

These suggestions seem to substantially cover the Nine Demands of Liberalism, and yet they and a Secular government can never be attained and sustained if the masses are dominated by supernatural religions. It is a matter of duty therefore, incumbent upon not only every Liberal, but every PATRIOT, to do all he can to have these superstitions of the past transfused and finally replaced by the Secular religion of Science and Humanity.

Just as all of the other matters we have referred to, have been shown to be capable of being gradually transformed into Secular uses under Secular Science and sentiments, so is it with all of the great religious ideas, concepts, sentiments and motives. The supernatural religious illusions of the past must be replaced by the true and scientific substitutes of the Religion of Science and Humanity. To affect this must be the constant effort of Constructive Liberalism.

Thus the great public benefit to be secured by the future of Liberalism are manifest and urgent enough. The pressing question is what can the next Congress do to realize them?

The Eclipse of Science.

The great pity is that when a great fact or law in Science is discovered, there cannot be a mighty earthquake or an astonishing explosion or apparition in the sky, so that the great masses of stupid human beings could get it "shot into them" that something really wonderful and useful has happened. Even when white people are not as stupid and ignorant as Hotentots, they are so preoccupied with their old notions and prejudices, or so busy with their business, society, politics and church affairs, that they "have no time" to appreciate what the all important victories of Science mean. They simply go on with their old babblement, and to them Science is eclipsed by the "Tower of Babel."

The greatest discovery ever made by the human race—that is, of the true or heliocentric solar system, about 1600, did not get beyond a few astronomers in a hundred years. Bruno, who tried to make it known in Philosophy and Religion was roasted for his work; and the masses of the people practically, especially in Religion, even today, know nothing about it. The discovery of the circulation of the blood could not be gotten through the doctors of that day. The discovery that life is the vital process of protoplasm only; and that feeling and mind are only the resultants of that process, though really made a hundred years ago, is today practically unknown—even many of our "learned" physicians know very little of these great bio-

logic and psychic facts; and when they do know, they keep the conclusions to themselves, so as not to injure their practice among "church people."

So it is with the "bottom law of Science," the "conservation of energy" or the "equivalent correlation" of all changes in Man, and in the Universe. To the masses of the people, these words are as much a mystery as the "Holy Trinity" or the "Holy Ghost;" though by virtue of the knowledge of that law they daily travel on a trolley and use electric lights.

What university, college or school (except always our L. U. O.) dare apply these and similar recent victories in Science to religion, education and practical life, and declare and teach the consequences? Not one is known to us. The result is that Liberal papers and publications of all kind are bound to do all they can to make these Scientific Truths and their consequents generally known. For this is the only remedy against the orthodox "Koshanities" and spookism, which make a solid wall against further human progress.

Accordingly, we give by extracts in this Torch, the substance of Ribot's well known little Scientific book on the "Diseases of Personality," (published by the Open Court Company, Chicago, Ill.) We do it to make known the A. B. C. facts of modern Mental Science; and we do that because we recently found a "regularly educated physician" to be doubting them, for he thought "consciousness might be a spook after all." Let all those who may be of this way of thinking notice these facts in reading these extracts:—That life, mind, etc., are the changes in protoplasm only. Anyone who can find life and mind anywhere else or in anything else may easily make a million dollars; but it is simply and scientifically, the impossible.

Next, note that consciousness, the ego or self, is the concomitant and resultant correlation of certain special "states and conditions" of the nervous changes in animals, which animals and man are simply masses of co-operating protoplasmic cells. The greater part of these cell and nerve changes do not reach or produce a part of, nor are represented in consciousness, which results as a composite ego out of a "sea" of sub-conscious cerebrations. Therefore it can never consciously know the origin of itself, its feelings, will and motives, until it learns them by Objective, Scientific and true correlative investigation, showing how they are caused and pre-determined. Thus correlative "determinism" takes the place of "Fate" and solves and explains the illusion of "free-will," just as the True Astronomy explains the illusion of the "rising and setting" of the sun, which is exactly the re-

verse of the actual fact, just as is the case with our supposed and apparent consciousness of free-will.

Just as soon as these "Ego facts" and processes are known, all spookdom vanishes like the darkness and hobgoblins before the sun. That these facts ARE so, the biologists and psychologists of England, (Dr. Mandsley and others), France, (Ribot and others), Germany, (Haeckel and others), are thoroughly agreed; and the experiments and Scientific methods confirm them. All medical books go upon these thousand times proved and admitted facts and laws. Now this being so, what is more ridiculous than to spend our precious time and lives in worshiping old spooks, or trying to hunt up new ones?

Since the spook illusions are thus positively explained, and proved to be IMPOSSIBLE, except as illusions, let us betake ourselves to some honest and useful business, under the honest Religion of Science and Humanity,—or die in the attempt.

Post Mortem Lectures on Post Mortem Immortality.

It is human and praiseworthy to talk by others after death, if you can. But then you must arrange your subjects to gibe with the world that is to be, and allow your Deputy to live and talk away ahead of you; else evolution will make you and him appear very ridiculous after a few years.

This is becoming the fate of those expiring rich men who try to die easy by the helping of some expiring religious dogma. They try to transfer their expended vitality to some dogma by leaving sums of money to pay for lectures in behalf of the dogma, to be delivered after their death. Thus we have had lectures in behalf of expiring "Prophecy," "The Blessed Trinity" and "Evidences of Christianity," and kindred subjects. But a lady with the glorious name of Ingersoll has left means for lectures on Immortality, and thus has called into voice and print on that subject, Prof. William James, "the brilliant Harvard Psychologist," and the gist of the result appears in another column; for, nothing that this distinguished Professor can say can be wholly void of interest. But in this case the interest is found in the absurdity with which an impossibility is illustrated. Thus the Professor says: "The inference from Physiology is that since thought is a function of the brain, when the brain perishes so also must the thought perish"; or as Macbeth said it before him:

"The time has been
That when the brains were out, the
man would die,
And there an end";—

UNLESS the conscience of his murderer transformed his own subjective

into some "ghostly" objective, as the evidence and punishment of guilt. So in all Shakespeare no one sees a ghost but the guilty one who creates it.

We live in the same world as the Poet, and no one now sees a ghost except as he is a Murderer of Time, maltreating and fooling with this real human world, of which he is a part. Of this fooling the brilliant Professor gives us the most brilliant example we have seen. We can hardly believe that he is earnest in his talk about steam being in any sense a "function" of a tea-kettle, or that brains are, or are like "prisms" through which "the thought of eternity" is "streaming," and which is cut off by death. What and whence this "thought of Eternity?" How can it stream unless it is a liquid or fluid of some kind? And if death ends "that special stream," that is our consciousness, as the Open Court says, how can it flow afterwards? All of this talk is in utter defiance of the law of correlation, and apparently without the slightest knowledge of the existence of such a law at all.

Again we cannot believe that the most brilliant Professor of Psychology in the world, and the ornament of our Grandest University, has put out his answer to the "over-crowdedness of Heaven," and the "glut" and "satiety" of God, without a smile of derision for those who are willing to use this nonsense from a great Professor and a great Institution, to impose, by "authority," a stupid, unscientific, unsocial and thoroughly exposed superstition, upon their ignorant, innocent, hopeful, pityable dupes and victims. Macbeth's ghost-seeing crime is the snow-whiteness of innocence when compared with the life and soul destroying murders of this continued dupery. The dead woman's money could never have been applied to a worse purpose. The Open Court exposes the nonsense gently, but lets off the evident criminal use of it as a "bull-doze," of authority, with a mild politeness undeserved.

Men and Brethren! let us have common honesty and common intelligence in religion, or else silence.

Our offer to give a copy of George Jacob Holyoake's English Secularism with a year's subscription to the Torch of Reason for one dollar has met with such a hearty response that we have decided to renew the offer. This book is cloth bound, gilt top, 150 pages, and sells for 50 cents. We give it free with a year's subscription to the Torch of Reason, or a renewal. We have only a limited number, so order at once.