

**Bible Not Understood.**

[CONT NUED FROM SIXTH PAGE.]  
 have it that way, they will tell you that he was the son of the Holy Ghost, then ask them what a Holy Ghost is, and they can't tell you. Like the minister instructing his son: "Remember my son that God made everything" "Yes" says the son, "I will remember that but father tell me who made God." There was a question sufficient to silence every christian and bible believer in the world. It was one that never has been answered and never will be. "Observe," said the minister to his son "with what beneficent design is the crane so fashioned in legs, bill and feet as to catch fish with ease and provide its means of sub-sistence." "Yes" replied the boy, "I think I see the beneficence of God at least so far as the crane is concerned, but father, don't you think the arrangement a little tough on the fish?"

Jesus wrote no account of himself, of his birth, partnage or any thing else. Not a line of what is called the new testament is of his own writing. The history of him is altogether the work of other people. Two of his historians, Mathew and Luke, undertake to give us his genealogy Mathew says that there were 28 generations from David to Jesus. Luke says that there were 43 generations, and only two names in both lists are alike. That is as near as these two could come to it. Now if one tells the truth the other tells a lie, but if they both agreed that would not prove it to be true. Truth is a uniform thing and as to inspiration and revelation, were we to admit it, it is impossible to suppose they can contradict truth. Then in this case either the men who wrote the genealogy are imposters, or else the books ascribed to them have been written by other parties and they have been made to carry the blame.

Yours truly,  
 JOEL M. BERRY.  
 National Military Home, Ohio.

**SECULAR NEWS.**

Notice our list of books in this issue. If you see any you would like to read, we will be pleased to fill your orders.

Mr. H. C. Page, of Zena, has decided to locate in Silverton in order to have the benefits of the Liberal University. We are receiving many letters from parties desiring to do the same thing.

A man sent us five dollars to apply on the press fund this week with the request that his name be not mentioned. If a few more contributions come in like this it will swell the press fund to what it ought to be.

The Freethought Magazine deserves to be read by every Secularist. We request all who have not seen this splendid monthly to order a sample copy from the publisher, 213 E. Indiana street, Chicago, Ill.

**UNIVERSITY NOTES.**

We need another primary teacher. The oratorical contest will take place some time in April.

Class work in elocution Mondays and Fridays at 3:30 p. m.

Another student who claims to be saved from the use of tobacco. Good!

Those desiring instruction in music will please call at the University building.

Miss Sophia Wolf, our new teacher, is proving a great acquisition to our forces.

Subject for debate next Friday evening: Resolved, That Durrant should not hang.

We believe that the young couple who "went forward" at the revival the other evening would do better, if they would study the natural sciences awhile before taking a decided stand.

The target shooting at our Y. P. S. S. C. last Friday evening was very enjoyable. Dannie Malloy, P. W. Geer, Elvin Ames, Walter Smith and Aubray Wolfard were successful in ringing the bell.

**Board Meeting.**

At the meeting of the executive board of the Oregon State Secular Union in Silverton last Sunday those present were E. L. Smith, J. E. Hosmer, M. P. Hosmer and P. W. Geer. The resignation of the secretary, J. Kemp, was read and accepted, and Mrs. Nora Guiss was elected to fill the unexpired time.

As there is much business to be transacted concerning the construction of the University building, it was thought best to call a state convention to be held at Silverton beginning Saturday April 3, E. M. 297, and continuing over Sunday. This convention will be devoted to the transaction of business and all members of the O. S. S. U. should be present. PEARL W. GEER, President.

EDITOR TORCH OF REASON: Enclosed I send you a post office order for fifty cents for the TORCH OF REASON six months. We received a sample copy and like it very much. There are many Liberals in this vicinity, but they are not organized, and we never have a lecturer here now. We feel a deep interest in your University and wonder how it will succeed. You certainly have our best wishes, and we wish we could send more substantial proof.

Yours respectfully,  
 MRS. ANNIE TUFTS.  
 Oswego, Ore.

Ed, TORCH—The copy of the TORCH OF REASON you sent me, I am delighted with. It is truly a TORCH OF REASON. I herewith inclose one dollar for one year's subscription. JOHN DREW, Garfield, Wash.

**SIX SMILES.**

First Youngster: "I've got a new baby brother, what come from heaven last night."

Second Youngster: "That's nothin'. My little baby brother went to heaven yesterday."

First Youngster: (reflectively) "Pete, I bet it is the same kid." —[Life.

Teacher.—Why was Solomon the wisest man in the world?

Boy—He had so many wives to advise him.

Teacher [a strong minded female] —Well, that is not the answer in the book but you may go up head. —[Good News.

It is gratifying to know that the bible on which McKinley took the oath is purely an American production; but there is unavoidably matter for regret in the fact that the original writings were done elsewhere.—Ex.

Isaacstein: I sells you dot coat, mine frent, for \$2.10. You take him along?"

Customer: "I thought you didn't do business on Saturday. Isn't this your Sunday Isaacstein?" Isaacstein [in low, reverent tones]: Mine frent, to sell you dot coat for \$2.10 was not peesness; dot was sharity."—Punch.

Goodman—"Well, Pat, how are you gettting along?"

Pat—"Oi hod a good day lasht Soonday, an' Oi made foive dollars."

Goodman—"What! you broke the sabbath?"

Pat [apologetically] — "Well, 'twas wan av us hod t' be broke, do yez moind?"—Judge.

The Reverend Sank Timonious—"Ah, Miss Epworth, you are working hard for the good cause this winter." Miss Epworth League—"Yes, I want to do a lot of work this winter, so that I can enjoy my holidays next summer." The Reverend Sank Timonious—"Ah, but, my dear young lady, Satan never takes a holiday, not even in summer, you know." Miss Epworth League—"I know; but then, Satan is used to the heat."—Baltimore News.

"But with regard to the material world, we can at least go so far as this—we can perceive that events are brought about not by insulated interpositions of Divine power, exerted in each particular case, but by the establishment of general laws."—Whewell.

Dear Sir: Enclosed please find post office order for five dollars, I send for the Secular cause in Oregon. Send me the TORCH OF REASON; balance you may use as you think best.

Yours respectfully,  
 BENJ. JAGGAR.  
 Oregon City, Ore.

We have often heard the pessimistic wail that this is a "lost world." A whole pyramid of theological treatises has been built upon this melancholy supposition. Yet what is the basis of it all? Nothing but a mythological fable. Astronomy does not show that the world is lost. It moves regularly in its orbit, turns faithfully on its axis. Physical geography does not show it. Whatever its imperfections, the earth is a beautiful ball; and the Hebrew psalmists bursts forth into praise, as they contemplated its wonders and glories. Science today is perpetually revealing them. Nor does history or religion show that man is lost now, or that he ever has been. On the contrary, the area of civilization has gradually been extended over the world; and, though it bears evils, it bears more good. Man is gradually rising to a higher consciousness. In other words, God [good] is in the world, reconciling the world to himself.—Christian Register.

**Secular Societies.**

- Mrs. E. B. Moffitt Sec. . . . . Met. . . Iowa.
- J. B. Vancourt, . . . . . Newton "
- Daisy Fesler, . . . . . Riverside "
- B. C. Brewster, . . . . . Crescent Okla.
- Mrs. H. D. Burrows, " Vancouver Wash.
- R. Sharpless, . . . . . Spokane "
- Robert Carsner, . . . . . Wagner Ore.
- Edwin Johnson, . . . . . Vale "
- Roxie Laughlin, . . . . . North Yamhill "
- Ada Dewey, . . . . . Portland "
- Maggie Daniels, . . . . . McMinnville "
- Miss Lora Ames, . . . . . Silverton "
- Mrs. W. McBride, . . . . . Medford "
- H. H. Goddard, . . . . . Talent "
- First Secular Church of Portland, Clara Bailey, . . . . . Sec. . . . .
- First Secular Church of McMinnville, William Lambert, Sec.
- First Secular Church of Silverton, meets every other Sunday, 7:30 p. m. Mr. John Hicks, Sec.

The Silverton Secular Sunday School meets every Sunday in Liberal Hall, at 2 p. m. You are earnestly invited to attend and help in our great work of advancing the cause of science and morality. J. E. HOSMER, Supt.

Lora Ames, Sec'y.

**Press Fund.**

- Previously Acknowledged . . . . . \$82 00
- John Diamond, Coburg . . . . . 1 00
- John E Johnson, Vale . . . . . 1 00
- Minerva Johnson " . . . . . 1 00
- J S Odegard, Crescent City, Cal. . . . . 50
- P C Mosier, Homer, Ill . . . . . 1 00
- Mr . . . . ., Silverton Ore. . . . . 5 00
- Total . . . . . \$91 50

**University Fund.**

- Previously Acknowledged . . . . . \$510 50
- E M Baker, Junction City . . . . . 2 00
- E Van Vrankin " . . . . . 2 50
- Frank Wilkins " . . . . . 10 00
- John E Johnson, Vale . . . . . 10 00
- G M Murch and wife, Coburg . . . . . 2 00
- W J Dean, Talent . . . . . 5 00
- P C Mosier, Homer, Ill . . . . . 10 00
- J. Von Viesko Silverton . . . . . 10 00
- John Dahl, Silverton, . . . . . 5 00
- J. R. Allen, Cincinnati O. . . . . 10 00
- G. Schroeder and wf. Ashland Or. . . . . 3 00
- Total . . . . . \$580 00

**Wanted—An Idea** Who can think of some simple thing to patent? Protect your ideas; they may bring you wealth. Write JOHN WEDDERBURN & CO., Patent Attorneys, Washington, D. C., for their \$1,500 prize offer and new list of one thousand inventions wanted.