

## THE PUBLIC FORUM

### NON-LICENSED CHAUFFEURS.

Being a chauffeur with many years' experience, I would like to ask a question.

Why must a chauffeur go through an examination and pay \$3 a year to operate an automobile when people who own a car can drive without license and, worst of all, without experience?

If everybody who operates an automobile had to go through a school and take an examination we would have less accidents.—C. H. L., 112 E. Illinois St.

**FREETHINKERS.**—Freethinkers, put this in your pipes and smoke it! The idea that freethinkers are necessarily liberal is rot. Many of them do not know what free thought is. The only kind of free thought is their thought. Directly you get away from their thought you are getting off of free thought. The only kind of free thought, according to them, is that there is nothing.

Such free thinkers are like the church, politicians, etc., only infinitely more intolerant, creed-bound and superstitious—yes, superstitious. Most of them believe in astrology, luck, omens, hunches, Friday the 13th, etc.!

Freethinkers continually tell you that this and that isn't free thought, but that so and so is, giving you chapter and verse where some writer said something. You are not a good free thinker if you dispute what this chapter and verse says. You must find out from this type of freethinkers just what you must think and anything else isn't free thought. You must never change your mind.

If you don't agree with them they tell you that they are very sorry for your ignorance and narrowmindedness, just as the orthodox religionists tell you that they intend to pray for you.

These are the kind of freethinkers

who get alarmed at deathbed scarecrows and send for the clergy who invented them, thus bringing ridicule on real freethinkers, who lay down as one who sinks to pleasant dreams.

Such freethinkers are always trotting around, like the busybody missionaries, professional reformers and other freaks.—Hadrian H. Baker.

**PARTIES.**—The president convention is fast approaching. There remains not a shadow of doubt that the coming election will find us with a Republican landslide.

Once more the Republican party, including the money interests, will be in possession of the governmental rudder. In order to mislead the people they will likely open up the avenues of industry. Labor again will find employment, with the result that our productive power will largely increase. Capital, as usual, will be enriched only to absorb more millions, but with the opening of the various industries all commodities, especially rents, will also largely increase, for the equilibrium will be maintained.

The traditional congress and senate will again convene, to be taken up most of the time with preparedness and the old tariff chestnut, and, as customary, they will dwell on the most unimportant matters and omit the most important. So that after the lapse of the coming Republican regime the workers, including the middlemen, will find themselves in the same position as before.

Another presidential convention will follow. They again will enter the political arena with false promises. It may be the Republicans, or, possibly, once more Democracy may be called to life, only for the multitudes to be misled and travel the same old helpless route, as countless others have done before.

After all, does not the hypocrisy and the insincerity of the average politician become more visible at time goes on? When have we ever heard of politicians coming forth