

Torch of Reason

The Only Paper of Its Kind.

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J. E. Hosmer, Editor
P. W. Geer, Manager

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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. 15, E. M. 300.

LASTING MONUMENTS.

For a long time we have been debating how to use our forty acres of land, which we call the Griswold Tract, to the best advantage. We need money very much in order to finish our building, and at one time we thought of selling off small tracts, thus obtaining the wherewithall. But there are many objections to this. If we sell our land, it is then gone forever; and if undesirable parties should happen to purchase, or if they should become undesirable after they had purchased, we might be much embarrassed, and that, too, without remedy. Now, we have been talking it over this week, and Prof. Wakeman suggests that we ask those who wish to erect a monument for themselves, or for others, to build, or furnish the money to build, neat little cottages on the land, with the privilege of occupying them for such time as the parties may agree, but that the cottages and land finally return to the Liberal University Company, rent being a continual income, and a joy forever.

How great a thing it would be for us to have a beautiful little cottage surrounded by flowers and built here, fruits, known by the name of the donor, or as the Ingersoll cottage, or by the name of any of those great scientists and humanitarians which we all so much adore. The endowment plan of building universities is a very good one, and we hope our friends will not let the Ingersoll endowment fund drop, yet it takes a large sum of money to get an income of much importance, and some do not like the method for various reasons. In

building these cottages we need not expend large sums to have one complete, and they will be a great advantage in the way of securing students, and furnishing a way by which our friends can come at any time and make us a good visit; and the money paid for expenses would go directly to the University itself instead of elsewhere.

The land can be laid off in such a manner that the cottages, trees, flowers and fountains all together would produce a very pleasing effect. It can be made a park, unsurpassed in its beauty. What will be the name of the first cottage?

"BROTHERS IN CHRIST."

The Boers are thorough believers in Christianity, and, unlike the devils who "believe and tremble," they are said to be real, earnest followers of the Lamb and depend on God and his holy word to guide them to victory in their awful war with England. Why God has allowed the British to smite them hip and thigh is a mystery, and if England comes out ahead, as most people seem to think she will, how can Christians any longer believe in the efficacy of prayer? Those earnest, devout people, who honestly believe they are fighting for their rights, are praying earnestly to their God for victory. And if they should, by some hook or crook, get the upper hand of the powerful British government, they would give God all the praise and honor of their victory. Just suppose, for the sake of illustration, that some other nation would take the Boers' part, and together they would begin to overpower the British, would not the whole pious lot of superstitious Christians of England pray to the same God for help, and would it help England any, provided her enemies had enough men and "kept their powder dry?" No! Every one who has been emancipated knows that the prayers of the righteous, as well as those of the wicked, availeth nothing, and that the only way to success in any undertaking is through our being able to adjust ourselves to, and take advantage of our environments.

Already thousands of prayers from Old England for the safety and happy return of dear ones have been answered by the reports that hundreds and thousands of these same dear ones have gone to heaven, which is sad enough news indeed; and it is the same on the other side. "O God, spare my dear boy's life, that he may come home safely to be a comfort to his mother in her old age," is the substance of more than one earnest, honest, Christian prayer. "Shot in the first charge," is the answer to many, and many more answers are as bad or worse.

We Secularists pray to all thinking people to help hasten the time when foolish faith will give place to "eternal vigilance" and when Englishmen, in large bodies or singly, would no more shoot a Boer, nor a Boer an Englishman, than we (the reader and the editor)

would shoot our brothers or sisters at home.

For "God's" sake, Christians, and for the love of Humanity, Freethinkers, think what the world is losing by the little foolishnesses of a few poorly-born, aristocratic snobs known as our rulers.

Among scientists it is a debatable question whether it would not be better to preserve the lowly races of animals, such as rattlesnakes, rather than to blot them out of the book of life forever (nature never repeats herself), for it may be that they have some properties or characteristics which might be discovered to be of inestimable value to mankind. For example, their so much dreaded poison may contain some element that might be a safe and sure antidote for loathsome and destructive diseases. How much more, then, should be preserved as long as possible the individual man and the races of men. The Englishmen who have been killed in this hellish, dishonorable play of those who are so afraid of their nation losing its honor are the very flowers of civilization—great, brave, stalwart lads, whom the world most needs to send it along the track of civilization. Who can estimate the loss of what just one of these men might have done? How many Spencers, or Darwins, or Holyokes, or Ingersolls, or Wakemans today are lying in lowly beds in a far-away land? Young, strong and brave boys, the very cream of civilization, have gone forever, and all that they "might have been" and all that they might have done is gone also, because nations are still "Christian nations" and not yet converted to Secularism, the religion of Science and Humanity.

WE THANK YOU.

Sometimes one thinks the whole human family is engaged in a free-for-all fight, but as long as men and women can be found who will show such honest, earnest interest in the work of raising humanity to the higher ideal of Secularism, we will have hope and will gird on our armor of energy. This week, one who has already donated largely to the Liberal University, wrote us the kindest letter imaginable, which he closed with the following short statement: "Inclosed find draft to help along spring trade." This draft fairly took away our breath, for it was, indeed, a good-sized one, and was just what we were "praying" for. We felt somewhat like little Tommy, who had been praying for a red sled for Christmas, and, when awaking in the morning, discovered one on the foot of his bed. He rubbed his eyes and stared at the pretty thing, exclaiming, "Who in the devil put that thing there?" But we really begin to have genuine faith in our Freethought friends, and if they keep on responding as they have this week, the Liberal University will soon be able to help answer the great prayer for light and liberty that has been ascending to the throne of Humanity for centuries. Friends who have helped us in this great movement, how can we thank you any better than to labor on?

Every man at his post, and a great victory will be won!

WORKS PROVE US.

Among the many letters of encouragement and help we received this week, the following illustrates very nicely the "spirit" of Science and Humanity that is entering the world, and shows why we are justified in saying that success is sure:

PONTIAC, Ill., March 7, 1900.

DEAR FRIENDS: I am a Liberal by name and by nature. In order to be a good Liberal, you must prove you are one by your works. Many people say they are Liberals, and never take a paper nor pay a cent to help the cause along. Liberal means something. I have helped you in a small way before, but am going to do better in the future. All Liberals that are able, should do as I am doing. Let's help to finish that University building. I will send you a \$5.00 postoffice order this time, and you will hear from me again before long.

Your friend for Freethought,

JOHN S. HOLMAN.

With such friends as this, we can't fail. Think of it! Here is a man, hundreds of miles away, who has never seen us, and yet he knows that our work is along the right line and is willing to sacrifice all he can to help it along. Of course, it takes a good many five dollars to build and sustain a university, but if many do as our friend Holman is doing, it will soon be accomplished. As the beautiful spring weather has come in the Willamette valley, we want very much to begin work again as soon as we can, and with the help we've received this week, and with Mr. Geer on the road, we have great hopes that we will soon be clear of debt and hear again the beautiful music of the hammer and the saw. We need the building. The cause demands it, and we must all work hard to have it done for next year's work.

A NEW WORKER.

The members of the Torch of Reason family will be pleased to learn that another worker has entered the beautiful field of educational Secularism. A young, well-educated, Freethought teacher from California has been engaged to teach in the L. U. O., and is here and already in the harness. His name is Freedom W. Hoffman, and if we believed in signs and wonders, we might think that his name was given him by an angel for the express purpose of having it fit nicely in the faculty of a school that was expressly built for "Freedom." The best part of it is that he is really free as well as having the name, and will undoubtedly prove a great factor in bringing our University into the very first rank of educational institutions of the world. He has already donated to the school museum a complete herbarium of the flora of California and is very anxious to commence work on the plants of Oregon. Let us appreciate him and his work and make the very most out of it possible, as this will be a benefit to him and to us and put the world another step toward the "good time coming."