THE TORCH OF REASON, SILVERTON, OREGON, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1897.

Age of Ignorance.

(For the TORCH OF REASON.)

Paine's Age of Reason says that however backward they may be to acknowledge it, it is nevertheless a fact that the age of ignorance commenced with the introduction of the christian religion. The following extracts from standard works and cyclopedias confirm the truth of Thomas Paine's assertion of the ancient literature of the Hindoo's. Sir Wm. Jones, christian historian and Orientalist, says, "It was the most voluminous imaginable, absolutely inexhaustable, reminding him of infinity itself." "The Iliad of Homer written 900 years B. C.," wrote Johnson, "numbers 24000 verses: but the Mahabhawata of the Hindoos 400,000, and the Puranus, comprising only a portion of their religious books extend to 2,000,000 of verses." Ancient libraries, the oldest of which any record exists, was a collection of Babylonish books, about 650 B.C. A public library was founded at Athens by Hipparchus 526 B. C., The second library of great note was founded at Alexandria by Ptolemy Philadelphus 204 B. C. which was burnt 47 B. C. 400,000 volumes being destroyed. From the remains another library was formed consisting of 700,000 volumes which was "destroyed by a mob of fan-Cyclopedia vol. 1 page 59. tians not only persecuted the gotten through all the intervening sciences by burning the professors, ages of christian ignorance, until Maggie Daniels, "... McMinnville " but also destroyed all books con- revived by Copernicus. Newton, taining any proofs derogatory to Gregory and Kiel honor Pythag- Bailey, their new superstition, and there is have destroyed a large number of valuable works secretly. It is hardly possible to overrate the influence which the study of these ancient volumes would have had on the world's succeeding races of pressed by the early christian mankind, which have passed to the church. The next character that great beyond, during the interven- illuminates the pages of hising ages since these valuable works tory is Hipparchus, born 160 B. were destroyed. These ancient C. He discovered the precession for one year for the small sum of works of science and history which of the equinoxes, calculated the were originally read and studied by eclipses, determined the main perthousands, would now be food for iod of the planets revolution, inmillions, and would have enabled vented the stereographical method the gifted teachers, (had not the of projection, catalogued the dark night of christian fanaticism, fixed stars and laid the foundignorance and superstition fallen ation for a true science of astronlike a pall over the intellects of omy. He also determined the of men) to have placed the sciences, first inequality arts, education and morals, perhaps moon and the equation of the centre. a thousand years forward of the To him must also be attributed the present knowledge of such things. establishment of the epicycles and These books which have been de- eccentrics, a geometrical concephave transmitted to us the wisdom the apparent motions of the heaand learning of the departed sages venly bodies, on the principle of of ancient times. In those precious circular movements. Little if any works we would possess the constant advance was made in astronomy companionship of their authors, during the period of the dark ages. mand is made. we would have in those vol- Christian ignorance and superstiumes the orators declaiming tion combating it and murdering to us, the historian reciting, and burning its professors, until and the poets singing. With the there appeared on the horizon of

B. C. This may not be relished by christian preachers, but it is true, nevertheless. The science of astronomy has led men to form grander conceptions of the boundless extent of the universe, and the unlimited forces pertaining to matter, than all other classes of study. But the church lost no time in persecuting this science, as well as its professors. The cruel and inhuman E M Baker, Junction City practice of burning at the stake was the playful pastime of ignor- John E Johnson, Vale. ant priests for the crime of knowing anything about the starry Total \$537 50 dome of the universe.

To Pythagrous, Born 536 B. C. we are indebted for the discovery of the theorem in the first book of J. B. Vancourt, Euclid. He was the founder of atic christians A. D. 391." People's mathematics, and also laid down Mrs. H. D. Burrows, " Vancouver Wash. the true theory of the planetary sys-Thus we see that the early chris- tem, which was laid aside and for- Edwin Johnson,... rous by claiming that he had a no doubt in my mind that they knowledge of the real position of First Secular Church of Silverton, meets the stars, and with having taught the true celestial system. It is impossible to say how far in advance we would stand today in relation tend and help in our great work of advancing the cause of science and moralto astronomy had it not been supity. the of

warrior we would live over again fame the celebrated English philthe struggles of the battle. With osophers, monk, and scholar, the traveler we would cross the Roger Bacon, born in Somersetocean and explore unknown lands, shire about 1214 A. D. Bacon, unravel the mysteries of plant and was inventor of spectacles, and the animal life, and tread with happy first to described the true theory of mind and glowing heart the classic telescopes and microscopes. He soil. With the philosopher, we foresaw the greatest of all invenwould adjust anew the lamp and tions in practical astronomy, the the crucible, and watch with breath- measurement of angles by optical less interest for the spark or the means. But for these discoveries, effervescence which is to con- like all his predecessors he too was firm or overthrow the favorite the- imprisoned by the church. I will ory. But alas, it was not to be! now give a general review of in-The demon of superstition obliter- ventions and discoveries by the acated those valuable books forever. cients, with the names and dates The first academies were formed at of each. Algebra was discovered Alexandria by Ptolemy Soter 314 by Diophantus, a Greek writer in Continued on 7th, Page.

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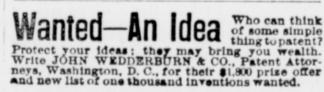
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