

22. St. Charles, Minn., 25, 27, and 1 will lecture at Nora Springs Iowa, from May 28th to June 2nd.

Owing to the persistent efforts of Mr. John Groom, of Meaford, the Christians of Meaford have consented to a debate between Mr. Underwood and Mr. Braden, provided the former will allow the latter to state the questions in his own way, and to agree to all the conditions the latter chooses to make. We are in receipt of a printed copy of those conditions and questions, and find the former one sided, and the latter stated neither fully or fairly; just such conditions and just such questions, in fact, as we would expect to emanate from a man like Braden. We have no doubt he has a written essay to fit each question he proposes for discussion, as outside of written essays we are of the opinion he would be entirely lost in a debate with a far less able opponent than Mr. Underwood. Mr. Groom informs us that Mr. Braden denied the truth of our representation of the correspondence between us, as published in last JOURNAL. We now state, that every assertion we made regarding such correspondence, was literally true in every particular, and if he desires it, we will substantiate our assertions by *Christian evidence* alone. We are not in the habit of making statements we are unable to prove, which Mr. Braden may find to his cost. If we were to state one tenth part of what we know, and can prove, regarding Mr. Braden, the people of Meaford, Owen Sound and Toronto, would scarcely feel like endorsing him. "The Report of Committee of Arrangements," of the Meaford Christians which contains the questions and conditions, is signed by others, but bears unmistakable signs of Mr. Braden's supervision.

We congratulate our young friend G. S. Caldleck, whose letter we publish in another column, upon his election as Asst. Secretary of the Owen Sound Freethought Association. We received a short visit from him last week, and found him an intelligent, gentlemanly, and promising young Freethinker. What is thought of him in Owen Sound, may be inferred from the fact that when called upon to give evidence before a court there recently, the judge, notwithstanding both Mr. Caldleck and his brother avowed themselves Freethinkers, and though objected to by opposing Counsel, admitted their evidence, and instructed the jury that the beliefs of the witnesses should not be allowed to prejudice their minds against them. These acts show two things; that our friends bear excellent characters, and that we have, at least, one sensible judge in Canada.

There is one thing which we will allow Herbert Spencer to rank as Unknowable, and that is, why we have not received the *Positive Thinker* regularly. If "the gods did it," we will never forgive them, as they nearly deprived us of a feast fit for themselves, and through selfishness too, as we have no doubt Bros. Henderson and Brown would have mailed them each a copy free, had their addresses been forwarded. Well, we have them at last all in one batch, and we have devoted the whole morning to reading them, and must now—we were going to say, make up for lost time, but we have been amply repaid—resume our duties with increased energy. We like the *Positive Thinker*, and can endorse almost every word in the numbers we have read. Ringing, clear, bright, sparkling, crisp, and better than all the rest, true words. We imagine—perhaps we are mistaken—that we can detect the

hand, the head and the heart of woman through almost every page. If the "fittest survive," the *Positive Thinker* will attain a good old age.

Our friends should call on Mr. James Leslie, No. 6 Queen St. East, when they are in want of anything in the Boot and Shoe line. They will find him a genial honorable man, and a thorough Liberal. He keeps the best of stock at reasonable prices. Don't forget the place: three doors east of Yonge Street, on the north side of Queen St.

Mrs. Sarah B. Chase, editor of *The Physiologist*, N. Y., was arrested recently by the Inquisitor General of America, Anthony Comstock, upon a most frivolous pretext. Next day he caused the case to be offensively and untruthfully paraded in the columns of the New York *Tribune*. Mrs. Chase replied, denying the truth of the charges, and pointing out the malicious falsehoods of the Inquisitor. Mrs. Chase was honorably discharged on the first hearing. Is there no redress for such outrages? Must the innocent suffer at the hands of such brutes as Comstock, instigated by the hatred and intolerance of the Young Men's Christian Association? If not, there is something radically wrong in such a state of things. Law in that case, is but an engine to be used by the orthodox to suppress freedom of thought, of speech, and of the press.

Mr. Henderson, of the *Positive Thinker*, is performing a useful and permanent work, by instructing a number of young ladies and gentlemen in a catechism of Positive Thought. This present class is a Training-class,—the learners, as soon as well grounded in Positivism, to each form separate classes for themselves, and carry the good work on. This normal training system is worthy of imitation by all who wish to diffuse and perpetuate their opinions.

The item following Mr. Coleman's article on page 130 of this issue, should have been credited to the *Positive Thinker*.

### THE MOSAIC COSMOGONY.

BY G. W. GRIFFITHS.

(Continued.)

Let us now revert to our Reviewer, whose well-turned sentences are at least pleasant to the ear, and far from being uninteresting.

"Those who were inclined to be afraid, that the Mosaic Record would be discredited, have long since laid aside their fears. It has been found that, far from being upset by scientific enquiry, the Bible account of the creation accords in a very remarkable manner with modern discoveries; and long before Max Muller put the feeling into words, it was felt that only by treating our own sacred books with neither more or less mercy than the sacred books of other nations, they could retain their position and influence."

"When once the plunge was made, it was soon found, as might have been expected that the fault was not in the oracle, but in the interpretation; and it is very remarkable in how many and unexpected directions the testimony of Moses has been strengthened by the criticism, not always friendly, which it has received."

Now this is all very glib, smooth and delightful, but it will not hold water. It will, I venture to think, be presently seen that the orthodox are somewhat premature in their haste to discharge the burden of their fears, and that the degree in which the Bible account of the creation accords with modern discoveries is not so "very remarkable."

If the orthodox were capable of clear and honest introspection, they would distrust the exuberance of their own exultation over the slight loophole opened by enlargement of interpretation in the case of a single word—a narrow basis on which they at once proceed, without