

Correspondence.

SOLDIERS HOME, DAYTON, OHIO.
Jan. 28, 1897.—To the Editor:
Gods—who and what are they?
And from whence did they come?
Who ever saw a god? Who ever
felt or heard a god? Not a living
soul since creation dawned. Why
then does man insist upon there
being one? We all know there is a
book known as the bible, which
contains no positive evidence be-
yond mere assertion that there is
one.

Is it to be supposed for a moment
that the writer who composed
the story about Moses, Aaron,
Ahab, and seventy of the elders
who went in to the mountains and
saw god standing as it were upon a
pavement of sapphire stone, also
that they saw God and did eat and
drink, told the truth when the
writer never mentioned how God
appeared? Was his hair black or
red, his eyes blue, black or gray?
Was he black, red or white, tall or
short? The absence of a minute
description of the creator of the
universe is evidence sufficient that
they never saw this god at all.
The door was left wide open for an
unlimited play of man's imagina-
tion.

William Draper very concisely
dwells upon the primary causes of
man's religious or supernatural prop-
ensities about as follows: We
will suppose the first man was
created and placed upon this earth.
He had never seen anything
and knew nothing. He began his
wanderings over the earth, sees his
shadow, it moves when he moves,
stops when he stops. What is it?
He discovers a pool of clear water;
naturally he lays down to drink.
He has never recognized his own
face, he sees the reflection of him-
self approach the surface of the
water and recede as he approaches
and recedes. What is that thing
he sees? He can not taste, smell and
feel it. To him it grew into a
spirit. A supernatural beyond
himself.

He sees the trees waving to and
fro; he hears and feels the wind
but can not see it; what is it? From
whence comes this invisible power?
He sees the firmament shrouded
with darkness. He sees lightning
flash and hears the thunders roar;
he sees mighty tree shivered to
atoms; his nature is overcome with
terror. What is it? To him it as-
sumed and grew into an Almighty
God. A thing which, through
man's stupidity exists to this day,
based exclusively upon belief.

Man has created and worshipped
hundreds of gods, and what is so
entertaining is the ridiculous fact
that to man, the god he worships
is better and superior to all other
gods. He respects no other man's
or creedist's god. I hope this may
have a tendency to remove the

hallucinations of the bigoted.

Respectfully yours,
ADDISON R. TITUS.

WOODLAND, COWLITZ CO., WASH.
Feb. 9, E. M. 297.—Liberal Friends:
Enclosed I send you a postal
money order for one dollar, for
which send me the "TORCH OF REA-
SON" for one year beginning with
the January 21, issue.

My cousin, Mr. E. L. Davidson,
of Oswego, Ore., kindly sent us a
copy of your little paper, not long
ago, and we are all much pleased
with it. We hope it will prosper
and do great good, here in its
Western home.

We also wish the new Freethought
university all possible success, as it
is just what we have needed for so
long.

We send greetings to our Oregon
Freethought friends who have
undertaken this noble work.

Respectfully,

ELVA DAVIDSON-BLACKBURN.

University Notes.

The work of selecting college
colors and a college yell has engaged
the attention of students and faculty
this week.

The new students this week are
Clyde Mount of Marion County,
Charles Page of Polk and Louie
Rauch from the Willamette Univer-
sity.

Some of the students claim that
our regular calisthenic exercises
are causing their muscles to grow
wonderfully. We all certainly
enjoy this part of the training.

The new pupils are all good
students and will be a great help
and encouragement to all of us.

Last week Mrs. A. C. Macdonald,
mother of the Macdonald of the
Truthseeker, sent us three fine books
on geometry and this week Mrs. M.
J. Olds, mother of Miss Nettie Olds,
sends us several fine works for our
library.

Miss Olds, who is now lecturing
in different parts of the state, for
our University, sends encouraging
reports in regard to student. She
says we may count on many stud-
ents next summer and several en-
tire families will undoubtedly move
here as soon as spring opens.

News and Notes.

The prominent social position
which Secularism is coming to oc-
cupy in the Western states is cer-
tainly gratifying to those who have
labored and sacrificed for the
cause. Almost every society is
permeated with liberal thought; a
large percentage of the orthodox
congregations are favorable to the
principles of Secularism, and noth-
ing is bringing them to the front
like the Oregon system of local or-
ganization. Although this system
has been in vogue but two years,
the result is not alone thriving
Secular churches and Sunday

schools in a dozen towns. but the
Liberal University established at
Silverton, January 6, '97, is demon-
strating that it is not because of
the weakness of Liberalism, but be-
cause our forces have not been or-
ganized, that more effectual work
has not been accomplished.

I leave the work at Silverton pro-
gressing nicely, and commence a
tour of the state, speaking first at
North Yamhill, Saturday evening,
January 30. The North Yamhill
Secular Sunday school was organ-
ized October 12, 1896 and has pros-
pered; the average attendance each
Sunday being about forty. Hon.
Lee Laughlin, at whose home I was
entertained, will be remembered as
one of the pioneers in freethought
who is ever at his post doing all he
can. He lives to reap the reward
of his patient and persistent efforts.
The local society prepared a musi-
cal program for the evening of the
lecture, and at the close we enjoyed
a delightful social, a prominent
feature of which was the lunch
served by the ladies of the society.
I have promised to visit North
Yamhill again during the second
week of March. The TORCH OF
REASON will light the homes of sev-
eral friends there and North Yam-
hill will keep abreast of the times.
Prof. L. C. McCann, of the public
school, is a valuable exponent of
liberal principles.

On Thursday evening February
4, I am at Independence, a promi-
nent business center in Polk Co.
Although Secular lectures are al-
most entirely new here, our friends
are enthusiastic, and we have the
opera house comfortably seated.
The meeting resulted in much good
under the able management of Mr.
L. C. Gilmore, whose wife and
daughter also kindly assisted.
Music was discoursed by Prof.
Cressey's orchestra to the credit of
the members and delight of the
audience. The Professor is a broad-
minded man with due appreciation
of nature and her beautiful truths.
I met also Dr. S. A. Mulkey, Joseph
Hershburg and other warm friends
of the cause.

Amid hearty good will I leave
Friday noon for Corvallis where I
meet our staunch old war horse B.
F. Hyland and his good wife. I
also spend a pleasant afternoon in
the home of Mrs. Henkle-Bennett,
formerly vice-president of the O. S. S.
U. Mrs. Bennett is in her declin-
ing days and suffers severe physi-
cal affliction, yet takes great inter-
est in the Secular work and enter-
tains those philosophical views of
life and death that bring comfort
and peace in the fading twilight of
individual existence.

Saturday I stop at Albany and
enjoy the evening with liberal
spiritual friends, Messrs. Crawford
and Harnish, photographers, and
their families. They are some-
what discouraged over the pros-
pects for a lecture, but we surmount

all difficulties, which are but trifles
in reality, and arrangements are
made for two lectures on my return.
Mr. Crawford is a geologist and of
course a student of nature, having
a splendid collection of specimens
from almost every age of which we
have any knowledge. It is delight-
ful to commune thus with nature
herself and learn of her varied
wonders and beauties.

Sunday evening I am welcomed
by a hundred friends at Junction
City, and it is unanomously voted
by the audience that I remain over
for another lecture Monday, des-
pite the fact that a magnetic chris-
tian brother is holding a revival,
the audience increases fully one-
third, local friends furnish music
and all are rejoiced. I get a num-
ber of subscribers to the TORCH and
LITTLE CANDLE, and the promise of
several students, for the Uni-
versity, all of which cheers
the heart and lightens the
burdens of the Secular preacher.
There are many earnest friends at
Junction, and the time is ripe for a
local society and Sunday school.
There is a great demand for lectures
and the time is not far distant
when our Secular teachers will
figure prominently in the progres-
sive society of every city and town
in Oregon. I meet Mr. Van Ranken,
Mr. Sibbets, the genial opera
house manager, his noble wife, and
promising daughter Minnie, Mr.
and Mrs. Frank Wilkinson, Mr. and
Mrs. Geo. Bailey and son, Miss Sadie
Cummins, Dr. N. L. Lee and family
at whose home I had the pleasure
to dine. I shall not soon forget this
genial family, nor my first game of
parlor billiards played with the
Dr. and his son. It took the united
efforts of the son and myself to
match the Dr. but we were fortunate
enough to win the game, even at
the close margin of two points. I
am a great lover of home sports,
and hold to the opinion that if a
greater effort was made to make
home pleasant, fewer young people
would be forced to public halls for
amusement. Mr. and Mrs. Milliarn,
daughter Gertrude and Master
Mern, with whom I made my home,
are among the ever increasing
number who practice true Lib-
eralism. They will be valuable
leaders in the local Sunday school
which we trust is soon to be organi-
zed.

NETTIE A. OLDS.

Coburg Feb. 10.

University Fund

Previously Acknowledged.....	\$395.50
A K Olds, McMinnville, Or.....	50 00
Mrs M J Olds, McMinnville.....	50 00
Louisa E Henkles, Corvallis.....	5 00
John Price, Scappoose, Or.....	10 00
Total.....	\$510 50

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of some simple
thing to patent?
Protect your ideas; they may bring you wealth.
Write JOHN WEDDERBURN & CO., Patent Attor-
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