

To the Editor of the Liberator. November 1<sup>st</sup> /53.

My dear Sir 210

I see with much surprise & more concern an attack in your paper upon the character of Mr G. F. Holyoake, signed by Mr W. J. Linton. I could have wished, were it in the power of your readers, that you had waited for some evidence or other testimony, before committing your most respected paper to an attack on such a man from such a quarter. Of Mr Linton it is not necessary for me to say any thing, because what I say of Mr Holyoake will sufficiently show what I think of his testimony.

I wish I could give you an idea of the absurdity that it appears to us in this country to charge Mr Holyoake with sneaking, - with desiring to conceal his opinions, & get rid of the word Atheism. His whole life, since he grew up, has been one of public advocacy of the principles he holds, - of weekly publication of them under his

long standing not to be likely to be deceived in regard to the conduct of any one who speaks on the subject - a character of any one who speaks on the subject -

Wm. W. Linton

own signature, & of constant lecturing  
in public places. One wd think that  
a man who has been tried & imprison-  
ed for atheism, & has ever since  
continued to publish the opinions wd  
brought him into that position might  
be secure, if any man might, from  
the charge of speaking. The adoption  
of the term Secularism is justified  
by its including a large number  
of persons who are not atheists, &  
uniting them for action wd has  
secularism for its object & not atheism.  
On this ground, & because, by the  
adoption of a new term a vast  
amount of impediment from  
prejudice is got rid of, the use of  
the name Secularism is found  
advantageous; but it in no way  
interferes with Mr Holyoake's profession  
of his own unaltered views on the  
subject of a First Cause. As I am  
writing this letter, I may just say,  
for myself, that I constantly &

eagerly read Mr. Holyoake's writings,  
though many of them are on subjects,  
-or occupied with stages of subjects,-  
that we do not otherwise obtain me,  
-because I find myself always morally  
the better for the influence of the  
noble spirit of the man; - for the calm  
courage, the composed temper, the genuine  
liberality, & unintermitting justice with  
wh<sup>ch</sup> he treats all manner of persons  
incidents, & topics. I certainly consider  
the conspicuous example of Mr. Holyoake's  
kind of heroism to be one of our popular  
educational advantages at this time.

As to his opinions on the subject of  
American Slavery, & his expression of  
them, - I ~~am~~ quite agree with Edward  
Search that he loses no opportunity of  
denouncing the institution of Slavery. I  
think, & I have told him so, that  
he wants more knowledge of the history  
of abolitionism in your country; & I have  
told him a good deal about it, & found  
him anxious for the fullest knowledge he  
can obtain.

As for his "requiring a personal induc-

ment before he wd. Let the subscription of  
 "European freedom," & all that sort of charge  
 - the only possible answer is that the  
 whole ~~accusation~~ accusation is <sup>totally unsupported.</sup> ~~false~~. No evidence  
 is offered; & all that any body can say  
 is that nobody knows of any "personal  
 inducement" &c &c. You may be aware  
 also that, whatever may be Mr Linton's  
 opinions, it is not a proved fact that  
 Lord Palmerston is a "liberticide," or Sir  
 James Graham an "assassin". Most  
 of us think very differently; & it is rather  
 hard if Mr. Kolyoake's character is to  
 be implicated with the difference  
 you have printed Mr Linton's  
 account of Mr Kolyoake. I request  
 of you to print mine. I send it  
 simply as an act of justice. My  
 own acquaintance with Mr Kolyoake  
 is on the ground of his public usefulness,  
 & based on his private virtues, &  
 can have no other reason for vindicating  
 him than a desire that a cruel wrong  
 shd be, as far as possible, undone.  
 And I do it myself, because I am known to  
 your readers as an abolitionist & sufficiently

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