

his position to forbid without a fair trial of the case, the circulation of your too truthful SECULAR THOUGHT in Ontario.

When we see by the church papers that church people are jealous of the growing independence of their adherents, and condemn the rising generation for paying more attention to athletics and a reasonable use of their Sunday leisure than to their creeds and superstition.

We may not be surprised at the action taken, and of the rotten condition of the churches, and of their immoral but strictly religious system of doing justice to their fellow-men. Did you ever hear of a Postmaster General suppressing a genuinely religious paper for advertising fairs, bazars, and lottery schemes, which the law admits are a fraud and a delusion on the public

What do religionists care for justice and equity? Why should they pay taxes on their God's houses and their millions of other property as long as their dupes are made to believe they are too poor and too holy to be taxed?

Well the world moves and the school house will yet banish the church, from this priest-ridden country. In regard to the REVIEW I shall be pleased to receive it if you can send it in place of SECULAR THOUGHT.

I still enjoy the noble old *Investigator* and hope you will not be discouraged by the treatment your subscribers have received throughout the Dominion by the unjust piece of Russianism they have been subjected to.

Yours truly,  
WM. A. GOODWIN.

Truro, N. S., April 11th, 1899.

J. S. Ellis, Esq.

Dear Sir,—Please find enclosed two dollars subscription for DOMINION REVIEW, which I accept as a substitute for SECULAR THOUGHT. Please acknowledge and oblige. I am very sorry the Postmaster-General has seen fit to issue an order stopping the paper coming through the mails. I always considered your paper one of the cleanest papers published. But orthodox believers, you know, cannot tolerate the truth. It has always been so wherever that stamp of bigotry exists: honest doubt of their opinions will not be tolerated when they are in the majority. If they tell a story and you burlesque it, it is blasphemy, and is immediately put under the ban. The poem in question is only a burlesque on an old story. Why the opinions of an advanced thinker should be suppressed I know not, but a time will surely come when we can resent it. Trusting that all will join in sympathy with you, and that you will continue the REVIEW in place of SECULAR THOUGHT, I am, yours truly,  
WILLIAM CRAIG,

Montreal, April 10.

TO MULOCK.

Hail! mail-clad knight of governmental truth!  
Stamp out perverters of our Christian youth;  
The mails are yours, you needn't mind the Queen,  
We hold a mightier "bigot" than has been.

BRUNO.

P.S.—I notice abortion medicines advertized in some of the chaste dailies Mr. Mulock tolerates.

Montreal, April 4th.

Mgr. SECULAR THOUGHT.

Enclosed please find \$2 for renewal of subscription and \$5 to assist in keeping the paper before the people. In looking back twenty-five years, I am more than surprised with the progress that has been made towards the removal of superstition and the upbuilding of rationalism. It is becoming the fashion to demand proof in matters of religion as in all other matters, and well may one ask, why not? Deception has had its day,

like tyranny and arrogance. May we hope the day of freedom has dawned, the day of light and reason, the exercise of which will lead to the practice of justice and all the higher qualities to which the mind of man is capable of attaining, and without being in any way trammelled by the crude notions which we are told were the utterances of a being perfect in holiness, etc. I like the words of Tennyson, "A god of love and of hate cannot be thought." Harmony of principle must be preserved if we are to admire any one. With kind regards,  
J. L.

In a second letter "J. L." says:

"Dear Friend Ellis,—I feel deeply the cut the Hon. the P.M. General has given to you and the friends of SECULAR THOUGHT in stopping its circulation as far as he could. The act shows the deep-seated feelings of those who differ with us on the question of the resurrection of Christ. This question was the last I had to deal with in loosing myself from orthodoxy. I believe it to be utterly false, yet I cannot say I approve of the composition or poem, and more especially of the tune attached. The great musical authors of the past immortalized themselves in their glorification of the event and of the man Christ Jesus. People pay very dear to hear the reproduction of those musical compositions and go into ecstasies over them, bowing themselves in awe at the allusions to the great event without which, millions think, man would have ceased at death, and on the truth of which the salvation of the race depends; for, as Paul says, "If Christ be not risen, our faith is vain." With feelings such as this question begets, I cannot wonder that some devotee has suggested the suppression of the whole paper to the P.M. General, and he, to please them, exercises his power, forgetting that there are a great many liberals whom he may displease. The question how far ridicule is justifiable, even if true, requires a very delicate pen, and I hope, if you resurrect S. T., it will be wielded with caution and regard to the feelings of those who differ from us. For my part, I am willing to take the DOMINION REVIEW if you cannot get the other going soon. Yours truly,

J. L.

Montreal, April 6th, 1899.

Dear Mr. Ellis,—We have quite an excitement here since your letter reached here this morning announcing the refusal of the Post-office magnates to allow the paper to go through the mails. You need not be the least scared about the result. It is not law we want. We will make it a political issue. I wrote the Postmaster-General as soon as I got your telegram, and I told him if the Liberal Government had not enough trouble on hand yet, they would soon have more. We will have the matter thrashed out on the floor of the House of Commons and the Senate, just the same as the Custom-house affair. I made them take back water before, and I will do it this time also. The Government have made a stupid blunder, and will lose a good many votes if they persist. Do not cave in to them on any consideration. In any case, in future I would be careful how I ridiculed Jesus. The people will stand all the tearing to pieces you like to give the Old Testament, but the story of Jesus appeals to the best side of their natures on account of the persecution he suffered at the hands of the priests. If we can only convince them that the Old Testament teaches slavery, polygamy, persecution, and all sorts of crimes, the parsons can soon preach to empty pews, as many of them are doing to-day.

Yours truly,  
NORMAN MURRAY.

P.S.—I saw Mr. M—— a little while ago, and he suggests trying milder methods first.

A large number of letters must stand over till next week.