

A RATIONALIST AND

VOLUME 10 NUMBER 10

# FREETHOUGHT JOURNAL

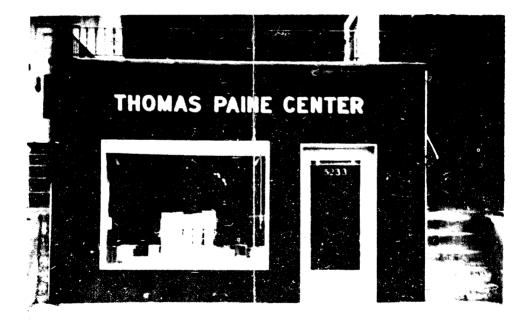
# OCTOBER 1956

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# THOMAS PAINE CENTER



The above picture shows the front of the THOMAS PAINE CENTER which is located at 5233 N. 5th St. in Philadelphia. It was formally opened on September 29th, and we are happy to report that the opening was a success.

There were over 150 visitors to the THOMAS PAINE CENTER on that date.

Many could not stay for the dedication which took place at 7 p.m. but were greatly impressed with the progress of the League and the results of our efforts in the establishing of the THOMAS PAINE CENTER.

To our knowledge it is the only such building of its kind in the country.

<sup>3</sup>The CENTER will be open every evening and all day on Saturday and Sunday. We welcome all interested persons to visit the PAINE CENTER if possible.

The Center contains a splendid book shop, forum, reading room and library. It is open to the public and we are happy to report that we have secured several new members, who passing by were attracted by the display of books in the window.

Our meeting on Saturday evening was called to order by the Chairman, Mr. L. Alt, who is the secretary of the Friendship Liberal League. After a few appropriate remarks he called on various members of the League who had devoted much of their time to the remodeling of the Center and asked all to stand. Mr. and Mrs. Baker, Edwin Baker, Joseph Smith, Andy Vena, Mr. and Mrs. Endlich, Mrs. Ida Fischer, K.M.Whitten, and many others who had labored, some a few hours, some many, in making the Center what it is today.

I would be remiss if I did not comment on the many hours that Mrs. Fischer spent in painting, cleaning and fixing up the forum room. Also Frank Choha, who labored almost every day for the past two months along with the secretary in doing a remodeling job which if done by outside contractors would have cost over a thousand dollars.

Mrs Lydia Baker, our recording secretary presented the chair with a gavel with which'to keep order. It was accepted with thanks. The Baker family next presented the Thomas Paine Center with a beautiful American flag and stand. Our president accepted it with thanks and the meeting proceeded.

Next called upon was Mrs. Eva Ingersoll Wakefield, the grandaughter of the one and only Robert G. Ingersoll. Mrs. attended with her husband Sherman. D. Wakefield, a noted editor and writer.

Mrs. Ingersoll read a thrilling essay on Thomas Paine, and told of the high regard which Robert Ingersoll had of Thomas Paine. The talk will be printed in our November issue.

Mrs. Wakefield had donated a handsome bust of Robert Ingersoll to the Center and it occupied a prominent niche in our forum. Everyone was impressed.

Mr. K.M.Whitten, president of F.L.L. delivered the dedication speech, one in which he stressed the need of the Paine Center, the need for cooperation and unity in the freethought movement, and what we of F.L.L. were doing to achieve that unity. He stressed the necessity of local organizations, the method in which they all could cooperate and work together to the advantage of the movement.

The secretary introduced all the officers of the League, several visiting friends, many who had come some distance. Mrs. Florence Van Swearengem, secretary of the League for Religious Freedom, New York City, brought best wishes from that society.

The F.L.L. recently purchased 75 comfortable folding chairs for use in the forum. A suggestion was made that the chairs be donated to the Paine Center by the persons present.

Twenty-four persons indicated their

approval and each donated five dollars for a chair. The list appears elsewhere in this issue.

The meeting was over at 9 p.m. and refreshments were served. Mrs. Fischer, Mrs. Spano and Mrs. Endlich gratiously saw that the inner needs of our guests were satisfied and made the most delicious coffee that pleased all.

We wish to express our sincere thanks to the friend who donated the refreshments. He begs to remain anonymous.

Until twelve o'clock groups chatted, made new friendships, cemented old ones, and in general a good time was had by all. The evening was one that will be long remembered by those who attended.

# \$100 WANTED.

One of our friends who visited the Thomas Paine Center and remained for two days has given the secretary a \$100 bill towards the fund needed to reduce the debt on the Center. However, he made the stipulation that four others contribute a like amount.

We know that there are many others who would be willing to take up this challenge. If you are able to match this offer, please write the secretary at once at 5526 Westford Rd. Phila. 20, Pa. or write direct to the Thomas Paine Center at 5233 N. 5th St. Phila. 20, Pa.

#### Many Thanks.

We want to express our sincere thanks to Dr. Bertha Johnson, of Troy Pa. for the fine engraved portrait of Thomas Paine which she donated to the Center. It arrived just in time to be hung on the wall as we opened the Center on Saturday morning.

Also our thanks to the donors of books for the Paine Center Library.

# IN MEMORY OF-

The following chairs were donated by friends of the League in memory of the following:

In memory of: Robert G.Ingersoll by Eva Ingersoll Wakefield

Dr. Homer Wakefield by Sherman D.Wakefield

Joseph McCabe by Mrs. and Mrs. Fred Morelli

Also in memory of the following:

William Siggson

Blanche Puccinnelli

Curt B.Endlich Frank Choha Sr.

League for Religious Freedom, N.Y.

Ernest H, Brandt

Kenneth Roth Andy Vena

Jenny Davids

Clarence Darrow

Joseph Spano

Pat Young Paul Baker

P.lannelli

Thomas Jefferson Davis Joseph A.Smith

Dr. M.S.Sugarman

Mrs. H.S. Anthony

Stella Bloom

Esther Carter Choha

Frank B.McPharlin

We might add that if any reader of the LIBERAL or member desires to purchase a chair in honor of someone which would be a memorial to them in the Thomas Paine Center, they may write the secretary indicating their wishes. We have a total of 75 chairs which will be labelled accordingly.

Token payment for a chair is \$5.00



# The LIBERAL

Bulletin of Friendship Liberal League Inc.

Presenting a Liberal and Rationalist viewpoint. Published Monthly at 5526 Westford Rd., Phila. 20, for the information of its members.

Subscription \$1.00 per year

All matter accepted for publication becomes the property of the League, with the right to edit or condense. Unaccepted articles, if requested, will be returned. Signed articles do not necessarily represent the views of the League.

Associate membership in F.L.L. is open to all who are in accord with the League's purpose. All associates will receive THE LIBERAL and other literature issued by the League. Beyond a minimum of \$2.00 per year, every associate may fix his own contribution in accordance with his means and interost in the cause.



#### EDITORIAL-----

We can report only progress here in Philadelphia. The opening of the **Thomas Paine Center at 5233 N.5th St.** marks one of the highlights of the years endeavors.

To our knowledge it is the only such Center in the country. And we predict it will not be the last. Already we are planning similar **Thomas Paine Centers** in other localities.

The freethought movement must have local groups in every city of any size in every state in the USA if it is to make an impact on the culture of our times. This can be done only if you want to see this come about.

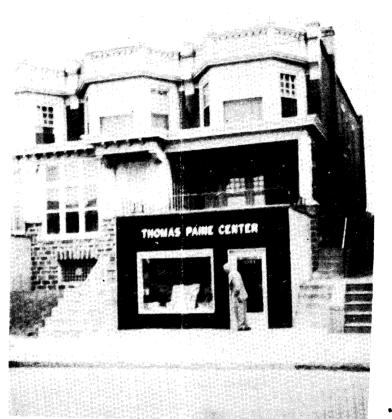
But first we must clear our **Thomas Poine Center** of debt. We have at the moment a debt of \$7856.00 to pay before our Center is free of mortgage.

How soon we can clear this encumbrance is up to you. If you desire to be of financial help, then drop the secretary a note and enclose a contribution to help reduce the mortgage on the **Thomas Paine Center**. We must clear this property first before we can attempt to start another Center elsewhere.

So friends, dig down in your pockets and help us keep the ball rolling. It is only with your help that we can continue our work.

FRIENDSHIP LIBERAL LEAGUE, Inc.
5526 Westford Road, Phila. 20, Penna.
DEAR SIRS:
I desire to become an Associate of the Friendship Liberal League, Inc. I am en
closing \$ as a contribution, \$1.00 of which is for a year's subscription to THE
LIBERAL.
Signed Address
City Zone State

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The above photo shows the THOMAS PAINE CENTER and the building which the F.L.L. bought. It will house the offices of the League, bookshop, forum, library and reading room. It also has two apartments which are rented out to two members of the League who will act as caretakers.

# CHARITY IS LUCKY

Corot, the famous French landscape painter, said charity brought him good luck. "One day I let a poor fellow have \$200," he said, "and the picture I painted that day was so good l sold it for \$1,200. That's the way it always is. I paint better with a heart at ease."

Is your heart at ease? If not, a contribution of \$200 toward our building fund might bring you good luck, too.



The above photo shows four of the officers of F.L.L. Reading left to right K.M.Whitten, president, Wm. Wolf, vicepresident, Mazie Spano, treasurer and L.Alt the secretary.

#### Notic <del>e</del>

A friend of the League who is a magazine salesman says that any reader of the LIBERAL who will subscribe through him will be given whatever reductions are available at the time and he will give one-half of all commission to the Paine fund. He has agent's license and can accept subscriptions for ALL publications. If interested contact Hiram L. Frank, 1609 West Girard Ave., Phila. 30, Penna.

### DUNNINGER

A reader asks us what we think of the Dunninger program consisting of alleged mind reading on the part of Dunninger. Well, the truth is that we have given it little or no thought. The idea that persons might communicate with others without audible or visual or physical means is an old one, and like all ideas has its proponents and opponents. We have not taken sides. It is possible that there are mental faculties that are not at this time fully known. If so, further investigation may reveal them. We have neither the time, ability nor inclination to conduct such an investigation, therefore, we remain neutral.

# **ANTI-RELIGIOUS OR ANTI-CLERICAL**

By K.M. Wbitten

CLERICALISM - Clerical power or influence in politics.

CLERICAL - Upholding the power or influence of the Clergy in politics. A person or a party trying to extend the power of the church in government.

Is Friendship Liberal League antireligious? If by this question is meant is the objective of the organization to burn down churches or prevent people from freely worshiping in any manner they desire or trying to make converts by speaking or writing, the answer is emphatically NO! We are for freedom for everyone, to believe worship, talk or write either for or against religion.

Religion in the sense usually meant is a belief in the existence of a power not included in the forces of nature, but which is superior to human beings and can and does control them.

Is Friendship Liberal League anti-Clerical? Yes, definitely so! The purpose of the League compels it to be. The men and women who organized the League stated in the charter that they were associating themselves for their moral and intellectual improvement by means of music, literature, lectures and debates. They accomplished this by holding an open forum where "all subjects pertaining to human welfare were discussed."

Now, it is obvious that to discuss all subjects requires that there shall be free speech and free assemblage. One of the great subjects of that time was the question of "Evolution." Today no intelligent person questions the validity of the evidence supporting Evolution. But Darwin's work was not universally accepted and the churchmen denounced him and his ideas as Satan's own. Naturally the League members took intense interest in all this and other matters making for progress.

Today, only such simpletons as Rev. Billy Graham still hold to the old "Creation" nonsense. The facts of the gradual development, or evolution of all the higher forms of life, including humans, from simpler forms has been so clearly shown by empiric research that the matter has passed from the plane of serious debate.

But other matters of grave social import are still with us and their proper solution depends upon freedom to question, to discuss and debate them. Religious organizations, the powerful ones, are opposed to any discussion that may lead to solutions not in accord with their dogmas. Oh, yes, they welscientific investigation. For come example any investigation that might show that animals could give birth without male cooperation is encouraged as this would tend to bolster their claims of a virgin-born god. But thumbs down on any investigation such as synthetic production of living protoplasm, or mating a human with a simian to see if a hybrid can result because experiments, if successful, would destroy their dogmas regarding the soul and special creation, while strengthening the evidence for godless evolution.

Clericalism, the clergy linked with the government, would suppress such things. It is not just a question of the Liberal League, or the experiments cited above. The clerics would insist on their right to judge every human activity, using as the norm, their ancient dogmas. Their specious argument is that they have the Truth revealed by their God. Anything not in conformity with their code cannot be right. Therefore, such nonconforming persons are in error and error has no right to existence. They claim they have the right to put to death all who oppose them.

Under such conditions no Liberal thought or activities could exist. Perfect unity of viewpoint would result. Since man's reason for existence is to prepare for heaven, there would be little incentive for progress, so reason to try for more comfortable earthly conditions. If it seems that this conclusion is overdrawn just consider the situation in a country such as Portugal. In that unhappy land a complete theocratic control exists. Nothing is allowed to disturb the harmony of life and religious Truth. No here lical activities are allowed. Peace reigns, but it is the peace of complete desultrate, The masses are impoverished and illiterate; science is nonexistent: progress has ceased.

This is Clericalism in the saddle. Since we members of the League do not want this blight to fall on the United States, since we want abundant life in the here-and-now and only scientific progress can assure this, since we want the right to think and tell our thoughts to the world, we must oppose every manifestation of Clericalism, lest we fall to the level Spain, South America and elsewhere.

# **TRUTH SEEKER**

Monthly Freethought paper, \$2.00 year 38 Park Row, New York City, N.Y.

### CHRISTIAN CIVILIZATION

It is a frequent and favorite claim of the Clergy, both Protestant and Catholic, that the present day civilization is the result of the civilinfluence of the izing Christian religion. Nothing could be farther from the facts. All the enlightened laws and customs of the present were brought about by men and women, (many of whom were martyred) despite the strongest opposition of the clergy. Historians such as Buckle and Hallam and the American Charles Lea agree that the cruelties practiced by both Protestant and Catholic Clergy on those who would not submit to their dictation were never surpassed by heathens and pagans before or since. Progress toward humaneness and kindliness and civilization was fought bitterly by such cruel monsters as Torqumada and Calvin, Knox and Wesley, all of whom burnt and tortured their opponents whenever possible. They also are responsible for the murder of countless thousand of men and women whom they called witches according to their stupid religious nonsense. In Massachusetts. the greatest religious leader of his time, Cotton Mather, urged and justified the hanging of a score of poor men and women as witches. If their "religious" views were still in force, if heretics and unbelievers had not swept them aside we would still be in the dark ages. It is freethought and freethinkers who brought enlightenment, not religionists.

It is useless to try to reason a man out of something he has not been reasoned into.

## "A GOOD SIGN"

#### By Andy Vena

Roadside billboards----"the poor man's art gallery"---are a long standing aspect of the American scene. Thousands of acres of outdoor advertising sign space line both sides of our nation's urban traffic arteries, suburban highways, and rural byways, focused upon on-coming traffic and urging the motorists and passengers to buy and try this or that brand of product or service, etc. Among this array of appeals there are also to be seen more and more---even if heeded less and less---a number of religious signs. We have all seen them along the road: "Ye Must Be Born Again"; "JESUS SAVES"; "REPENT YE SINNERS"; "PREPARE TO MEET THY GOD"; etc., and various quotations from the Bible.

All such advertising, commercial or religious, is based on the logical assumption that in order for the buyer to come to the seller, the seller must first REACH the prospective buyer with his offer or message to inform him, rouse his thinking and stimulate desire.

The Friendship Liberal League believes it would be a fruitful promotional idea to have a number of such suburban roadside billboards with a sensible, secular, rationalist message aimed at on-coming traffic, which would be in welcome contrast to the religious signs and an antidote to their nonsense. The League, unfortunately, can't as yet afford regular roadside billboard companies' prices for such advertising. But it occurs to us that possibly there are LIBERAL readers and League friends and sympathizers who own land along a major highway

or railroad line who would be willing to douate to the F.L.L. permission to erect a suitable billboard, either for a certain minimum of time or for an indefinite time. It need not be a neon-lighted "Spectacular", huge but shouldn't be too tiny, either. It would be placed at a right angle to the roadway (or rail line) so the same message could be carried on both surfaces and be visible above shrubbery, fences, etc., to motorists approaching from both directions. Also, it might be lettered in attractive colors that glow in an auto's approaching headlights, thus working both day and night for Freethought.

A thought-provoking but inoffensive message could be neatly painted by professional sign painter. The a wording could be changed from time to time. Readers' comments on this matter are welcome, and those with suitable property along a highway or railway willing to make such a unique "contribution" are urged to write the secretary, giving such useful details as; number or name of highway or railroad line; near or between what cities the property is located; number of lanes; traffic density prevailing; whether busses go by, and if unobstructed by trees, etc. Also include terms or conditions of such permission. We believe that a billboard, well built, well worded, and well located would be "A GOOD SIGN".

In Greenville, Miss. a part time preacher is under arrest for fornication and adultery. The occupant of the shack in which the holy man and his girl friend were cuddling is charged with operating a bawdy house.

# FLUORIDATION

The controversy regarding whether the addition of sodium fluoride to drinking water is beneficial or harmful continues to rage with intensity.

Many readers of the Liberal are ranged on one or the other side of the argument and make known their views to us. Now, obviously the LIBERAL nor F.L.L. are qualified to decide this matter. But we do think it is important to all readers. Therefore, those who are interested may read the opposition's views in AMERICAN CAPSULE NEWS, a news digest published at 1737 H Street, N.W., Washington 6, D.C. If someone favoring flucridation will inform us where favorable literature may be gotten. we will pass the information on to our readers. We do not want to tell anyone how to think, we want to give our readers an opportunity to think for themselves.

The Scandinavian countries have beer predominately Lutheran since the *n* formation. In Norway, until recently Jesuits and other R.C. religious ders were prohibited, although there was no prohibition of the Church as such. However, there were only a few priests and a few thousand communicants. In the past few years there has been a greatly increased effort to get converts and new churches increased number of priests and an have been provided for. According to the Lutherans, however, results have been negligible. They say that official census figures show that there has been a drop in the R.C. numbers from 4.905 in 1946 to 4,753 in 1950, with a gain of only 100 converts since 1950. A remarkable phenomenon as there is a priest for each 200

parishoners while Lutheran ministers one to each 3,500 members. are The Christian newspaper, "Vart Land" attributed the slow advance of Roman Catholicism in Norway to "the fact the Evangelical views must be considerably better founded in the people than is generally assumed." But it added that "there was a general secularization of people no longer interested in religion." Of course, the latter statement is the correct answer. Imagine only one minister to 3,500 members, if these members were actually interested in their church. The truth is that the Lutheran church is decaying in Norway and only a a comparatively few persons attend services. If the government did not keep it going it is doubtful that it would be more than a small sect. The days of "faith" have gone into the trash bin. Too many people now know that an efficient fire department is a much better protection against conflagrations than prayers, incantations, bells, and cherms. Also that in individual illness or epidemics one doctor is better than ten thousand robed clergymen, whether Lutheran or Roman Catholic or what have you. Also that sterilized water is likely to be freer from germs than holy water.

Eight years ago, Jack O'Leary was afflicted with hiccups at the rate of one per second. Why Le Bon Dieu decided to send this invitation is not stated. However, after trying everything that is claimed as a cure for this ill without success he has been finally cured by the intervention of the late Pope Pius XI, who was recently elevated to Sainthood. Just why this devout believer waited 8 years to ask supernatural assistance, or if he previously asked intervention, why he had to suffer 8 years is one of those mysteries past understanding.

# CAN YOU RISK IT?

A subscriber in Idaho when sending in a contribution says: "It appears to me to show weakness not to sign one's name to a donation for Thomas Paine Memorial." We suppose he refers to donations listed as "Anonymous" in the LIBERAL acknowledgements. We do not agree with him. Evidently this reader is in a position in which he is able to openly declare himself and does not know how fortunate he is.

Now, why should anyone be afraid to openly state he is Rationalist or Freethinker, or that he subscribes to the LIBERAL. or donates to the building Fund of the Thomas Paine Building Fund, or is a member of Friendship Liberal League? There is absolutely nothing illegal in any of these activities. F.L.L. and its members are not engaged in destroying the freedoms which the founders of this nation bequeathed to us. On the contrary it is our desire to preserve them against destruction by groups whose philosophy and aims are alien to our constitutional freedoms and who would institute a dictatorship to enforce their views.

It is not "legal prosecution" that our members and friends need fear. It is something far worse --- "illegal persecution". We have among our subscribers men and women in all walks of life, each, with few exceptions, under the necessity of earning a livelihood. Many are professional people, physcians, dentists, teachers, business men, persons who must have relations with the public in general. Obviously they must avoid boycotting by religious or other groups which would destroy their earning power. An example could be cited in the case

of Dr. Christopher McCue, who died recently in his late 80's. Dr. McCue says in a pamphlet he wrote that he had lost all belief in the gods and supernaturalism by the time he graduated from medical college, in his early twenties. He set up practice in a rural Michigan area and for sixty vears no one in the region ever knew his real views. During a visit with him some years ago he told me this and remarked that if the story had ever gotten around that he was an atheist no farmer or his wife would have allowed him to enter their house to deliver their babies, they would have been fearful that their offspring would have horns and tails. Even mechanics and other workers have to keep quiet in many cases. Superstition has such a hold on the masses that many would be afraid to work in a building with an unbeliever, and would feel that they had done a good deed if they could get him discharged and blacklisted out of the union and the industry.

Our Idaho friend is all wrong. Those who send in their donations, and request that their names be withheld are serving the cause well. Since they cannot openly participate in the League's activities they do the next best thing. Though they cannot fire the guns, they feel that they can at least help to pass the ammunition. And this fight needs plenty of ammunition.

Every dollar helps. If you can openly state your views in the market place and on the highways to all and sundry, you are fortunate and can contribute valuable service in enlightening others. If you must keep mum you can relieve your mind and feel that you are doing your bit in another, but equally important way. Let each help in his own field to the extent of his ability in the "Best of all causes".

# FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION BULLETINS

Once again we call attention to these bulletins. Most people have little realization of how many schemes exist to relieve the unwary of their money. In most cases the harm done the victim is merely financial but in the case of fake medicines the results may even be fatal. The F.T.C. puts it: "Firms advertising ineffective medicines as cures induce sufferers delay proper treatment-----This to delay is not only detrimental to the individual but is injurious to the public health". Anyone may receive these informative bulletins free by merely requesting that they be sent. Address Federal Trade Commission, Wash..D.C.

# NOTICE TO ALL

If you move be sure to notify us promptly, giving both the old and new addresses. Particulary so if you move to another state. Remember, it is not enough to give the P.O. a forwarding address. Second class magazines are not forwarded. The P.O. will gladly give you cards to notify publishers of change of address. When you get an expiration notice renew promptly as it saves a lot of work. And we will repeat this ----- if you don't have the price of a renewal just tell us to keep the LIBERAL coming, and you can pay if and when you get back in the chips.

# WHENCE COME OUR RIGHTS? By Edd Doerr

We frequently hear it said that "if our rights and freedoms are conceived as being granted by the state, then the state may take them away; therefore, we must state that all our rights and freedoms come from God."

This is an interesting bit of logic, if ever, carried to its logical conclusion. In this connection, if our rights and freedoms are held to have been granted us by "God", then cannot these rights and freedoms be taken from us by the churches, which claim to be the official authorized interpreters of the "will of God"? Would it not be better to simply hold that all our rights come neither from the state nor from a mythical God. but rather from within man himself? To fall for the old line that our liberties come from any source external to man is to take the first step toward losing them. Think it over.

Popular government without popular education is a prologue to a farce or a tragedy.

----James Madison

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THOMAS PAINE SEALS 100 Seals ......

#### RATIONALIST PRESS THE

Reluctance of the average printer and prohibitive prices have prevented the printing of much freethought literature. To overcome this problem the the Rationalist Press was founded. Here the freethinker can be assured of a service that will print what he wants, leaflets tracts or booklets as well as general printing at reasonable cost and with complete confidence.

# 5526 Westford Road, Phila. 20, Penna.

## OBITUARY

# MARY WINSOR

The League lost one of its staunchest supporters on September 10th when Mary Winsor, internationally known champion of women's rights ceased her life long activities to make this a better world for all. For a number of years a weakened heart had compelled her to halt many of her physical activities but her mind was active to the She died in a Philadelphia last. hospital, the Womens Medical College Hospital and gave instructions that no ceremonies were to be held and that her body was to be given to the Hospital for scientific research. Her surviving sisters, themselves very much in sympathy with her views carried out her wishes to the letter. Mary Winsor was born into a wealthy Philadelphia family, but unlike girls in her sphere she was not content to live a conventional, comfortable life ignoring the many inequities and injustices that less fortunate members of her sex suffered. She was one of the pioneer "suffragettes" and was given wide publicity when in 1917 she and a number of other members of the National Woman's Party picketed the White House in their campaign for equal rights for women. They were arrested and when fined refused to pay. Sentenced to serve 60 days they served their full time, almost a quarter of it in solitary confinement. Several years later, in 1921, she was again arrested in New York when police illegally broke up a birth control meeting and refused to permit Margaret Sunger to speak. This time, however, the police were smart enough to let go, after holding arrested those them all night.

It would take pages to relate the many causes for human welfare that she gave both her ability and financial support to. For the past ten years she took an active interest in the LIBERAL, and wrote for it and donated generously to its upkeep.

She was indeed a remarkable woman. private schools and Educated in of the swanky colleges, member "Philadelphia Main Line" set, enjoying wealth and social position, nevertheless she became wholeheartedly interested in the "underdog". One can only suppose that her travels in Europe when a young woman gave her a broadened vision that charted her future course.

Members of F.L.L. who knew her personally admired her very much and were hoping that she would be able to attend the opening of the Paine Center.

Both her life and death should be an inspiration to all Rationalists and Freethinkers. She was 87 years of age and her last instructions refute the claims of religionists that unbelievers repent in fear when their end draws nigh. She knew for years that death might come quickly and met that situation screnely, "Like one who wraps the drapery of his couch about him and lies down to pleasant dreams". She will be long remembered by Friendship Liberal League.

# RUPERT HUGHES and ANTON CARLSON

Rupert Hughes, famed writer, and Anton Carlson, famous Professor of Medicine, both subscribers to the LIBERAL for years went the way of all flesh during September. Both were well along in years and had lived active and fruitful lives. Hughes wrote many books, perhaps his most famous being "Why I quit going to Church" in which he pulled no punches in evaluating religion. He also wrote a biography of George Washington in which he delineated him not only as possessing all the high qualities which made him a national hero but also as having the failings and faults common to most of us. It raised quite a rumpus.

Dr. Anton Carlson was at the peak of his profession being connected with the University of Chicago for many years. He was an outspoken, avowed atheist and wrote and spoke much about the various features of supernaturalism as contrasted with science. He was the type of college professor and teacher that religionists fear because of their tremendous influence because of their tremendous influence on their students. Let us hope that he may have sown the seed in the mind of one or more young men who will in some future time take up the torch the old master had to lay down.

#### DAHLISMS.

If God be defined as all-wise, all-powerful, and all-good, the state of the wprld proves his non-existence.

Charles Smith-Sensism.

If God be defined as the one substance the first cause, being, existence, nature, the one presence, the universe, then the presence of God is self-evident.

Soren Dabl What is the meaning of the term God?

# THE RATIONALIST

Issued bi-monthly.\$2.00 year.2218 St. Louis Ave.St. Louis Mo.

NOTICE TO READERS.

Clarence Sowles, Ansley, Nebr., would like to correspond with other Rationalists and Freethinkers. We have often thought that to be the only one in a small town filled with believers must be rather lonesome. It would be a good idea for Liberal readers in such places to carry on correspondence with each other. We will be glad to put a notice in for anyone. No charge for this.

A preacher went to a hospital for an operation. When the surgeon got finished with the operation he ordered the preacher to the recovery room, and gave orders to pull down the blinds and keep the room dark. After a while the preacher awoke in a dark-room and asked the intern as to why the room was so dark. The intern said: "They had a fire just across the street and they thought it might give the preacher a wrong impression."

#### A.W. HEINLE

An interesting news item carried by the INS is dated Rome, Aug. 11, 1956 and captioned "Nude Tribe Doesn't Lie, Steal, Kill, or Make War." Dr. Giorgio Constanzo, just returned from an expedition in Venezuela, says he found this tribe there. A reader, who sent the clipping to us, comments: "Say! this calls for action, those people are living in sin! We'll have to civilize them. Living in peace? Who ever heard of such ignorance! We'll have to tell them about the ghosts and spirits that are flitting around. We gotta put fear into 'em. Unless people live in fear they are not civilized Christians !"

# AMERICAN RATIONALIST FEDERATION CONVENTION

The annual convention of the American Rationalist Federation will beheld on October 27–28, at the hall of the St. Louis Rationalist Society, 2218 St. Louis Ave., in St. Louis, Missouri.

Friendship Liberal League is a member of the Federation and will send its president, K.M.Whitten as a delegate.

Some twelve or thirteen freethought organizations comprise the Federation, which is now In its second year. Other societies have signified intention of joining the Federation and will send representatives to the convention.

The Federation is composed of local autonomous groups, uniting for the purpose of furthering the freethought movement. Each society is a bona-fide or-

A columnist, who apparently fancies himself quite an authority on the world situation and whose usual line is to picture the world line-up as a battle between the "free world" and the "slave labor world," U.S. and allies on one side and the U.S.S.R. of the other, has been put on the spot by a questioner.

He runs an answer column in which he pontificates pollyanna nonsense about on the same level with that of Gabriel Heater. A questioner put the following question to Mr. Mower when he asked in essence, "how free this 'free world' actually was?" Mowrer replied, "Free peoples is a euphemism for "independent people," meaning all those who do not take orders from the Kremlen. NOT ALL OF THESE ARE FREE IN ANY REAL SENSE....." ganization with members, officers and have seen the necessity of unity in the cause.

It is the hope of F.L.L. that the next Annual Convention will be held at our THOMAS PAINE CENTER, here in our city, Philadelphia. Our delegate will make this suggestion to the Federation for its consideration. If acceptable, and agreeable, it will be the first Freethought Convention to be held in our city for nearly forty years.

We urge all readers living in the St. Louis area to attend the meetings and offer any suggestions that they may have for the good of Freethought and their own society in particular. Drop them a line at the address given if you plan to attend.

The truth is that Mowrer and his kind are feeding the people of the U.S. untruths to a large extent. One does not need to be a communist to know that whatever may be happening in Russia and its satellites in the way of slavery and oppression cannot possibly be worse than the slavery and oppression that thousands of people are enduring in the so-called Free World.

Pictures of slave markets in which human beings are sold like cattle are frequently in the news. The position of the people of the U.S. should take is that slavery and oppression ANY-WHERE is evil, whether in a place whose rulers are playing ball with the U.S. or not.

#### **Extra Sensory Perception**

The question about whether telepathy, the ability to transmit thoughts from one brain to another without any use of the known five senses, is a possibility and is receiving considerable attention in scientific circles. The deliberations of a meeting in London about a year ago, under the auspices of the CIBA Foundation have just been published by Little, Brown and Co., under the title of "Extrasensory Perception." This has been a matter of dispute and discussion for centuries but it is only in recent years that men of high standing in the scientific world have been considering it. It is not wise to take a stand on such matters when there is not as yet sufficient data to form decided opinions upon. If there is such a faculty it is safe to say that it is in accordance with natural laws which we as yet do not understand. The best way to find out is to have freedom to investigate not only this but all things without regard to any dogmas, religious or otherwise.

#### Land Reform

The British government has been trying to exterminate all the natives of Kenya who were rebelling against their white masters. Many of the best native leaders have been shot and hanged. Their crime was exactly the same as that of George Washington and his fellow rebels and their fate is exactly what would have been meted out to the founders of the U.S. if they had been captured. But murdering African natives will never solve anything and it seems that the British authorities have at last realized it. It is now reported that MAJOR LAND REFORMS ARE BEING UNDERTAKEN KENYA IN AND UGANDA. While this will not bring back to life those who have been slaughtered it will show that their

cause was just and that they did not die in vain. "Crown land" is to be allotted to the natives. Think of the irony of such a situation. The natives are permitted to use some of their own land which the whites seized from their fathers a hundred years ago. No wonder the landed gentry of England wanted to hang Thomas Paine when he challenged their right to own vast estates upon which the peasantry toiled for a bare pittance.

### Space Ships

Several of our readers have written us and sent clippings regarding space ships, meaning visitors from other planets. Some say this a fact, some ask us whether accounts of such visits are true. Well, all we can say is that we don't know whether there are inhabitants on other planets or whether they are visiting our earth. But we will say this, all the stories that different persons have told of having interviewed these visitors and having been on their air ships leave us unconvinced. The most widely known of these stories is by George Adamski w ho had previously written a socalled "Science-Fiction" story. Α reading of his alleged true story leaves us with a strong feeling that it too is pulp magazine fantastic story stuff, and of poor quality, too. In the spiritualist magazine Psychic Observer, Nov. 10, 1955, there are two advs. of books whose authors make similar claims of trips to other planets, just like Adamski's. Still another writer says his book proves by the Bible that space ships and people are visiting us. We advise all our readers to do as we are doing, just forming no opinion pro or con on the matter until there is whole lot more reliable data than is furnished by mystical minded authors.

# U.S. NAVAL OFFICER EVALUATES BARRY

A retired U.S. Navy man, now living in Florida having read the Jones vs. Barry articles in the LIBERAL sent us a clipping from the New York Herald Tribune of an early date in Oct., 1929. It is a letter sent in by a high naval officer who disliked a suggestion that Barry's remains be placed in the crypt at the Naval Academy along with those of John Paul Jones. Comment on this letter by us would be like carrying coals to New Castle. Admiral Phelps needs no assistance. He knows the true spirit of the Navy.

# TO THE N.Y. HERALD TRIBUNE:

In the Herald Tribune of September 28, R.S. Camp, of Brooklyn, has a letter proposing that the remains of John Barry be deposited in the Paul Jones crypt at the Naval Academy.

Paul Jones went into close action against superior British forces and stepped from his own defeated, burning, sinking ship to capture his adversary on his adversary's own deck. The military character of John Paul Jones is what is enshrined at the Naval Academy. This military character is testified to by Paul Jones's adversary, Captain Pearson, of the defeated Serapis, at the court martial which acquitted Pearson of blame for the loss of the Serapis as follows:

"Long before the close of the action it became clearly apparent that the American ship was dominated by a commanding will of the most unalterable resolution, and there could be no doubt that the intention of her commander was, if he could not conquer, to sink alongside. And this desperate resolve of the American captain was fully shared and fully seconded by everyone of his ship's company."

In September, 1777, Captain John Barry, in the U.S.S. Raleigh, fought against superior British forces for seven hours, having seventy-five of his crew killed. But Barry broke off the combat and ran the Raleigh ashore on an island some twenty miles from the mouth of the Penobscot. Barry and his crew escaped. Thereafter the British Raleigh preyed on American commerce. (See Rear Admiral George Henry Preble's "History of the Navy Yard, Portsmouth, N.H." published by Government Printing Office, 1892.)

The absence of the Paul Jones resolution to sink alongside if he could not conquer resulted in adding an effective ship to the forces of the enemy.

The Paul Jones crypt at the Naval Academy is not for any American Naval officer whose ship was taken from him and added to the forces of the enemy.

Rear Admiral W.W. Phelps, U.S. Navy Yard, Portsmouth, N.H. Sept. 30, 1929

Errors of opinion may be tolerated if Reason is left free to combatthem. ----Thomas Jefferson

#### ON THE SPOT

The Catholic Messenger, diocesan weekly of Davenport, Iowa, says the Church is on something of a "spot" in the Philippines because of two novels which may become required reading in the public schools. They were written by Jose Rizal, the George Washington of the Islands. Rizal was the leader of the rebellion in 1896 against the Spanish government and its agents the Friars. He was captured and executed. The Philippine Hierarchy, in later years has tried to claim him by saying that although he wrote against the Priests and Friars and their oppression in the Islands for years he took it all back on the eve of his execution and was reconciled to the Church. This may be true, but is very doubtful. However, his writings remain and the Hierarchy don't want the present generation to know his contempt for their religion. They whine that they are not against the national hero and don't object to the children being taught patriotism from his books if the art prities will cut out all the parts exposing the oppression of the priests and fri .s.

If anyone of our readers doubts that the Spanish State and its agents the Church plundered the natives and that corrupt Friars took their wives and daughters as concubines he should read the Taft report, a U.S. Senate document on island conditions in the years when the U.S. chased the the Spaniards out.

Craig Giannamore, four-year-old boy, of Steubenville, Ohio who visited Lourdes hoping that the miraculous waters there would cure leukemia died recently in a hospital in Columbus. Ohio. His appeals to "Our Lady of Lourdes" as she is termed by her devotees, were as fruitless as those of Fred Snite. (the man in the iron lung) whose infantile paralysis carried him off shortly after his return from the same shrine. It is more than passing strange to those who have not the "priceless gift of faith" that the so-called "miracles" of curing that happen at Lourdes always happen to some obscure person who immediately departs for home in an obscure, mountainous village in Herzgovania, Ruritania or Jalappi where even a New York Times special correspondent would have trouble in locating him or her. It would seem that the Hierarchy might at times become exasperated at their Goddess for her preversity in not giving them a cure of someone from America who could be toured around the nation making thousands of converts. Snite, had he been granted a cure, lecturing on a public platform a la Billy Graham would have topped Billy tenfold in the number of converts made.

Some very interesting speculations are being made as to whether there will be a R.C. vice-presidential candidate on the Democratic ticket and if the Democrats win will they send an ambassador to the Vatican State, accepting a Papal Nuncio in return. A columnist in the N.Y. Journal-American, a Hearst paper, says there are rumors that Eisenhower may appoint Truman as ambassador to Italy to replace the much publicized present ambassadress who is ailing. Of course, this arrangement would not be completely satisfactory but it would be the nearest thing to it. Truman, although Protestant is very palsy-walsy а with His Holiness, private talks, etc.

# **LETTERS** TO THE EDITORS

#### Editor:

I was delighted to read in July issue of the LIBERAL (page 13), that a member of the National Catholic Welfare Conference had subscribed to our "heretical" journal of TRUTH--- the LIBERAL---a renewal at that. This renewal has some significance and I believe that the N.C.W.C. and active members of other Catholic Action groups are becoming alarmed at the rapid advancements made by Friendship Liberal League, and that of several other Secularist and Rationalist organizations in recent years.

And this progress...in spite of the adverse statements recently made by a couple of atheists...that "the freethought movement is dying out for lack of unity," and that "we no longer have any prominent orators," and other false and embarrassing remarks. It is a safe bet that American Freethinkers are getting under the skin of the Vatican's USA anti-American big-wigs.

The legal department of the N.C.W.C. has gained the reputation of being able to make Congress and government agencies do almost anything the Pope's agents want. The Catholics affirm that over 60% of highly placed employees in government offices are Roman Catholic, which is a fact. It is through these Fascist Catholics in high places and their non-Catholic fellow-travelers who seek the Catholic vote--thadaffords the Hierarchy to wield more and more power each year. This is planned CATHOLIC ACTION.

Now that the N.C.W.C. has subscribed to the LIBERAL I hope you and all concerned are aware of their implications, and will never let these fascist agents of Rome scare you. The following is a short resume of the N.C.W.C. of which I am quite sure you know about, but do all members of the F.L.L. and your subscribers know? I hope you publish this letter in full, it is meant only to inform. As I, and many others view it, the N.C.W.C. are more determined than ever to rid the USA of ALL Secularist, Rationalist organizations and their "heretical" publications, and they include Protestants.

On November 10, 1889, Archbishop Ireland of St. Paul, Minn., stated at the Roman Catholic Congress at Baltimore: "Our work is to make America Catholic." He is but one of many of the U.S. Hierarchy who have openly stated the same thing.

Since then the Hierarchy has not relaxed one lota in its avowed aim. Working on the old axiom "United We Stand---Divided We Fall\*\* and \*\*Divide and Conquer,\*\* the Amer-Ican R.C.Hierarchy made its first move in 1919 when it combined ALL Roman Catholic religious and loy societies, such as Holy Name societies, Confraternities of Christian Doctrine, St. Vincent as Paul, Propagation of the Faith, Catholic Daughters of America, Knights of Columbus, (today there are more than one million members of the U.S. Knights of Columbus), Catholic Foresters, and others, into one huge united organization, named the American Federation of Catholic Societies.

The purpose of this organization was to promote psychotic Roman Catholic-Fascist religious civic and social interests; to foster R.C. "education;" to spread a knowledge of R.C. doctrine and principles, and to combat heresy and schism, each organization working toward making America Roman Catholic.

However, this paranoiac Federation did not accomplish what is was set to do, so it was incorporated in 1921 into the Lay Department of Societies of the National Catholic Welfare Council, with headquarters in Washington, D.C., thus the Federation was consolidated under the direct supervision of the American Hierarchy, which in turn receives orders directly from the Vatican. Thus R.C. organizational unity in the USA wos achieved, and one of the set principles of the Universal Roman Catholic political and ecclesiastical practice was put into action.

In his book, "The Catholic Church in the United States" by Theodore Romer, O.F., Cap. Ph. D., (In reference to N.C.W.C.) he states, "It promotes unity of action, (Catholic Action, BLP) and cooperation among laymen in matters that affect the general wulfare of the Church and Nation." Please note carefully the following---emphasis mine, from the same book.

Through its department of Catholic Action study, the N.C.W.C. "examines pronouncements of the popes, SEARCHES FOR METH- ODS OF APPLICATION used in other parts of the world, and ENDEAVORS TO APPLY THEM TO OUR COUNTRY, and blue-prints the plans for activities to bring the (Catholic) Church in the United States in CLOSER TOUCH WITH THE OBJECTIVES OF THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH...to effect a better unification among classes of Catholics in our country."

"Catholicism is the Fascist form of Christianity." I quote from a very conservative and devout Roman Catholic, Richard N. Coudenove-Kalergi, page 173 in his book "Crusade for Pan-Europe." --- "Catholics are by disposition Fascist and their leadership is a hierarchy perpetuated by an UN-DEMOCRATIC minority. CATHOLICISM IS THE FASCIST FORM OF CHRISTIANITY. The Catholic Hierarchy rests fully and securely on the leadership principle with an infallible Pope in supreme command for a lifetime."

Certainly the foregoing speaks for itself. If unjty is their goal, (and it is) the LIB-ERAL magazine is not part of their unity---but is a foreign "heretical" publication that must be eradicated.

The Church of Rome has several special institutions...universities for the preparation of CANDIDATES SOLELY FOR POSTS IN THE GOVERNMENT, NATIONAL AD-MINISTRATION AND FOREIGN DIPLOM-ACY. There is Fordham iniversity in N.Y. and Georgetown University, the latter the mos specessful, which the Jesuits conduct their school of Foreign Service...where each year ferms its graduating class INTO THE U.S. [iPLOMATIC SERVICE.

Look at New York City of today with 50% Catholic population, 30% Jewish and only 20% Protestant. How about Philadelphia, home of Friendship Liberal League and the Thomas Paine Center, and the "heretical" LiBERAL. Are the agents of the Vatican planning to annihilate you loyal intelligent American Freethinkers. The answer is YES! Thae is exectly what the N.C.W.C. intends doing.

To all Freethinkers and others---stand by your guns as loyal Americans FIRST, LAST AND ALWAYS! DOWN WITH ROMAN CATH-OLIC FASCISM!

Blanche Lee Puccinelli

#### Editors

On certain occasions, such as when one is being admitted to a hospital or is registering for the draft, the question is asked, "What is your religion?" Non-religionists give a variety of answers, such as freethinker, rationalist, humanist, atheist, agnostic, skeptic, etc. It seems to me that in the interest of solidarity it would be preferable for non-religious people to answer merely, "I have no religion." Let us avoid cuphemisms and devisive terminology. Some people have faith, some people don't. We don't. Let us say so, and plainly.

John Sheldon.

COMMENT. Amen say well The only thing that can improve this suggestion in our opinion is to boil it down to one word—answer "NONE" unless the questioner wants to arge about it, in which case give him the works.

#### Editor:

I am delighted to hear that the THOMAS PAINE CENTER is a reality. It is indeed a heartening thing in this day of superstition. I shall send more later to the fund.

Best wishes and lots of luck to the noble work you are doing.

C.P. Lewellyn.

#### Editor:

I live on Rt. 2 that starts at Fort Madison and goes west to Nebraska. Before early dawn on Sunday, until midnight, loaded trucks and vehicles of every sort pass my door. Last Sunday, at Ottumwa, men were mowing the golf course. Times have changed, however.

There was the time in Scotland County, Mo. my husband was arrested for laboring on Sunday. His was the last arrest for Sunday labor.

Sunday is getting to be a great HOLIDAY, instead of a HOLY DAY. Your statements about Catholic marriages, help prove the the decrease of religious thinking of those in that church.

Enclosed subscription for Associate membership and a donation for the THOMAS PAINE CENTER.

Marie E. Loomis.

# THOMAS PAINE SEALS

100 Seals \_\_\_\_\_ 50 cents

# <u>1956</u> Editors

I certainly enjoy your magazine. Sorry you do not accept advertising. We operate a guest Ranch in Melbourne, Florida. Besides being Freethinkers, we are Vegetarians and have liberated ourselves from the killing and eating of animals, from smoking, drinking, etc. So if any of your readers are as "crazy" as we are, we invite them to vacation with us, or to stop by and say Hello.

David Stry. Melbourne Village, Melbourne, Florida. (Phone 599-R-2) Rt. 2, Box 795

# MANY THANKS

We thank the following for their support received during the past few months.

\$10.00 F.McPharlin, R.Schaddelee, and M.Brummer.

\$12.00 S.Dahl.

\$5.00 M.Steele.

\$2.00 A.Krayauskas, P.Barich.

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# THOMAS PAINE FUND.

We thank the following for their kind help in aiding us in reducing our debt on the Thomas Paine Center.

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# BOOKS.

If you have any books of a freethought or scientific nature that you no longer need or want, why not send them to the THOMAS PAINE CENTER for use in their library?

The scarcity of such books in our libradies is well known to all who have tried to get such books. Either they are out (?) or lost (?) or once out, never are returned. Reminds the writer of the time when he belonged to a local lending library. Every time a non-religious or freethought book was available, it was at once placed in the stack, i.e. always out. In that way the librarian can restrict the reading of books critical of religion.

We want to have the finest liberal and rationalist library available for the use of freethinkers in our area.

# BOOK REVIEWS.

THE DOLLAR AND THE VATICAN, by Avro Manhattan, 312 pp. cloth, Pioneer Press, Eng. Price, \$3.75.

Some of the items presented in this book are:

What is the Vatican-Washington axis? How does it work?

Was it coincidence that Abraham Lincoln was assassinated by Catholics?

The billionaire Corporations and the Vatican?

Why is the Vatican out to capture American Labor?

Catholic machinations for a "preventive war" ( atomic ).

Who control the American Press?

And a host of other interesting topics relating to the Vatican and its grab for world domanition both mental and physical. Order today from the Secretary.

TOYNBEE AND HISTORY, Critical Reviews. Edited by and Essays M. F. Ashley Montague. 400 pp. \$5.00. Pub. Porter Sargent, 11 Beacon Street. Boston 8, Mass. This is a collection of 38 essays dealing with the views of the British historian Arnold Toynbee, one of the most controversial contemporary writers. The essayists are all well known authors of note and qualified to deal with their subject, which is Toynbee's recent "A Study of History". Those who have read this book will be inclined to agree with many of these critics that Toynbee's attitude is more that of mystic than an objective historian and that his evaluation of objective realities is largely influenced by his subjective feelings. While books of this nature will nover be best sellers among the masses they are of inestimable aid to the Rationalist in understanding the thinking processes of those who can see the hand of Providence in guiding the affairs of mankind. Order from ≻he publisher.

Although the Bible says "take a little wine for thy stomach's sake" it looks like some believers are excessively pious. Fortune magazine in one of its books says, speaking of Alcoholics Anonymous, that in a typical meeting, "40% would be Catholic -- double the number you would find in an exact sample of the U.S. population." This is certainly living the Faith in this particular feature.

Some time ago the LIBERAL printed a few lines regarding "Social Credit" which is a political-economic-financial program claimed by its adherents to be the solution of problems in that field. The LIBERAL takes no sides in the matter, merely printing this as a matter for the interest of our readers. We got many letters, for and against. And now a reader sends us a clipping from the Vancouver Times in which the Rev. Charles E. Batzold claims that this idea is in the Bible. There's nothing surprising in the holy man's claims. Every believer who gets an idea or approves of someone else's idea has first to see whether the good book approves. And the beauty of it is that one can always find something in the Bible that will agree with his viewpoint. It has been said that even the Devil himself quotes Scripture at times to prove that his way of life is best.

- To gull the mob and keep them under, The Ancients told their tales of wonder.
- A pious fraud, a holy blunder, A rainbow sign,

Robert Burns

An earthquake, or a blast of thunder, Were held Divine.

# CALENDAR REFORM

The present calendar is a clumsy one, a fact that is admitted by many, and there have been various proposals for reforming it. F.C. Esteb, P.O. Box 582, Phoenix, Arizona, invites any readers who are interested to write him for free literature on the subject.

# EXACT INFORMATION

A Protestant curious to know something about Catholicism asked a friend why he did 'not eat meat on Friday. "Because it is a holy day," he replied. "What is a holy day?" was then asked. "A holy day is a day on which we do not eat meat." was the enlightening response.

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Friendship Liberal League 5526 Westford Rd. Phila. 20, Pa.