

Torch of Reason

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Notice!

A hand pointing to this notice denotes that your subscription has expired. You are earnestly requested to renew so that you may receive the paper without interruption. We have decided that it is best for all concerned that we do not send papers longer than the time paid for unless so ordered. This will prevent any loss and we will know just where we stand.

We request you to send us the names of Secularists who might become subscribers and we will mail sample copies.

THURSDAY, MAR. 8, E. M. 300.

COME, YE POOR MYSTIFIED.

Tune: Come, Ye Disconsolate.

Come, ye poor mystified!
Why will ye wonder
At the traditional
Priest-given myths?
We should not sorrowfully
Make life a burden,
Seeking for heaven
And losing earth's bliss.

Then, while the moments fly,
Let us with every thought
Help to redeem the world;
Priestly pow'r flee.
We have no right to live
'Less by our living
We help our brothers and sisters to be free.

Here see the joys of life;
See faces glowing.
Friends of Humanity
Conquer with love.
Come, leave thy selfishness;
Come, ever knowing
Man by his wisdom
Earth's sorrows remove.

GOOD WORK AND GOOD PAY.

The greatest reason, if it can be called reason, for believing in a future heaven for the individual seems to be the dread of annihilation. When the average man and woman think of non-existence, it causes them very unpleasant feelings. This comes from an inherited fear and from the way we have been educated by coming in contact with the older ones who have been so ignorant in regard to the nature of death, and thus acted so fearfully about it and its supposed awful consequences.

These two causes for the fear of death, and the resultant desire to live in bliss after death, must be overcome. If when children are born they could possess brain cells entirely free from the taint of fear, and if they could be made to know

from early childhood that there is no suffering after death, the world would soon be full of the sunshine of happiness.

Men and women who are born entirely wrong in this respect, and who have been trained entirely wrong, can probably never be converted to common sense, but there are many older ones and very many children who can be helped to see that to die and then be resurrected into what would be almost, if not quite, a different being, and that, too, into altogether different conditions, is no better than sleeping on and letting our progeny inhabit and enjoy a heaven here on earth. And the happiest thought to those who are redeemed by our altruistic religion is that we can help build this heaven for our representatives who are to follow, and this happiness becomes so complete as we work away that we find we are in heaven ourselves. Many who are naturally weak may be obliged to "work themselves up to it," but when they find themselves possessed of "the power" of enjoying a pure Secular life, they discover, as the newly-converted Christian does, that "the world looks different than it did before." The old fear of death and dread of annihilation and shadows of hell and angry gods have all gone. All is peace; no egoistic desire of heavenly mansions enter their minds to rob them of their scientific, professional, mansion building here for those who are to follow. Instead of singing:

"Then ask me not to linger long
Amid the gay and thoughtless throng,
For I am only waiting here
To hear the summons, 'Child, come home.'"

as the Christians do, we sing:

Then ask us not to linger long
Amid the superstitious throng,
For we are happy, working here,
To build an earthly heaven-home.

This work of disabusing the minds of men of their inherited and cultivated fear of non-existence and of putting in the place of its resulting hope for personal immortality by the better, nobler and more reasonable hope of the continuity of the good results of our individual and united efforts for the happiness of our own and coming generations, requires much attention and thought. It requires but little intellectuality, knowledge of the laws of nature, or of history, and but little of that quality generally known as large-heartedness to become a member of the orthodox Salvation Army, and as there are still in the world more people poorly born and bred physically, intellectually and morally than otherwise, we have just what should be expected. Thus we find that there is plenty of good work and good pay (satisfaction) for those who have learned the trade of building mansions here instead of depending on those in the sky,

and "good work and good pay" is what is necessary to make workers happy. Let us sing! Let us be happy! Let us build!

AMONG THE HEATHEN AND HEATHEN.

Our representative, Mr. F. J. Beaty, who has just returned from the Hawaiian Islands, brings the Liberal University some very valuable specimens and some excellent stereoscopic views. Mr. Beaty gave the students a very interesting talk in regard to the costumes, customs and religious beliefs of the natives of the islands, and will lecture before the Thought Exchange Sunday evening, March 18.

The most interesting thing to us, on account of its confirmation of the Secular plan of civilization, is his account of the native religion and the effects of Christianity on the natives. It seems that the natives are almost forced to play the hypocrite and, against their honest convictions, which were freely expressed when they found that Mr. Beaty is an unbeliever, some of them pretend to love Jesus. The missionaries there are a set of plundering pretenders and are, as they deserve to be, heartily hated by the simple people of the sea, who have been forced to help fill the coffers of the wealth-hunting Christians.

Most of the Kanakas still worship their own gods and, wonderful to relate, their gods answer their prayers fully as often as do the Christian gods answer their worshippers, either in or out of their closets.

We wish that every lover of truth could listen to Mr. Beaty and look at the beautiful views which he has placed in the L. U. O. museum. Let every Freethinker take the same interest in the Liberal University that our Chemawa friend does, and the world will the sooner know the real solution of problems social, ethical and economic.

LET US "PRAY."

It became very necessary for the Liberal University Company to raise more money to pay up the unavoidable debts which have accrued during the winter and to finish our building; therefore, the business manager, Mr. P. W. Geer, packed his grip and started out on the road last Friday morning. Of course, we who are at home working are all "praying" for his success and we have "faith" that he will succeed, for we know of no one in the whole world who could better explain our deeds and our needs than he. We regret that he is only one, but, unfortunately for us poor unbelievers, "three in one," in any way to us beneficial, is an impossibility. But although our Pearl is only one and

can visit only a few of our friends in the time he can spare from our Secular Home, we feel sure that all whom he is able to visit will extend to him a welcome, help all they can and try to get others to do the same. We are sure that the Torch of Reason family is in earnest and are not what Thomas Paine called Summer Soldiers. May that part of the great god, Humanity, to which "Brother" Geer appeals, send "showers of blessings" upon him, and may the transportation department of our "Savior," Science, bring him "safely home" to wear a "crown" of his friends' approval and a "golden harp" of a conscience which vibrates in harmony with eternal truth and right. Let us all "pray"!

TRUTH IS CONQUERING.

In a private letter a friend writes:

"How beautiful is Truth! How it purifies the mind!"

Yes, indeed, Truth is beautiful and purifying. It is beyond human speech to express the wonderful results which come from the introduction of Truth where before was Error. What does the world now enjoy, compared with what it did three hundred years ago! And why is this? What has brought to us the great advancements along every line? Is it not the larger degree of freedom from the old superstitions, and will we not advance still more rapidly when all the people of the world are set free and get "out into the clear"? We have a great work to do, but if we "act well our part" we need not fear for the results. Truth will conquer! Truth is conquering!

OUR OPENING EXERCISES.

Every morning in the Liberal University, instead of prayers, religious harangues and "sacred" songs, we have for opening exercises, first, responsive and concert reading of gems of thought from the master minds; second, singing of a Secular song and, third, the development of some great fundamental principle of cosmology, biology or sociology. Our friends must remember this important fact: THERE IS NO SUPERSTITION WHATEVER IN ANY OF THESE SONGS, POEMS OR LECTURES. Where else in the world is there a school where superstition is entirely excluded? And where else in the world is there a school where pupils are free to express their honest opinions on any and all subjects? The L. U. O. is truly "the only school of its kind in the world", and we must not let it be crushed out by those who are blinded by superstition or selfishness.

"Come, awake, the daylight dawns,
Rise to meet the coming morn."