

# Torch of Reason

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THURSDAY, AUG. 16, E. M. 300.

Man created a god in his own image; a male god created he him.

The effects of Christian missionary work in China are hate, rebellion, crime, war! Has it ever been anything else?

Secularists, unless our righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the orthodox Scribes and Pharisees of our time, we shall in no case build a heaven here on earth.

The evils which Christians and Secularists alike condemn have been largely caused by the evils in Christianity; and the only good in Christianity is purely Secular, all of which was borrowed from Pagans and "Infidels."

That the kingdom of heaven is at hand was preached two thousand years ago, and the Adventists are still at it. Why on earth don't it come? Perhaps it is here, but, being like to a grain of mustard seed, it may have escaped our notice.

One of Tillamook's late converts to Christianity was heard to say that it is a good thing for his business to belong to the church. But a man who joins for that reason is apt to be found out and lose more than he gains. Be honest!

If our Tillamook challenge is not taken up, many of the most intelligent citizens of the city will think it is because the preachers are afraid to do so. Their devotees might hear something that would be a disadvantage to the church.

One good church of Science and Humanity could be well supported by the people, if they were not divided by the nonsensical dogmas of Christianity. Why not drop the old theories of the gods and work for truth and righteousness?

Reader, the L. U. O. prays to you, as a part of the crucified Humanity, to help do away with the devil of superstition, and to establish unity, love and progress where now reign anarchy, hate and war. Be quick, for "time is too precious to waste."

If we can get money enough to hire the right kind of teachers, finish our building and buy the much needed apparatus, we can soon have the best school in the world. Let us all talk, work and pay without ceasing, until our efforts are rewarded with a well-earned victory for Science and Humanity.

Rev. Dollarhide of Tillamook is fond of quoting to us who do not believe in the Santa Claus God in the sky, "The fool hath said in his heart, there is no God." He forgets that Jesus said: "But whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire." "The goblins will get you if you don't watch out!"

The two accounts of the creation of man in Genesis suggests to some that God lost sight of the first pair and that they wandered to the land of Nod. That country was thus populated when Cain went there in search of a wife. If God was so easily deceived in his younger days, perhaps we "Infidels" may sneak into heaven and find our "spirit mates" after all.

The preachers are forever making much out of the awful mysteries. We should never forget that what we don't know is just as simple as what we do know. Wise men solve the problems of nature, but fools, in wide-open-mouthed wonder, cry, "Our God alone understands these mysteries and he will reveal them to us in his own good time, if we only watch and pray." Faith or Science, which does the world need?

One of Tillamook's preachers, in a private conversation, said that we Freethinkers are not as accommodating and kind as the Christians. The same day a Freethinker (W. E. Page) made us a present of a fine Prince Albert coat from his store. This coat will last us all winter to teach in, and we feel very proud of it, as it is a visible proof that the man of God, and not the minister of the Gospel of Humanity, was mistaken in the argument.

An individual and a nation need nothing more than they need definiteness of purpose and a

clear understanding of some good plan of operation. Is there anything more indefinite, and is there anything more confusing than the guide book called the Bible? The Constitution for the nation and George Washington's maxims, which he adopted at the age of thirteen, for the individual, are far better than any dream book of ignorant Jewish priests.

"The Old Testament is not Christian," said a Christian to us the other day, "it is Jewish." Very well, if it is not of equal authority with the New Testament, the story of the "fall of man" is not authentic, only a Jewish story; and if there is doubt about the "fall" there must be doubt about man's redemption through God's only begotten son. Man never fell. Jesus was not a son of a god. Science will redeem humanity from original ignorance.

We have much sport as well as satisfaction in quoting, "Give to him that asketh thee," to our Christian friends. One "follower of the lamb" recently explained to us that Jesus was not speaking of material things. Afterwards he said that it means that if we see any in need, we should help them; and that each one's conscience is to be the judge of the needy. It is too bad that Jesus did not have our friend as his private secretary, for he would have written the sermon in such a way that even the "lost" could have been saved. An ex-Christian friend says, "that is just what ails the damned thing—the Bible; it don't say what it means and it don't mean what it says."

Working on the ignorance of their flock, many preachers stultify the minds of the defenseless by making mysteries out of that which is understood and enjoyed by all Scientists. For example, the beauty of the form and coloring of the lily is often made to appear to be caused by the caprice of God to please his children "here below." How false and dwarfing are such doctrines. To the Scientist every step in the flower's growth, from the time when the attraction of gravity pulls the seed and earth together till the corolla is delicately striped, the little ovules fertilized and more seed ready to propagate its kind is well known. Spencer's Synthetic Philosophy is worth far more than all the Bibles of the world. But preparatory work must be done before such books can be understood. Moral: If you have not learned to read yet, don't pray, but go to the L. U. O. One is never too old to learn.

A Christian insinuated to us in a private conversation this week that the followers of our doctrines are very bad people. He judges

them all as infidel who are not Christians and none as Christians who are not good. He showed that he has no sympathy for the erring ones, but feels very much above those who are "out of the fold." We do not condemn our friend for his shortcomings, but we wish he might see that his condemnation of others is as bad as the weaknesses he condemns. Some whom he classifies as our people drink intoxicating liquor, and this we think very foolish and stultifying; but our Christian friend uses tobacco to excess, and this is also a costly, filthy, disgusting, mind-destroying habit. Belief in Jesus Christ's power to save to the uttermost does not save. On the contrary, it often adds bigotry to one's other weaknesses. We ought not to be classified as "the sheep" and "the goats." The people of the world should all feel toward each other as brothers and sisters, and never condemn to hell, as the old Jewish God did, all those who do not worship to suit them. Creeds separate, but Science will unite.

## THE HELL OF CASTE.

The caste system in India is a great hindrance to the Hindoos establishing a high civilization. The division made by these castes makes many unaffiliating peoples right in the same country, each caste hindering the others from progressing instead of all working for each and each for all. The Christian creeds are doing for us what the caste system has done for India. Instead of being united in building up our homes and our government, we are separated, even down to the members of families, by these religious castes. The Protestants look upon Catholics as non-Christians and most as bad as the Infidels, and the Catholics look upon the Protestants as not fit to even marry good Catholics. The different Protestant churches have their little clannish sets who only work for "our church," as they call it, boycotting each other and only now and then showing any love or sympathy, and that only when they think policy demands it. And we have become so used to this hell that it don't seem very hot, either. We could do much better work if we were all united, and the common ground on which all good men and women can unite is the religion of Right Living, with Science as the interpreter of the universe. The old castes must be broken up; we must be a united people; we must learn to love all mankind, and especially our fathers and mothers, and brethren and sisters, yea, and even our own life also; we must drop the artificial props that the priests have given us and get back to nature; we must not condemn, but we must find causes and rectify, purify and