

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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REFUGE.

Science, Savior of our race,
Help us to thy refuge fly,
While our days are rolling on,
Help us hear the human cry.

Guide us, O, our Savior guide,
While our strength of mind doth last,
Be our mind's and heart's defense,
From the ancient shadows cast.

Other saviors have we none.
We will ever cling to thee;
We are never now alone,
Thou hast brought us liberty!

All the pure unselfish hopes,
All the fearless righteousness
Thou hast given to us here.
Lengthened life made death but rest.

Heathen myths we do not want.
In Savior, Science, strength we find,
To raise the fallen, cheer the faint,
To heal the sick and lead the blind.

We will conquer in thy name
That which makes unrighteousness;
Vile is ignorance that has been;
Thou art full of truth and grace!

VERITAS VINCIT.

When Christianity comes in contact with pure Secularism the old myth takes a back seat and our cause goes marching on. This was very nicely illustrated when the two armies in Silverton lined up on Thanksgiving evening. At the beautiful little opera, Four-leaved Clover, given by the students of the Liberal University, there were over three hundred friends present, while the churches were very poorly attended.

We are sure that our cause is right. We are building on the things that we do know. We are teaching pure morality, while the churches base theirs on a weak foundation of myth, false hopes and fears. Our work is bound to succeed! It can't fail for it is in line with the great law of the survival

of the fittest, and although evolution seems a slow process at times, yet we must remember that results of a long series of evolutionary processes are now upon us, and if we only know how to take advantage of them we can score a great victory for Humanity.

EXAMINATIONS.

Again the students of the L. U. O. are telling their instructors what they know about the branches they have been working hard to understand. Cards with all the studies of the different courses have been printed, and each student is given a card on which are written his standings. The greatest difficulties that teachers have to overcome, and the greatest causes of the disappointments in securing high grades in all school work are the same difficulties and causes of disappointments in our individual life work and in the struggle for the perfectibility of our race—inattention to details, lack of the power of concentration, the inability to detect the true worth of things, and the deceptive gratification of the emotions. Whence comes these our weaknesses? Is it not true that thousands of years ago the great civilization of ancient Greece and Rome produced wonderful thinkers?

Why are the people of today so weak? Ought not we who are heirs of that great civilization to be far ahead of what we are today? When the hordes of sturdy Germanic tribes began to take up the civilization of Greece and Rome what were the elements that promoted, and what that held back their development? They progressed it must be admitted, and we their progeny are victorious only after a battle that has cost us billions of the brightest and best of mother nature's children; and there are battles yet to win. The great school of humanity is having its examination in the closing days of its term known as the nineteenth century, and its teachers are issuing grade cards such as were never before seen in the great university of the world's progress.

The peoples from which have sprung the highest civilized nations of the earth, loved their homes; the men loved their wives; they were true, brave and strong; and this was before Christianity had ever cast its deadly shadow over the world. The civilization with which they came in contact when they migrated from the north and settled in the south and west of Europe had been built up outside of Christianity. Religious persecution was almost unknown, and if Christianity's central idea of "believe or be damned" had never crossed their path, where, oh to what height might we not have climbed in our sturdy march up the sunlit heights of progress? The struggle has been a continual St. Bartholomew's massacre of the fair-

est and noblest of earth. The sellers of indulgences have waxed rich and the traffic in human thought filled the world with the hell of hate and hypocrisy. The superstitious myths and miracles of Christianity has made the most attentive people of the world inattentive to the things which would have most promoted our happiness; they have driven us, by causing us to fear honest doubt, into the habit of refraining from concentrating our minds, and the mind has thus been robbed of its greatest power; they have placed a high value on worthless things and made the most valuable to be neglected, and the grosser emotions have been cultivated at the expense of the intellect. It has been a long, hard struggle toward the light, and the world is weak from its loss of blood.

But Luo! Luo! Luo! We are free! And if we of this generation have been robbed and left faint and bleeding by the way, we can yet look toward the sun of truth that has at last arisen, and enjoy the Elysian fields of hope for the future of our race. Yes, we can do more; we can arise and enter the arena of thought, take the examination, receive our grades and become honorable alumni (even if we do not receive "the honors.")

What is your standing, dear reader? Are you in the senior class or are you still cultivating the sense perceptions of your adult mind with products of the toy-makers of supernaturalism?

Let us all, as fellow students, enter earnestly into this work, using the Torch of Reason as our grade card, that our loved ones (all men) may know our true grade, and that the world (the great Alma mater) may not be dishonored or made worse for our having lived.

THE CAUSE OF EVIL.

To be able to perceive the cause of things is a great and beneficial characteristic, and few there are indeed who are skilled in looking through things with the X-rays of a clear, unerring mind. Those who are, are usually condemned by the majority of their own generation but pass into history as great philosophers.

The great majority of people of today think that the cause of the crime and misery of the world is the lack of the religion of Jesus Christ, but those who have the power to look through effects to their causes, know that the evil in the world is largely a result of Christianity. Men and women are naturally good, but the doctrines of the Christian religion, working for eighteen centuries, has not resulted in our moral development as a true religion should. We have slowly grown better but not as rapidly as we ought. Trusting in Jesus to save us instead of working out our own salvation, many have been kept from the work that really saves. Believing in an hereafter we have neglected the now.

Trying to believe impossible things has made us infidel to true things. Ghosts and gods have occupied our minds, while the beau-

tiful realities of love to each other and our works here have been crowded out. A bitter harvest of prisons, lunatic asylums, drunken husbands, weeping wives, neglected children, domineering wealth, cringing poverty, and the many other items that make up the earthly hell is the result. Does Jesus save? No! He that believeth is damned already, for he has believed in a myth and is mystified. He walks in the dark.

Let the Salvationists rave and the people imagine a vain thing, but we must search for the cause of evil and cling to that which is good.

A CURE FOR SPOOKISM.

A good, solid, scientific lesson for the week is the extract from Dr. Paul Topinard's "Science and Faith" (pp. 31-33), just published by the Open Court Publishing Co., of Chicago, of whom it can be had for \$1.50.

This is one of the shortest and best statements of the origin and nature of life ever made, and it should be read and re-read until thoroughly mastered and understood by every Liberal who wishes to become emancipated from ghosts. It is indeed a sure cure for spookism for any one who has brains enough to understand it and to follow out its consequences. Of course you know the law of correlation and uniformity of causation in science, from which it follows absolutely that if life comes about and exists in this ONE way, it is not possible to exist, or to have ever existed, in any other—that is, life is the PROCESS of the PROPERTIES OF PROTOPLASM, and has no possible existence otherwise.

So, we must say Farewell! to all spirits, ghosts, spooks, gods, devils, angels, hobgoblins, fairies, and even to our beloved "Santa Claus", and to all our old cherished "spook religions", all of whom we will replace with better and higher truths and things in good time.

Never fear the wounds that Truth may give, for she will heal them all.

Don't be afraid of hard words: "Centrosome" simply means the central body of the cell containing nucleus and nucleolus with its germ center, and that is the center of "Karyo-kinesis", which is Greek for "nut movement", that is, the changes in a little nut-like body of protoplasm—with all the cell and germinating parts and properties within in it. Look out this word "karyo-kinesis" in the Standard Dictionary, or any good encyclopædia, and you will get the solid bottom of modern biology in that "nut".

Next week we will give the true birth of the "Ego", and you may then find out how you YOURSELF came about, and what you are.

This is the age of discoveries?

T. B. W.