

For the Torch of Reason.

Second Sermon on the Mount.

BY E. L. DAVIDSON.

Judging from his alleged teachings, and the way his followers (?) obey them, J. Christ would probably open his mouth and say unto them as follows: "When I arrived a few days ago I was much shocked to find my people in their present condition. I had hoped to address you as my disciples, but my observations have led me to believe that my disciples are few, if any, and I really doubt the existence of a single one, although a great many of you call me Lord, Lord.

"Did I not tell you in my first sermon, about 1900 years ago that 'Not every man that saith unto me Lord, Lord, shall enter into the Kingdom of Heaven?'—(Matt. vii-21.) 'And why call ye me Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?' (Luke vi-46.)

"In my first sermon, I meant what I said. When my Book, the Holy Bible, says 'into', it does not mean near by, and the word all does not mean a small per cent. To be plain so you can all understand, I will say that if you want to enjoy yourself in the future, it is necessary for you to mourn and weep now, and to make your earth life as miserable as possible, for 'Woe unto you that laugh now, for ye shall mourn and weep.' 'Blessed be ye poor.' 'Woe unto you that are full.' 'Blessed are ye when men shall hate you.' 'Woe unto you that are rich.' 'Woe unto you when all men shall speak well of you.' 'For behold your reward is great in heaven.' (Luke vi-21-28.)

"Ye call me Master and Lord; and ye say well; for so I am.' 'If then I have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet.'—(John xiii-13-14). This is a very important command and those that doeth it not are in danger of hell fire.

"In the 14th chapter and the 13th verse of Luke I told you, 'When thou makest a feast, call the poor, the maimed, the lame and the blind.' How many of you have done this? I say unto you again 'When thou makest a dinner or a supper, call not thy friends, nor thy bretheren, neither thy kinsman, nor thy rich neighbors.'—(Luke xiv-12).

"The principal sin that I find among you is the love of dress; you have too many good things to eat, and too many things to drink, therefore I say unto you again 'Take no thought for your life what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink, nor yet for your body what ye shall put on.'—(Matt. vi-25). Behold the tramps of the country, 'they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather in barns, yet your Heavenly Father feedeth them; are ye any

better than they?' Therefore take no thought for the morrow, sow not, for then there will be nothing to reap.

"Pray without ceasing, and when you pray be ye not as hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the corners of the street where they may be seen of men. 'But thou, when thou prayest, enter into a closet, and when thou hast shut the door, pray.' How many of you have a closet for that purpose? How many of you believe? Can you cast out devils? Can any of you speak with new tongues? How many of you can swallow Hydrocyanic Acid and not feel the effects? Can you pick up rattle-snakes with safety?—(Mark xvi-27-28). Once more I say unto you, call me not Lord, Lord, until ye can do the things which I say."

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 regard-

ing 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 every one 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 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,
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