

**Recall the Missionaries.**

The Chinese ambassador to Enland, in a late official declaration to the British government, made an appeal which is worthy of preservation. Said he:

"It will be quite impossible to have peace in China so long as foreign missionaries are allowed to interfere with the institutions of the country; and no government at Pekin can be strong enough to protect unpopular missionaries throughout so vast an empire. We may not be able to keep these missionaries out of China, because we are not a fighting nation. Anything will be better than the missionaries. Peace, prosperity, and healthy commerce will be impossible until the missionary shall have been eliminated from our local problem. Recall the missionaries, and all will go well."

All governments should heed this pathetic appeal.

**Mental Energy.**

BY EDWARD ATKINSON.

The physical forces of nature are limited. The physical energy of man is devoted to the transformation of these physical forces under the law of conservation; he can neither add to nor diminish the quantity. He can transform solid into gas and gas into liquid. He can consume some of these products, but his consumption is only another transformation. His own body is but one of the forms of physical energy on the way to another form.

We make nothing. All that we can do is to move something. We move the soil and we move the seed; nature gives the harvest. We direct the currents of falling water, of heat and of steam; nature imparts the force or energy to which man has only given a new direction. What is the force from which we derive this power of transforming physical energy? May we not call it mental energy? By what force does man hold dominion unless it is through his mental energy and his capacity to accumulate experience?

If, then, by his power of mental energy, he converts the original and crude forces with which the earth is endowed into new forms, and by giving them new direction, increases his power of production of the means of his own subsistence and enjoyment of life, does it not follow that creation is a continuous procession, in which man is a factor?

There is in every transaction in life an unconscious cerebration or estimate of the services rendered to us, saving each of us mental or manual energy. There may be errors in regard of the service itself. As time goes on, however, false measures of service are eliminated with increasing intelligence and true benefits constitute more and more the vast proportion of the

exchanges.

I find in the ideal of the continuous miracle of creation, in which man is a factor, the solution of many intellectual difficulties. In the face of such a perception of the methods of the Universe, the large part of the dogmas that have been put forth under the name of religion, take their place with much of the rubbish which passes under the name of history. When it becomes plain that every man has his place in the progress of continuous creation and is a factor in it; that nothing is constant but change; that there is no such thing as fixed capital; all the doubts and fears regarding the future of humanity vanish in the light of sure progress.—Popular Science Monthly, October, 1900.

**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.

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