

## Torch of Reason

The Only Paper of Its Kind.

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THURSDAY, AUG. 30, E. M. 300.

### CHRISTIAN WAR.

"Peace on earth; good will toward men."  
Bawl the priests when peace is wanted;  
But when pelf's in sight, ah, then  
Christian soldiers, all undaunted,  
Think that peace we can't afford—  
Jesus came to bring a sword.

We read with horror of days of yore,  
When thousands died as God commanded,  
When earth was filled with heathen gore  
That Christian creeds might not be  
stranded;  
But Reason's torch they could not  
smother,  
Then how they LOVED their heathen  
brother!

We learn how, by meek Jesus sent,  
The Catholic killed the Infidel,  
And how the axe of Protestant  
Upon the necks of Catholics fell.  
O, Christian zealots, read with shame  
The crimes approved in Jesus' name!

And when Columbia hove in sight,  
A shout of Freedom rent the air;  
But gentle Jesus led the fight  
And carried superstition there.  
The blue laws, made by "the elite,"  
Made honest men and women weep.

"Peace on earth," the preachers  
preached;  
Boldly said that God inspired them;  
But all thinkers they impeached—  
Hung and burned as if hell fired them.  
Bible 'stablished precedent;  
Thinker and witch to hades went!

But slowly gained the brave and free,  
And creeds must seek a foreign land.  
They've gone to fight the poor Chinese  
And make HIM see the Christian plan.  
The pigtail's house must "open door,"  
Or "blowee" hell from roof to floor.

A red-hot hell has been earth's lot,  
And e'en today repeats the story;  
And future ages 'll read the plot  
Of how the Christians, for Christ's  
glory,  
"Took no prisoners in China lands,  
But dyed with blood their guilty hands.

The world is sick of selfish creeds—  
Of jealous gods and greedy men;  
It needs "redemption" from such deeds  
As gods and priests e'er recommend.  
We need "conversion" of the free  
To Science and Humanity.

Many Christians who shout the  
loudest for closed doors in Amer-

ica, advocate the "open door" for the Chinese. Sauce for the goose don't seem to be sauce for the gander in every instance. It's just when both goose and gander are Christians that they are entitled to the same diet. How God's people do love their enemies!

There are no supernatural things. The ideas of gods, holy ghosts, divine sons, angels, heaven, hell and everything of the kind are relics of an ignorant past and now used only by priests to fool their dupes. Reader, if you are still in the fog of mysticism, for the sake of Humanity, flee from the wrath that has been. Come to the light that is Science!

The preachers who are so anxious for the "open door" in China would do well to keep still until "Nancy kills the bear" and then come in for their share of the plunder and glory, for if they continue to advocate war, people in this country may begin to think that they (the preachers) are not trying to follow him who said, "resist not evil."

The "glad tidings of great joy" that a Liberal University is now being built to teach the "New Religion of Science and Humanity" is flying all over the world. But few as yet fully understand what a great movement toward higher and better things this is. Most Christians think that we are evil and are trying to destroy the good they have been doing, but the L. U. O. has not come to destroy but to help fulfill the brotherhood prophecies of the great Secular poets and sages of all ages. Let us be not afraid to labor that these prophecies may be fulfilled, for, verily, this generation should not pass until the walls of the New Heaven begin to be seen of all men.

The Liberal University has a friend whom we are very much afraid will, with his family, be killed in China. He is the editor's brother, and although he has many faults like his Infidel relative, knowing how bloodthirsty the Christian boxers are when they think their God is with them, we fear that our poor brother will now surely meet a brutal death at the hands of the enraged Christians. Our brother's name is John Chinaman. Poor John! He was born under unfavorable circumstances. Being marked with a yellow skin and almond eyes, he has been hardened by the jests of the other boys at school, and many have thought that he has no conscience at all; but his brother knows that he has; that his heart is true and that he loves his wife and babies as well as those who have learned all about

Jesus. Poor John, we'll help you all we can, but it is too late, we fear, to help you very much. May the Christians have mercy on your poor soul!

### HEATHEN, CIVILIZED AND SEMI-CIVILIZED.

We have heard it stated by "radicals" that if the now desperate Protestant churches were given the power, they would persecute as relentlessly as ever. This has seemed rather radical to us, and we have asked ourselves if it is possible that we Freethinkers would be "brought on to our knees" if our opponents again had absolute control of things. Lately we begin to think that, although they may not know it themselves, if they should get the power it would again appear to be their duty to "save the world for Jesus at any cost," as in the dark days of the past. We are not prophets, but we feared that the power of the Church is slowly creeping upon us, and that it would be well to be awake. The flood of moral light that has been sweeping away the old dogmas since the establishment of this Secular republic is being driven back by the old spirit of the Crusades. The dogmatic elements among the leaders of religious thought have been losing their hold, and the counteracting result is the breaking away from the peaceful propaganda work for their savior toward aggressive warfare. Of course, at bottom the agents of God care no more for his glory than they did in Elizabeth's time, when religious fervor became an excuse to collect money or rid the elite of a nuisance. It is said that the collection of tithes alone in those dark Protestant days cost a million lives.

But the vast untaxed church property, which compels us all to pay our tithes in taxes, and the large sums extorted from those who still think that money will, in some way, help buy their everlasting pardon for the Adam's apple blunder, is not enough for the ever-increasing army of preachers. They must have more! There are so many heretics in civilized countries now, however, that the green-eyed monsters of superstition and greed have been held in check. But they now behold our helpless brothers across the great "American lake." There will those whom God has chosen find ample room to cast their nets, and while our danger may be made less for a time, woe to the poor Chinese! They must now help support the church, learn of Jesus and his love, see their children hoodwinked or bribed into worshipping "other gods" than their own, or be killed by the thousands, and that, too, by those who have been teaching them that their God says: "Thou shalt not kill!"

### ORTHODOX LAW.

It seems that there is an orthodox legal element, as well as an orthodox religious one in our country, who would kill the heathen to make them understand how we civilized people live up to law and order. Read the following from the Legal Adviser:

It is said that "technically" the civilized powers are not at war with China. So, also, when savages on our territorial borders proceed to slaughter peaceful settlers and battalions of soldiers are sent to shoot the savages to death, it may be said that "technically" we are not at war with them. No declaration of war is issued. No ambassador or other minister receives his passport. The savages are shot, nevertheless. So should it be in the case of these Asiatic savages. They are not entitled to national recognition by the formality of a declaration of war. They have forfeited all claim to any recognition whatever by a civilized power. They are entitled only to the swiftest possible extermination. It is to be fervently hoped that a combined army of all the civilized nations—an army powerful enough to erase the so-called Chinese empire from the map of the world—will proceed with all possible despatch in the righteous duty of exterminating these Asiatic savages, and that America will be represented by an ample contingent of soldiers in that army.

You see it's like this: When Chinese get mad and kill white men for their social, religious and financial aggressions, it at once brands the defenders of their sacred beliefs as Asiatic savages, and they are ours to rob, ravish and murder; but when Christian white men think they have a grievance against the poor heathen, it is so easy to put them to sleep and fix it all up by preaching Jesus and him crucified to the little China boys and young maidens that are kept alive for God's share of the plunder, that we at once become the holy ambassadors of God.

Isn't it true that the better classes of Chinese are intelligent, thrifty, ingenious and kind? Do we, who are so proud of our civilization, not owe very much to these people? Do they not love their wives and children? And although their ways are not our ways in many respects, should we murder them by the thousands because some of them are thought to have committed a crime? Every intelligent human being killed, robs the world of something that that human being could give. No two are the same, and by exterminating vast numbers, who knows but the greatest of all saviors may not be among them? We cannot afford to lose a single intelligent being from the earth. We should love, protect and help our weaker brothers across the sea instead of thirsting for their blood like wild beasts. If they have done wrong, there is a cause for it; and