

**Reflected Rays.**

It cannot be that the people of Galveston who have resumed the worship of God they believe to be responsible for the overwhelming of their city with storm and flood have an intelligent idea of the significance of their course, which amounts to licking the hand that smites but never caresses. The intelligent idea appertains to the clergy, who, like the other business men of Galveston, are proving their recuperative powers. They must work or want.—Truthseeker.

A Boston paper very truthfully remarks that "patriotism, in war times, being manifested simultaneously by two opposing nations—the just and the unjust—is therefore not necessarily a virtue." This being so, "patriotism" ought always to be secondary to love of principle. But what then would become of the sentiment: "My country; may she ever be right; but right or wrong, my country." The fact is that a country in the wrong is no better than an individual in the wrong.—Sentinel of Liberty.

It used to be the fashion to burn the man who got up a new theory or discovered a new law of nature that interfered with the "revelation" theory; but the style is now to go into the mental gymnastic business and "reconcile" the old dogma with the new truth. The only kind of reconciling the church ever thought of in the days of her power, was to become reconciled to the death of the scientist or thinker. Today she can take evolution and revelation, shake them up in a theological bag, and then bring them forth so marvelously alike in appearance that their own father would not know them apart. And the rest of us can't recognize them at all.—Helen H. Gardener.

Prof. Max Muller, who has just died at Oxford, was a man of many and commanding abilities, but he had some notorious weaknesses, one of which the Evening Sun thus describes: "He was notorious as the finest example on record of the scholar as snob. His reminiscences were very interesting as showing the workings of the mind of a distinguished man whose main pride in life was that he knew a great many kings, queens, princes, and princesses and nobility of high degree. The Professor did not hesitate to write himself down as the greatest of tuft-hunters and toadies. He received the reward for worship of royalty when they made him a Right Honorable. And he let everybody know, with childlike simplicity, that he valued that empty honor more than his learning or his scientific fame. All of which goes to show again how hard it is to overcome the force of ages

of training in any direction. Heredity is a strong factor, sometimes stronger than the brains of the most intellectual.—Truthseeker.

**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 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,  
E. C. REICHWALD, Secretary.

A meeting of the organization committee of the National Association of Automobile Manufacturers of America was held in New York City recently, and the members talked at length over the advisability of making the association similar to that of the League of American Wheelman. The meaning of this is practically that the automobile association, a very large organization, with numbers of influential and moneyed men in it, is to begin a fight for better roads throughout the country.

Secularists would you not like to have some letterheads printed with Secular sentiment and Wettstein's Freethought badge, to use in correspondence with your friends? We will furnish them to you with your name and address printed on them for 75 cents per hundred, \$1.50 per 250, or \$2.50 for 500, postpaid. Let the people know where you stand.

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