

**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 exemption 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 Phil-

ippines. 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 it 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.

A Household of Women.

BY ELIZIBETH CADY STANTON.

To describe a household of women I once knew would be comical to the last degree, were it not so profoundly pitiful. In this household were five rich widows (one of these women said to be worth ten millions) all belonging to the same family, living in a handsome house in a fashionable part of New York, paying heavy taxes without a word to say in regard to municipal government; with their many maids they numbered just one dozen women.

Among the servants was one colored man, with a head the size of an apple; lacking one eye, and lame in one leg. On the first Tuesday of every November, this gentleman, a kind of major-domo in the establishment, represented these twelve women at the polls. Of the women, five were highly educated, the other seven able to read and write, any one of them competent to throw the little major-domo over the wall, yet he was the only full-fledged citizen of the Republic in this household. The twelve women had not a word to say in regard to the laws, or law-makers, under which they lived. They were practically slaves according to Benjamin Franklin, who once said "if a man's property can be taken from him without his consent, he is a slave." "If he has no voice in the government under which he lives, he is a slave."

The "Fathers" said, "no just government can be formed without the consent of the governed." "Taxation without representation is tyranny."

Have these lofty sentiments any application to one half the people of this Republic, or are they mere glittering generalities for use in Fourth of July orations, or on the eve of annual elections? We pause for a reply.

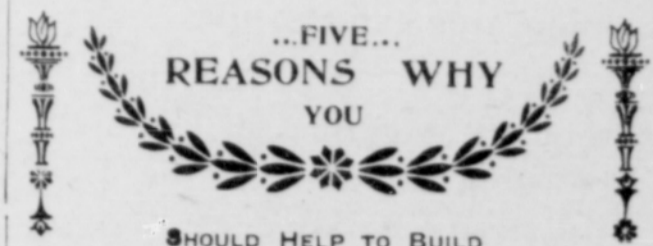
Women are continually asked as to their choice in the pending presi-

dential election. As there is no mention of them in either the Republican or Democratic platforms, as neither Mr. McKinley nor Mr. Bryan has had the courtesy to mention them in their pronouncements, why should they feel the slightest interest in either party? Their political status will remain the same in the success of either.

The questions of tariff, gold basis, imperialism and trusts, sink into utter insignificance compared with the emancipation of forty millions of women, many of them highly educated, the most virtuous and law abiding citizens of the Republic.

We give the Torch of Reason and the Weekly Oregonian both one year for \$1.75. If you want to take advantage of this you must order soon, for we may discontinue the offer at any time.

We believe that cards like the following copy neatly printed and distributed all over the United States, will help us to build the Liberal University. Reader, how many can you distribute to good advantage? This will cost you nothing but a little effort, and may help the cause of Freethought very much.



**The Liberal University
AT SILVERTON, OREGON.**

1 It will help many young men and young women to a higher education who otherwise will grow up without its great advantages.

2 It will educate workers for the great forward march of Freethought and Progress.

3 It will forever silence the accusation that Secularists have never done anything.

4 It will hasten the time when Reason and Love will reign, and when superstition and hate will be forever gone.

5 It will give you an opportunity to build yourself and others a monument, while you yet live, that will do a million times more good than the most costly one of cold, senseless marble.

If all help a little, we can accomplish much. Will you help a little?

Cobbler, stick to thy last!

A shoemaker found fault with an oil-painted slipper in one of the paintings of a celebrated artist, but showed the greatest ignorance in criticising the other parts of the painting. Hence has arisen the oft-quoted saying, Let the cobbler stick to his last, and let every one attend to his own business.

As a result of sticking to business come and see the rush at Silvertown's Busy Store and inspect the Bargains, at

**James Craig's
Silvertown, Oregon.**

STRICTLY ONE PRICE.

PRODUCE TAKEN

Our Job Department

—ALWAYS GIVES—

... Satisfaction

—BECAUSE IT GIVES—

HONEST STOCK, FINEST INK AND EXCELLENT WORKMANSHIP

LIBERAL UNIVERSITY,

OREGON.

CO-EDUCATIONAL.

Fall term begins Monday, October 1, E. M. 300 (A. D. 1900.)

NEW BUILDING WILL BE READY.

Students given board and rooms at the L. U. O. Dormitory at low rates

COURSES.

Kindergarten.
Primary.
Preparatory.
Commercial.

Scientific.
Normal.
Law.
Classical.

Courses in Medicine, etc., will be added as soon as practicable.

THE ONLY INSTITUTION OF ITS KIND IN THE WORLD.

STRICTLY NON-THEOLOGICAL.

For Catalogues and further particulars, address:

**J. E. HOSMER, President; or PEARL W GEER, Secretary,
SILVERTON, OREGON.**