove what? Why, that the old nightmare of a firmament and a Christian heaven-astronomy is off of us forever; that we are really "out in the clear", and that no church, pope, bible, Bruno and Servetus-burning, St. Bartholomew massacre Theology can ever curse the human species with its hell on earth again.

How can any LIBERAL, that is,