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The Washington Open Forum

Conducting Lectures and General Discussion
Every Saturday at 8 P. M. in Stoneleigh Court

A Clearing House of Current Thought

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

ROOM 16

1410 G STREET N. W.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

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WILLIAM J. O'BRIEN

April 18, 1932.

Mrs. Adele Carmichael,
Masonic Temple,
13th Street and New York Ave. N. W.,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Madam:

The Washington Open Forum wishes to arrange a debate between a prominent exponent of orthodox Christianity and Charles Smith of New York City, President of the American Association for the Advancement of Atheism.

Mr. Smith, as you doubtless know, is the leading Atheist of the United States. He was twice jailed in Arkansas a couple of years ago in connection with his campaign to prevent the enactment of a law forbidding the teaching of evolution in that State and he also went on a hunger strike while in the Little Rock jail. He has lectured and debated in many cities. Some years ago he took the negative in a debate in which the writer was Chairman, the subject being, "Is There a God?" and the affirmative being upheld by Baron Eugene Fersen. This was conducted in the Masonic Temple. About 600 people attended.

In the coming debate we should like to have the same subject debated. We prefer the Masonic Temple or a hall of similar size. Since your own meetings are being held in that building, probably the rental for the debate would be reduced from the regular rate. Your own supporters and friends would, I should think, attend in large numbers. On the other hand, there are at least 200 or 300 Atheists, Agnostics and others who are opposed to fundamentalism who would turn out.

Our proposal would be to conduct the debate on a basis of splitting the profits between yourself, Mr. Smith and the Forum, each receiving a third. I am confident that the affair could be very successful both financially and in an educational sense. If you are interested, I shall be pleased to talk with you regarding it.

Very sincerely yours,

Linn A. E. Gale
Linn A. E. Gale, President.

G/A

Room 16,

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1410 G STREET, N. W.,
WASHINGTON, D. C.



not at

Mrs. Adele Carmichael,
Masonic Temple,
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C i t y.