

the best of earth for all time, when life is spent in "laying up treasures" in a sky "heaven," or hunting traces of a "summer land," both of which are scientifically as utterly impossible as the "firmament" of Genesis.

Men and brethren let us think over these things and learn for what we are living.

**An Ingersoll Chair.**

EDITOR TORCH OF REASON:

In the Torch of Reason for Nov. 23, I read with pleasure the communication by Mr. H. L. Green, of a suggestion that I made to him respecting the foundation of an "Ingersoll Chair" in the Liberal University of Oregon. Monuments, libraries and other memorials of a splendid career, are gratifying and instructive proofs of the public appreciation, which Ingersoll so nobly earned. I disparage none of these proposals; I would assist them all were not the gods so poor that they had little to give me.

But this is one form of distinguished remembrance which has much to commend it. Monuments cannot be seen everywhere, or referred to often, while a Chair in a University educates students in the principles of which Ingersoll was so brilliant an exponent, who in their turn may diffuse them in every land.

I know of no Liberal University in Europe. I was gratified at seeing one announced in your paper; and when I saw Mr. Wakeman's name as one of the Professors, there could be no doubt that the University was Liberal in the best sense—not only political, but mental. When I read Mr. Underwood's paper in the Freethought Magazine commending the University, I doubted not that they could devise the subjects for treatment from the Ingersoll Chair and submit them to the governors of the University.

For the expansion of the Freethought movement, trained lecturers are needed. Every recruit who enters the ranks of Reason means an accession of intellectual force and enthusiasm. But force and zeal are like health and valour in the soldier, and are of much more value in battle when trained. Knowledge, daring and courtesy, are the essentials of propagandism, and in these Ingersoll excelled. His wit and imagination are not transferable, but cultivation reveals unknown faculties in the mind which training alone brings.

America abounds in men of fortune and liberal enterprise who would aid in establishing an Ingersoll Chair for the education of Freethought, and Secular advocates would originate new ideas and sustain unfriended truth—the future force of the State. There is no surer or more permanent form of hon-

oring a great advocate or a great orator than by perpetuating the principles to which he devoted his genius and life.

Were not my activity limited by age I should personally devote myself to the prospect of realizing an Ingersoll Chair which the Liberal University has so promptly and gracefully sanctioned. Monuments are memorials, but do not teach principles—a University does. Gibbon's words—"All that is human must retrograde if it do not advance," are true of Freethought.

Very faithfully yours,

GEORGE JACOB HOLYOAKE.

Eastern Lodge, Brighton, 1 January, 1900.

**The Liberal University.**

BY J. D. SHAW.

The Torch of Reason reports the Liberal University at Silverton, Oregon, as being in a flourishing condition, and, though I have not been an enthusiastic advocate of such movements, inclining rather to the opinion that we should expend all our efforts in trying to secularize the public schools and state universities for the maintenance of which we are all taxed, still I would rejoice to see any such enterprise prosper if conducted upon Liberal principles as this one seems now to be.

I have not in the past refrained from expressing my dissent to certain things regarding this institution, and having done so, I have incurred the displeasure of certain members of the University Company. These things in no way affect me unfavorably toward the institution as it now appears to be conducted, and its management is hereby assured that in whatever I may have said in the past or may say in the future concerning their movement, I then had and will continue ever to have only the good of true Liberalism at heart. We are in an unorganized condition, and there is more or less confusion among us as to what course is best to be pursued, but we ought all to be agreed upon one thing, and that is the freedom of opinion and of speech.

I note that Mr. T. B. Wakeman, late of New York City, has with his family removed to Silverton and united his fortunes with the University, he now being president of the Board of Directors. A look into the faces of the faculty, a group photograph of which has been sent me, shows it to be composed of good looking and intellectually appearing gentlemen and ladies. I am no uninterested reader of all accounts of what they are doing for Liberalism in Silverton, and without any reservation whatever, I wish them great and lasting success.—[Independent Pulpit.

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