

**Secular News.**

McMinnville Secular Sunday school elected the following officers Sunday January 17:

Mrs. Addie Oleson, supt.; Mabel Hopkins, assistant supt.; Maggie Daniel, secy.; L. Triplett, treas.

Lora Ames was elected secretary of the Silverton Secular Sunday school last Sunday in the place of Mrs. Nora Guiss, resigned.

The Secularists of Silverton should have a larger building in which to hold their Sunday school. Those people who say Secularists cannot organize, should pay our Sunday school a visit.

When Dr. A. K. Olds made his will he left a certain sum, the income from which, is to be given to the Secular cause as his daughter Nettie dictates. The result of this is that \$20 was paid into the press fund this week.

We are in receipt of a pamphlet entitled "Bible and Church Degrade Women," written by Elizabeth Cady Stanton and published by H. L. Green, Chicago. The articles are very well written and should be read by all women who imagine the bible is their friend. The pamphlets may be had from the publisher at ten cents each.

Our business manager goes to Portland to deliver a lecture at the Paine celebration January 31.

The Silverton Secular Sunday school will give a Paine celebration at Liberal hall, Sunday eve, January 31. A fine program will be arranged consisting of a lecture by J. E. Hosmer, vocal and instrumental music, recitations, etc. The Silverton Marine Band orchestra will assist with the music. Admission free. All are invited to attend.

The article, Freethought Advance, appearing in this paper, was written by John Leitch, of Mazo Manie. This old gentleman is deeply interested in the cause of Secularism. He has donated quite liberally to the cause in Oregon and has made his will by which he leaves \$1000 to the Liberal University. This is the kind of enthusiasm it takes to make Secularism succeed.

**University Notes.**

Attendance is steadily increasing and everybody is well pleased with the school. A new building is next in order.

A great interest is manifested in the successful experiments before the chemistry class.

The university library is growing steadily and now contains some splendid books on scientific, moral and educational subjects. Remember the reading room is open every evening from 7 to 9 o'clock and all day Saturday and Sunday. It is perfectly free to all who wish to read or study.

R. D. Allen donated seventeen volumes of valuable books.

The Y. P. S. S. C. proves to be a source of great amusement and instruction. The meeting last Friday was well attended. The debate on the question, "Resolved that Cuba should be free," was decided in favor of the affirmative. Some strong points were brought out. The subject for debate the 22nd is "Resolved that the study of books is more beneficial than the study of nature," and promises to be interesting. A splendid program will be rendered.

All students of the university are entitled to join the society. Others may join by being voted in. A fee of five cents a month will be charged. An admission fee of ten cents will be charged people not members, who wish to attend the meetings.

**Portland News.**

Glory to—the wanderer has returned. Everybody felt better when she resumed her old place at the piano last Sunday morning.

The new innovation in the Sunday school is proving successful. Some of the pupils do not like to come in late, so they are making an earnest effort to be on time.

We are making great preparations for the entertainment, to be given on the anniversary of the birth of Thomas Paine, and straining every nerve to make it a success. The singing section of the Portland Turn-Verein will assist us.

Last Sunday we introduced some new movements in the calisthenic exercises. Miss Edith Kemp is the leader.

Mrs. Blanche Wensley has been selected to take the position in the musical department at the university, lately resigned by Miss Ada Dewey. From what we know of Mrs. Wensley (and we are pretty well acquainted with her) we think she will prove to be a thorough and capable teacher in this and in vocal music.

We have found a teacher, who is so interested in her class, that already she has begun to bring specimens of reptiles etc., for their instruction. "JOEBERT"

**Six Smiles.**

Young Lady:—"Do you believe in the laying on of hands?"

Old Lady:—"Most certainly I do, I cured my boy of smoking, that way."—Prog. Age.

He:—"What do you think of young Jones?"

She:—"I think if he lived in biblical days, Balaam's ass would never have attained such prominence."

Miss Bloomerite:—"What kind of a tree is that?"

Her Companion:—"Why, that is a dog-wood. Can't you tell it by its bark?"

Teacher in Natural History:—"What animal has the greatest affection for man?"

Smart little Boy:—"Woman!"

Six-year old Ted to his sister:

—"Let's play Adam and Eve."

She:—"But how can we do it?"

Ted:—"You tempt me with an apple and I'll eat it."

He:—"Telling a hair-breadth adventure."—"And in the bright moon-light we could see the dark muzzles of the wolves."

She:—"Breathlessly"—"Oh, how glad you must have been that they had their muzzles on."

—Harpers Bazar.

**Isaac C. Robison.**

Died, at his home in Amity, Oregon, Isaac C. Robison, aged 70 years. The funeral was conducted at the home, Nettie A. Olds delivering the oration. Mr. J. K. Sears, of whom the deceased had requested the favor, spoke at the grave. The ceremony was a touching tribute to the honor and virtue of the deceased.

Mr. Robison was one of our earliest and most avowed Liberals, advocating its glorious truth when he stood almost alone in the ranks. He was a subscriber to the TORCH OF REASON and Truth Seeker and his hospitality and generous support always greeted the lecturers in the cause who came within his reach. None knew him but to respect and honor him. In his death the cause of Freethought loses a staunch supporter.

**Letters from Friends.**

Jan. 13, 1897.—To the Editor: Enclosed you will find 25 cents for which please send me the TORCH OF REASON for three months. I received a copy of your paper from a friend, Michael Johnson, of Vale, Oregon, and must say it is just the thing needed to open the eyes of some of those radical christians of these western states and to prove to them that the foolish teachings of the bible are showing their absurdities more every day. Hoping that the TORCH OF REASON may be seen and felt over the whole country, I remain respectfully,

MORGAN P. GIFFORD,  
Council Valley, Idaho.

BUTTE, MONT., Jan. 13, 1897—Dear Sir: I here enclose a P. O. order for \$3.75 for another club for the TORCH OF REASON.

I think we ought to have a good Secular union here, but it seems like everyone is after the almighty dollar, and as for me, I can't do very much in that way as I am a poor working man. I am working in a smelter seven days a week, so you see that lets me out of all the Sunday school work, but I am willing to do what I can.

Yours respectfully,

D. A. KENNEDY.

(Mr. Kennedy has sent us ten

subscriptions for the TORCH. He works seven days in the week and yet has some time to devote to the cause of Secularism. Let others pattern after him and we will swell the subscription list wonderfully.)

SCAPPOOSE, OR.—Dear Sir: Enclosed find money order for \$7. Two dollars from Mrs. Maria West and \$5 from myself. Please send me the TORCH OF REASON one year and use the rest for paying for the press. Wishing you success, I am yours for Freethought,

JOHN PRICE,

N. B. I will subscribe \$10 for the university fund. J. P.

**From Zenith.**

Will some of our friends please answer the following questions?

Are our souls made as they are wanted, or does God keep them in stock? If our bodies are only an earthly home for a spirit, does that spirit grow and become wise as our bodies enlarge? Can the spirit of man leave the body and return at will? If so are we to be damned, and cast into that ever-lasting hell because our spirit goes off on a lark while we are innocently sleeping? If a live man (with a soul) should be hermetically sealed in a casket, would that soul leave the body and fly away up to heaven, or would both soul and body decay the same as an ox? Or if an infidel, while working in a gold mine to earn bread for his family should be buried alive, would his soul start downward for hell?

H. C. PAGE.

Mr. H. C. Davenport, the great caricaturist has been making a tour of Europe and while in Rome he wrote to his cousin, P. W. Geer, of the TORCH OF REASON, as follows:

"What a benefit a sight of Rome would be to you; a sight that you never could forget. You would get so sick of church that I dare say you would be moved to take great steps in other directions.

"The sight of monks and priests grows to be sad—sad to see so many fat monks fed by poor starving people who can hardly support themselves.

"Yesterday, we climbed Mt. Vesuvius and our eyes are still full of smoke. To see Pompeii makes you feel very modern."

After death there is nothing. Death itself is nothing—only the most recent arrival, or goal, reached in the velocity of space. Let the avaricious ones discard their hopes who would expect happiness after death and let anxious ones set aside their fears who would fear punishment after death. Dost thou betray any curiosity to know where thou wouldst rest after death? Where do those rest who have not come into existence at all? Rapacious time swallows us up, and we merge into chaos.—Seneca (Troades)