

**Call for Annual Congress of  
A. S. U. & F. F.**

The twenty-fourth Annual Congress of the American Secular Union and Freethought Federation will be held in Cincinnati, Ohio, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 23, 24, 25, 1900.

It is expected that this gathering of American Freethinkers will be one of the largest and most important annual meetings yet held. One of the most successful of the earlier meetings of the Society was held in Cincinnati twenty-one years ago. Today this city has a large and flourishing society of Freethinkers, who asked for this Congress a year in advance and promised to do all in their power to make it a success. The city is centrally located for Liberals east of the Rocky mountains. Special rates will be given by all the leading railroads and it is believed that the attendance from outside will be unusually large. Able speakers will discuss the various questions pertaining to our work, and every effort will be made to interest and entertain all who attend.

The present year has not been an uneventful one for our Society. The advocates of a state religion have industriously prosecuted their work, and in some instances have been successful. On the other hand we have won some decisive victories. In Toledo and other places the efforts of religionists to enforce Puritanical laws have been successfully opposed. In Chicago a committee appointed by the board of education to consider the question of retaining the Chicago Bible in the public schools voted unanimously against its retention. In Kansas the supreme court has practically affirmed the decision of a lower court that religious exercises in a public school are unlawful.

In California, which has occupied an advanced position regarding church taxation, the various religious denominations are clamoring for the redemption of their property. The coming election is to decide whether the people of this state will refuse to accede to the demands of the church or surrender to it.

Oklahoma, whose material development and large population of intelligent people entitled it to admission as a state years ago, will probably be admitted into the Union at an early day. Freethinkers not only in this territory, but everyone should be interested in its adoption of a Liberal constitution. To secure the influence of Catholic prelates in the coming presidential campaign it is understood that the managers of the leading political parties have made important pledges regarding church domination in Porto Rico and the Philippines. The redemption of these

pledges by the successful party must not be allowed without a protest.

To pay the expense of speakers, hall rent for nine sessions, advertising, cost of publishing Report of Congress, etc., will require at least \$1,000. Liberals in the past have generally responded generously to appeals for funds to defray the expenses of our Congresses, and is believed they will to this. Contributions should be sent at once to Otto Wettstein, Treasurer, Rochelle, Ill.; E. C. Reichwald, Secretary, 141 South Water street, Chicago, or to the Editor of the Torch of Reason.

J. E. REMSBURG, President.  
E. C. REICHWALD, Secretary.

**Where Missionaries are Needed.**

BY JOS. SYMES.

The poor fools who support missions to the "heathen" are destitute of reason. What terrible insanity is that which believes that whole races will be damned forever by the "heavenly father" of them, because he has not sent them a gospel over which the Christians have been fighting and murdering each other for over 1000 years! What will future philosophers and historians have to say of this madness of the nineteenth century! Is there some huge Mephistopheles who is playing a diabolical farce with men as marionettes! This century so renowned for Scientific advancement and criticism, and the consequent disruption of Christian belief, is, notwithstanding, more distinguished for missionary madness than any other century! If Christians had so much as one truth to impart to the Chinese, they might be excused for kindly and gently offering it; but even then to force themselves in and call for gunboats to protect them while insulting the people would be a monstrous outrage. What is it now? Their Christianity is a mass of lies and immorality, the worst moral poison known, and this garbage they claim the right, under protection of great guns and bayonets, to force upon the "heathen"!

I am glad to see the Chinese resenting this unparalleled insolence, and sincerely hope they will permanently exclude every missionary from their country. Better still, let the Chinese try a counter move and send missionaries to the dark and bewildered Christians; and then we shall soon see how much more debased the Christians are than the Chinese. The Christians would soon forget their mutual feuds and bitter animosities, and unite to destroy the Celestial missionaries—as Carr's lambs are trying to destroy Slattery. Yes, I should like to see the Chinese take a leaf out of the Christian book, and pay the wretches back in their

own coin. This would open the eyes of the dupes of the missionaries—a very much needed operation.—[Liberator, Melbourne, Australia.

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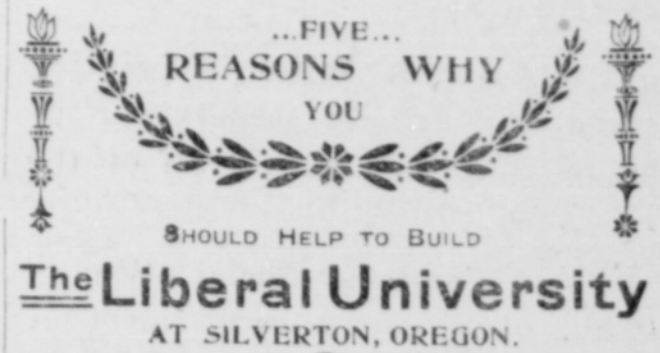
- 1 Can Sins be Forgiven?
- 2 Does Christianity or Science Promote Civilization?
- 3 Is Religion or Science More Reliable?
- 4 Evolution and Comparison of Religions.
- 5 Does Belief in Miracles Benefit?
- 6 Immortality or Annihilation?

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to hand to your Christian friends. Send 2 cents for 6, or 6 cents for 25 tracts, to ELIZA MOWRY BLIVEN, Brooklyn, Conn., or send 10 cents for 50, either kind or assorted kinds, to

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