

## Torch of Reason

The Only Paper of Its Kind.

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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, NOV. 1, E. M. 300.

### President Hosmer at Work.

We are pleased to announce that President Hosmer is still recovering from his illness. Not only is he at the desk with his usual part in the openings, but he gets in a pretty good day's work for L. U. O. every day.

### God, The Basis of the Government.

From the Outlook we take this text, written ostensibly by its editor, the Rev. Dr. Lyman Abbott, in opposition to the Declaration of Independence, which says that just governments "rest upon the consent of the governed."

He on the contrary says: "Just government rests neither on the edict of a few strong men, nor upon the consent of the many—it rests upon the law of God."

Dr. Abbott was the successor of Henry Ward Beecher, and twelve years ago was a noted "Liberal" clergyman, writing exactly the reverse of the above text. This change indicates the singular transformation that has come over the clergy within the last few years. They no longer disguise their theocracy, but stand squarely against the Declaration of Independence, and justify all that Jefferson said about them in his day.

Indeed, the Jefferson Cyclopaedia was not published a day too soon. The same monsters—Theocracy, Mammon and Corruption, which but for Paine and Jefferson would have strangled our young Hercules of a Republic in its infancy, are rampant and determined to affect that destruction now. There was

a strong Liberal element in Jefferson's campaign of 1800, but where is it represented now? The clergy know "their own" well enough. Scarcely a priest or a religious newspaper in the whole length and breadth of the land, who do not stand together for the co-partnership of the Altar and the Throne; as Paine well described the alliance of Theocracy and Despotism to be, no matter what name or form the latter may take.

The Law of God means what? It means what the Priests, Churches and religious newspapers can get in pelf or power for betraying their "Christ" and giving their sanction, votes and blessing to the "money changers," whom Christ drove from the Temple. Where would the author of the "Immortal Declaration" stand, were he with us today? Would he not say that those who joined with the Theocracy to sacrifice Man to Mammon, were traitors to Liberty and Humanity? And would he not speak the Truth?

### The Ingersoll Chair?

We note the natural inquiry, [See page 6] of the generous English contributors to the Ingersoll Chair, as to the scanty appearance of American support for that object. We appeal to Americans who love and would honor the name of Ingersoll, to respond at once to this inquiry by subscription, if not contributions, which will prevent the inquiry from being repeated. This chair will require much more money than has been forwarded to make it a success. Let us have \$1000 pledged at once by those who agree to pay a certain sum, they can afford, when that amount is subscribed. The American committee appointed in response to Mr. Holyoake's original letter will take this matter in charge.

Mr. Geer intimated in his letter to Mr. Holyoake why this has not been done before: We are straining every nerve to get the University building completed, to prepare the necessary rooms for pupils, apparatus for teaching, and means for printing. The American contributors have put up all that has been done for these purposes; and more of course must be raised to make the result self-sustaining and effective. The Liberal Americans are giving and working to get a solid University to put that chair in, so that it will stay forever. To do that, means that we must accommodate students enough to pay the way. That point is in sight, a few lifts such as we have had—will fetch it—and for those lifts we "work and wait."

As to "the Chair" physical, the suggestion to build it is good and practical. We have our eye on the MAN—a Liberal Oregon man, who

can do it well. He is now finishing up the Hall, or Assembly Room in the University. As soon as he is at leisure it shall be begun. Then the fund should be sufficient to sustain one Professor who should be selected and then to furnish prizes or tuition for as many students as possible in the branches or acquirements that would have been a delight to Col. Ingersoll when alive.

In this way we mean to have Ingersoll still alive and speaking.

### Is This Your Challenge?

Please to note that one of the editorials of this Torch ends with a challenge—a "defi."

Four others preceded and go with it, making five, viz:—

1. That the Copernican and Modern Astronomy proves that the Heaven, Hell, Cosmogony and Substance of Christianity were and are simply a "firmament" illusion, and that they can never be realized. "Christianity is a back number."

2. That "the bottom law of Science"; viz: The conservation of energy and matter, because of the "equivalent correlation" of all of the changes in the Universe, proves that Nature does not REPEAT; that no correlates are the same; that, therefore, our existence cannot be repeated; that the universe is conceivable only as a plenum; that there is no possibility of, or room for, an uncorrelated, extramundane or supernatural God or Devil, Spirit or Spook, of any kind. That all notions or words to that effect are deceptions and illusions, or mere personifications and figures of speech. God is not, unless "God and the world are one."

3. That the said laws of correlation and biological evolution account scientifically for life, the Ego, Self and "Soul" of man, as the property and process of protoplasm, and not as an "entity" or "spirit" of any kind; and that, therefore, personal, conscious, continuous memory and immortality after death become impossible; and for the further reason, that any "Heaven" has become inconceivable other than in the human race on Earth.

4. That the proved evolution of the human race from savage animistic and ancestral fetichism, through ages of barbarism and semi-civilization to its present better stage, is utterly inconsistent with the Biblical stories about the creation, origin, history, language and future of man, individual and collective. But it leaves with us the solid hope that by the RELIGION OF SCIENCE AND HUMANITY, the Egoistic may be brought to the support and endearment of the Altruistic and co-operative instincts, sentiments and efforts of mankind, and thus make possible a better

state of life in the future on this earth, worthy to be called the "Earthly Paradise," or "The heaven that is to be." The home of "The Christ that is to be;"—The Humanity of the Future.

5. That under the known historic and social evolution of mankind, the Bible becomes a natural and interesting part of the past of human literature; but that to apply it as a rule of "faith and practice" to our Era, is to overwhelm our larger civilization and progress by the tribal barbarisms of past and lower stages of social, political and religious evolution—now the greatest danger and obstruction to the peace, welfare and progress of the human race. The bible is a "Mosaic" poem of the past stages of human progress, but not applicable to our present or future evolution.

Anyone who thinks that the above statements, or any one of them, are untrue, is respectfully invited to show wherein.

If short and to the point, the "say" will be printed, but the Torch is a small paper.

Words or inquiry to give or ask for further light will be answered as far as possible.

Let us have a symposium, wherein none may be too great or too small, to "bear the Torch in the search for Truth."

### The Bible a Beautiful Dramatic Poem.

It is unpleasant to be compelled to constantly protest against the OUTRAGE which Modern Bibliolites, Hebrew, Catholic and Protestant, commit against the Bible. They act like a lot of farmers who would get together and insist that there could be no good agriculture unless we planted crops and spent our time in the study of the Geologic Strata and Fossils of the periods of the Eozoons, the Silurians, the Oolites, the Cretaceans and the Eocenes, instead of working on the present surface of the earth.

The Bible as the "rule of faith and practice" in law, morals or religion now, is like resorting to Geologic Strata and monsters of old—it is an anachronistic misplacement, and a murderous motive in practice, as now, in China, India, etc., is to be seen. And this is just how our unevolutional Bible-religionists make it to be an awful curse. To so misuse Homer would be bad enough, but not as bad.

We love to turn away from these fossiliferous people and look at the Bible (including a complete Apocrypha, of course), with the eyes of the Liberal, that is of a Scientific, Historical, Sociological, Ethic and Aesthetic EVOLUTIONIST. When seen through such eyes "The Holy Scriptures" of the Old, MIDDLE and the New Testament are soon trans-