

Torch of Reason

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J. E. Hosmer, Editor
P. W. Geary, 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, AUG. 9, E. M. 300.

If Jesus "was God," were not the words he uttered when about to die very strange? "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?"

What a "blessed hope" it is that a majority of the human family is still going to hell! Isn't it a shame that Infidels are trying to make people believe that death is perfect rest?

The energies spent in preaching "Jesus and him crucified," and teaching about the "home over there," would save Humanity from being crucified and build a heaven here.

Did Jesus love his enemies when he said, "But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven?" Is that doing good to them that hate him? Is it turning the other cheek also?

If it wasn't for the belief in a hell, many of the Christians would be in the penitentiary, according to their own statements, and statistics show that "the pen" is full of them as it is. The belief in spooks is a great thing, isn't it?

Ye have heard that it hath been said that ye resist not evil, but whosoever shall smite thee on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. But we say unto you, RESIST EVIL, and whosoever smite thee on the right cheek try to get out of his way, but when cornered defend yourself like a man.

A very good way for our friends to help build the L. U. O. is to quote to every Christian they meet, "Give to him that asketh thee," and then ask for as much as the Christian can raise. This will result in nothing but good for our work, for it will either get something from the Christians, or it will help convert them to common-sense. They in turn will convert others, and in this way we will soon have the much-needed assistance.

"Straws show which way the wind blows." We went into a Christian barber shop in Tillamook the other day and tried to get the newly-converted and newly-married barber to subscribe for the Torch, but he doesn't want to read both sides, and no amount of talk could persuade him that his customers should have our paper. How differently we were welcomed by Mr. C. Peterson, Tillamook's popular Free-thought barber. He cheerfully paid us a dollar for a year's subscription and would not take a cent for shaving the "Secular preacher."

FISHING.

Our challenge not being taken up by any of the Tillamook ministers, we have put in most of our time, since our last week's writing, getting subscribers for the Torch, fishing, talking with old friends on the street, visiting at the homes of friends and relatives, etc. Last Sunday a party of Freethinkers went picnicking up the Kilches river, and what a fine time we had! We caught seventy-five or eighty of the finest trout we ever saw, and we hope to be able to go trolling for salmon in Tillamook bay next Sunday. This is certainly a paradise for the sportsman, and although we cannot be classed with up-to-date Nimrods, yet we enjoy deceiving the speckled beauties and in eating them, too, when done to a nice brown.

But God's "fishers of men" have been casting their nets of superstition here, and we feel so sorry for the human fish that we dare not spend too much time with the finny inhabitants. There are six Christian churches in this little city, and drunkenness does not seem to be on the decrease. Bright boys who, at the age of ten, have better judgment and reason than the average preacher, can't believe the foolish stories they hear in these God-houses. Young people will have company, and there is no other place for them to go but to the saloon. Thus the Christian churches are directly accountable for the drunkenness of Tillamook, as well as of the rest of the country. These boys should not patronize the saloons, but they do; and they will until there is something better to take the place of the

Christian joss-houses and their deceiving priests. And the saddest thing about it is, that many of the brightest intellects are thus driven into debauchery, while, as a rule, a few of the duller or naturally hypocritical ones are preserved by the churches to domineer and govern the world. No one can estimate how much civilization has been retarded by the false and unnatural doctrines of the Christian religion, but sometime a redeemed humanity will look back to these slowly-evolving, heathen times and wonder how people could be so weak and foolish as to cling to old, decaying theories of an ancient priesthood instead of being guided by the light of the advancing torch of reason.

One of God's servants deigned to converse with us a few minutes the other day, and by quotations kindly informed us that we are fools, and that if we wanted to see the devil we should look in a looking glass, etc. We have learned self-control, and so we were able to give tit for tat without getting angry, and we informed the reverend(?) that he, in our humble estimation, is something of a hypocrite and that we could prove that he does not believe or practice what he preaches. He said that he believes the Bible to be the word of God and a complete guide for the life of man. "Very well," said we, "the book represents Jesus as saying, 'give to him that asketh of thee; please let us have your coat.'" "All right, sir," said he, and he took his coat partly off, but his "bluff" did not work. We would have taken the coat, and he perceived it and backed down. "Come to my house," said he, "and you shall have it;" and finally it turned out that in order to get the coat we must go to Bay City, about seven miles distant, where we will call as soon as convenient and demand, not only the coat, but the rest of our fanatical friend's wardrobe, his watch and any other loose property he may have gathered in the vineyard of the Lord. Do you suppose we will get the "stuff?" Probably the reverend gentleman will have discovered by the time we visit his home that the word of God doesn't mean just what it says.

We attended a funeral in the M. E. Church yesterday and were moved to tears for the poor, deluded living, but not for the dead. The man who talked to the sorrow-stricken people told them things as truth that he does not know to be true; in fact, things that every scientist knows to be false. Doesn't it seem awful that men of small calibre, both intellectually and educationally, should select such a time of sorrow to propagate their unproven and unprofitable theories—to hold out false hopes and make the poor, deluded ones believe that they (the preachers) know more

about an immortal soul, a heaven, angels, a God, a great white throne, etc., etc., than other people do? O, how cruel, how misleading, how dividing, how slave-producing is the religion of the bloody cross!

Secularists, let us wake up and put something better in its place—the Religion of Science and Humanity.

HEADQUARTERS, HEROES AND WEAPONS.

Perhaps no better type of the world or of humanity could be found than the Pacific coast and its people. The country itself has mountains, forests, plains, valleys, and all the climates from the tropical to the cold, barren regions of high altitudes or of Alaska. The people are from every part of the globe, and the home of the L. U. O. is thus in the very best region which could be discovered for the forming of the great storm center of Freethought that is to bring the purifying atmosphere of the Religion of Science and Humanity to the whole globe.

Our undertaking is so gigantic that it will take some time before the thinkers of the world fully grasp the thought and put the full force of their mental shoulders to the wheel, but we have no cause to complain, for the fifth year of our work will open with a number of the greatest thinkers and workers in the world rejoicing, interested, helping. Let every subscriber to the Torch of Reason spread the news nor weary in telling that such men and women as Herbert Spencer, George Jacob Holyoake, E. B. Foote, N. F. Griswold, T. B. Wakeman, C. B. Waite, Gen. Birney, D. A. Blodgett, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Daniel T. Ames, Susan H. Wixon, Helen Gardener, C. K. Tenney and many others are all interested in this great educational, emancipation movement, and that it is only a question of a few short years when the Freethought scientists will score a great triumph over the hosts of superstitious theology. It is coming very rapidly. The war has been declared; headquarters established; volunteers are coming forward, and the main army of Jehovah and its bushwhackers are watching the smoke of our camp fires. We need enduring soldiers; we need modern weapons; we need ammunition; we need every ounce of physical, mental, moral and financial support that the Freethinkers of the world can give, for it is a big fight against an organized army of years of experience, whose only desire is to obey its divine leaders. But their weapons are the darts and arrows of an ancient, heathen people, and we are sure to win with our up-to-date weapons of Science. Every man to his post!