

Secular News.

We started in to publish a list of books donated to the University Library, but they have come in so lively, we haven't room. We will soon have the largest library in the city. Send in all the books you can and let us have the largest library in the state. All who desire to spend a part of their time in reading books and periodicals may have the free use of the reading room, after school hours, Saturdays and Sundays. Perfect order must be maintained. Those who contribute to the library will be allowed to take books for a period of two weeks by applying to the librarian.

The students and members of the faculty of the Liberal University met at Liberal Hall, Friday evening and organized the Young People's Social Science Club. Officers were elected, committees were appointed and other business transacted. The Club will meet at Liberal Hall every Friday evening at 7 o'clock. Good program and a general good time, will make the meeting of great value socially and educationally.

The Silverton Secular Sunday school subscribed for 50 copies of the Little Candle, and McMinnville subscribed for 25. This together with the individual subscribers we have, makes the subscription list respectably large. The Little Candle seems to take well with the children and is just the thing to present to them each Sunday at Sunday school.

We are glad to note that B. F. Underwood is about to start on a lecture tour. We wish him a pleasant journey and are satisfied he will do much good. Our readers appreciate his splendid contributions to THE TORCH.

We received twenty subscribers to THE TORCH by one mail last week. This means that twenty more people want to know the news of organized, educational work in the Secular ranks. A large subscription list is what we want.

Brother J. D. Shaw of the Independent pulpit had the misfortune to lose the December number of his magazine by fire while in the hands of his printer. Let us hope that this will not stop the publication of this excellent paper. We sympathize with Bro. Shaw.

Secularists in Western Oregon should make an effort to have Miss Nettie Olds visit them and deliver a lecture in their localities. She is now traveling and will be on the road for a few months. She is working in the interest of our educational work. For dates etc. write to this office, or to Miss Olds at McMinnville.

Six new students in the Liberal University this week. Maurice Vanvaulkenberg, Irving Ballard,

Mollie Smith, Leona Allen and Winnie Whitlock in the Academic course, and Harry Desart in the preparatory course. We expect a larger number next week and have ordered more desks.

Miss Ada Dewey, Secy. Portland Secular Sunday school, made us a pleasant call Saturday, returning home Monday.

Six Smiles.

The editor sat in his rickety chair
And ran his fingers through his hair,
And thought, the best way to get
their tin,

Is to write a smile that'll make
them grin.

Pastor—"Miss Ethel, you should be engaged in some missionary work." Miss Ethel—"Oh, I am, and have been for some time past." Pastor—"I am gratified to hear you say so! In what field are you engaged?" Miss Ethel (proudly)—"I'm teaching my parrot not to swear."—Puck.

Sunday School Teacher (after telling the story of David)—And all this happened over three thousand years ago.

Little Clara—Oh, my, what a memory you have got!—[Secular Thought.

Parson Johnson (catechizing)—"Now, 'Rastus, yo' believes dat de whale swallered Jonah, don't yo'?" Little 'Rastus—"Yais, pahson." Parson Johnson—"Dat's right, Rastus. Now, tell me why yo' believes it." Rastus—"Cause I'd git swatted ef I didn't."

Some men would get along better if they had less point to their shoes and more to their conversations.

Mother—Charlie, you said you'd been to Sunday school.

Charlie (with a far-away look)—Yes'm.

Mother—How does it happen that your hands smell fishy?

Charlie—I carried home th' Sunday school paper an'—an' th' outside page is all about Jonah an, th' whale.—Exchange.

A Call.

Our printing outfit was purchased last October for \$275. The amount was to be raised by contributions. Up to this time but \$59.50 has been raised. Some have given more than their share, others have given what they can, while the majority have given nothing. Now this is a serious matter; this printing outfit must be paid for. The TORCH OF REASON is the foundation of our work and if you will help to place it on a secure foundation, we will more easily accomplish the ends to which we aspire.

Let everyone who reads this notice send us 50 cents and we will have enough to pay for our press. If you can afford more, send it to make up for others who can not af-

ford so much. This does not mean that we will fail if you do not help us, it means that we will be able to do more and do it better if you do help us. We do not wish to plead poverty, for we are succeeding beyond our greatest expectations. All we ask is to be able to do more. Yours for Truth and Justice.

PEARL W. GEER
Business M'ngr.

A Relic of Barbarism

Oregon's climate is not very cold, but the water is just as wet as and a little bit colder than in some places, especially at this season of the year. Notwithstanding this fact, two deluded people, a man and his wife, were baptized in the creek here Monday having as they suppose, their sins washed entirely away. We are not opposed to the free use of water in the way of bathing etc., but we are opposed to deceiving people into believing that to be dipped under water by a preacher releases them from all responsibilities of their past lives and entitles them to a free pass to heaven at the expiration of their lease on this life, which for ought any one knows, may be the only life we will ever have.

When, oh when will people awake to the folly of fanaticism?
P. W. G.

Question Box.

1. Which is the most beneficial, faith in gods or faith in humanity?
2. Which is better, a hope for heaven after death, or a hope for a bright future for humanity?
3. Hadn't you rather sleep forever than have your brother suffer eternally?
4. Are those who claim to be saints very apt to be rascals?
5. Are those who whiningly claim to be sinners very apt to be saints?

The Irascible George.

What had George Washington done to incur divine displeasure? The monument erected to the memory of the "Father of His Country," on South Mountain, Maryland, was struck by lightning on the night of the 19th ult., and was badly shattered. "Our loved General was said to be very irascible at times," reported an old-time author. Possibly some display of his temper was passing in review, when that "bolt of jove" was sent out on its mission. The preachers can tell how it was.—Progressive Thinker.

The Free Thought Magazine for January is largely devoted to obituary notices of the late Samuel P. Putnam and May L. Collins. Mr. Putnam's most intimate friends, Messrs. George E. Macdonald, Thaddeus B. Wakeman and Dr. E. B. Foote will each furnish an obituary notice of Putnam. Josephene K. Henry, the special friend and admirer of Miss Collins, will furnish a most graphic, interesting and touching notice

of Miss Collins. A dozen of the editorial pages will furnish the most authentic life sketch of Mr. Putnam, that has ever before been written, and also the latest revelations relating to the tragical death of these persons. Fine likenesses of these parties will appear. There will be a number of other articles by the ablest free thought writers of this country. The price of this magazine is fifteen cents, and can be had of the publisher at Chicago, Ill.

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
Herman Kehm, Portland, Or.....	10 00
W E Parrot, Astoria, Or.....	5 00
W G Kent, Portland, Or.....	20 00
P W Geer, Silverton, Or.....	10 00
D Hengst, Portland, Or.....	5 00
Gustave Hickethier, Portland, Or.	20 00
Alice M Davidson, Portland, Or....	20 00
R Sylvester, Portland, Or.....	10 00
M Pritchard, Sierra Valley Cal....	2 50
B F Hyland, Corvallis, Or.....	5 00
W W Jesse, Barlow, Or.....	5 00
Matie Vanhouten, Portland, Or....	2 50
J E Hosmer, Silverton, Or.....	10 00
John Leitch, Mazo Manie, Wis....	10 00
J W Haddock, New York, Or.....	5 00
J F Wright, North Yamhill, Or....	2 50
Free Thought Mutual Improvement Society, Rock Springs, Wy.	5 00
John Wood Portland, Or.....	5 00
A K Olds, McMinnville, Or.....	20 00
J H Fisk, Portland, Or.....	5 00
R C Fulkerson Dayville.....	3 00
A Officer, Dayville.....	5 00
W Carsner, Wagner, Or.....	5 00
W R Smith, Silverton, Or.....	100 00
Flora Burtis, Watrous, Mich....	5 00
H E Klein, Silverton, Or.....	25 00
Wm. Knight, Rose Lawn, Ind.....	3 00
L D Leonard, Silverton.....	10 00
J W Newburn, Chester, Ind.....	2 00
Total.....	\$415 50

Press Fund.

Previously Acknowledged.....	\$ 40 25
Dr. A. Slaman, Lennox S. D.....	10 00
W. J. Dean, Talent Ore.....	1 00
John Price, Scappoose Ore.....	4 00
Mrs. M. West,.....	2 00
Mrs. Lee Laughlin North Yamhill,	1 00
H. C. Gist,.....	25
D. A. Branch,.....	25
Jerry Williams,.....	50
E. L. Totom,.....	25
Total.....	\$59.50

: GOOD BOOKS :

Force and Matter, Buchner, cloth	\$1 00
Locke on Human Understanding	1 40
An Ideal Republic, paper	50
Aristotle's Ethics, Gillies, cloth	1 40
The Nature Cure, Dr. Conger, (new) cloth	2 00
Same as last in leatherette	1 00
Volney's Ruins, cloth, 75c paper	50
Vital Force, A. Clevannes,	20
Aristotle's Politics, Ellis, cloth	60
Trials and Triumphs of Labor, Bernardi, paper	50
Hypnotism, How it is Done, its Uses and its Dangers, James R. Coker, M. D., cloth	1 50
Dialogues of Plato, translated by Carey, cloth	80
Del Mar's History of Monetary Systems, cloth	2 00
Renan's Life of Jesus, paper	50
Molecular Hypothesis of Nature, Lockwood	25
Handbook of Currency and wealth, Waldron	50
Raphael's Astrological Almanac and Ephemeris	35
Language of the Stars	50
Whither are We Drifting as a Nation, Wiley, paper	50

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