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**Torch of Reason**

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(WATCH NIGHT.)

TEXT.

The whistles are blowing—  
The roosters are crowing—  
And centuries given to Manhood are growing;  
The churches are glowing—  
The Torches are glowing—  
And Science and Reason abundantly flowing.

Bring sword or gun, or false pretense,  
I stand beside my own defense;  
Let come what may, I will not flinch;  
You can not drive me back an inch.  
I, too, have felt your stupid creeds,  
But have outgrown their narrow needs.  
Your Bible, by the "Great First Cause",  
Is but a hash of ancient laws,  
Mixed by a rude and savage race  
And stained with ev'ry foul disgrace.  
Its crimes would put a Fiend to shame,  
Where only "blood" your god can tame.  
I stand for Manhood firm today,  
Where gods have lost their cruel sway.  
I welcome in this closing year  
That marks three centuries of cheer,  
Where Science her bright censer swings,  
Dethroning gods and Hebrew kings;  
Where Freedom spreads her Torches  
bright;

(Though Peace is nearly out of sight).  
Come soon the day when man shall rule  
The perished godling's fair "footstool"!

10 Minutes A. M., Jan. 1, E. M. 300.

MELROSE PARK, ILL.

EDITOR TORCH OF REASON:

I feel like some of the brothers and sisters of the Methodist church in their "praar-meetin's" and "love-feasts" when the Elder calls on them to "stand up for Jesus" and tell their "experience" so that he may know where they stand. I want my freethinking friends to know where I stand, not that they have any doubt of me, but because those Christian "propheciers", who stole my free family back into the church during my absence, are always promising me that—"Oh, you will come back into the 'fold' before you die!" Which reminds me of a Lincoln story: "There is always much uncertainty in this life," the preacher said, while buying a fat ox and hoping to cheapen it. The farmer answered, "Oh, yes—the ox might calve, but there is no great danger of it."

Now I like to "stand up for Freedom" and put myself "on record" as the years of life slip away, lest they try to lie me back into the church when I die, as an instance of a wolf coming into the sheep fold. I say "lie" because any churchman who will steal a family will not hesitate to lie for a wolf or a goat, as they have done before, for the "glory of God".

Please put this and my jingle together in any old out-of-the-way place in the Torch, so that I get on record—up till today! Don't forget to send some papers.

Fraternally yours,

ISAAC A. POOL.

P. S.—I think I shall "take the cake" as the first and earliest contributor of the year. I. A. P.

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search For Truth."

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