

For the Torch of Reason.
Religious Experience.

By M. J. OLDS

I have tried to show that hereditary tendencies are transmitted to the young, and how my father inherited the disposition of his mother, causing him to become a minister of the gospel, also causing him to be very strict in religious matters. In raising his family he always had family worship, which consisted in reading a chapter from the bible, singing a hymn, and prayer morning and evening. He felt so interested in the future welfare of his dear children that he could not bear the idea of one of them going down to eternal perdition. He wanted his family to be unbroken in heaven above where all is love, and to praise God for ever and ever, singing praises to him and the lamb throughout eternity. He often reminded us of the rich man and Lazarus which the bible tells about. The rich man thought more of his riches than he did of God; had his luxuries of this world, while Lazarus was very poor and afflicted with sores and begged the crumbs that fell from the rich man's table; but Lazarus loved God, and believed his word; and when death came Lazarus was taken to heaven, while the rich man had to go down into eternal torment, with no hope of ever getting out of it. Progression was out of the question, for as the tree falleth so it must lie. He looked up into heaven and saw Lazarus in Abraham's bosom enjoying himself and cried out to him to send him a drop of water to cool his parched tongue, for he was suffering so terribly in the flames of fire. Lazarus was the lucky one, for he had lived a christian, had believed that Jesus Christ was the son of God, the Holy Ghost being his father, and that God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Ghost were all one person—three in one. Now Lazarus believed all this, also believed the story of Adam and Eve, how God made Adam of the dust of the ground; then put him to sleep, and took out of his side one of his ribs and made him a wife; and prepared a garden called Eden for them to live in. I suppose there wasn't much in it but fruit, as he put them in the garden, and commanded them not to eat of the fruit that grew on a certain tree which was in the midst of the garden. Now as God had foreknowledge, he could look ahead and see just what would happen. He knew they would take fruit off of the forbidden tree, and therefore disobey their good father. While God had all knowledge, he also had all power to bring about his plans just as he had foreordained them.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

We give the TORCH OF REASON and The Freethought Magazine for one year for the small sum of \$1.50. Now is the time to subscribe.

CHICAGO NEWS.

German societies of this city, representing a total membership of 10,000, have adopted resolutions calling for reforms in the public schools. The following is one of the resolutions:

Resolved, "That these school books (meaning all text-books used) which are to be given to all pupils for free use, refrain from any allusions to religion and the bible and to the maxims of any denomination."

That resolution asks for nothing but what is just and right and I as a patron of the schools hope to see it bear fruit.

I see the gifted and energetic writer of "News and Notes" has had the privilege of hearing Dr. Driver. I suppose he is the same Driver who had a four-day's "talk" with Charles Watts, in this city, several years ago, on the subject of religion. He would not call it a debate, saying he did not believe in debates, as they stirred up strife; and I don't believe he could be accused of debating on that occasion, anyhow. I remember he said a man who did not believe in a God could not have a conscience, and he didn't even attempt to show that a man who did necessarily had one.

Colonel Ingersoll delivered his new lecture "Truth" in the Columbia theater, this city, Sunday, March 7th. This was the first delivery of this lecture and the great playhouse was packed with people who seemed to think they were getting their money's worth, judging by the frequent applause. The lecture, like all of Mr. Ingersoll's works, abounds with witty expressions, and no one can deliver them as he does. He said: "It is not simply right, but the duty of every human being to think. The really honest are not swayed by numbers. Nothing can exceed the impudence of a man who denies others the right to think, yet claims that right for himself. Thousands of ministers are as honest as they are useless. Theology is entirely without reason; that is the reason it withstands reason. The church can not give what it does not produce. Theology is the only dishonest science." The above gives an idea of how the audience was entertained during the ninety minutes Mr. Ingersoll was speaking.

D. L. Moody and God will soon make another attempt to free this city of sin. Two meetings a day will be held at the Auditorium, and churches throughout the city will be requested to hold meetings every evening. Omnipotence will thus be given another opportunity to correct that awful mistake of Mother Eve. J. B. B.

Press Fund.

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

UNIVERSITY NOTES.

Our Calisthenics are lively since our music teacher, Miss Wolf, came.

Miss Myrtle Knight one of Marion County's popular teachers assisted us two days last week.

Remember the Liberal University affords a splendid opportunity for the study of music and elocution.

In the late monthly examinations the following students received 100 per cent in the branches mentioned: George Riches,—Book-keeping,—Robert Downs, C. Arithmetic,—Reber Allen, U. S. History—Walter Dolan, E. Arithmetic—Leona Allen, Geography A. Spelling A.

The Chemistry class generated some laughing gas this week but none of the other students seem to need any.

The Y. P. S. S. C. elected captains and have chosen sides for the literary work. Miss Leona Allen and Amie Forward were elected captains.

The following students were neither absent nor tardy last month: Reber Allen, Elvin Ames, Elma Smith, Amie Forward, Leona Allen, M. Van Vaulkenburg and Winnie Whitlock.

Our kindergarten work is giving splendid satisfaction and as the charges are reasonable, parents should take advantage of this opportunity to have their children properly trained.

SECULAR NEWS.

The Silverton Secular Sunday school children are practicing for an operetta "Babes in the Woods", to be given at Liberal Hall, Sunday evening April 4.

The money order business at the Silverton post office has more than doubled since we began the publication of the TORCH OF REASON. Let us double it again.

A convention of the Oregon State Secular Union will be held at Silverton, beginning Saturday, April 3 at 7 p. m., and continuing over Sunday, to conclude with a splendid entertainment Sunday evening at Liberal Hall. The meeting Saturday evening will be devoted to business.

We are sorry to hear that brother J. D. Shaw of the Independent Pulpit has been visited by another fire. Regardless of this he is going right ahead with the publication of his paper and we wish him success.

Prof. Vinter F. Cooper, the noted blind phrenologist is in the city giving a course of lectures at Liberal Hall. He comes highly recommended and we request our readers to go and hear him. He is a thorough Secularist.

We are now prepared to do job work and request Liberals to patronize us. Remember you are patronizing the O. S. S. U. and in that way help yourselves.

Subscribe for the Little Candle for your children. It is a weekly and only 25 cents a year.

Gabriel's Horn.

The late W. A. Conchman, of Clark county, Kentucky, was the perpetrator of an extraordinary practical joke, says the Chicago Tribune. Returning from a hunting trip one evening, he was attracted to a country church where a revival was in progress. After watching the services for a while, he climbed up on the roof to get a better view through the hole where the stove-pipe was meant to go.

In the excitement of the evening one of the congregation shouted out, "Gabriel, blow your horn! I'm ready to go!" The temptation was too great for Conchman, and, putting his horn to his lips, he blew a blast through the flue-hole, and stampeded the congregation to a man. The grand jury discussed the propriety of indicting the sacreligious hunter, but no proceedings were taken against him.

A Call.

The man, from whom the O. S. S. U. purchased our printing outfit writes that he is much in need of his money. He surely deserves it and should have had it three months ago. He is a good Liberal and has been very lenient with us. Now let us all do our best and show our appreciation by paying him the balance due. We owe him \$133.50 which can surely be raised at once. We did not expect to have to pay anything from the proceeds of the business, but have paid \$50. Yours for the cause,

PEARL W. GEER,
Business Manager.

Secular Societies.

- Mrs. E. B. Moffitt Sec. Metz. 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. HOMER,

Lora Ames. Supt.
Sec'y.

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