

The New England Building at the Pan American Exposition Buffalo N Y  
Josephine Wright Chapman Architect Boston Mass



## Troyer & Gingery UNDERTAKERS

Sharon, Mass.,  
Aug. 7th, 1901.

Miss Sarah B. Harris,  
Editor The Courier:

In the last issue, August 3rd, of your paper, you repeat the absurd allegation that

"Agnostics, atheists, and all grades of disbelievers in one god pray to him instinctively, when they are on board a sinking ship, when they are in extreme agony, when the surgeon's knife is severing nerves and muscles, or in the last breath of consciousness before the anaesthetic has dulled sense."

This is on a par with the egregious lie and general belief that Thos. Paine was an atheist and disbeliever in immortality and recanted when he died. On the contrary Paine was and died a believer in immortality and had nought to recant. He denied theological creeds far more than christianity.

I ask you how many actual, intelligent atheists (not agnostic straddlers) you know? Do you know one? By that I mean persons who positively know there is no God, no soul, no immortality, no cause, no purpose in nature, who are not even nature-worshippers, who hate, detest, despise the very name of God and idea of immortality as grossly immoral untruths, and look on christianity as anarchistic, anti-natural, and as the most damnable fraud human ignorance has yet fettered itself with. Now I am just that and all that. I know but three more real atheists.

I have been in all the conditions you speak of and never once looked for or sought the interference of a higher power. I simply knew there was a chance of life, so long as my strength lasted. For instance, I have been shipwrecked and had to go for days without food and water and never once prayed or looked for anything but a sail bound our way according to the natural course of events. When it came no God sent it. The winds and the waves and the desire for money brought it that way. That was all. I have been through jungle fever, yellow fever and Asiatic cholera and looked to nothing but innate toughness to save me. I have been cut open by surgeons and trusted to their skill and my own symptoms to live.

I am now going the way of Bright's disease and know I shall die, but have

no more thought of help from above than I have of help from you.

I am a believer in nothing save the living for self intelligently, but he who does that will do all for every one that should be done. I am free from altruistic insanity, love of man and all such nonsense—thanks to Nebraska, and when I and my child are dead, I do not care in the least when the end of the world shall come, or how it comes. I would not pull a hair to save the world or a human being, save those I love, (they are few) unless the world first paid for my services to my satisfaction.

Now that is the true principle of ethics, yet I do not believe even your supreme intelligence can grasp it. People with brains enough to be intelligent atheists are the rarest thing in nature.

Respectfully yours,  
F. S. Billings.

### Nebraska State Fair, 1901.

For thirty-two years past, good crops or poor crops, the Nebraska State Board of Agriculture, true to its duty, has annually presented to the public, at its Fairs, the products, resources and possibilities of this wonderful young State, the flower of the New West, a region of country known until a few years ago comparatively, as a barren waste. These products have been found, on actual examination, without superiors anywhere, both as to quality and yields. This year corn and vegetables, have been badly scorched, in some parts of the State, it is true. And yet, in many other parts, they are good. Small grain never was better.

The Fair Management is going right along with the Fair as usual, this year, September 2nd to 6th; have greatly improved the Old Fair Grounds, adjoining Lincoln, lately purchased by the State. A new woven wire fence has been placed around the whole grounds; all the old buildings have been repaired, painted and put in the best condition. Nineteen new, large and commodious barns for livestock have been constructed. Water from city water works in all parts of the grounds. Rail roads, both passenger and freight, run into the grounds. Reduced rail road passenger rates from all stations in the state. The secretary announces that the outlook for exhibits were never better. Let the people all attend this great fair, and with their families spend a few days' recreation profitably and pleasantly.

She—I tell you the really nice girls are gems.

He—Yes, and like other gems, the most of them are under ground.

### SORROW.

An angel of God  
To two women came,  
Saying: "What will ye ask  
in the father's name  
When at last ye enter  
the gates of heaven?  
For whatever ye ask  
ye shall be given."  
White with shedding of tears,  
one raised her face,  
Stiff set in the furrows  
which sorrows trace,  
And she said: "On earth  
I have had to quaff  
The cup of grief—  
in heaven let me laugh."  
In pity he turned  
to the other then—  
To a woman with eyes  
that held no pain  
Whose sunny face  
was a message of cheer  
To lives which had else  
been sadly drear,  
With lips ever ready  
for laugh or jest—  
Denying the anguish  
which no one guessed;  
She answered the angel:  
"When I die  
God grant me in heaven  
a place to cry."

—M. T. Malthy,  
in the New England Magazine.

### Tots at Play.

Wordsworth's lines of a child at play, "as if his whole vocation were endless imitation," were recently recalled by a conversation overheard in a children's ward in a provincial hospital.

A little girl, whose role was that of nurse, rang an imaginary telephone on the wall to talk to her companion at the farther end of the room, who played the part of doctor.

"Hello!" said the nurse. "Is that the doctor?"

"Yes," answered her companion in a deep voice; "this is the doctor."

"This lady is very ill," he was informed.

"Well, what seems to be the matter?" "She has swallowed a whole bottle of ink," said the nurse.

The doctor, not flurried, inquired what had been done for the patient; but the nurse, too, was ready in emergencies.

She answered: "I gave her two pads of blotting paper!"—London Tit Bits.

The speech in the House of Lords of the Bishop of Hereford on the subject of gambling recalls a story told of Bishop Potter, who, traveling through Louisiana some years ago, addressed inquiries to his fellow-passengers with a view to obtaining information regarding the orchards and fruit interests of the state. "Do you raise pears in Louisiana?" inquired the bishop. "We do," replied the Louisianan, who was a better authority on poker than on horticulture, "if we have threes or better."—The Mirror.

### Wearing on the Alphabet.

The prosecuting attorney in a lawsuit had waxed especially indignant at the defendant, whom he characterized as an "abandoned, baneful, cynical, diabolic, execrable, felonious, greedy, hateful, irresponsible, jaundiced, knavish, lazy, meddlesome, noxious, outrageous and profligate rowdy."

"The learned counsel on the other side," said the attorney for the defendant, when he rose to reply, "should have put his adjectives in a hat and shaken them up a little before using. You must have noticed, gentlemen of the jury, that they were in regular alphabetical order. This shows that he selected them from a dictionary, beginning with 'a.' He stopped at 'p,' but in his manner of reproducing them he has given us the 'cue' as to how he got them."

This turned the laugh against the other lawyer, and he lost the case.—London Tid Bits.

### Dogs and Trolley Cars.

A Chicago press dispatch says: Three grave jurists in the appellate court have solved the problem of the proper relation between dogs and trolley cars. The result of three years' litigation has been the handing down of a decision that the well-conducted dog has as much right in the streets as a well-conducted human being; that he has almost as much right as a trolley car, and that if the motorman does not ring his bell before running over him and breaking his back, the motorman's master must pay damages. It was the Great Dane dog owned by John Klecka, and killed by a West Side car, that brought on the legal fight. His death now nets the owner \$75, and nets the others of the city the protection of the courts. The dog was not a trespasser, and the motorman should have tried to save his life, says the decision.—The Dog Fancier.

The average daily attendance at the Pan-American exposition from May 1 to July 1 was 23,640. The average daily attendance at former fairs for the full terms of their duration were as follows:

Chicago World's Columbian exposition, 6 mos.	153,113
California Midwinter Fair	13,928
Atlanta Cotton States expo.	13,030
Omaha Trans-Mississippi expo.	17,082
Philadelphia International Export expo.	19,283

The comparison is highly encouraging to the Pan-American exposition. The first two months of fairs are usually the poorest in point of attendance, owing principally to the almost general belief that the exposition is not completed until July. The Pan-American has passed this point, and the attendance is growing daily. By the first of August the increase in the average daily attendance will show a very large increase, with the best months still to come. The Pan American is now complete and to see the exterior of the buildings is alone worth a long trip. The illumination with 500,000 lamps is also a wonderful sight. Admission to all buildings and games in the Stadium is free.

### ADDITIONAL ACCOMMODATIONS.

On account of the very low rates made to Colorado points

### THE UNION PACIFIC

has placed in service another through Pullman Sleeper on train No. 3, for Denver, leaving Omaha at 4:25 P. M. daily and continuing until September 10th.

This service affords passengers the very best accommodations with the greatest possible comfort.

Reservations should be made as far in advance as possible.

E. B. SLOSSON, Agent.