

BLUE GRASS BLADE.

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DO UNTO OTHERS AS YOU WOULD HAVE THEM DO UNTO YOU—CONFUCIUS.
THE WORLD IS MY COUNTRY; TO DO GOOD MY RELIGION—TOM PAINE.
AN HONEST GOD IS THE NOBLEST WORK OF MAN—INGERSOLL.

EDITED BY A HEATHEN IN THE INTEREST OF GOOD MORALS.

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Charles C. Moore
Editor

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5,368.
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BLUE GRASS BLADE, Lexington, Ky.
The leading weekly in the State. Published in the heart of the Blue Grass Region. Circulates in every State in the Union and in some foreign countries.
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My terms are \$10.00 an inch a year, paid in advance, regardless of the number of inches and for nothing less than a year.
CHARLES C. MOORE.

"THE DAMNED STUFF CALLED ALCOHOL."

I believe that alcohol, to a certain degree, demoralizes those who make it, those who sell it, and those who drink it.

I believe from the time it issues from the coiled and poisonous worm of the distillery until it empties into the hell of crime, death and dishonor, it demoralizes everybody that touches it.

I do not believe that anybody can contemplate the subject without becoming prejudiced against this liquid crime.

All you have to do is to think of the wrecks upon either bank of this stream of death—the suicides, of insanity, of the poverty, of the ignorance, of the distress, of the little children tugging at the faded dresses of weeping and despairing wives, asking for bread; of the men of genius it has wrecked; of the millions who have struggled with imaginary serpents produced by this devilish thing.

And when you think of the jails, of the almshouses, of the prisons, and of the scaffolds upon either bank, I do not wonder that every thoughtful man is prejudiced against the damned stuff called alcohol.

ROBERT C. INGERSOLL.

NOTICE OF ELECTION

Of Officers of the National Liberal League.

The Executive Committee of the National Liberal League have decided that all registered members shall have a voice in the election of its officials for the coming year.

Those not in attendance at the Congress on January 26th and 27th may vote by letter for President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.

Your ballots should be sent to the Secretary, W. F. Jamieson, 1716 Western Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio, at once, and not later than January 21st.

They should be sent in sealed envelopes. As the temporary officials wish to avoid all appearance and possibility of slate-making, the envelopes containing the ballots will not be opened until after nominations are made in convention, and the counting begins.

After the third ballot, if no choice is made, the ballots representing the absent membership will be dropped, and the decision left with the members present in convention.

Any absent member who aspires to office may announce his candidacy through the Secretary, who will place his name before the convention.

All candidates are free to make public announcement of the same, and all alike are entitled to a list of the names and addresses of the registered members.

There will be no Committee on Nominations. All nominations will be made in open session.

In sending your votes to the Secretary, omit all other writing on the slip on which you register your vote. Write only on one side of the slip.

Your Name
Address
For President
For Vice President
For Secretary
For Treasurer

By order of the Executive Committee,
T. J. BOWLES, Pres.
J. B. WILSON, Vice Pres.
MORGAN WAMSLEY, Treas.
W. F. JAMIESON, Sec'y.

REV. DR. BEATTIE'S SERMON.

A scholarly Kentuckian, who is a patron of the Blade, sends me, for criticism, a sermon of Rev. Beattie, of Louisville, cut from the Courier-Journal. It is a discussion of evolution, and especially as to whether matter has existed eternally or was created by God; Rev. Beattie taking the position that all matter was created by God, as we would naturally expect from his profession.

Of course it naturally occurs to us to then to ask Rev. Beattie what was God doing all the time, or all the eternity, before he created matter, and what made God finally conclude to create matter?

Of course he cannot give an intelligent answer to this question.

How matter could have had a beginning, or how it could exist, not having had a beginning is simply an unthinkable proposition, and to dogmatize about it is simply irrational; and when Dr. Beattie thus dogmatizes about it and from such a dogma deduced the influence that the Bible and the Christian religion are true, and their lives sumptuously and luxuriously without labor, by teaching that that religion is true, and unprejudiced and competent thinkers will conclude that Dr. Beattie's "wish is farther to the thought."

Dr. Beattie says that such ancients as Democritus and Epicurus and such moderns as Spencer and Haeckel all thought matter to have existed eternally. These are the highest authorities in the world on the subject and Dr. Beattie is no authority on that subject and with nothing more than a local reputation on any subject, and the chances largely favor the supposition that those great scientists are right about it, and that Dr. Beattie is wrong.

MIKE M'LAUGHLIN SUICIDES.

Lexington has had another shocking suicide. As usual he was a Christian.

He had been a leader in Lexington politics. His name was Michael McLaughlin. He belonged to the most orthodox of all the churches—Catholic; the old mother of all of these Protestant upstarts—and nobody ever heard of any doubt of the truth of the Christian religion having ever been in Mike McLaughlin's mind. I never personally knew him. The papers all say he was a very popular man, and I never heard of anything against him, and I am sorry for his friends, but I think Mike is better off dead than alive, just as any dead man, or dead horse, for that matter, is better off than any living man.

Solomon said "a living dog is better than a dead lion" but it was because Sol was a fool. Any dead dog in the world is better off than Rosy or Eddie No. 7, and any dead dog is just as well off as dead McKinley, and Czolgosz is just as well off as dead McKinley or a dead dog.

Mike McLaughlin cut his throat with a razor. It was his own throat and his own razor, and I suppose he thought he had a right to do it and may be he did have a right.

At any rate I am not going to blame him. Mike was buried with all the rites of the Catholic church and buried in "holy ground."

While Christian England was under the control of the Catholics and until recently, while it was under the control of the Protestants the Christians would have buried Mike in two cross roads and have driven a stake through his body. They won't do that now. It's because, under infidel influence, even Christianity is being gradually civilized.

I intend to keep throwing up (Jonah's whale did it) to the Christians that preached all over the country that Ingersoll's defense of right of suicide was making suicides, and ask how it happens that Christiansa suicide from Ingersoll's argument and Ingersoll don't.

Preach on that subject, some of you and invite me to hear you. Nixie, too smart.

INCONSISTENT MR. ANARCHIST.

In Discontent (Anarchist organ) of December 11, in talking about the Anarchist colony at Home, Wash., we have the following:

"We welcome people of all shades of opinion here, provided they do not wish to dictate to their neighbors. This is our type of Anarchy—local self-government. Those who are inclined to boss, or to insist on conformity to their ideas, had best stay away, as they will find no congeniality here."

I had been understanding from Anarchist papers that they were a peculiar people who didn't want any government in their, and yet here we find that they not only have a government, but a dogmatic one, in which they lay down their laws and warn other people not to come there unless the other people agree with their anarchic views, and if I were to move to this Home, sweet Home, and start a paper called the Aunty-Anarchist, in which I would ventilate my views against Anarchy, those fellows, men and women, would p. d. q. let me know that their views on the "free press" question didn't embrace the idea of allowing people to express anti-anarchistic ideas, in print, in their town, and I would come off mighty well if I got away with my scalp "in the place where the wool ought to grow."

If those Home Anarchists had discovered some new Juan Fernandez, Alexander Selkirk, Robinson Crusoe Island, that nobody had ever seen before, and had built their Home, and established their paper, Discontent, on that island, I don't know that the balance of us would have had any right to kick about it, but to come into this land, where the people have already established their laws and government, and demand the right to start another government right in the midst of ours, and start a Chinese exclusion law that applies to everybody that does not believe in Anarchy, requires a cheek that we cannot expect to find anywhere except on a government mule and an Anarchist.

If Discontent limited itself to "dictating to its neighbors" it would not be so intolerable, but to presume to dictate to the balance of us, some thousands of miles away, is just too utterly too too.

A feller with a saw log in his own eye can see a mote in another feller's eye.

The 50 Cents Club Plan for the Blade.

I am trying to arrange to materially increase the amount of type set in the Blade. I fail to print numerous matters of great interest because I cannot set type enough. Please help me on the 50 cent club plan. Send me 50 cents each for the Blade, for one year, for five or more papers. If you send the money any time, and have not the names to send them, the money will be put to your credit, and I will send the papers just as you get the names, dating the beginning of the subscription at the time the paper is first sent.

415.

Four, one, five—
Kickin' and alive;
Stretchin' big and tall—
Plain enough to all,
Our guess 'll come true;
Oo-ber, oo-ber, ooh!
Cock-a-doodle-doo!

On the first day of the New Year the membership of the National Liberal League registered 415. This is a falling off from the registry of last month, but no doubt this was due to the general distraction of the holiday time.

Now that the shopping, and visiting, and meetings, and fights, and duels, and general hoo-rah are all over, and the Sun having descended into the grave for three months, has touched the Tropic of Capricorn, and his Lordship has begun to rise out of the grave of Winter—let us, too, rise out of our apathy, and let our days grow longer and brighter, and let our work enkindle new enthusiasm for the cause we love so well.

Now, let every one register. Numbers give inspiration. Companionship awakens interest and enthusiasm. In union there is strength. There is nothing so depressing to those who give their time gratuitously to the cause as indifference of the laity. If we can afford to do this, you can afford to give us the influence of your presence and companionship. Let us get close to each other. Let us know each other. Let us feel the inspiration which devotion to our great cause enkindles.

Never, at any time in the history of our country, have the clergy put forth such united efforts as now. If they can do it, they will make a religious despotism of this country. They are sure, if they are not met with organized opposition. They will have God and Christ in the Constitution before ten years, if we do not look out. And once established therein, this country will soon be so Christianized that Free Speech and Free Press will be Freedom only in name.

The Pope is calling for a union of Christendom. The clergy everywhere are more friendly to Catholic domination than to Free Speech championed by Liberalism, Socialism and reform of all kind are regarded as Anarchistic. The lines are going to be drawn tight on our press.

There has been a mysterious law lately put into force in Cincinnati, and I suppose in other cities, suppressing a certain class of periodicals—by refusing them the usual pound rates.

The first action taken was against some religious and business periodicals, which, heretofore, have been admitted as second-class matter.

As seen in report of this in the newspapers, these periodicals have been refused second-class rates, because they "are not of general literary and educative interest."

Note the above reason, and observe its latitude, which may be stretched to cover all reform papers. Who is to determine on the "educative and literary interest" of this and other papers of its kind? If the "Appeal to Reason" should happen to be offensive to the "literary" tastes of some half-witted clerk up at Washington, stop, it must.

We must keep a wary eye on these tools of the clergy. They are fighting hard and urging effective organization. The clergy of Cincinnati lately assembled and organized committees to make a house-to-house canvass of the whole city, in order to bring people into the church. Such activity everywhere compels us to an activity we have never before put forth.

What are we doing? Let us wake up. Some of you do not appreciate the influence of your names in the organization.

It is a big thing for a man to speak out and be known as a Liberal. It shows courage and character. Every outspoken Freethinker is a nucleus of attention.

Take the obscure, little mining town of Caplinger Mills, Missouri. Its little band of workers and contributors have made it a famous place in the Liberal geography. When we think of Los Angeles and Whittier, we think of Channing Severance and Wm. Plotts and other noble workers there. Likewise, every name and every place, however obscure, becomes marked when an outspoken Freethinker has made himself known. Though we have never met these

Liberals, and may never meet and mingle with them, their influence is felt, because they are a part of the great body of reform. When we know each other, we warm to each other, and grow together in purpose and resolve.

Come, now, and seek salvation. The salvation of Free Speech depends upon each one of you individually. Be a Liberal of importance, or be none at all. We must organize. You observe our present growth and bright prospects. Honor us, and honor yourselves by becoming a charter member.

In another column you will read our official notice of election of officers. You will see that it is a fair, open chance for all—no wire-pulling—no selfishness—no she-nan-i-gan. We will draft a constitution, as plain, direct and well defined. We want this to be the people's organization. To make it powerful and effective, we must have numbers. We must have 10,000 members. An organization of a few hundred can only make a bluff at doing things.

Members and money is what counts. The more members the cheaper for all. The less will we have to ask for donations.

Now make the chips fly for the next three weeks. Send in your name. Send others with it. Get up clubs. Some of you have been putting this off. Lumber your lazy, laggard souls. Come, be a pioneer of the new Liberal Party. Its future possibilities depend upon you—upon each one of you individually.

When you come to pass from this existence, let each one of you be able to say that you left no duty undone; that you left your name, and contributed your mite to the onward cause; that you kept step in the ranks; and that you leave this as a heritage to your children and to the ages.

Register! Register! Send name and address to W. F. Jamieson, Secretary, 1716 Western Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio.

J. B. WILSON,
Vice Pres., N. L. L.

THE ADEPT ON THE N. L. L.

"The Adept" says of itself that it is "devoted to the Astrology Evolution and Monism."

I don't know what Monism is and don't want to know. Evolution is our ride! Darwin's racket and Astrology is a scheme by which you can look up into the stars, among all of those snakes and bears and billy goats and rams and things and tell what's coming. I'm not out of it and don't know about it—wish I did; I'd make \$400,000,000 speculating on wheat and make the Blade the most popular newspaper in the world. That's all it needs; the simoleons.

"The Adept" is a nice, clean magazine, and is published at 417, Fifth street, St. Minneapolis, Minn.

It talks about the Buffalo rumpus among the heathens and gives all the particulars about, and the officers named in, the N. L. L. and does not do that for the other gang.

It closes its editorial thusly: "A new Liberal organization is necessary, as there has been a great advance in Free Thought since the American Secular Union was organized. We hope that a society of a permanent and respectable nature will be formed—one that will be a credit to both science and good morals. While science teaches mankind to be liberal toward all who differ it also leads us to be conservative in morality. Let every Free Thinker attend the Congress who can. We are nearing a great political and religious crisis from which a new departure will be taken along the line of pure science."

Shake, brother! That's what I think better than if I had said it myself. Now, you remember old "Bagby," in Dickens that always made his "old girl" tell what he thought. If the work of the N. L. L. is going to be to try to make us all better, I am for it; I need it. But if it don't do this I would rather have the money that it takes to run it given to the Blue Grass Blade. Yes, I would Best Beloved.

A LITERARY GEM.

The lecture recently delivered by Dr. J. B. Wilson before the Ohio Liberal Society on the causes of anarchy, is one of the latest and brightest gems in current literature. It goes to the very root of the matter in controversy, and shows beyond the possibility of doubt the dangers that lie in the spirit of discontent which is the main cause of Anarchy. In it the Doctor distinguishes between philosophical and revolutionary anarchy. He classes the latter as a most dangerous being. He goes to his home and shows from whence he sprang. He deals with the subject in all its phases. This lecture is in type and will be published in pamphlet form. It is well worth reading and it should be in the hands of every thinking man and woman.

The price will be ten cents for a single copy, and twelve copies for one dollar. Send your orders in now, to the office of the Blade.

ROUGH ON RATS

The New Infidel Paper Started By George Washington McCormick.

My old and highly esteemed friend, G. W. McCormick, has issued from 11 Home Street, Cincinnati, Ohio, an infidel paper, the name of which is "The Rational Reflex of the Realm of Reason and Truth." That is to say, that's the main part of the name, though there is a good deal more mixed up in its head that is perhaps to be considered only incidentally a part of the name and to be used in the 4th-of-July editions and other high days and holidays.

Bro McCormick says "I" when he is writing, as all sensible editors do, and does not have to print the whole name of his paper every time he tells what it says, else the main part of the paper would be taken up with its name if he talked about himself as much as he does, and as Wilshire and Willie Jenny Bryan and I do.

He seems to have felt the inconvenience of his elongated name and abbreviates it to "Rational Reflex" when he has occasion to use it.

I would suggest that he still further abbreviate it to Rat. Ref., and then turn it hind part before and call it "Rough on Rats" and the he will have a good and catchy name in perfect harmony with the genius of the editor.

I had thought as an editor there were two distinctions that I had a lead-pipe clinch on and that could not be taken away from me, but even these are to be snatched from me, leaving me, like Cardinal Wolsey, desolate in mine old age.

These were egotism and originality, but Wilshire has beaten me in the first, and now here comes McCormick and walks off with my laurels for the latter, and like Othello, "my occupation is gone."

You may say of McCormick, as of myself, that he is a little out of kitter about the head, but at heart he is as sound as the best pippin in the barrel.

His paper is only 35 cents a year, and has reading in it until you can't rest. He also has some kind of an organization, the membership fee of which is 14 cents. If he had been an extortioner he would have made it 15 cents. There is some kind of Freemasonry about the organization, and not being in it, I don't know about it, and might be dumped over Niagara falls like the Masons did Morgan if I did know about it and told about it, but it's some kind of a wheel-within-a-wheel business like we read about in Isaiah and Jeremiah and Daniel and Revelations, and I think is intended to work inside the National Liberal League, and Bro McCormick is going to hold his meeting in conjunction with the N. L. L. at Cincinnati on January 26.

Bro. McCormick, agent the N. L. L. deposes thusly:

"Persons who wish to act, be, live, move, do or think on better ideals than confront us and surround us, will simply and absolutely have to get a move on themselves, and dropping their old scales, shells, claws, wrappings and togery, really step into a new realm or circle, or stay just where they are, in confusion and babbling chaos. Now, for a conclusion to all this, I've got this to say: Dr. J. B. Wilson, Dr. T. J. Bowles, Mrs. Josephine K. Henry and C. C. Moore, and many more, have gotten up a start for a new century society, and whilst I do not know the present pro tem, or organizing President, of Muncie, Ind., I do know, personally, the other three, and the whole world never had more true, effective or able workers in the field of advance and advancing thought and reason than they, or either of them, and they have gone to Buffalo to pick up the little handful of survivors of the dead and defunct A. M. S. U. and F. (forget me not) of F."

SAME OLD METHODIST RACKET.

In Cleveland, Ohio, A. E. Stelmo Lequesne, choirmaster in the Wade Park M. E. Church, has been arrested for the common Methodist weakness for a beautiful fifteen-year-old girl, named Agnes Chambers, who was a member of the Sunday school of that church, and a singer in the choir.

The account of it in the Cincinnati Enquirer of December 17 begins thusly:

"This court proposes to stand between innocent fifteen-year-old girls and middle-aged debauchers," said Police Judge Kennedy, sternly, when the case against A. E. Stelmo Lequesne, charged with criminal assault, was called today.