

tained and young and old taught the great importance attached to every life. Self-esteem of the right sort should be encouraged. Every child should be encouraged to believe in his own importance, and the great results for good or for evil of his every thought and deed. The importance that may be attached to our writing and your reading these lines can not be estimated, dear reader, although both actions are indeed but small efforts.

"For the want of a nail the shoe was lost; for the want of a shoe the horse was lost, etc.," contains a great truth, and especially is this principle true in our work of placing our great cause of Freethought on an ethical, educational basis. A number of months ago one of our friends (we have now forgotten who it was) gave us the name of Thos. Carter, of Utah, as one who might become interested in our work if we would send him a sample copy of the Torch. A copy was sent. Today two of Mr. Carter's children are being educated in the Liberal University; and who can tell the great results that may follow in the near and remote future from the simple act of mentioning a name.

How happens Master Sidney Rogers to be enjoying the benefits of the L. U. O. and the emancipated education for which it stands? A kindly thought, expressed by editor H. L. Green of the Freethought Magazine, is at the bottom of it. We might go on and multiply instances showing how our work is being carried forward by these little, yet far-reaching thoughts and deeds of our friends, and we might give examples of the rise and fall of empires, yes, of civilizations and the whole progress of mankind, tracing it all to the little simple, yet mighty, thoughts and actions of the units of the race.

But "a word to the wise is sufficient," and many words will not convince those who are not wise, therefore we leave this thought atom with our reader, hoping that he or she will understand, appreciate and utilize it, and that it will unite with other thought atoms having affinity for ours, bringing into existence many Freethought compounds that may at least prove good lubricators for the wheels of human progress if they do not furnish good material out of which some of the wheels themselves may be made.

Thomas Paine's Motto.

There is in all the utterances of the world no grander, no sublimer sentiment. There is no creed that can be compared with it for a moment. It should be wrought in gold, adorned with jewels, and impressed upon every human heart: "The world is my country, and to do good is my religion."—[Ingersoll.]

Prof. Ernst Haeckel on Soul and Immortality.

Nothing could have been more timely than the article on our first page from the greatest scientific Evolutionist living. We say timely because in our series of first-page articles from distinguished scientists and thinkers, we had, in last Torch, presented the important conclusion of the great French naturalist, Dr. Paul Topinard. According to that conclusion, if Man wishes to secure a life of real progress and a practical heaven on this planet, he has only to ask leave of himself to succeed. The laws of evolution are ready to be his active partners in the achievements of his highest fortunes, individually and collectively, if he will not by his selfish grabs for immediate or future personal pleasure defeat them.

We were about to point out the two great personal motives which, from the scientific standpoint, are lying squarely across this path of human progress, welfare and glory. We were, in fact, about to name these as the two, viz.:

(1) The general illusion about a PERSONAL, conscious immortality, with a state of individual happiness or misery at the close of this life.

(2) And, where that illusion does not exist so as to paralyze earthly energy and hope, the difficulty like unto it is HEDONISM, that is, the desire and pursuit of pleasure, especially animal, sensual and egoistic pleasures, as the chief end of this life.

Hedonism may stand over for consideration hereafter, but the egoistic future immortality which is an infinite enlargement and attempted sanctification of Hedonism in "another world" (no one knows where), is the main cause of the devilry and misery in this world. We gladly, therefore, transfer to the Torch from the New York Journal, the last concise statement of one of the last and one of the greatest Biologists of the world. It is not a matter of judgment or his opinion only. He gives a clear intimation of the lines of evidence which leave no doubt about the verdict of Biological Science on this important subject. We would say, let every one get a good hold of these lines of evidence, for we intend to follow them up with further facts and grounds from the same Professor's work, small in size but great in substance—his "Monism", or "Confession of Faith of a Scientist," which is not easily obtained in this country, but which was sent to a personal friend by the author. Do the "spiritual" friends say, why should we listen to this evolutionist instead of to Dr. W. R. Wallace, who was with Darwin, the discoverer of the law of Natural Selection, which has become the backbone of evolution? The answer is, because Dr. Wallace

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