GRAND OPENING OF THE THOMAS PAINE MEMORIAL CENTER

The Thomas Paine Memorial Center will open to the public on Saturday September 29th, at 9 a.m. The Center will remain open until 12 that evening.

It will reopen Sunday the 30th at 9 a.m. and remain open until late Sunday evening. Thereafter it will be open every evening at 6 until 11.

If you plan to attend the Grand Opening please drop the Secretary a postal card or letter telling when you intend to come, how many persons etc., etc.

We want to make this occasion one of the highlights in the history of Freethought in America. Your cooperation welcome.

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 29th.

9.00 a.m. Doors open.

Book shop, library and reading room are open to all.

1.00 p.m. Refreshments.

7.00 p.m. Meeting called to Order.

7.15 p.m. Introductions.

7.30 p.m. Welcome address by President K.M. Whitten.

Short talks by various members and guests.

9.30 p.m. Refreshments.

General Discussion until 12 p.m.

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 30th.

9.00 a.m. Center open.

1.00 p.m. Refreshments.

General discussion all day.

7.00 p.m. Meeting called to order.

7.15 p.m. Short talks.

9.00 p.m. Refreshments.

General discussion until 12 p.m.
CALIFORNIA SCHOOL TAX CASE.

The recent decision of the California courts that private school taxes should not be collected as heretofore is being appealed by the former governor of that state, Culbert L. Olson. This suit was originally brought by Alfred Lundberg, who died recently. It was fought through the lower courts and the state Supreme Court upheld the recently passed law that the word "charitable" in the Constitution is being illegally stretched to cover these schools. Their purpose is not charitable, it is the "indoctrination of the youth in Church dogma, which is the exclusive purpose of the institution of Catholic separated church school education," he charges. Of course that is exactly true and no member of the Hierarchy would deny it under ordinary circumstances. To educate the children of Catholics in the faith is the SOLE objective of these schools. In America they have to give some instruction in secular subjects, reading, writing and arithmetic, but this is only because our laws require it. In those countries where education is in the hands of the Hierarchy, the masses are almost entirely illiterate. All they are taught is to go through the forms and rituals of the church and to be very, very obedient to the Clergy. That's all they would teach in this country if they had control of the educational system, as in Spain, Portugal and South American countries. What they want in Protestant countries is to keep their kids away from public schools where they might begin to do some thinking.

THOMAS PAINE SEALS

100 Seals — — 50 cents
**MY ANSWER TO MY QUESTION**

**WHY EVIL?**

*By Esther Weissman*

Nature brings forth good and evil, beauty and ugliness. This shows that nature has the Know How and the materials to bring about good and beauty - Why then, in the name of common sense, would an Intelligence if such there is, whether from without nature, bring forth ugliness instead of beauty, evil instead of good? A concrete example - The substance of life, the genes. Garbedian in his "March of Science" tells us, that a slight change in the accidental combination of one or a few sets of genes may spell the difference between a Shakespeare and a circus-freak. In other words - the most wonderful forces of nature - the mainspring of life, human life, work planlessly, aimlessly - "Accidental combinations" - To leave the highest that there is in nature - Life - and the highest that there is in life - Man - and the HOW of man to mere chance is the height of stupidity. These marvelous genes are there - Why are they not paired or combined so as to bring about Shakespeares instead of circus-freaks? Leaving the extremes - Why not bring forth beauty and goodness, instead of ugliness and wickedness? Why not bring forth wisdom instead of folly? Says the proverb - "Judge by deeds and not by words (In the given case, the words of believers) Judging the director of nature, or God, by his deeds - The laws of nature and the laws of life - God is: either a willful monster, who enjoys ugliness and evil, or he is a low intelligence, who does not know the difference between good and evil. Should some think that the word - Monster - is an exaggeration, let those think of the basic laws of life: - The struggle for existence and the survival of the fittest and what they mean in action. If these laws were an intention of someone, that someone would be a monster, indeed. But to return to the genes.

We cannot reasonably allow that a God, if such there is, who created, these wonderful genes, should have created them without a purpose, without a plan; and the plan and purpose of a God would be for good, for beauty. Would this same Creator let the combination of these genes to mere chance and thus nullify his own purpose? But the accidental combinations are there, the evil and the ugliness are there. What can then be the logical conclusion? It must be that there is no Planner, no Intelligence in nature, or behind nature; for - If we give a God credit for intelligence, we cannot logically, with all the evil around us, give him credit for existence. In other words - Evil is, therefore God is not. Reversing this sentence, not the meaning of it, it reads - God is Not, that is why Evil Is.

We want to thank the friends who have sent in various books to the League for the Library which will be in use in the Thomas Paine Center.

If you have some books which you no longer want, and wish to make good use of them, send them to the secretary for the Paine Library.
EDITORIAL

Persons often wonder why the religionists are so strongly entrenched. It seems that they are in positions of power and their influence is really far reaching. The answer is very simple.

Support. That is it... Support and by that is meant mostly financial support.

When freethinkers realize that their cause needs their financial support as well as their moral support, then and only then will their cause advance in the world of ideas.

Millions of dollars are spent by the religious every year for various purposes to further superstition and head-fixing. People are scared with the fires of hell and the loss of heaven if they do not contribute.

We cannot scare the freethinker. We can only appeal to his sense of duty to help rid the world of the nonsense that masquerades as religion and hope that he will help in proportion as his fellow-religionist in supporting the one cause that will make this a better place for all mankind.

So we urge you to contribute to your cause.....so that it may in your lifetime make some impact on the cultural life of our times. Do it today.
In their plan to "Make America Catholic" the R.C. Hierarchy is attempting to rewrite American history in order to make it appear that the few Catholics who participated in the Revolution against Great Britain played stellar roles. One of their group was a naval captain, John Barry. He was in no way outstanding but the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick (now R.C. controlled but founded by Protestants) have erected a statue to him in Independence Square in Philadelphia and Catholic politicians in the U.S. Congress have secured public money to erect a statue of him in Ireland, his native land. Previous articles have sketched both Barry's and Jones' careers and shown that Jones was far the greater. In this article will be shown that Barry's feats did not even equal those of a number of other Revolutionary Naval Captains.

In a leaflet issued by an organization engaged in promoting Captain John Barry from obscurity to stardom extravagant claims are made that he was "Father of the American Navy" and that he was "First" in a number of things. There is little truth in any of these claims and most of them are completely false. For example, if by "Father" is meant "Founder" of the American Navy, the records show that he had nothing to do with it. The first naval armament was authorized by the Continental Congress at the insistence of General Washington. Barry was at the time a commercial ship captain with no naval experience and in no way connected with the Congress or the Revolution. This was in November, 1775. Barry was not commissioned until nearly a year later.

Indeed, when Congress bought the merchantman he commanded and converted it into an armed naval vessel he was completely disregarded and one of the already commissioned captains was put in charge of the ship. In the "First" and original group commissioned, five captains and five lieutenants, the senior lieutenant was John Paul Jones. And it was Jones who was given the flag to raise over the first ship ready for service, of which he was second in command.

Before an additional number of captains were commissioned, among whom Barry was No. 7, (not No. 1). Jones had been promoted to a captaincy and had taken valuable prizes, among them a British supply ship with a very large cargo of munitions and clothing, which reached Washington's ragged Continentals instead of the redcoats.
Jones was already famous for his daring exploits and seamanship when the new captains were commissioned; he was already commissioned a captain and under any rules of seniority and proven ability should have been the senior officer of the naval forces. Pratt says that Jones was passed over and named 18th on the new list because he had no political influence. Stevens says that thirteen men were promoted over Jones' head simply because they had political influence. Jones, himself said, "I was succeeded in favor of thirteen persons, two of whom were my junior lieutenants at the beginning and the rest were only commissioned into the Continental Navy on that day (Oct. 10, 1776, Barry included.) And if they had any superior ability THESE WERE NOT THEN KNOWN; NOR HAVE SINCE BEEN PROVED. I am the eldest (except Captain Whipple) on the Journal and under the commission of Congress, remaining in the service."

This thoroughly disposes of the claims that Barry was the "Father of the American Navy"—was the first captain—or was the first to carry the American flag to victory. Barry was not even a good seaman. He lost two vessels to the British during the Revolution and in the later war with France he nearly lost another. This was 1798, after Jones was dead and Barry had by deaths or dismissals become senior captain in command of the U.S.S. UNITED STATES. Proceeding south to attach French shipping in the West Indies, a gale was encountered. "The rigging went slack and the masts whipped frightfully," says Pratt, "but Barry could only look aloft and worry whether she would stand it." James Barron of Virginia, the Junior Lieutenant, was made of lustier stuff; he called all hands and, standing waist deep in seas that boiled across the deck, hauled taut the shrouds and saved the swaying masts, which deed, reported at Washington, brought him instant promotion to full captain's rank."

Not only did Barry not class with Jones, who was outstanding above all his contemporaries, he was out-classed by a number of captains whose exploits excelled his. One of these was Captain Lambert Wickes, No. 11 on the roster. He was detailed to take Benjamin Franklin to France in his ship REPRISAL. On the trip over he took several prizes and after safely landing his eminent passenger at Nantes he again put to sea on another cruise and took five more prizes, including the King's mail packet from Lisbon, armed with 16 guns, equalling the REPRISAL'S armament. After a two hour battle the Briton hauled down his colors and Wickes took his prizes into a French port.

There he was joined by Samuel Nicholson, commanding a cutter with 10 guns, and Captain Henry Johnson, with the LEXINGTON 16 guns. This squadron sailed right into the Irish sea and took eighteen ships, causing consternation in England. A British shipping newspaper, the Annual Register said:

"The coasts of Great Britain and Ireland were insulted by the Americans in a manner which our hardest enemies had never ventured in our most arduous contentions with foreigners."

The best ships of His Majesty's fleet were detailed to scour the seas for these audacious Yankees whose unbelievable boldness had the Thames crowded with British merchantmen that dared not put to sea.

After taking their prizes to a French port these raiders started another cruise.
around Ireland taking many more prizes. To avoid war with Britain the French barred their ports to the American navy and this compelled Wickes and his squadron to sail for home with his captives.

Another great raider was Captain Gustavus Conynham, a native of Ireland, commissioned in France by Dr. Franklin. In a lugger named SURPRIZE he sailed into the English Channel and took another of the King's mail packets, also a brig valued at 7,000 pounds sterling. Later in another ship, the REVENGE, he ravaged the British shipping lanes taking so many prizes that count was lost. Sixty are on record. Pratt says, "The damage went into six figures of pounds sterling and financed the whole American diplomatic service for the balance of the war." Conynham was known as "La Terreur des Anglais" — the Terror of the English. Unable to take his later prizes into French or Spanish ports he sailed west and after destroying more British shipping in the West Indies, sailed into the Delaware in Feb. 1779, covered with glory. There were others who also rendered distinguished service.

After war's end in 1783 it was decided not to maintain a navy and Barry was retired on half-pay. Fifteen years later when France was at war with England, French warships began seizing American merchantmen because they were trading with England. John Adams, then President of the U.S. asked Congress to build a new navy, which was done. Barry, now sixty years of age became senior officer because of length of service. However, he was soon replaced by younger, more able men, and took little part in matters. He died in 1803 and was buried in the churchyard of St. Mary's, in Philadelphia. He left no remembered impress on the navy and was just another of the obscure captains who passed into oblivion with him. There he should be allowed to rest in peace instead of having his pale ghost paraded around to serve the purpose of a later generation who want to end the freedoms that he and the others fought to establish.

There is no wish to deny Barry any credit due him. He served his adopted country well. He was courageous and engaged in many battles. But he had neither the training nor the seamanship nor the cool judgment and audacity of Jones and others. It is not inapropos that a statue should be erected to his memory nor that his admirers should render homage to him. But to do this merely because he can be used as a symbol of Romanism or to try to advance him to as the outstanding figure of the American Navy to pretend that the Roman Church as such favored Americanism during the Revolution is mendacious.

NOTE: Instead of favoring the cause of the thirteen Protestant Colonies the Roman Church, in the person of the French Bishop in Canada, prevented help from that quarter by threatening excommunication to any Canadian who joined the American forces in rebellion against the British King. A later article will deal with this.

President Garfield said in 1874, "The divorce between the State and Church ought to be absolute. It ought to be so absolute that no church property, anywhere, in any state, or in the nation, should be exempted from equal taxation; for if you exempt the property of any church organization, to that extent you impose a church tax upon the whole community."
QUAKER LEADERS PROTEST
CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATION
OF PLYMOUTH MEETING

Nine Philadelphia Quaker leaders have protested Congressional interference with religious affairs. In letters to seven absent members of the House Un-American Activities Committee, they challenged the procedure of a two-member subcommittee hearing in Philadelphia.

The letters charge that under the guise of investigation, Congressmen Francis Walter (D-Pa) and Gordon Scherer (R-Ohio) criticized the conduct of Plymouth Monthly Meeting of Friends. The Congressmen questioned a grant from the Fund for the Republic to the Meeting in recognition of retaining Mrs. Mary Knowles as librarian of a community library which the Meeting operates. The local decision has been endorsed in a Yearly Meeting action, the writers point out. "In a real sense, therefore, any implied reflection upon the action of Plymouth Meeting on this matter is a reflection on our whole Religious Society in Philadelphia."

The nine Friends questioned the attempt of the congressmen to judge as to whether the Meeting "has followed the requirements of good order" according to Quaker business procedure. "We regard such inquiries as a serious transgression upon the complete division between church and state, which is one of the important foundations of our democracy," they wrote.

The full letter, too lengthy to print here told the Un-American Activities Committee, very politely but very firmly, that the Quakers were not going to produce their books and records, which the Committee demanded, and that when they hired someone to run their Library, that was their affair and not the Committee's. This is treating the Committee with contempt, judging by its previous actions of having persons arrested for such refusals. But, it will be a safe bet in any amount that there won't be any Quakers arrested.

A British King, his Parliament, and his Bishops tried to make Quakers submit and failed. History does repeat itself sometimes.

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Papal Candidate for Vice President.

There is some talk of selecting a Roman Catholic for the V.P. candidate on the Democratic ticket in the coming election. Whether this is seriously proposed or is merely a trial balloon to ascertain the reaction is not clear. Such a deal would get the votes of all of the candidate's fellow religionists whose jobs or business do not depend on their voting Republican. We remember a policeman's wife, a neighbor here in Philadelphia, who actually wept because she and her husband had to vote against Al Smith in 1928 because of Republican control of the municipal government. If an R.C. were elected Vice President he might succeed to the Presidency thorough death, or insist on being the Presidential candidate at the end of the term. There would be little logic in opposing him for that office with the precedent already established. It's all a part of the Make America Catholic program no doubt.
A superfine book titled God and My Neighbor, by the noted English agnostic, Robert Blatchford, was republished in the United States in 1911 by Charles H. Kerr Company, Chicago. He was the author of many other important books. He died in 1943, at age of 92.

The following are quotations from said book:

Page 27: "If God made man, then is responsible for man's acts and thoughts, and therefore man cannot sin against God....I cannot believe that man was created 'perfect' and then 'fell'. (How could the perfect man fall?) I believe the theory of evolution, which shows not a fall but a gradual rise. I cannot believe that God is a loving 'Heavenly Father,' because he has never interfered to prevent the horrible cruelties and injustices of man to man.....and because he has permitted war, slavery, pestilence and insanity. I cannot discern a loving Heavenly Father in the earthquake and cyclone.....I cannot see in science, experience, nor history any signs of a personal God, nor of his intervention. I cannot believe that God hears and answers prayers, because the universe is governed by laws, and there is no reason to suppose that those laws are ever interfered with."

Pages 28-30: "I cannot believe that miracles could or ever did happen. .....I cannot believe that God would think it necessary to come to earth as a man, and die on the cross. Because if that was to atone for man's sin, it was needless, as God could have forgiven man without Himself (or his Son) suffering.... I cannot accept any doctrine of (vicarious) atonement. Because to forgive the guilty because the innocent had suffered would be unjust and unreasonable.....I cannot believe that a good God would create or tolerate a Devil.. ...I cannot believe the story of the virgin birth of Christ, because this would be a miracle. I cannot believe in his resurrection, because that would be a miracle, and because there is no evidence that it occurred.....The supernaturalist alleges that religion was revealed to man by God, and that this revelation is in a 'sacred' book. The rationalist alleges that religion was evolved by slow degrees and by human minds, and that all existing 'sacred' books, are evolutions from forms and legends of prehistoric times.....No religion accepts the truth of any other religion's miracles."

Page 31: "When one learns that there have been many Christs, and that the acts and words of Jesus had been anticipated by other teachers long before the Christian era, then the historic basis of Christianity is very frail."

Page 35: "The Bible does not show us a perfect God, but a very imperfect God, and such of his acts as the Bible records are imperfect."
Page 36: "We should expect God to make his revelation so clear and so definite that it could be neither misunderstood nor misrepresented."

Page 38: "The Bible revelation was not given to all the people of the earth, but only to a handful of Jews... After thousands of years, this revelation is still unknown to hundreds of millions of human beings; and among those whom it has reached there is endless and bitter disagreement as to its meaning."

Page 41: "The first five books of the Bible, said to be written by Moses, could not possibly have been written by him. ('He could not have recorded his own death). There is no reliable evidence to prove that Moses ever existed. Whether he was a fictitious character, or a solar myth, or what he was, no man knows. Neither does there appear to be any certainty that the books attributed to David, Solomon, Isaiah, Jeremiah, and the rest were really written by those kings and prophets, or even in their age."

Page 42: "And after these books or many of them, had been written, they were lost, and are said to have been reproduced by Ezra." And, remember, that there were no stenographers in those days -- only hearsay and tradition.

Pages 45-46: "The late Dean Farrar said: "There are a certain number of persons who, when their minds have become stereotyped in foregone conclusions are simply incapable of grasping new truths. They become obstructives, and not infrequently bigoted obstructives. As convinced as the Pope of their own personal infallibility, their attitude towards those who see that the views are no longer tenable, is an attitude of anger and alarm. This is the usual temper of the odium theologicum. It would, if it could, grasp the thumbscrew and the rack of medieval Inquisitors, and would, in the last resource, hand over all opponents to the scaffold or the stake. Those whose intellects have been petrified by custom and advancing years are, of all others, the most hopeless to deal with. They have made themselves incapable of fair and rational examination of the truths which they impugn. They think that they can, by mere assertion, overthrow results arrived at by the lifelong inquiries of the ablest students, while they have not given a day's serious or impartial study to them. They fancy that even the ignorant, if only they be what is called 'orthodox', are justified in strong denunciation of men quite as truthful, and often incomparably more able than themselves."

Page 48: "We say that early man, having no knowledge of science, and more imagination than reason, would be alarmed and puzzled by the phenomena of nature. He would be afraid of thunder, he would wonder at the moon, at the stars, at fire, at the ocean. He would fear what he did not understand, and he would bow down and pay homage to what he feared. Then by degrees, he would personify the stars, and the sun, and the thunder, and the fire. He would make gods of the dead. He would make gods of heroes. And he would do what all savage races do; he would make legends, or fables, or fairy tales, out of his hopes, his fears, and his guesses. Does not that sound reasonable? Does not history teach us that it is true? Do we not know that religion was so born and nursed?....Re-
Religion is an evolution...not a revelation....The Christian religion is no more an original religion than English is an original language. We have Sanscrit, Latin, Greek, French, Saxon, Norman words in our language; and we have Aryan, Semitic, Egyptian, Roman, Greek, and all manner of ancient foreign fables, myths, and rites in our Christian religion."

Page 57: "Much of the Bible is evidently legendary. Here we have a jumble of ancient myths, allegories and mysteries drawn from many sources and remote ages, and adapted, altered, and edited so many times that in many instances their original or inner meaning has become obscure. And it is folly to accept the tangled legends and blurred or distorted symbols as the literal history of a literal tribe, and the final account of the origin of man, and the genesis of religion."

Pages 69-70: "As for the biblical God, Jehovah, I shall try to show from the Bible itself that he was not all-wise, nor all-powerful, nor omnipresent; that he was not merciful nor just; but that, on the contrary, he was fickle, jealous, dishonorable, immoral, vindictive, barbarous and cruel....In fact, he was a tribal god, made by man, and was a savage monster."

Page 73: "Jehovah's bad temper is constantly displayed in the Bible. He made a man, supposed to be perfect. When the man turned bad on his hands, Jehovah was angry, and cursed him and his seed for thousands of years. This vindictive act is accepted by the Apostle Paul as a natural thing for a God of Love to do. Jehovah was so angry about man's sin, in the time of Noah, that he decided to drown all the people on the earth except Noah's family, and not only that but to drown the innocent animals as well."

I don't want to smearch this article with disgusting Bible details of the immoral lives of Moses the politician, of his brother Aaron the priest, of Jacob the cheater, of Joshua the inhuman butcher, of David (after God's own heart) the adulterer, of Solomon (the wisest of men) who had hundreds of wives and concubines, and of the rest of the unholy crew. Read your Holy Bible and read Robert Blatchford's book, giving chapter and verse, of the horrible crimes of God's consecrated favorites.

Page 88: "The story of Lot is too disgusting to repeat. But what are we to think of his offering his daughters to the mob, and of his subsequent conduct? And what of Noah, who got drunk, and then cursed the whole of his son's descendants, because Ham had seen him in his nakedness?"

Page 102: "Millions of harmless women have been killed as 'witches'. God, our Heavenly Father, had power to save them. He allowed them to die. God knew those women were being tortured on a false charge. He knew that this whole fabric of crime was the outcome of his 'revelation' to man." ("Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live.") We had a frenzy of that superstition, in modern times, in Salem, Mass.

The New Testament is of the same caliber as the Old Testament - filled with impossible miracles.

Page 133: "It is from this people, mad with superstition in religion and sorcery, the most credulous people in the world, a people destitute of even the rudiments of science, that the unreasonable and impossible stories of the resurrection, colored and dis-
torted on every page with miracles, came down to us. Are we, on evidence of such a people, to believe that miracles happened two thousand years ago?"

Page 135: "In the first place, it is well known that many gospels were rejected by the church as doubtful or spurious. In the second place, some of the accepted books are regarded as of doubtful origin. In the third place, certain passages have been relegated to the margin in the revised version. In the fourth place, certain Christian evidences — as the famous interpolation in Josephus — have been branded as forgeries by eminent Christian scholars."

Page 137: "Dean Milman says: It was admitted and avowed that to deceive into Christianity was so valuable a service as to hallow deceit itself. And Bishop Fell says: In the first ages of the church, so extensive was the license of forging, so credulous were the people in believing, that the evidence of transactions was grievously obscured."

Page 139: "If the story of Christ's life was true, we should not expect to find that nearly all the principal events of that life had previously happened in the lives of some earlier god, or gods, long since acknowledged to be mythical. If the gospel record was the only record of a god coming upon earth, of a god born of a virgin, of a god slain by men, that record would seem to us more plausible than it will seem if we discover proof that other and earlier gods have been fabled to have come on earth, to have been born of virgins, to have been slain by men." (Kersey Graves wrote an instructive book of 436 pages on the "World's Sixteen Crucified Saviors." D-T)

Pages 158-159: "Let us now turn to the old idea of the Fall and the Atonement. First, as to Adam and the Fall and inherited sin. Evolution, historic research, and scientific criticism have disposed of Adam. Adam is a myth. But — no Adam, no Fall; no Fall, no Atonement, no Savior. Accepting evolution, how can we believe in a Fall? Evolution proves a long, slow rise."

Christ, if he lived, is reported to have said, "Verily, I say unto you, this generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled" — meaning his second coming and the establishment of God's kingdom on earth. This prophecy, as we all know, was distinct, definite — and untrue.

The authority of the Bible has been evoked in support of the foulest crimes committed by the vilest men. Witchcraft, polygamy and slavery — all approved in the Holy Bible — have cost the lives of hundreds of millions of innocent human beings.

The Bible contains historical errors, arithmetical mistakes, blunders most unscientific, inconsistencies galore, and very many downright contradictions. Such a book (or collection of books) cannot be the "word of God." And, on the whole, these writings have turned out to be the very imperfect, primitive, and fallible words of men.

THOMAS PAINE SEALS

100 Seals — — 50 cents
BIRD CHANGES HIS TUNE

A one paragraph dispatch from Toronto says that a meadow lark which sings like a cardinal, (bird, not cleric) has been discovered and is attracting much attention. Experts say that the possible explanation is that this lark was raised by a mother cardinal with her own offsprings and learned how to sing by example and ear. This raises some very interesting speculations regarding the question of inherited characteristics.

If this bird is a female and could be captured and isolated from the other larks, would its offsprings follow her example and change their tunes? Human children speak the language they hear from their parents but each child of the next generation has to learn to speak and will adopt different language if the environment changes. In short, do animals and birds inherit their “speech” or do they learn it from their parents or companions? Is it heredity or environment that shapes us, and will a continuation of a changed environmental characteristic become in time a hereditary characteristic? Lamarck thought so.

A.P. news item says that parishioners of St. Mary’s R.C. Church in Metamora, Ills. decided to hold an outdoor procession to pray for rain. It was called off because rain fell in torrents the day before. Of course faithless atheists will say that this is an indication that rain, hail, droughts, and such like pay no attention to prayers. On the other hand the faithful will see in this an indication that their God is responsive to their prayers even before they are uttered. Take your choice, it’s still a free country.

Get in touch with the St. Louis Rationalist Society, 2216 South St. Louis Ave., St. Louis 6, Mo. Help this group build a strong Statewide organization that will be able to successfully stop the flow of millions of the State’s money into the hands of religious organizations.

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A thought for to-day.

Dr. Burlingame - Are you saved?

Editor, Action, Norwalk O. - Saved from what?

Soren Dahl, Round Mountain, Calif.
Saved from a low state of consciousness.

"The One, Two, Three of the Universe" advocates a rise from the present low state of merely self consciousness to the higher state, a consciousness of the oneness of all.

Soren Dahl.

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THE RATIONALIST PRESS

Reluctance of the average printer and prohibitive prices have prevented the printing of much freethought literature. To overcome this problem 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.
LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

Editor:
The five dollars which I enclose I consider not only a contribution toward the establishment of a permanent memorial to Thomas Paine, but a "thank you" for the inspiration and intellectual food for thought which your LIBERAL has brought to me each month.

Harold Reisbeck

Editor:
Enclosed check for $5.00 as my additional donation to the Thomas Paine Memorial Center to complete my pledge for same.
You certainly must feel elated to behold the Center a reality. Again my heartiest congratulations.

Hermann Geissler

Editor:
This month I met a man who was born and lived for the first 25 years of his life at Thetford in Norfolk, which was the birthplace of Thomas Paine. He told me something that was very interesting.
In common with most people, I had always thought that Thomas Paine was a staymaker, a man who makes corsets or belts; but this man told me that the word 'stay' has quite a different meaning in Norfolk. A stay is really a fence to prevent cattle from straying, so that they 'stayed' behind it. In Lancashire, in the north of England, these fences are known as 'shippons' but there is a difference between those made in Norfolk and those made in Lancashire - the latter have a kind of roof over them whereas the Norfolk ones are open. This man came from farming stock, his parents and grandparents having worked on the land and he was quite definite on the point. As there are so many things we don't know about Thomas Paine I thought this would interest you.
I hope this fact about Thomas Paine will interest your members.

Fred A. Hornibrook, London.

Editor:
I am a bachelor, 33, 5'6", 150 desires correspondence with an intelligent rational young lady. Interests include psychology, ethics, etc.

Max Doerfler, Jr.
R. 1 Box 375, Oakley Calif.

Editor:
It is with great pleasure that we watch the growth of the Thomas Paine Building Fund.

In fact, the freethinkers of the United States never tried to accomplish anything of note since they signed the Declaration of Independence.

What we need to do is to wake up that group of Americans before it is too late, too late to save what is left of our liberties.

We do believe that the writer of the Editorial (page 4, July issue) is right in his comment on the religious editor of the Associated Press who interviewed two well-known atheists. We must start the ball rolling and the rest will be natural, a healthy mind of the people.

Enclosed check for the Paine Fund.

Congregation of Czech Freethinkers
Houston, Texas.

Editor:
You scum. You will burn in hell for the infamous deed you have done. You and your kind should be horsewhipped.

Unsigned.

Editor:
Let us have your favorite joke dept. Now that "In God we trust" has become the motto of our great country, it becomes the duty of every American Rationalist to give the motto a meaning that reflects the truth or real.

When a Rationalist repeats the motto, "In God we trust," he will not look up into the sky looking for a vision of an impossible God. Rather, he will look down to Mother Earth, the Dust from which the human individual came forth.

Soren Dahl.

Editor:
Keep up the good work. I'm with you all of the way.

Carl Maglin

Editor:
Please list the enclosed as Anon. I cannot afford to be known as one of you these days. The Christians would ruin me.

Anon.
Editor:
Your so-called "rational" news-magazine reached me today and I have not enjoyed anything else as much since the last Saturday Evening Post Treasury of cartoons. Some of your articles were priceless, and worthy of any humor editor’s attention. So you people are the twentieth-century descendents of the defunct first-century worshippers of "reason" as the cure-all to end all ills! How on earth can you be so naive?

Let me ask you a few questions, and I dare you to print them along with your editorial answers:

1. How did you get my name as a person to whom your rag-rag could be sent?
2. How many times a week does your material arrive from Moscow?
3. In which issue do you plan to disprove that Jesus was the Son of God? (Unsupport ed ravings not allowed.)
4. To Mrs. Dora Ward, for her poem "Man's Origin"...where did the ‘egg-like shell’ come from?
5. Your magazine is called "Liberal"... why are no letters printed from "liberal-minded Christians"? Perhaps your paper should be retitled "The Liberal Non-Believer." Huh?
6. How near is your circulation figure to the total of Bibles sold in the United States for 1955?
7. Do people really pay 10 cents for this monument to negativism?

When you print my questions and your answers, I’ll become a subscriber. I’ve written to the Post Office Department and to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, disclaiming any responsibility for your red rag coming to me, so I’m clean with them.

Meanwhile, I’ll pray that you are forgiven your blasphemy and misdirected zeal. Again, thanks for many chuckles and the occasional outburst of real laughter at your attempts to batter down the walls of Christianity. Carry on, Don Quixote!!

Amused and not a bit shocked,
Rev. T.M. MacLeod
St. Andrew’s United Church
Valcartier Village, Quebec.

Ed. Note:
We print your letter in full with your questions and answers to same.

1. We have no record of your name, though it is quite possible that some friend sent you a copy of the LIBERAL. Could be that he wanted you to read something other than the bible for a change.

2. Our material does not emanate from Moscow, Rome or any such place. The LIBERAL is written by members of the League, readers and news items culled from the press.

3. Read issues of the LIBERAL and especially the writings of Roy Petran Lingle, Dr. E.I. Turner and others.

4. I do not know.....

5. If you read the LIBERAL as you say you will, you will see many letters from the faithful, tho not all sign their names as you did. Thanks for the sincerity.

6. I do not know how many bibles were sold in 1955. I do know that over 52,000 copies of the LIBERAL were sent out that year.

7. Yes, people do pay 10 cents for a copy of the LIBERAL.

You seem to be an argumentive sort of a chap my dear Reverend, so I’ll make you a sporting proposition, something that no religious paper or magazine would dare make to the freethinker.

You set forth, say in 750 words or so, any of the so-called facts of religion which you hold to be true, e.g. the flood, Jonah in the belly of a whale, sun standing still, raising of the dead, miraculous birth, or any of the things which you think are true in your religious teachings and we will print an article, same length, from the rationalist viewpoint, side by side in the LIBERAL so that not only the unbeliever can read your side of the argument, but the faithful will read with joy how you show up the fallacy of the freethinker. Here is your chance to do the Lord’s work, where it is needed most, among the sinners. You must not fail in this opportunity to win over to your side many of the faithful who have left the church.

P.S. Please send along your subscription to me.
Editor:

After figuring out the amount of money I have saved by not attending a church for 60 years, I feel that some of it should be invested in some cause that would do some real good, so I think that the Thomas Paine Center is just such a cause. Please accept the enclosed donation.

H. Sykora.

Editor:

Take another ten-spot for Tom Paine. Francis Carr and "you beathen varmints" seems almost too good to be true. This is sheer envy. The believer just can't understand anyone able to do his own thinking and this makes him savage. To see the atheist moral and happy must be infuriating to the cowering holy Joe, who allows that he'd be a bad hat but for the threat of "hell" and hope of "heaven". It is nothing but the atheist's freedom that sours life for the holy-water crowd.

Honest, those knocks among your letters only serve to stimulate the real atheist. The prayers of frightened old women only make us laugh when they try to stop the Memorial. I mean to help you till you are in the clear.

J. Kirkham.

BOOKS RECEIVED

We wish to thank the following for their book contributions to the Library which is housed in the Thomas Paine Memorial Center. The library is rapidly growing and we soon hope to have one of the finest rationalist and freethought libraries in the country.


If you have any books which you no longer need or want and wish to donate them to the Paine Library for the reading public, send them to:

Thomas Paine Memorial Center
5233 N. 5th St. Phila. 20, Pa.

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THE TERM GOD?

(This question often arises in discussions and Soren Dahl, author of the ONE, TWO, THREE of the UNIVERSE, undertakes to answer it. The answer though usually brushed aside by some, is really an important one. Quoting from such men as Paine, Ingersoll, Bradlaugh, Kant, Huxley, Haeckel and others, Mr. Dahl gives them credit for their words. He also realizes their value and suggests consideration given them.)

This question brings to the attention an important point.

"The great point is what sense the word God is to be taken in."

Bishop Berkley.

"For thousands of years humanity has placed the last and supreme basis of all phenomena in an efficient cause to which it gives the title of God."

Ernest Haeckel—The Riddle of the Universe.

"The word God appears intended to express the universal and eternal active force which endows all nature with motion according to the laws of a constant and admirable harmony which develops itself in the diverse forms of organized matter which mingle with all, gives life to all, which seems to be one thru all its infinitely varied modifications and inheres in itself alone."

Dupuis.

"If by the word God is meant all that is, that is to say, the universe, including every atom, every star, then I am a believer."

Charles Bradlaugh—Humanity's Gain from Unbelief.

"If we confine our attention to that as-
pect which engages the attention of the intellect, nature appears as a beautiful, harmonious whole.”


"The unity of the universe is a scientific fact. Everything that exists is a part of one harmonious whole."


"Existence, or God is not a relation, or a part, but the whole."

Winwood Reade—Martyrdom of Man.

"The currents of Universal Being circulates through me...I am a part or parcel of God."

Emerson—Compensation.

"Supreme is the name that man has given to the highest authority, the most excellent, the perfect and the complete. Being is the name man has given to existence, with its life and its activities.

The Supreme Being is not established, in reality, by mere ideas or conceptions of the individual imagination, but is established by facts, the truth or real, identified by the one way, the power of consideration and application, reason and conscience.

It is only by the exercise of reason that man can discover God."

Thomas Paine—The Age of Reason.

"Being as reality is truth."

The Golden Mean of Tsesze.

"All things of the real world when perceived and conceived in Truth must appear alike to all.

The universally accepted fact of one truth or real confirms the oneness of all."

Hobart Huson—The Pythagorians.

"Our belief in the uniformity of nature seems to me, to be rooted in common sense."

James B. Conant—Science and Common Sense. Yale Univ. Press.

"Substance is the essential character of Being. God, as substance, is the One Presence. By the oneness of all, by its dual aspect, essence and awareness, and by its three attributes, the urge to become, the way to become and the becoming, desire, reason and conscience, and will, the one substance, the universe, stands as a living substance, a first cause within itself. There is no gods, spirits, etc. that stand behind or outside the one substance, the universe.

The whole is thus an organism and not an aggregate."

Kant—The Critique of Pure Reason.

"Cease not to think of the Universe as one living Being."

Marcus Aurelius.

"Who or what rules the universe? So far as we can see it rules itself."

Julian S. Huxley—Man Stands Alone.

"By God I mean a being absolutely infinite, that is a substance consisting in infinite attributes of which each expresses eternal and infinite essentiality."

Spinoza—Ethics.

"The only idea man can affix to the name of God is that of a first cause, the cause of all things."

Thomas Paine—The Age of Reason.

"God, the one substance, the first cause, being, existence, nature, the one presence, and the universe are all one and the same, in the sense that, each is a picture of the whole taken from different viewpoints.

By the oneness of all, with God, the whole as a living substance and therefore a first cause, it naturally follows that material and mental or spiritual personal gods, devils and angels as beings apart, stand as impossibilities. Also,
the heavens and hells, presented by different creeds of religion, as places of abode of the personal gods, devils and angels are, in reality, only fancies and not facts.

In their struggle for the ethical good, teachers of religion must have the stature to give up the doctrine of a personal god."

Albert Einstein - Out of my Latter Years

"I believe there is no devil but fear."

Elbert Hubbard - An American Bible.

"There is something greater than man. The existence of God therefore is beyond question."


"The kingdom of God is within you."

Christian Bible - Luke 17:21

In this sense, the individual stands as "a center in a universe that is without circumference."

Even so, the individual is not supreme, in that, the individual cannot change the nature and character of being, the whole of which the individual is a part. The individual functions and is active under the one impersonal, unchangeable universal law, which reflects the unchangeable nature and character of God, the whole.

No individual stands truly honest who fails to turn fully on the power of consideration and application, reason and conscience. Only an honest individual can truly identify the truth or real of the universe, and present a true picture of God.

Therefore it follows that -

"An honest man's the noblest work of God."

Pope.

"An honest God is the noblest work of man."

Ingersoll.

SCHOOL FIGHT IN KENTUCKY

By Geo. Dunne

In a recent decision the Kentucky Court of Appeals handed down an opinion which was a tough blow to the R.C. Hierarchy in that State. It held that the public school board in Marion County, dominated by R.C. members had been violating the law in a number of ways and ordered them to stop certain practices. Among them were: (1) Violating the State law that forbids books and literature of the R.C. Church, or any church to be distributed in the public schools. (2) Stop keeping sectarian periodicals in and about the libraries of the County schools. (3) Stop spending public school funds for religious or sectarian purposes. (4) Stop the practice of halting school-bus runs on Catholic religious holidays that are not also legal State or National holidays. From the scope of the above prohibitions it can easily be seen that there was in reality no secular public school system in existence in that area. When it is added that of the 85 teachers in these so-called "public" schools, 44 were R.C. nuns, and of the 41 remaining "lay" teachers a goodly number were Catholics the picture becomes worse.

But even this is not the whole extent of the sordid picture. In September, 1954 this 3-2 Catholic dominated school board closed the high school at Bradfordsville a predominately Protestant area, in which no R.C. Sisters were teachers. All children were to attend the two high schools located in a predominately R.C. area. These schools are named "St. Charles" and "St. Francis"
and although ostensibly public schools were taught by nuns and operated as parochial schools, entailing all the practices now prohibited by the court's ruling.

When the Bradfordsville high school was closed the parents of the pupils refused to send their boys and girls to the Catholic dominated schools as ordered by the R.C. Superintendent and the school board; sending their children to a school in another county and paying tuition fees to do so. They also started suit to have the Bradfordsville school reopened.

The court has also ruled favorably on this. In the opinion the judge states:

"The fundamental mandate of the Constitution and statutes of Kentucky is that there shall be equality and that all public schools shall be non-partisan and nonsectarian. The testimony and exhibits in this case convince us that the action of the Marion County Board of Education in closing the high school at Bradfordsville, without providing equal and uniform educational opportunities for the children living in the eastern section of the county with those who live in the western part of the county, is clearly arbitrary, discriminatory, and in violation of Kentucky Revised Statutes...."

In addition to this the judge questioned the good faith of the school board in their claims that they could not get teachers for the Bradfordsville school. "The efforts of the School Board in planning the curriculum and seeking needed instructors for the Bradfordsville school ARE FAR FROM CONVINCING ON THE ELEMENT OF GOOD FAITH...." The record shows, continued the court, "that in 1951 a total of $475 was spent by the County board on laboratory equipment for the Bradfordsville school while $8,106 was expended for similar equipment for the St. Charles school. OTHER EXAMPLES OF DISCRIMINATION ARE AVAILABLE."

The record further shows that the students in the two public-parochial high schools, received sectarian religious training (Roman Catholic) and that these so-called public schools were closed on Catholic holy days and the public school buses to these schools did not run. As these buses also took Protestant children to another school these students could not attend on that day.

The court ordered the Board of Education to establish a high school system which will afford all children in the County equal educational opportunities. This will compel the re-establishment of a four-year high school in the Bradfordsville area, either the existing school or another.

This case is the rawest that has come to light. It is difficult to see how a R.C. dominated public school system could be more completely turned over the Monsignori unless actual legal sale or gift were made of it. The whole setup was illegal from the start and both the ecclesiastics and their stooges on the public school board knew it. But what do the laws of the State of Kentucky or of the United States mean to them? Absolutely nothing. Their allegiance is to the laws of the Church and Church law says that only education under its auspices is permissible. Therefore, it is no sin to evade or break the laws or violate the U.S. and Kentucky Constitutions, to further the interests of the Church.

Two things should be learned from this case. (1) Non-Catholics must be alert, and (2) No Catholic should be allowed on a public school board.
THOMAS PAINE FUND

We thank the following for their kind contribution to the Thomas Paine Memorial Fund.

$200
P. Cerasoli
$100
$25
E. Bell, H. Sykora.
$13
H. Darrow.
$10
$5
$3
$2.50
R. Robertson, H. Hauber.
$2
$1.50
L. Moreau.
$1.25
R. Mullen.
$1.00

We were just $9,400 in the red as of July 20th and since then we have spent $220 in repairs and alterations in the Paine Center. Members did all of this work which saved us quite a sum. We sincerely thank them for their kind help.

With the above donations we are reducing our debt and it now stands at $8,560. Your contribution to this fund will be most welcome. Please make all checks to Friendship Liberal League, for which we thank you.

Recently some dissatisfied person expressed his discontent by setting fire to seven New York City churches. All of them were either R.C. or Episcopal. Our guess is that the torchman is a confused member of one or the other and because they are so much alike he couldn't tell which was which. If you've got a better explanation, let's have it.

Greek Mythology and Christian Theology

The ancient Greeks were extravagant
Of heavenly gods they claimed a host,
Whereas we moderns suffice with three—
The Father, The Son, and the Holy Ghost.

It is easy to see how preposterous
Were the gods of Greek mythology,
Yet, in what respect were these more absurd—
Than the gods of our own theology?

—O. Byron Copper.
THE LAST HOPE

America is the last hope of the R.C. Hierarchy. Unless they can get the power of this country to act in their behalf there is no chance for the recovery of their lost privileges and possessions in other parts of the world. Only the U.S. has the military and economic power to rescue them. So says a writer priest in Our Sunday Visitor, nationally distributed R.C. weekly paper.

Rev. Richard Ginder says, "But there is another reason for making America Catholic; a consideration of strategy. Our country right now.....is at a pinnacle of wealth and influence. AS AMERICA GOES, SO GOES THE WORLD.....Our program then is to make America Catholic.....If America goes Catholic, we've built a powerhouse, a fulcrum, a lever,—call it anything you want, A POWERFUL INSTRUMENT FOR THE CONVERSION OF THE WORLD." In short if the power of America can be used by them they have a powerful instrument for the CONTROL of the world. Whether that power will be used will be determined by the strength of the opposition put up by non-Catholics of America, and Rationalists and Freethinkers must do their part if they want to remain free.

The words "Pray for Peace" will now appear on the P. O. cancellation of stamps on your mail, assuming, of course, that you get any. We predict that the prayers of millions of religionists who may follow this admonition will be of equal avail as the exorcisms of a high ecclesiastical dignitary,—say a Cardinal, who, dressed in all his lacy finery and armed with book and bell goes out in a storm and commands the demons to stop causing it. Peace will come from the fact that wars have become so destructive that all nations are afraid to start one.

Religious taboos are hard to figure and courts and lawmakers have a heck of a time trying to decide them. For example a bill is now proposed to put food animals to sleep before they are slaughtered in order to avoid needless cruelty. Note that, "to avoid needless cruelty." But the bill exempts "kosher slaughterhouses" because the Jews have a religious taboo that their food animals must be allowed to bleed to death or Jehovah will get mad. Apparently their Jehovah likes the squeals, bellowings and bleatings that rend the air around an abattoir in addition to the smell of burnt offerings. His ways pass all understanding.

After a lot of high sounding talk and bluster by the R.C. Bishop of New Orleans about how the Church is the great upholder of the Negro's rights and that he is deadly opposed to segregation in schools, he has been compelled to draw in his horns. In the face of the determined opposition of his subjects he seems not willing to face a revolt that may lose members for his Church, and he now lamely says he will postpone integration in the parochial schools for a while yet. Someone should ask him, if segregation is anti-Christian, (as he says it) why was it ever practiced in the parochial school at all? Likewise, if chattel slavery is anti-Christian why were Jesuits and other clergy and religious permitted to own Negro slaves in Louisiana? This, even before the U.S. took over from Spain and France.
BOOK REVIEW

THE SCIENCE AND LOGIC OF CHIROPRACTIC by Dr. J.R. Verner, published by Dr. P.J. Cerasoli, 192 31st Street, Brooklyn 32, N.Y. 335 pp. Price $6.00 Order from publisher.

The generally prevailing idea of Chiropractic seems to be that its practitioners merely manipulate the body a bit without knowing anything about anatomy, physiology, germs, medicine, a sort of modern adaptation of the old bone-setters. How true this may be of Chiropractors in general we do not know but one thing is evident to anyone who will read this book is that Dr. Verner knows a lot about such matters and can tell what he knows in a very interesting way. While, of course, there are some things that are a bit technical, nevertheless the average intelligent reader will have little difficulty in understanding the general theme and probably will get some new ideas on sickness and causes and cures. May even decide to have a bit of Chiropractic instead, next time he feels he needs a powder or a pill.

A well written, documented work and one that we recommend to our readers. Order your copy direct from Dr. Cerasoli.

CATHOLIC WORDS AND ACTIONS
Compiled by Raywood Frazier, Heritage Manor inc., P.O. Box 75673, Sanford Station, Los Angeles 5, Calif. Price $1.00

Have you ever argued with a Catholic about what his Hierarchy claims as the rights of their organization, their “Church” and have him blandly tell you that he never heard of anything like that? And demand that you prove your statements? Were you in a position to do so from memory? Or did you have to content yourself with telling him to look into matters without being able to tell him where to look and what to look for? Well, this reviewer has more than once been in that predicament. Mr. Frazier’s compilation of such claims and statements is precisely what is needed in such a situation. If you tell a R.C. that the right to tell him who to vote for and he says he can vote as he pleases the book will enable you to show him that he can do nothing of the kind if his priest tells him otherwise, and will give you an exact quotation from “The Register” of Aug. 7, 1949, with other like decisions. Practically every important matter of Americanism vs. Romanism, or Theocracy vs. Democracy is covered. Every reader who argues should have this information, or even if he does not argue he still should know the preposterous claims of authority over all mankind the Romanists claim. Order from Secretary Alt.

STAR CHAMBER

Harry P. Cain, former U.S. Senator from Washington State was some years ago, made a member of the Subversive Activities Control Board, probably because he was known to be very conservative. Much to everyone’s surprise, maybe even to his own, when he saw from the inside the total disregard for all the fundamental rights of the people, he promptly declared himself against such proceedings. He has lately championed the cause of a young veteran who was declared subversive and fired without any chance of defending himself. No indictment,
no trial, faced with no accuser, convicted without knowing for what. This is exactly the way the Catholic Inquisition and the Protestant Star Chamber courts dealt with their victims. And this is just what the men who wrote the 10 Constitutional Amendments, the Bill of Rights, were determined to prevent, when they provided that an accused person must be furnished with an indictment, that is, a statement of what he is charged with and must be faced in open, public court with his accusers. Cain told a Senate Committee that "Our nation has less to worry about from the clear and present danger of Communism than it has to worry about from the secret and more pernicious danger of Fascism." Well said!

THOMAS PAINE SEALS

100 Seals — — 50 cents

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Friendship Liberal League