

**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 Girl's Fun.**

BY D. E.

This is a genuine schoolgirl's composition. It is too good to keep, and so I send it to The Torch for publication. But I never shall tell how it came into my possession. She says:

"One of the girls found a gray hair in my head the other day, and I know there must be a lot more. I just know I shall be a regular dried up old maid before I am twenty. All the time when I am young and like fun I have to study, study, study every minute and don't have any fun to speak of. And then when I get old and don't care so much, I shall have plenty of time. That's just the way things go. I don't see why things can't be arranged differently.

"Every time when I think I am going to have a little fun, the teachers are sure to give longer lessons, or I find some mending that must be done, or I am put on for an essay, or I am put on some committee for something that must be seen to right away. And so I don't have any fun. "But I don't care how long lessons the teachers give, for I am some relation to Don Juan Fernando—you know he can't do more than he can do. But it says somewhere that we are in this world "to spend and be spent," and I suppose I might just as well be spent in this way as any way. But I am not so sure that I am being spent any too much, for every time I look in the glass, it seems as though I am fatter than ever. I have gained two pounds since school commenced. If I don't look out I shall get through the world alive, and that would be a calamity.

Oh! that dreadful Latin lesson! I know I can never get it! But what is that! Nine o'clock. Here it is, two-thirds of the evening gone, and I have not done a thing. Here I've been an hour and a half

just dawdling. I guess I had better take more care of my minutes and hours, and I would have more time for fun."

**Scientific Wisdom**

In Place of Christianity:

- 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?

**JUST THE THING**

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

**THE LIBERAL UNIVERSITY**

Silverton, Oregon.

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.

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