

A COMMUNICATION.

McMINNVILLE, OREGON, Dec. 7, '96.
 —To the Editor: I want to add my word of encouragement to you in your noble and self-sacrificing work. It does me much good in my declining years to see the fruits of Secularism are bearing fruit. I have labored in the cause for the past thirty years (am now past sixty.) My father was a Methodist preacher and raised his family under the strictest Methodist rules. My nature is very conscientious, and all my early life was spent in trying to bring erring souls to the fold of Christ.

By the help of my husband, Dr. A. K. Olds, now deceased, I came into the light of Secularism, and since then have been trying to undo the unconscious injury I did the world by inculcating superstitious ideas of heaven and hell into the minds of young and old.

Eternal punishment was always a terrible thought to me, and I can truthfully say I never knew what happiness was until my mind became thoroughly satisfied that progression is the law, and that the human race, though very imperfect now, will go on improving forever. Together, my husband and I worked for the good of this world and he passed away in the knowledge that the world was better for his having lived.

I can scarcely express my gratitude to you and other workers who are pushing the cause to such grand success in this state. Mr. Geer surely did much good in Chicago. I hope he may live long to accomplish grand work.

I enjoy the TORCH of REASON very much. It surpasses our highest expectations. Every article is interesting and instructive. The editorial on "Evolution" is grand, and Mr. Fisk's articles are always good.

The Sunday school is the most important work of all and the LITTLE CANDLE is splendid; just what we need. I am glad to have raised a daughter who is capable of being a help to the cause.

Wishing you all health and prosperity, I am,
 Yours for Progress,
 MRS. M. J. OLDS.

PRINTING OUTFIT FUND.

James Down, Silverton.....	\$ 5 00
L Ames ".....	5 00
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E N Ford ".....	2 00
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Wm Lambert ".....	1 00
Total.....	\$40 25

SIX SMILES.



The teacher was informed that the superintendent was to call on her school and in order to make a good showing she drilled each of her pupils to answer a question she should ask. Frank was to be asked "who discovered America?" and he was to answer "Christopher Columbus." She was to ask his brother Earl who made him, and he was to say "God." It happened that when the Superintendent called, Earl was sick and the teacher forgetting which one she gave the question to, asked Frank who made him. His answer was, "Christopher Columbus." "No no!" said the teacher, "it was God." "No, it was Christopher Columbus," said Frank. "The boy God made is at home, sick."

A kind father instructed his son of five years to be very polite to the minister who was to call that day. "When he asks your name tell him Willie; when he asks your age, tell him five years old and when he asks what becomes of bad boys tell him they go to hell." The boy was drilled, so he could answer the questions and sure enough when the minister called he took the boy on his knee and asked his name. The quick answer was: "Willie five years old go to hell."

Frankie went with his mother, who was not orthodox, to spend the day at a christian neighbors and at the dinner table, as the host was asking the blessing, Frankie looked at the man and then at his own plate and then at his mother in a dissapointed way, and said: "Ma there aint that much readin' on my plate."

The first thing that some women will want to do when they get to heaven will be to hunt for a broom, and dust and clean house.—Selected.

"Aunt Kate, little Matie has swallowed a button." "Well, child, what good will that do her?" "Not any good, Auntie, unless she swallows a button hole."

The Eye acknowledges the receipt of an early number of the TORCH of REASON, a weekly freethought journal published at Silverton, Oregon, by J. E. Hosmer, editor and P. W. Geer, business manager. The TORCH is a neatly printed, four-column quarto, designed, as its name implies, to further the cause of secularism, encourage liberal sentiment and antagon-

ize error, wherever found. We trust its light may shine in many hearts. The TORCH now illuminates our exchange list.—The Eye.

LIBERAL UNIVERSITY FUND.

The following is a list of those who have subscribed to the Liberal University Fund, with the amount signed by each.

E Stewart, Dayville, Or.....	\$50 00
L S Davidson, Portland, Or.....	25 00
Michel Steffen, Vancouver, Wash..	5 00
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A Officer, Dayville.....	5 00
W Carsner, Wagner, Or.....	5 00
W R Smith, Silverton, Or.....	100 00
Flora Burtis, Watronsville, Mich..	5 00
H E Klein, Silverton, Or.....	25 00
Total.....	\$400 50

There are other good, resposable parties who have promised sums ranging from five dollars up to two hundred dollars, although they have not signed any particular amount, and we hope that, now we have started in earnest, the required amount will soon be raised.

John Diamond of Coburg, Oregon, will donate fifty dollars, provided the new university building is constructed by Nov, 20, 1897, and John Leitch, of Mazo Manie, Wis., has bequeathed us one thousand dollars.

The following editorial appeared in the Oregonian of Dec. 2, 1896:

Many letters have come to the Oregonian written in justification of the benevolence and morality of persons who are called "infidels." It is not needful to print them. Of "infidelity" there is no authorized definition. The term is used too loosely and inconsiderately to make it a term of reproach. It is often used to designate or characterize those who do not believe as some other person believes, who asserts his dogma. This indeed, is its most common usage. In all ages the person who has had a clearer idea of man's relation to the infinite than the common idea of his people or of his time, has been denounced as an "infidel." On this basis the founder of Christianity was crucified. At this age of the world, men should have breadth enough to apply the text, "Judge not that ye be not judged."

We have received a copy of the TORCH of REASON, a Liberal weekly recently established at Silverton, Oregon, by the Oregon State Secular Union. Mr. J. E. Hosmer is its editor and Mr. P. W. Geer its business manager. The TORCH of REASON shines brightly in the outset and we wish for it a long and useful career. The price of subscription is \$1.00 a year.—Independent Pulpit.

CLUB RATES.

We give the TORCH OF REASON and the Truth Seeker for one year to new subscribers, for \$3. The TORCH OF REASON and Free Thought Magazine for one year to new subscribers for \$1.75.

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