

Earth Our Only Home.

BY JOSEPH FREDERICK BICKFORD.

(Edenic Episode in Rhymeless Stanzas.)

There is no life beyond this world—
 This is our only home;
 We live and flourish like a tree,
 And are by death cut down.
 'Tis Nature forms us on this earth,—
 By Nature we must die;
 Death is our great destroyer here,—
 We yield at his command.

We live and move and eat and sleep,
 And work in Nature's fields;
 We think and talk, laugh, sing and play,
 While living here below.

The birds sing sweetly in the groves,
 Gay flowers in clusters bloom;
 The sun shines brightly from above,
 And earth receives the heat.

Man is the monarch of the world,—
 He rules from sea to sea;—
 His pen is mightier than the sword,
 To reach the tender heart.

The whole Creation lifts its hat
 And bows its head to Man.
 He struts about his little day,
 And then dissolves to dust.

Then Woman comes upon the scene,
 Bedecked with jewels rare;
 Her face shines bright with rays of love,
 She gives her heart to man.

While he salutes his better-half,
 And frets till dinner's cooked,
 The earth is now a paradise,
 With apple-trees to burn.

The garden fence is all torn down,
 The snakes are all turned out;
 And Satan has gone down below—
 He has no Eve to tempt.

He keeps his fires all burning hot,
 His appetite is good;
 He waits for a new apple-crop,
 To tempt some other Eve.

The circus-men have got the snakes,
 And men have got their wives;
 They'll soon be round to eat the fruit,
 When Satan tells them lies.

We can make this earth Paradise,
 Where snakes can't interere;
 And love our wives in Paradise,
 Tho' apple-crops are dear.

Lowell, Mass.

Another Prospective Student.

EDITOR TORCH OF REASON:

I take pleasure in informing you that little Charlotte Ingersoll Sparks is not the only prospective pupil for the Liberal University. There is, in this domicile of Freethought, a young lady by the name of Marguerette Kathryn Kretzer, two and one-half months old and weighs eighteen pounds, who will soon look forward to her entrance into the L. U. O., the best university in the world.

Yours for liberty,
 MRS DANIEL KRETZER.
 Wasco, Oregon.

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.

For the Torch of Reason.

Guided Points.

BY JOHN P. GUILD.

Bad puns cost good friends.
 Institutions are larger than indi-

Do not jobbercock those who are doing you a good job of work.

A truth that is half a lie is worse than a lie that is a lie all through.

Brains and muscles are capital— if they are capital brains and muscles.

Judge associates by what you know of them rather than by what others say of them.

Substantial material feeding is essential to effective energy, mental as well as physical.

The way to be free to speak your mind is by getting an honest living without pay for what you say.

Most parents lie to their children if to no one else; but thy don't call it lying, thereby they deceive themselves.

A liberal education is any course of instruction which fits the learner to earn an honest living, and to find happiness in usefulness.

The Liberal University was built to teach the truth without mixture of error to the youth. They will study the Faculty as object lessons.

The L. U. O front door has been repaired and vestibuled in. That is not done to sheath out the storm this winter, but to shut out the sun next summer—so says Mr. Kautz, our kindly carpenter.

Don't cheat children if you don't want them to cheat you. You are under strongest moral obligation to keep promises to children, hence do not make them any you do not intend to fulfill, and do not change your mind just because you will.

The rumpus a few old ladies are making of Sparks' prayerless baby would make one infer that they thought there was not another godless family in this country. These babbling grannies of Brooklyn had better first look to the newsboys, editors and publishers of the New York newspapers.

Give me the good opinion of the children, then you may outlaw me, if you like; they will remember me when you are mouldered.

The best compliment I ever had for any of my writings, was from a little boy, named Eugene Debs Kautz, who came nearly three miles in a rain storm "just to see the man who wrote that nice Christmas poem, 'Let us Have Peace,' printed in The Torch of Reason January 6," he said. That praise was neither sarcasm nor taffy. He is coming to L. U. O. the next term. May he learn to be an able peace advocate by justice to all.

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