

THE FREETHOUGHT JOURNAL,

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY THE

Ontario Freethought Printing & Publishing Co.,

COOKE & HARGRAVE, Managing Editors, Toronto.

SUBSCRIPTION.

One Copy, one year,	32 00
One Copy, six months,	1 00
One Copy, three months,	50
Six Copies, one year,	10 00
Single Copies,	Six cents.

U. S. Currency received from American Subscribers at par.

All invariably in advance.

Advertising Rates made known on application to the Managing Editors.

Correspondence on all subjects, except party politics, will receive consideration, but rejected manuscript will not be returned, except where return postage is sent.

Send Post Office Order, or Draft, when convenient, but when such cannot be obtained, money may be sent at our risk in registered letter.

Address all communications to

COOKE & HARGRAVE,

147 KING ST. EAST, TORONTO.

TORONTO, NOVEMBER 20TH, 1877.

We direct the attention of our readers to the announcement in this issue of a mass convention of Freethinkers to be held in this city January 22 and 23, 1878. Some very important business will be brought before the Convention for consideration, and we hope our friends will attend in large numbers. One of the most important questions the Convention will be called upon to decide, is whether the JOURNAL shall be continued as a weekly or a monthly, and to devise means to put it upon a permanent basis. Religious weekly papers, with less than half the number of our adherents, receive a generous support. The weakest sect on the continent would consider it a disgrace to allow one of their papers to go down for want of support, and we trust the Freethinkers of the Dominion will not be less enthusiastic in the cause of truth than the religious public are in the cause of error. All who are in sympathy with us are cordially invited to be present.

We sincerely regret to inform our readers that our earnest, honest, and aged friend, D. M. Bennett, of the *Truth Seeker*, New York, has been arrested for the crime (!) of blasphemy. It seems that another Christian crusade against the Infidel is about to be inaugurated. Mr. Bennett is unable to meet the expense of a protracted and costly trial, and calls on his friends to help him in his hour of need, and assures them that the money will be returned to them in case it is not absolutely required to meet the cost of the trial or to make up the amount of a fine that may be imposed. Mr. Bennett will be as good as his word, and our Canadian Freethinkers should do all they are able to do, and at once. We do not know who may be struck down next. Address D. M. Bennett, *Truth Seeker*, New York, or Cooke & Hargrave, this office. All amounts entrusted to us will be duly forwarded and acknowledged in both *Truth Seeker* and JOURNAL.

The Liberal Congress held at Rochester, N. Y., October 26, 27 and 28, at which we were present, was, so far as concerned the business on hand, an entire success. The President, Mr. Francis

E. Abbott, in his opening address said the United States Government had neglected three most important duties; first, total separation of church and state, secondly, national protection for national citizens; and thirdly, universal education. Resolutions based on these three propositions were passed unanimously and with enthusiasm. The eleventh resolution adopts a platform for the Presidential campaign of 1880, and is as follows:

RESOLVED, That, postponing to future conventions the addition of such planks on other issues as future events may render necessary or expedient, the National Liberal League now adopts, as its political platform for the presidential campaign of 1880, these three great national principles of overshadowing importance:—

“(1.) Total separation of Church and State, to be guaranteed by amendment of the United States Constitution; including the equitable taxation of Church property, secularization of the public schools, abrogation of Sabbatarian laws, abolition of chaplaincies, prohibition of public appropriations for religious purposes, and all other measures necessary to the same general end.

“(2.) National protection for national citizens, in their equal civil, political, and religious rights: to be guaranteed by amendment of the United States Constitution, and afforded through the United States courts.

“(3.) Universal education the basis of universal suffrage in this secular republic: to be guaranteed by amendment of the United States Constitution, requiring every State to maintain a thoroughly secularized public-school system, and to permit no child within its limits to grow up without a good elementary education.”

We fully concur with the Convention that the objects set forth in the resolution are worthy of our best efforts to obtain (and they are as applicable to the Dominion as to the United States), and though we have no opinion to offer as to the expediency of forming a separate political party in the United States, we think the Freethinkers of Canada can attain their objects sooner by remaining and using their influence within the parties now in existence than by forming a new one. Although the delegates were, almost without exception, in accord regarding the business programme, they were far from being so on other questions. Judging from the applause their speakers received, the delegates and audience were largely composed of Spiritualists. There was a noticeable absence of some of the most prominent Freethinkers, Colonel Ingersoll, B. F. Underwood, Horace Seaver, Thoron C. Leland, and Josiah Mendum. D. M. Bennett was present, but did not occupy the platform, though it was announced several times during the Convention that he would do so. There was no lack of speakers, however. Among those who spoke from the platform were the President, Mr. Abbott, Dr. T. L. Brown, H. L. Green, Judge McCormack, Professor Toohy, Hon. Elizur Wright, Elder Evans, Mrs. Watson, Professor A. L. Rawson, and Mrs. Clara Neyman. Judge McCormack said he was proud to be a Spiritualist, and asserted that “death was but a circumstance in life.” It appears to us that Spiritualists are as dogmatic on the platform as any theologian could possibly be in the pulpit.

After the singing of a rather doleful hymn by the audience, Mrs. C. L. Watson, who claimed to be under the influence of a spirit, delivered a two hours sermon, prefacing it by a prayer to the “Spirit of Truth.” Hon. Elizur Wright read a paper on “republican taxation,” which was excellent and was well received. Elder F. W. Evans preached from Revelations, chap. xiii., first and eleventh verses. Prof. Rawson gave his autobiography, which was very amusing. J. Ick Evans expressed sympathy with the objects of the Convention. Dr. Brown and H. L. Green