

No Force Outside of Nature.

Events may occur now as they have often occurred in the past, transcending the past experience of men, but it should be understood that which transcends experience does not contradict experience. We should expect events and manifestations every now and then, which are new to us, because our experience is limited and the operations of nature are infinite in their variety. The universe is not in the same condition any two moments. Change is the order of nature. The condition of nature at any given time is the product of all the modifications of pre-existent conditions extending back indefinitely. With the evolution of the higher forms of life, new vital and mental phenomena have occurred, new experiences have been added to the psychic life of the world and new manifestations of mental power have been exhibited; but it has been found that every new discovery made, for instance the property of the needle, has enlarged our view of the cosmos—of the natural order.

The ongoings of nature are never truly seen to indicate an antagonistic force outside and independent of them by which they are arrested or diverted from natural channels. The cosmos is what the world indicates—an orderly universe, the power by which phenomena occur is immanent in the universe and its operations occur from the forces within and not from some extraneous agency, as has been imagined by theological speculists in the past.—B. F. UNDERWOOD.

News From Portland.

We note with deep regret the bereavement of Mr. and Mrs. Hicketier in the loss of their little daughter, who died a few days ago. The grief stricken mother takes her loss very hard, but bears up bravely. As sure as we are born, so must we die.

Last night we celebrated the memorial anniversary of the birth of Thomas Paine. The Turn-Verein of Portland, joined with us in commemorating the event and the result was a very large and enthusiastic audience. The exercises went along very smoothly and satisfactorily.

Mr. J. Kemp, read from Robt. G. Ingersoll's Defence of Thomas Paine, while Mr. Heilman addressed the audience on behalf of the Turners.

The selection rendered by the singing section of the Turn-Verein was very fine and was well received.

The songs, duetts, and recitations were all excellent, but the most deserving of mention, was the duett rendered by little Marie Keller and Albert Krumpf for which they received five recalls. JOEBERT.

Secular News.

B. F. Underwood has been lecturing in Ohio. At Wau-seon he spoke by request before the Grand Army of the Republic, on "The Words of Grant, 'Keep the church and state forever separate.'" Finishing his work for the present in the west, with a lecture at Toledo, where he spoke January 11th, he has gone east where he opens in Boston, at Paine Hall, on "The Gospel of Emotion and Ignorance," February, 14th. He lectures there again February 21st. He is announced to speak at Manchester N. H., Providence, R. I., New York city, Brooklyn, and other cities, under the auspices of various liberal associations.

We are in receipt of a telegram from President Chapman, of the State University stating that he will be unable to lecture here on the dates advertised.

A concert and entertainment will be given at Liberal Hall Sunday evening February 7. A splendid program has been arranged consisting of many new novelties not presented before. A tableau will be given representing a beautiful flower garden. This will be a novel entertainment well worth attending. Admission only ten cents.

A few weeks ago we published a notice that F. S. Matteson has presented a Spanish Retriever pup to the University. This pup is to be sold, money received is to go to the University building fund. We would like to have someone purchase this pup. It will go to the highest bidder and bids are now in order.

Mr. Matteson also informs us that he will give a pair of Belgian hares, to be disposed of in the same manner for the same purpose.

You cannot afford to forget the entertainment at Liberal Hall next Sunday evening. The tableau representing the flower garden by the kindergarten class will be one of the special features of the entertainment. A good musical and literary program has been arranged.

University Notes.

Some of the boys are finding out that tobacco and mathematics do not go well together and have given up the tobacco.

Frank Forward, Harry Desart, Lora Ames and Alfred Down are students who have been obliged to stay out of school the past week on account of colds but all will return to their studies soon.

Examinations this week.

Louie Rauch will be home from Salem next week to enter the Liberal University.

Not a very large attendance at Y. P. S. S. C. Saturday evening on

account of colds but those who did attend had a real nice time.

At the meeting to-morrow evening a good program will be given. The question for debate is "Resolved, That the Chinese must go."

Chicago News.

To the Editor:—This city is just now experiencing a very severe cold snap, up to January 20 we had a very mild winter. Then it began to get cold and this morning it was 20 degrees below zero with an icy blast from the northwest that kept everybody indoors who was not obliged to be out. Yesterday was—according to the weather bureau—colder than any previous day in 25 years. Today was 6 degrees colder.

A greater amount of suffering prevails here now than ever before. The bureau of charities reports 8000 families "in dire want." Add to this the thousands that are equally needy and that the public never hear of. Then add to this the untold suffering endured by dumb animals and then tell me what use God is. "Where is he at?" He has had an army of hired help on this planet for many centuries who have been working tooth and nail through all these generations to abolish sin and still the manufacture of sinners goes on. I wish God would resign, lay off all his hands and let us run our own world a few thousand years and I think we would make him feel proud of the image he bears.

According to its annual report for 1896 the Y. M. C. A. of this city owns three buildings and sites valued at \$1,833,000. I don't know what their tax amounts to but hope to find out.

A leading city paper that has no Sunday edition publishes each Monday a column headed "Pulpit Editorials" It is a short talk by some more or less noted ministers given before the regular sermon and generally concerning current topics. If the ministers can be induced to continue in this line and give a timely lecture each Sunday before they preach they may be able by that means to counteract to a great extent the evil effects that might otherwise result from an orthodox sermon. J. B. B.

From the Editor of the Mountain Echo.

BOULDER CREEK, CAL., Jan. 25, 1897.—Dear sir:— I have just received the second copy of your paper and see by it that you have not been able to pay for your outfit. I would like to exchange with you but I think it my duty to give \$1 towards helping your enterprise along.

You will find running a reform paper an up hill job and you will also find that even good intending Freethinkers will forget you. The

personal cares and wants in this life are so great and so pressing that we lose sight of many things we should attend to. Wishing you good luck I remain.

Yours truly,
C. C. RODGERS.

Constructive Secularism.

ED. TORCH: A writer in Secular Work says, "To minimize the importance of destructive secularism would be folly, but it is high time to insist on constructive secularism being promulgated in a far more decisive and widespread manner than it is. The two must go together, the one being the necessary corollary of the other."

This is sensible and to the point. The mind cannot subsist on the dry husks of negation. There must be something to supplant criticism and destructive work. Your educational institution at Silverton seems to supply the need, by affording an opportunity for the acquisition of secular knowledge, free from the contamination of sectarianism and superstition. Will the freethinkers of the Pacific coast sustain the practical effort to do the best kind of constructive work in the interest of the rising generation?

A VETERAN FREETHINKER.

Six Smiles

St Peter (reading card)—Mary Ann Swipes, age 48, Methodist. Correct.

Spirit of Mrs. Suipes—Dear me, I feel so strange! Where do I sit?

St. Peter—Third row to the left just back of the Baptist benches.

Spirit—What! does the Methodists sit behind the Baptists? (Firmly) I don't want to go in.

A poetical young fisherman, who had been summering along the Sound contributed to an exchange the following brief but brilliant bit of verse descriptive of his wanderings:

"Along Rhode Island's sea girt shore

I caught a cod the other day.

He never had been there before And wished to cod he'd stayed away."

Professor: What is the fundamental condition of existence?

Student: Time. Professor: How do you explain that? Student, very easily. How can a person exist if he hasn't time for it?

We don't suppose the man exists who can tell us whether Eve stubbed her toe or stepped on her dress when she fell.—Puck.

Money makes the mare go, steam makes the cargo, and the sight of the creditor makes the mango.

N. A. Olds Lecture Dates.

Independence.....	Feb.	4
Corvallis.....	"	5
Junction City.....	"	7-8
Coburg.....	"	9-10
Medford.....	"	12
Ashland.....	"	13-14
Talent.....	"	16-17