

power of censorship is taken out of the hands of such one-horse politicians.

Of course I am well pleased to take the DOMINION REVIEW in place of SECULAR THOUGHT, and I have no doubt that every subscriber will be also willing. Speaking for myself I would prefer the monthly at two or three dollars per annum, as I have limited time for reading, and the monthly is most convenient for preservation.

I have many friends and connections in eastern Ontario, and though most of them are orthodox I know that they will resent this method of strangling Freethought and a free press, and I shall keep them stirred up on this issue. Such a thing could hardly be conceived of in poor old Spain. Canada must be reclaimed, and thou, Mr. Ellis, art the man for the occasion. In the morning I will mail some "sinews of war."

Faithfully for the cause,

D. McLAREN.

Bracebridge, April 11th, 1899.

J. Spencer Ellis, Esq.

My dear Sir,—Your announcement of government interference with the circulation of SECULAR THOUGHT caused me more regret than surprise. We are aware that our Government exists by the will of the majority, and is much more subservient to the clamor of the public than to the principles of right and of true freedom. And we must recognize that the sentiments of this majority are still steeped in superstition.

Personally, I recognize good sarcasm such as I find in the "Easter Hymn," still I recognize that, judging from my own feelings in the past, when I was already awakened to the glaring inconsistencies of the Bible, but yet looked with feelings of regretful sympathy on the highly respectable religion of the past, that I would have then considered such a hymn as a vulgar and disgraceful treatment of time-honored institutions. So if our organ is to be such as we can pass around to such of our orthodox friends as may show themselves to be not quite blind to the reason of modern truth, it will be no loss to the cause to keep out the strong meat fit only for our more mature digestion, and I, for one, shall be quite willing to accept the DOMINION REVIEW in place of SECULAR THOUGHT.

It would be well, I think, to stir up some talk and opposition to the departmental decree; especially if you can do so over the signature of some of Mr. Mulock's political supporters. But I would not make very much effort to reinstate SECULAR THOUGHT under its distinctive name, as it will doubtless be closely watched. But if its work is to a great extent carried on by enlarging the scope of the DOMINION REVIEW, and a good racket has been raised on the present tyrannical exercise of censorship, they would probably hesitate before suspending another long-established publication; and the good work can be carried on with undiminished usefulness.

The meat will be just as nourishing to the intellect although served without the Secular mustard.

Yours truly,

HENRY J. BIRD.

Ridgetown, April 9, 1899.

Dear Mr. Ellis,—I exceedingly regret to learn that SECULAR THOUGHT has been prohibited from circulation in the mails of this country. I feared, however, that some such a fate was in store for you. "An Easter Hymn," a somewhat crude production, by the way, should not be offensive to any one in this age of the world. It represents, I think, what might reasonably take place if the gospel account is true, and the Apostles' Creed

is worthy of credit. Under that supposition Christ was certainly crucified and deserted by his father. He was likewise a guest, and, no doubt, an honored one, of Satan's for at least three days, and what happened after he returned home—and something must assuredly have happened—may after all be fairly depicted in this innocent poem. I suppose, however, it is a trifle too strong for the orthodox mind—a class who just now are fighting strongly to preserve their bread and butter. I consider this entire business is an outrage on the rights of the people of this country, and I am glad to see that you are determined if possible to obtain redress. I believe I am just as good a living man as the Postmaster General; I do not think, at any rate, that what I shall read should be left to his dictation, and I am persuaded that when proper representations are made to the Government at Ottawa the matter will be set right. If not, then an agitation should be set on foot in this country to curb the power of the priesthood, which is certainly becoming too great. I wish you every success in the fight which is evidently about to begin, and in the meantime will cheerfully accept the DOMINION REVIEW in the place of SECULAR THOUGHT.

Yours sincerely,

B. L. CHIPMAN.

Kingston, April 8th, 1899.

Dear Mr. Ellis,—I am quite willing to accept the DOMINION REVIEW in lieu of SECULAR THOUGHT in the meantime, and hope that no subscriber will object. I think too much power is given to the Postmaster-General. As a reformer, I do not believe in giving any one man absolute power, for there are few men who would not abuse it. I hope the order will be only temporary.

Yours truly,

J. GEORGE.

Cardinal, April 11, 1899.

Dear Editor,—I am much pleased to receive SECULAR THOUGHT this evening. I was afraid that superstition had gobbled it up. If they succeed in suppressing the best edited paper in Canada I shall expect to see the Inquisition established, and our boasted freedom have to be fought for over again. May all the gods forbid it. I will enclose an order for \$4, hoping that you will be able to send me SECULAR THOUGHT for the remainder of this year (ending July 1st), and also to continue it for another year. A friend sends 50 cents for Sustaining Fund.

Yours truly,

T. B. SMITH.

Lindsay, April 10, 1899.

Dear Mr. Ellis,—I received on Saturday a few sheets of the DOMINION REVIEW. I am sorry the Postmaster-General saw fit to prevent the circulation of SECULAR THOUGHT through the mails. I do not admire the Easter Hymn. I think any article that hurts the feelings of the majority of those we have to mingle with has the wrong effect to command respect in any journal. I must confess you made a great mistake in publishing the article referred to, but I hope you will be able to get out of the difficulty in some way.

Yours truly,

R. TOUCHBURN.

Lindsay, Ont., Sept. 9th, '99.

J. Spencer Ellis, Toronto,—Dear Sir,—I have just read of the suppression of SECULAR THOUGHT and must say I feel astonished that a man like Mr. Mulock could be so unduly influenced by the fear of hell and the insinuations of the cowardly representatives of the church party as to dare to use