

Terse and Pithy Comments from Various Readers on Sundry Subjects

Likes Blade Much Better.

Mt. Vernon, O.—James E. Hughes.—I find the Blade much better since its "death." Its appearance after death proves that there is something in Spiritualism after all. In my opinion it is much better in its present form. Never return to the magazine form as it then resembled a Jesus journal or God paper although one glance soon dispelled such an idea.

However I am sorry to see so much about Thomas Paine and his "Age of Reason," which is only a god-book. Many Rationalists are worshipping this dead god worshiper. Paine shattered the Bible but gave us his god in exchange. His religion if adopted would prove as degrading as Christianity. Hoping the Blade won't die again, I am, yours truly.—HAROLD BANNING.

Glad to Know the Grand Old Paper is Still Going.

Muncie, Ind.—Friend Jim.—Enclosed is post office money order for \$1.50 to pay subscription for my friend Dr. William Smith, whose time for the Blade expired in August 1909. After reading the announcement that the Blade would suspend publication after December 12 I was considerably surprised to learn that the announcement was premature, but I am glad to know that the grand old paper which I have taken from its first issue many years ago will survive and carry out the wishes of its noble founder. With warm wishes for you personally and sincerely hoping that the Blade may long live and continue to do valiant service in the sacred warfare against superstition, I am, yours always.—T. J. BOWLES.

Noble Work of Charley Moore Not in Vain.

Madill, Okla.—James E. Hughes.—I am glad to see that the Blade is not dead, and that the great and noble work of Charley Moore is not in vain. Some time back I sent an article to the Blade in reply to Dennis Leahy's article which was never published, and also, latter on sent a short piece of poetry for publication which never appeared and which I greatly regretted the loss. I am again sending a short article which you may publish or throw in the waste basket.—C. E. JOHNSON.

Got Happy When the Blade Come.

Soldier's Home, Quincy, Ills.—Mr. Editor.—Sometime since I was informed that you had pronounced the sentence of death on the Blade. Well, I dressed myself in sack-cloth and ashes and set down on the snow under a dead tree and cursed everything in general, and Hughes in particular. Then imagine how sneaking I felt when I was raking my brain to find more big words, our good lady mail deliver, handed me the good old Blade with the kind face of old Bother Moore, in the northwest corner. Then if I had believed in old Jehovah I would have asked him to forgive me for being a damn fool in believing without investigating. Then I remembered it was hereditary. I had been taught to believe first. I felt like I did when I dropped the belief that an old hooked-nosed Jewish carpenter died that I might live forever, so I donned my soldier's uniform, got happy and rejoiced and if anyone had told me the world was coming to an end I would not believe it until I saw old Jehovah standing with one foot upon the land and the other on the sea declaring that time should be no more. So this is my apology and don't stop the Blade, that little check will come as it has for many years.—G. B. WYATT.

Milton, W. Va.—My Dear Hughes.

—Find check for 25 copies received this morning and for 25 copies of Bro. Severance's tribute to Thomas Paine. It does me good to see the memory of the greatest thinker of his age coming into his own. I must distribute at least 25 copies among the benighted.

I had a zealot tell me this morning that Col. R. G. Ingersoll died expressing to those around his death bed, that he, at the last moment realized that there is a God. Can you give me the address of Mrs. Ingersoll, or any of the children? If so I will write and ask them for the facts and let you publish them. We must take better care of his memory than was taken of the memory of Thomas Paine in the early days after his death.

Orthodoxy is beginning to show its fangs in the rural districts as to Col. Ingersoll and is hiding them as to Thomas Paine. Let the family speak and let's put it of record for the benefit of future generations. He cooled hell, but we must cool the people who seek to besmirch his memory. Not long since I was driving through this county with a gentleman from Richmond, Virginia. He wanted to make a business killing, and the first opportunity, knowing that in the rural districts, it is almost always safe to jump on Infidels, he landed on Col. Ingersoll as having recanted on his death bed. We got busy right away. He soon convinced me that he had read nothing of the Colonel's last hours. I think he had been loaded up by some preacher and had not taken the pains to find out if the powder was good or not.

Long live the memory of him who said: "The world is my country; to do good is my religion," and of him who said "Hands that help are better far than lips that pray."

In the bundle of Bro. Severance's speech, put a copy of an 16th Blade. Mine of that date didn't come. Can't afford to miss one. Success to the Blade and the cause it represents.—C. R. LEWIS.

Approves Our Editorial.

Vera, S. K.—Editor Blue Grass Blade.—I greatly approve your claim, and that of J. D. Shaw, that tolerance is the object of Liberalism, while iconoclasm is to be used as a weapon for self-protection. I do not believe in surrendering all to a vanquished foe, it is too much like paying \$200,000,000 for the right to establish Christianity on a captured territory. I also note that W. C. Cope denies our right to use words in their etymological sense, and requires Freethinkers to accept the traditional and inconsistent sense which fire and thumb-screws have enforced, only for a few centuries past.

I refer particularly to Divine, Infinite, miracle, God, and such terms which, of themselves, have no meaning.

When we examine a razor, we look for an implement to shave with; and we are not prejudiced in our choice on account of the fact that some tough citizens have carved each other with razors. In examining a razor, we find that its thin blade and thick back fits it for hard usage or deep cutting, and only its keen edge is an inducement for such use by people lacking the skill or judgment to fashion better or cheaper weapons.

When we examine the word God, we find no authority for its use in the Bible, and its introduction the work of transcribers. The original word being Elohim, which indicates the ancient term for "the forces of nature," is wrongfully translated "the gods," while the original word is displaced by the more modern word, God, prohibited even by the Jews.

Then again, we have the word, Jehovah, which in its various forms, is defined in the text of the Bible to mean human reason.

To "divine" is to think; a "divining rod" is an instrument to discover unseen metals, water, etc. i. e. to think for us; and this is exactly what our preachers pretend to do, who identify themselves as divines, or spiritual advisers.

A close inspection of the character or nature of the human mind, discloses the fact that time and space are annihilated in its use. We can visit any planet mentally. We can calculate its distance, its periods; what amount of food, and fuel, or time, required to enable our body to visit the comet in its journey; we can calculate the density or rarity of the ether, and thus disclose the impossibility of the physical journey.

We do not require a piece of wood or iron, to be in our brain to enable us to think of "wood" or "iron"; in fact, the mind of mankind is both infinite and divine. It is through experience we acquire Reason. Reason and it is only by subjugating selfishness, that reason attains a seat in the council chamber of our intelligence. The writers of the Bible understood this, and because Reason came through experience, they called it "The Son of Man."

Depending also, as our possession of Reason does, on the cogitation of our experiences by this divine and infinite mind, the authors called Reason

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son "The Son of God," born of imagination, or Eve.

Why should Freethinkers surrender the advantages stolen from the ancients when the Christians murdered Hypatia, and destroyed the key to its text, so far as they were able to do? Why did they kill this woman, anyway? I have never seen a reason stated in print, so I will suggest their reasons.

The original was written in hieroglyphics, a term meaning secret, or secret writing, because objects, or pictures of objects were used as words, leaving the mind to determine their significance. Whatever an object inspired in one's mind became the meaning of a picture of such object. Because these ideas in one's mind were unknown to others, it was called "secret," or "sacred writing."

Therefore, sacred writing relates to mental operations, and was not then used as a vehicle for historical purposes. Being introduced into Egypt, where there were no mountains, pyramids were built, as terms for learning, and thus the pyramids are the first monuments to education.

All mental operations being sacred writing, mathematics, science and arts were regarded as religious. We will now define the word "Religion." With speech and writing, the mind made great advances over that of speechless animals; and along with this advancement greater difficulties in its preservation. Certain habits of conduct, and habits of thought were observed to be injurious to the mental efficiency, and whatever tends to preserve the mind and restore it to normal is to be regarded as "Religion."

Mathematics having proved its worth, Hypatia being the great exponent of mathematics, was therefore a recognized priestess of Religion, and to exterminate this religion and substitute another form—Christianity—she was killed, the votaries destroyed, and the library burned. In experimenting with scrap-heaps and waste, radium was discovered, so, before we, like the early Christians, destroy what we cannot understand, had better investigate a little; see if we do not possess the very items named, and which will never be destroyed or annihilated by simple rag-chewing about the names, or roaring about other people's mis-use of the names.

F. S. WEAVER.

NOTICE OF PAINE MEETING.

"Why may we not suppose that the great Father of all is pleased with variety of devotion; and that the greatest offense we can act, is that by which we seek to torment and render each other miserable."—Thomas Paine.

The Second Annual Dinner of the Paine Banquet Association, commemorating the 173rd anniversary of the birth of Thomas Paine, will be held at Hanscom's, 1217 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, on Saturday, January 29, 1910, at 7:30 p. m.

The Committee of Arrangements are: Messrs. J. C. Hannon, J. B. Elliott, (for Blade), H. W. Boland, A. G. Fromuth, J. Kuhn, G. H. Watson. Master of Ceremonies—Mr. Frank G. Bowers. Toastmaster—Mr. Samuel M. Jones.

Program:

Piano Solo -----Miss Rese Lyons

- The Defender of the Divine..... Mr. Thomas Phillips
- Vocal Duet.....Mr. & Mrs. H. M. Swope
- Paine and Woman.....Mrs. Elizabeth Harlow Goetz
- Violin Solo.....Master Herman Weinberg
- Light Under a Bushel.....Wm. H. Toole
- Baritone Solo.....Prof. G. C. Ciron
- Recitation.....Mr. Frank Walker
- Agriarian Justice.....Mr. James A. Robinson
- Violin Solo.....Master Herman Weinberg
- Contralto Solo.....Miss Rose Ersner
- Liberty of the Press.....Miss Voltairine de Cloyre
- Tenor Solo.....Mr. H. M. Shope
- The Upper Room.....Rev. J. H. Amies
- Piano Solo.....Miss Rose Lyons
- The Slandered Reformer.....Rev. J. Carey Phillips
- Benediction.....Rev. E. M. Frank

PAINE BANQUET AT CLEVELAND, OHIO.

The following invitation, tastefully gotten up, has been received at the Blade office:

"1737—1809."

"A man of three nations, Disowned by them all." The Freethought Society of Cleveland will hold a

THOMAS PAINE BANQUET Forest City House, Cleveland, January 29, 1910, 7 p. m. Toastmaster—G. H. Lytle. Life and Public Service of Thomas Paine ..... J. C. Heald Great Men ..... Isador Ladoff Politics of Thomas Paine.....H. H. Kline Paine, Humanity's Friend.....

.....J. A. Culbertson Recitation.....Mrs. A. B. Morlock Music.....Mrs. A. B. Schram The Crisis.....Harry Berkowitz Recitation.....J. A. Martin The Age of Reason.....C. J. Bath Recitation.....Mrs. M. C. Smith The Rights of Man.....M. H. Wolf Ingersoll's Paine.....T. C. Jefferies And to do good is my religion." "The world is my country,—

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A TRIP TO ROME by DR. J. B. WILSON.

The International Congress of Freethinkers was held in the City of Rome, Italy, September 21, 1904. The author attended that Congress as the American delegate. It is an account of travel and personal experiences that has received an universal encomium from press and people. In it religious dogmas and tales of priestly fiction are ruthlessly exposed while the general style is without comparison in American literature of travel. Cloth bound, 360 pages, illustrated. Address orders to BLUE GRASS BLADE, Lexington, Ky.

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