

Torch of Reason

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

THURSDAY, AUG. 2, E. M. 300.

"Procrastination is the thief of time," is true of our work of building a Freethought school, and if we wish to get the L. U. O. well under way before our time comes, we must "strike while the iron is hot."

Secularists should study well the fundamental principles of Science. Let every soldier in our ranks understand and know the importance of the ideas of the indestructibility of matter and the conservation of energy, for ignorance of these great ideas is the chief bulwark of orthodoxy. We should read and study, and be not cowardly in using the weapons against superstition that we thus obtain.

TILLAMOOK.

Last week we wrote most of our editorials while en route for the Pacific coast, and this week we write while seated in our cosy tent in Brother Mason's front yard in the progressive little coast city of Tillamook.

Tillamook county differs in many respects from the rest of Oregon and from the rest of the world. The summers are cool and very pleasant here, with occasional showers. The winters are warm, with much rain. No railroad has ever blessed or cursed this little republic, yet its resources are very great. No country can boast of better or more abundant grass, butter, cheese, beef, honey, shellfish, salmon, trout, timber, roots and bulbs. Grain and fruit are

raised to some extent, but most varieties do not ripen as well here as in the valley. The climate, especially in the summer and fall, is perfectly delightful.

But even here, as civilization takes the place of the barbarism of the original natives, the old Jewish barbarism of orthodoxy follows and feeds from the products of Science, like the silly barnacles on the body of a great fish.

A great "revival" plague visited the little city of Tillamook last year, and the harvest of its evil effects are already being felt. The people (even the church people) are almost hopelessly divided, the members of the different churches hating each other as much as God hated his enemies, or as much as Jesus hated the scribes and Pharisees; and wile they are thus divided, the young people, who should be taught the great truths of Right Living—those who need help the worst are neglected—are "going to the dogs."

These contending creeds have divided and ruined the public school work for the last two years, according to good authority. The Presbyterians hired the principal, and war ensued. This so ruined the school work that even some of the Freethinkers patronized the Catholic academy, thinking that of the two evils they would choose the least. Under right conditions, i. e., under Secular conditions, pupils of Tillamook could go to the public schools and prepare themselves for the higher work and then finish in the academy; but no, those who wish their boys and girls to be educated free from the old falsehoods must send them "outside," and until lately there has been no place where Freethought parents could send the young people without the danger of their being led into some one of the priest traps.

The attitude and influence of Christian teachings was very nicely illustrated by one of the publications in which we published our "Challenges." We made ourselves known to the editor of the Herald, and he kindly consented to publish it. The editor of the Headlight also did the same, but the Headlight man proved to be a Presbyterian, and after getting the notice all set up he informed us that the charge would be one dollar and twenty-five cents; but we explained that we understood that he was to print it as a local, without charge, but again we learned the lesson that Christians fail to study the Sermon on the Mount and that the "root of all evil" is sometimes rooted deep in the brains of brother editors, provided that one is a goat and the other a "lamb of the upper fold." The moral of this story is this: If we are fooled into paying one dollar and twenty-five cents to the Christian editor, we really

ought to pay our friend, the editor of the Tillamook Herald, the same, in order that our opponent may not receive an advantage, through us, over our friend. Friends of the Torch can, if convenient, patronize the Tillamook Herald to the extent of one dollar and twenty-five cents, at least, and charge the same to the account of Christian integrity.

Some people think we are too radical, but when we witness the degradation, hypocrisy and crime that has been propagated and nourished by the Christian dogmas, we feel as though it is time for some one to be radical and eradicate the main root of human misery. The trouble in Tillamook is no exception to the rule. The schools, the morals, the wealth, the happiness and the progress of the whole world are forever kept back by the ignorant, superstitious and ever-present priestly lies of the dark past. Silverton, that most Liberal little city and the home of the only Freethought school in the world, is to have a Baptist preacher for the principal of its public schools. This would not have occurred if Liberals were as radically Christian, and the spirit as well as the letter of our state law, that no religious teachings shall be permitted in our public schools, would not be violated. To the Christian it is very important that the children and the heathen Chinese learn that Jesus died that they might be saved, but to us it is very important that our youth learn the truths of Science and have instilled into their minds such a love for humanity that no son of a god nor men, women and children will need to be put to death in order to save them.

How long must the children of the Tillamooks and Silvertons be sacrificed to the gods of ignorance? How long must the heathen peoples of the world be sacrificed to the god of war? How long must Humanity hang on the cruel cross of priestcraft between the two thieves, Protestantism and Catholicism?

REAL INFIDELITY.

The preacher who stands in his pulpit and rants about the awful condition and final punishment of the Infidel is himself the real infidel. He is infidel (unfaithful) to some of the doctrines of Jesus which he professes; he is infidel to what he knows to be the truth; he is infidel to his followers, for he is knowingly deceiving them for the sake of keeping them in line with the church, and he is infidel to himself. The churches having thus been taught by men who are unfaithful to truth, unfaithful to their flock, unfaithful to their doctrines and unfaithful to themselves, have become nothing but rendezvous of

genuine infidels and meeting places for their dupes.

The "Infidels" of our time are not infidels. We who are faithful to our honest convictions regardless of consequences, we who in the face of ostracism, boycott and seemingly devised traps of God's anointed will neither talk with double tongues nor keep silent, we we who so love liberty, yet accept the slavery and humility of the misjudged, are not infidels. We have fidelity, but the men and women who today, by their membership in the church, say to the world that they believe in its absurd creed, and thus misguide the young, are either weaklings or infidels of the worst kind.

What a world this would be if infidel "Infidels" and infidel Christians would learn to have fidelity!

GOD'S MERCY.

"God's word" is full of contradictions. In Ex. xxxiv. 6-7, we find the following: "And the Lord passed before him [Moses] and proclaimed the Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth generation."

A man who would punish his worst enemy's children and grandchildren and great-grandchildren for what their parents had done, would be a most despicable brute; but God, who brags of his mercy and goodness in one breath, declares himself a tyrannical, bloodthirsty villain in the next. The fact is, that no God ever said it. The inspired writer was not inspired with the love of telling the truth. The Bible is not the word of a god at all. The story of the fall of man, and his redemption by the death of a god's son is a farce, and those who are trying so hard to believe what the priests and preachers are telling them are a poor, deluded set of suckers. There is no use of mincing these matters any longer. The quicker we brand these lies as lies the better it is for all concerned. Let's "call a spade a spade" from this on, and learn how to use these tools until we have cleaned out these orthodox cesspools, that something better may grow where they encumber the ground.

To be sure it's a dirty job, but if all turn up their noses and pass by, the air will be poisoned for generations, and thus will be fulfilled the church's divinely inspired mission of punishing the children and the children's children for many generations. It is our duty to tear down that we may build up. Let's up and at it!