

Torch of Reason

The Only Paper of Its Kind.

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THURSDAY, JUNE 7, E. M. 300.

OUR CONFUSION AND ITS REMEDY.

Christians are woefully divided, and that too to their "spiritual" dilution and ultimate annihilation; but as yet, Liberals have but little to brag of if the word Liberal means all that many understand it to mean. So we see the whole world is still in a state of confusion. The opposing creeds, both Christian and so-called Liberal can not all be true, and this confusion is the cause of humanity's sufferings.

The unity of the human race is the greatest idea in the world today and the question arises how can harmony be brought out of this awful chaos? If we endeavor to see things as they really are, perhaps we may discover the quick-acting panacea—the fabled fountain of immortal youth. Can it be that there is no cure for the crime, the sorrow, the weakness, the useless agony in our naturally beautiful, light-receiving and life-producing earth? Is it true that "it has always been so and always will?" Must our generation pass away without seeing the dawn of a brighter day? "Is there no balm in Gilead?"

The "good book" (parts of it are very bad) says: "Seek and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you." Let us apply this seeking and knocking business to the case in hand. In looking over the specimens in our own life's museum of experiences, we find that whatever we have had to do with Science and whatever of love we have had for our fellow creatures,

has always been a success. Whenever we have tried to touch the hem of the beautiful garment of Science we have been blessed and received virtue, and this finding of the great truths of nature, coupled with the love for others, which is only proved by our annually endeavoring to learn how to help them enjoy life to the very highest degree, is the only real enjoyment there is, after having as a basis that animal happiness that comes alike to all healthy animals surrounded by a normal environment. If, then, knowledge of the great universe of which we are a part, and love for our fellows and its consequent harmony, music of life, is the panacea for individuals, why is it not the fountain of immortal youth, the balm in Gilead of the whole human race? It certainly is!

And how to secure this Aladdin's lamp, this treasure-trove, this religion of Science and Humanity for the whole world is the great problem of this age. To be satisfied with "seeking" and "knocking" for our own special seat in this new heaven is contrary to the spirit of this new religion, and selfishness soon brands itself upon the brow of him who, as the millions do, become backsliders—infidel to this natural religion. Today, in every country in the world, the environment into which a child is born is such as to have his better nature, his desire for truth and love for his fellows, warped, benumbed, dwarfed, murdered by the lies of supernaturalism and its attendant evils. Many a youth starts out with the very best of intentions, but, as a rule, only those humans survive who are naturally crooked or are bent out of shape by their cruel environment; and all humanity is now sick with selfishness and crime.

Now it is evident that the doctors of divinity, with their old-fashioned pill boxes (their Bibles), can not cure the patient. Long and faithfully has the world taken the patent nostrums of these quacks. What we want is something that will really and truly give Humanity power to "pick up its bed and walk," and that at once. The pretenses of the medicine men and the humble faith of the patient will not, can not, produce the desired effect. The real, true remedy must be found, and then will come a change.

The genuine, hard-working, take-it-on-its-merit plan of building a University which is to stand for the Religion of Science and Humanity, with its rapid purifying and unifying effects, is our remedy, and we only ask those who have held their mental fingers on the pulse of the patient for years, sometimes hoping and sometimes despairing, to carefully watch the effect. Don't let us be too impatient; give the medicine time to work; help us keep it pure and unmixed with the filth of selfishness; raise the pa-

tient's head a little—there, see, the World is some better already. Do not let us be discouraged because the world is so large and we are only one little cell. Think of the billions of cells in our own bodies, and yet it takes but little to make us sick and miserable and but little to affect all the cells for good and make us well and happy. Even now, after only four years of what might be considered preparatory work, a thrill of pleasure has been felt away across the Atlantic and across the Pacific, and the dear, distant brothers who feel that we really and truly have the remedy, the only remedy for the ills of mankind, are now, as we write, carrying "the glad tidings of great joy" to those they love. To be sure, other remedies have been carried to distant parts of the world, but they have failed. Only the right one will produce the desired result and be quickly assimilated and acknowledged to be the treatment "we long have sought and grieved because we found it not." The old religions can never become universal, but the Religion of Science and Humanity can and certainly will. Jesus can never be proven to be the true savior of the world, nor can Mohammed. It does no good to worship either, but to work for the introduction of the new and beneficial truths of nature, all because we love our fellow men and want to make this world a happy place for ages yet to come, does do good; makes us exceedingly happy; takes away the fear of death, and will ultimately make new beings of us without the trouble of our being "born again," as receiving the forced and unnatural faith of the old creeds is called. It is plain that when men and women are perfectly in love and harmony by the training which emancipated schools of progressive, moral Secularism can give under Secularized conditions, they will be as good angels as can be imagined. What kind of beings could be more angelic than educated, refined, loving mothers, wives, sisters, sweethearts, fathers, husbands, brothers and friends?

Think of it! Can you imagine anything better than a perfected humanity? Wings, did you say? Never fear; when all men are free they will turn their gaze from the mythical animals of the sky to the real things of earth. LOVE AND SCIENCE will give us wings.

LET US WORK SYSTEMATICALLY.

We can do more in the next year than has been done in the last twenty-five toward building up our cause, and introducing its noble principles, if each Freethinker will do one very simple, easy thing, and that is: first find another Freethinker, talk over the best plan of systematic work in your neighborhood, be it country, town, or city. If in the country organize a society if you can, no matter if there are no more than five or six members; have regular meetings and read, sing, speak and discuss the best plans for carrying on the work of helping build the Liberal University. If there are not enough to organize, lay your plans carefully and then carry them out. If you need sample copies of the Torch, don't be afraid to ask for them. Think what a mighty power we

will be, and what help our University will receive when we are properly organized. In towns, a house-to-house canvass can be made by you or by committees appointed by the society, which could be easily organized if only some one will make it a business and carefully attend to it. The meetings can be private or public, according to conditions, but if some one will only take it in hand in each town and go at it in a steady, stick-to-it-ive manner, just think what can be done! Everything is in our favor if we will only organize, and if you, dear Freethought reader, will wisely go at it and get everyone else to help that you can, not being discouraged even if no one else takes hold for ten years, just planning and working whenever you can get time from your other duties you can accomplish wonders. NEVER GIVE UP! TRY AGAIN, and the little seeds of truth sown, and the help the L. U. O. will receive just from your spare moments, which will become the happiest of your life if you are a true-blue Liberal, will grow into mighty results, which will be a monument that will grow larger and larger ages after you are through acting well your part. Please do something. Our work drags. We need help.

Every Freethinker who lives in a city can organize some systematic plan of work and do us untold good. First, work, or superintend the working of your ward, and branch out as you can. Send us the names of those Liberally inclined and we will send each a sample copy of the Torch. Finally, if there are no Freethinkers in your vicinity, work with the timber at hand and don't give up under any consideration. The building of the Liberal University, Oregon, is one of the greatest undertakings that Freethinkers of any age ever inaugurated; and if it is a success it will be because we are willing to be Freeworkers as well as Freethinkers.

LADIES, ATTENTION!

Do you know who your friends are? Is Christianity the friend of woman, or has it always made her play second fiddle in everything? Does your emancipation depend on the success of Secularism, or on the extension of the myths and traditions of the church? Here is a pointer: Silverton is noted far and wide as a Secular stronghold, and Mt. Angel, less than five miles distant, is strictly a Christian town. This week an equal suffrage amendment was voted on by the people of Oregon, and in the Liberal University precinct it carried with a large majority, but in Mt. Angel it was entirely "snowed under". By the next issue of the Torch we will know whether the State is to give all its moral, intelligent citizens a right to help make the laws that they and their sons are obliged to obey, or whether the old, white-slave regime is to continue. And if this noble war for freedom is reported a failure it will not be because the men of the State are Freethinkers, but because the powerful shackles of the church, which has always served the political bosses, are still unbroken and that the Goddess of Liberty is still crucified on the bloody tree whose two main branches are known to us as the Catholic and Protestant Superstitions.