

**Elements Affecting Our Progress.***Continued from 4th. Page.*

The neglect of the Oregon State Legislature to pass the bill taxing alike the property of this state and thus lessening the great burden of taxation upon those who are supporting the legislative body was a shameful victory for the favored organizations which are opposing equality and justice. The slavery of the masses to support in luxury and ease the few, the power of money to free criminals, the control of legislation by monopolists are all great victories for the enemies of mankind.

O, friends let us all, farmers, merchants, mechanics, editors, teachers, do every thing in our power to assist the great movement toward building the beautiful heaven on earth, the highest state of civilization of which man is capable. But how shall we best combat this destructive enemy? It seems that if the greatest weapon of the enemy could be destroyed we could then have an easy and rapid victory; but what is destructions greatest weapon? Superstition—the dark, narrowing, blighting superstition.

In studying this the greatest weapon of the enemy, three questions naturally arise. First, what is the cause of superstition, second, what nourishes it; and third, what in the name of all that is good and noble and true is the remedy? Way back when men first began to think, when the faculties of imagination, judgment and reason were sufficiently developed, they began to look around them and wonder and enquire into the great problems of life. The great laws of nature were not understood. They did not know that the earth is round or the cause of day and night. They did not understand the great law of gravitation. The rain bow, the river flowing on and on and the lightning's flash were great mysteries to these feeble children of humanity and so, like children, they began to ask questions. What is the cause of our existence? How do all these things around us live and move, and does death end all? The frightful thunder bolt! O, what does it all mean? And when the demand was great enough, some, a little more shrewd than the rest saw their advantage and pretended to have the power of knowing all about these mysterious things and so the questions were answered and the shrewd ones were respected, adored, worshiped. Thus did different systems of religions originate. Then did man begin to sacrifice his time, his goods, his offspring and even his own life to support what to him was divinest of divine truth.

And today in the face of our boasted civilization, all over our land may be found full grown men and women who believe in just as

childish fancies as did these children of old. Nor are these superstitious harmless for people who differ only in regard to them i. e. the different sects keep aloof from each other and even now we hear of war and bloodshed between great armies of religious fanatics.

How much better it would be if they were all free from these superstitions and would unite in the grand work of lifting humanity to a higher plain of civilization. The fact that religion makers have made belief essential to the great rewards promised, and disbelief or doubt very dangerous, to say the least, has been one of the greatest reasons for the perpetuity of their teachings. Then again religion has become a money making scheme for many. Take the money out of the business and how soon would many of the brave soldiers now marching onward as if to war, leave the ranks and surrender the cause? Large publishing houses have made thousands and thousands of dollars printing religious trash, tracts and traditions.

A short time ago an orthodox minister said in the pulpit that more bibles are printed now than ever before. What a large sum of money the publishers receive for this work and what a fine paying business it must be. Then again people have been afraid to oppose these religious teachings on account of business and many an honest man has found to his cost that his honest, earnest work, for what he sincerely thought to be the truth, was met with boycott, ridicule and persecution.

At a Sunday school convention a short time since the main idea advanced was that the children should be early taught the teachings of the church. "Why," said a Methodist leader "the Catholics claim that if you give them a child until he is seven years old that the rest of the world may have him after that. He will always be a Catholic and we should follow the Catholics in this respect. We should train the children in this blessed religion and when they are old they will not depart from it." We wanted so much to tell the audience where the fallacy was in his foolish argument. Think of it,—how much better;—how much more logical and scientific to train the children's faculties of sense perception, memory, analysis, classification, judgment and reason by studies which they can comprehend and then when they are old they will have the ability to detect error and find the truth. But no, these foolish, blind leaders of the blind must teach the poor children these dogmas and theories which no one can possibly demonstrate or understand. Instead of teaching them to believe and be saved they should be taught to behave and be saved.

We can all see that humanity

has not reached the highest pinnacle of its journey up the rough and rugged steps of time, and as we look around for assistance, the only god in which we can find faith enough to pray for deliverance from the galling chain of superstition is humanity itself. O, friends, as we go about our work let us pray as man never man prayed before; let us work, preach and pray to the only god who has power to save the race. Let us appeal to our friends everywhere to preach the glad tidings of liberty and the beautiful religion of humanity. For if man does not save himself no other power will.

**Age of Ignorance.***Continued from 6th. Page.*

the 4th century and introduced into Spain by the Sarcens. A. D. 900. Anatomy became a branch of the medical art under Hippocrates 420 B. C. Anchors with one fluke were invented by the Tuscans. The second fluke was added by Anacharsis a Scythian philosopher in 594 B. C. The oldest treatise on Arithmetic was written by Euclid 300 B. C. and introduced from Egypt into Greece by Thales in 600 B. C. Notation by nine digits and zero was known in India as early as the 9th century.

Astronomy is supposed to have originated with the Chaldeans but the most ancient astronomical observations known are Chinese; one by Montucla was made about 2,500 B. C. A solar eclipse was calculated in Greece by Thales, about 600 B. C. The height of the atmosphere was calculated to be 800 stadia by Pasadonius 79 B. C. Backgammon was invented by Palamedes of Greece 1224 B. C. Banks were instituted in the time of Demosthenes 385-322 B. C. at Athens. Billiards were supposed to have been introduced into Europe from the East, date unknown. Calculating machines invented by Plato 400 B. C. Coin, is spoken of by Homer as existing 1184 B. C. Copper and silver money was first coined by Pheidon, king of Argos Ægina 895 B. C. Comedy first acted at Athens, by Susarion and Dolon 562 B. C. The drum is an oriental invention introduced by the moors into Spain A. D. 713. Hospitals and schools established by ancient Rome, Greece and most all the pagan nations, hundreds of years before the Christian era, and by the Mohammedans also.

It was from Mohammedan Spain that appeared the first gleams of light which illuminated the dark horizon of Christian Europe. The electrical properties of certain bodies were discovered about 600 B. C. by Thales of Miletus. The Roman Senate sent geographers into all countries then known, to gain information, 100 B. C. and we have also the well known geographies of Pausanias and Mela 79 B. C. which

were reduced to a system by Ptolemy, and improved by Copernicus. The guitar was known 1500 B. C. Gunpowder was known to the Hindoos 355 B. C. Iron as well as the precious metals, was known to the ancients. Jupiter was know as a planet to the Chaldeans 3000 B. C. Looms were known in India centuries ago. Magnets were discovered by the Greeks, and known centuries before by the Chinese. The mariner's compass invention is claimed by the Chinese emperor, Hong Ti, 2634 B. C. The earliest author on medicine whose works have been preserved from christian vandalism, are those by Hippocrates who lived about the 5th century B. C. The invention of the microscope is generally ascribed to Galileo. The first reaping machine on record, was described by Pliny A. D. 60. The fabled tower of Babel is supposed to have been the first observatory erected, but the first mentioned in authentic history, was erected by Ptolemy Soter at Alexandria about 300 B. C. Is it any wonder then, that in the face of such history, inventions, and discoveries, that not a single sun, moon, planet, or star, bears a christian name? Christians in early days were not searching for knowledge of that kind, they were employed inventing instruments of torture, vieing with each other in the devilish ingenuity of their cruel appliances.

But oh, how have the mighty fallen, from being the makers of laws, rulers of nations, crowners of kings, and guardians of the souls and conscience of the human race! One by one these powers have slipped from the bloody grasp, till not one remains as a relic of her former power. Her cruel burning of the immortal Bruno and many others, has been the means by which her tyrannical yoke was taken from the intellects of men. No more will the cross be borne aloft by her myrmidons, o'er the murdered bodies of noble men, helpless women, and innocent children, as the symbol of power, and divine love. The death groans of the noble martyrs of Freethought are echoing and revibrating forever among the everlasting vales of time and eternity. Their once brilliant minds and eloquent tongues which ever battled for the right, are now stilled in death; and their manly forms have long since resolved back to mother nature. They sleep beneath the starry canopy of space, but their names are written in the immortal scroll of time, never to be erased, and though kingdoms may come and go; republics rise and fall, their noble names, honest deeds, and glorious efforts to free mankind from the toils of ignorance and superstition, will be loved, honored and respected long after christianity lives in fable only.