

Torch of Reason

The Only Paper of Its Kind.

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TEACHERS.

"The faculty of the Liberal University, Oregon, is the finest looking group of educators in America," are the kind and complimentary words of the December number of the Freethought Magazine, published by our friend and co-worker, H. L. Green, of Chicago; and if our desire to make the world better makes us good looking, we are not very ugly, but what can we say of the thousands of teachers who are holding their positions because of their hypocritical silence or pretentious utterances of a belief in the old dogmas? And what can we say of the awful Christian condition that forces many of the most intelligent men and women of our time to thus play the hypocrite?

Many do not realize that the young who come under the instruction of hypocrites are affected for evil to the full extent of the hypocrisy. But it is true, and, as Jesus is made to say in the fable-story of the Bible, "O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come," we are justified in saying, O, generation of hypocrites, who will warn ye to flee from the damnation of a guilty conscience? We will warn you to the extent of our power. And if this warning should chance to fall into the hands of one whose salary depends on his hypocrisy, we hope he will repent and try the experiment of saying just what he thinks. He will be very much pleased, for what is money compared with liberty? There is no danger that we will die of starvation,

or that our loved ones will suffer very much. We can only live and die at best; then why not say what we think and be our honest selves? Think how the world would advance if it could once be rid of its hypocrites and the miserable creeds that have been making them all these years.

There is scarcely a man who is educated enough to be fit to occupy a position in the state schools or universities of the United States, who does not know that science is diametrically opposed to the religion of Jesus Christ, but with few exceptions, only those remain today who are willing to "keep mum" or lie for the sake of "what there is in it." The consequence is that the schools are filled with instructors who have been culled as it were from the most intelligent(?) frauds in our country. Is it any wonder that so many college graduates turn out badly? Is it any wonder that so much emphasis is placed on "appearances" and so little on genuine worth? Is it any wonder that so many of our people are looking for a heaven in some other sphere, away from this "vale of tears?"

The whole system, from the primer to the highest college course has been dominated by hypocrites. Add to this the instructions of the Christian church and Sunday school and we have two of the largest factors in the world's depravity. O, that educated(?) men and women would say what they think!

TIME IS TOO PRECIOUS TO WASTE.

Time is valuable, and if the Liberals expect to liberalize the world they should bestir themselves. The great aristocratic church societies, with their millions, are hiring, forcing and fooling the people of the white races into the errors of orthodoxy, to say nothing of the millions of dollars they are gathering up to trick the blacks and brownies into "jumping out of the frying-pan" of heathen paganism "into the fire" of heathen Christianity. It takes time to convert people to the religion of Humanity, because it is a scientific religion. It requires reason and judgment to teach and to understand it; but to become a Christian one needs only to have faith, and the less reason he has and the more ignorant he is, the easier it is to simply cling to the cross, to have faith as a little child and to believe and believe that he is saved by believing rather than know, and know that he is saved by knowing.

We are living in an age that is yet but the childhood of our race. Christianity and other supernatural religions are the early backwoods schools whose crudities and punishments must give way to better and higher methods. But how long will it take to convert the world to reason and common sense?

Under right conditions youth develops into perfect manhood and

womanhood very rapidly. The Liberal University is organized for the purpose of converting that large portion of the world that is still in ignorance and superstition to the religion of Science and Humanity, but its work will be long delayed unless it can have the wherewithal to bring to the minds of its students, and through them and its paper to the minds of others, the knowledge of cosmology, biology and sociology—that is necessary in order to dispel the thick fogs of mysticism.

While in Portland last week we visited the new public museum and saw some of the finest of specimens of shells, corals, bones of whales, tusks and teeth of the mastadon, etc., etc. These were all beautifully exhibited; but what about the interpretation of the wonderful speech that they utter to the visitors? A Christian is only filled with awe at the wonderful works of his God and goes home still clinging to his crucifix and counting his beads. Only a few have had the training necessary and can fully appreciate and understand the language of these great teachers. They need to be classified and compared and the great lessons of evolution taught by competent teachers—teachers who dare tell the truth—teachers who are not dependent on the church or politics for their positions.

We need to have our rooms finished; we want glass cases; we want tables; we want taxidermist's materials and a taxidermist; we want help! Without a fine museum, which can be easily started when we have money enough, our school can not possibly do its best work. We are holding the fort, but in order to make a charge on the enemy we must have more ammunition. A good collection of geological, historical and natural history specimens, scientifically arranged, attractively exhibited and properly interpreted would do our school and the world untold good. If we had money we would not hesitate; we would at once have a fine collection, a good microscope and other much-needed apparatus, without which much of our labor will have been in vain.

The fact is, the salvation that saves needs its missionaries and financial patronage as well as does the religion of Jesus Christ. Give us this aid and (the prophet of God to the contrary notwithstanding) there will be something "new under the sun." The way our work is now managed, it is impolitic and impossible for the work to be done in any other way than strictly "on the square;" and it looks as though with the educational aid we now have, that the Liberals who are able to aid us financially could be as patriotic and generous as Christians are to their cause. That we woefully need help and that we need it at once is known by all who understand our gigantic undertaking. Those who are actually engaged in the work are giving their all to the cause which is as dear to them as life itself. If they

had a dozen lives and millions of money it would be just the same. If this devotion is worth anything to the Liberals of the world it should be recognized before the devotees are forever beyond the reach of appreciation and help. Time is very precious and the world awaits our united action.

OUR FRIENDS.

There has been very erroneous impressions made upon the minds of both Christians and Infidels who know but little about our Free-thought educational work. This impression is that we have only a few friends and that they are those who cannot or will not help us in any material way. This idea is keeping many from casting in their mite towards completing our building and suitably beautifying our grounds. To remove this false impression is the purpose of this editorial.

There are many who desire this false impression to be made upon the minds of those who would become our helpers, but we have hundreds of true, staunch friends here in Silverton and thousands of others in other parts of the world. Robert G. Ingersoll was our friend, and he was a host in himself. He was just about to write an endorsement of our work when his hand and mind became stilled forever. He was to give a lecture and devote the whole proceeds to the work here in Silverton, but his promise and its influence is all we have ever received, for, instead of receiving a letter from our peerless friend, as per agreement, we received the sad news of his sudden death.

Nearly every old "wheel horse" of any note in the Liberal ranks is our friend. Men who were the earliest pioneers of the Freethought work here have done and are doing all they can. Henry Allen, Peter Rauch, the Ames brothers, T. D. Allen, Ai Coolidge, Frank DeGuire, Julius Fisher, Adolph Wolf, John Porter, M. Cooley, H. E. Klein and scores of other "old wheel horses" are our friends and helpers. And then among the younger workers we can count a host right here at home, while from abroad the number of our friends is beyond our ability to compute. Of course many of these friends are, like ourselves, very limited financially, and the burden rests upon the shoulders of the few. It takes money to buy land and build a University, so of course our work moves slower than many would like to see it, but we must be patient and some Freethought Rockefeller may yet "strike oil" and come to our rescue.

There are quite a number of "old wheel horses", we will admit, who have been fooled into withholding their support from this the greatest undertaking that Freethinkers have ever imagined, and these "old wheel horses" are used in turn to prevent others from helping, but nothing of any importance to the human race was ever done without some opposition, and we must not expect to be an exception. We who understand conditions, can only do all we can and hope that soon others will come to our rescue and help to make the yoke easy and the burden light.