

any EMANCIPATED person, think of the dark and bloody past, and present, of Christianity and not shrink with horror from the slightest act that would count him in as one of its followers or even mourners? The use of the "Era of Man 299" is one escape; let us try it on. Of course in the almanack and in public and business documents, "1899" must be used, as the at present work of others, for which we are not responsible, but in our own work and correspondence, if we are Liberals, let us be honest men and women.

It was for these reasons that the Congress of the American Liberal League held at St. Louis, the chief Liberal body in America, and the predecessor of the American Secular Union and Freethought Federation, recommended all its members and all advocates and friends of Liberty everywhere to announce their own emancipation by thus recognizing the era in which they actually live. And so says—

"THE SPIRIT" OF BRUNO.

At the Liberal University, Silverton, Oregon, Nov. 25, E. M. 299.

#### OUR LIBERAL CLASSICS.

The first page of the Torch of Reason blazes with light—read and see! For this week, as for many weeks before, our first page has been the repository of carefully gathered gems and nuggets from the best Liberal literature of the world. In putting these precious passages and extracts within the reach of our readers, and we wish we could say "of all,"—we feel that we have put up a value that pays for the Torch many times over, even if all of the other printed news and matter therein should count for naught—which "God forbid!"

We do this for the many who must read much in little—"multum in parvo." We know how many there are who have not the time nor means to read or obtain the great works or periodicals from which these passages are taken. We will try to have the extracts managed, or commented on, so as to give the substance of the whole work. Let us say two or three things more in regard to this important part of our paper:

1. These jewels are too valuable to be missed, and they will be UNLESS you take the Torch, and let it shine this winter with the light by your hearth and table. And when read, remember that their use is only beginning. Keep them among your other precious things, for use by others, and for future reference. Such an intellectual Savings Bank is the most useful bank an intelligent and honest man, or woman or family can have.

2. Try to notify us of articles and things which you come across which ought to go into that Bank. We will gladly announce the

source from whence such treasures come, and will send copies to friends whose names you may give us.

3. Give us your own thoughts and queries about the subjects which interest you, and information that will add light to the Torch upon any subject that is presented or lies uneasily before you. If we can't answer we will try and find those who can. We mean this as somewhat of a new departure, in which the Torch will hold the light in the search for Truth, and of which all who wish can avail themselves.

T. B. W.

#### The Liberal University's Claims on Secularists.

Extract from Address before the American Secular Union and Freethought Federation Congress by John Prescott Guild.

Wisdom is justified of her children, and none better prove their intelligent paternity than do those teachers of the religion of humanity who are building the non-superstitious, educational institution, chartered as the Liberal University, at Silverton, Oregon. Those more centrally or populously situated, who may object to its location in that woody corner of the country, should emulate the enterprise at their home, and remember, whatever fault they find with its managers, there are always "ten to kick to one to pull" a heavy load up a hard hill. Those who say that "Infidelity," as they misname Free thought, builds no schools, speaks falsely. A Freethinker built Girard Orphan College, which Christians have stolen and boast of "whipping the devil round a stump." A Freethinker paid for the great Lick telescope, which Christians are monkeying with. A Freethinker originated the Stanford University, which Christians brag of as their own. But they will not get the chance to claim the Liberal University. That has been "nailed down hard." Now let its Torch of Reason flame and enlighten the world, and guide the race of man to Liberty.

No one can be more faithful than are those who believe that there are sufficient natural reasons for morality; and none are more faithless than are those religionists who deny it. A rational faith in the diversity of humanity, means routing the Christian dogma of "total human depravity." There can be no better religion, or loyalty, than that of doing good (whether named after Jesus Christ or Thomas Paine.) And, after the American Secular Union and Freethought Federation has been cared for, nowhere else, at present, can Freethinkers put their spare cash, where it will do so much good, as into the L. U. O.—the only school of purely humanitarian philosophy.

The multi-millionaires are not looked to for help in this matter of a purely Secular and Democratic education. They have enough to do to endow the pretentious schools of sacred mysteries and solemn shams, so as to bribe heaven's doorkeeper to let them through. This institution is not for show, but for work; and the working people should sustain it, wherein to teach how to work for human happiness on earth.

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\*Dr. Leonard has consented to take this chair until some one can be found to fill it permanently.

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are earnestly reminded that the above University is in active and harmonious operation, but that it must be provided with sufficient means to finish its building, now approaching completion and partly occupied, so that a paying number of students can be accommodated. Please to subscribe, or obtain subscriptions, for our Stock, and send memoranda of property, books or apparatus you can furnish.

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