

**A Plan for the Evolution of Freethought and Wisdom.**

Continued from sixth page.

villages ready for the lectures. Each society could pay \$52 a year for their 52 lectures (one for each Sunday) the lecture to be sent to their orator a week before its Sunday, to be learned and delivered by him, as capably as possible. After the lecture, each orator could probably sell a few copies at 5 or 10 cents apiece (half to go to the bureau, thus helping to make the lecture bureau whole financially if necessary.) The sales would not be numerous, but every editor would buy a copy, and every local paper throughout the length and breadth of our land would publish every scientific lecture during the week after delivery, and Talmage's sermons would go into the wastebasket. For how long would it be before every city and village would want its share of these lectures written by the great men of wisdom, especially for the instruction of the masses, every Sunday a different one; and how long before the scientific Sunday meetings would be crowded and the churches empty?

Now, he that would teach the people, must study and write his lecture, then go himself lecturing from city to city, reaching a few great audiences, but not the masses everywhere, and wearing himself out, with his travel and varying accommodations, the excitement of lecturing and the tire of business details. If 5000 trained orators, in as many places give his lecture, he can keep his health in his quiet home, and continue his researches there, or take such trips as he needs to obtain more knowledge, and write another lecture for one Sunday of the next year. It would pay the ablest men to devote their life to specialties then; and what a wealth of beneficial knowledge would be spread before the people everywhere and every Sunday! How much better than to hear a second rate preacher expound his ideas on a verse of scripture, Sunday after Sunday, year after year! Such opportunity to be heard once by the whole country, and get well paid for it besides, would tempt our ablest senators and judges into deepest thought, and preparation of one thoroughly valuable lecture. Ingersoll, Francis E. Willard, Mrs. Livermore, George T. Angell, Neal Dow, McKinley would each seek a hearing, and the "grand old man," Gladstone perhaps would not refuse. And who would not go to the scientific Sunday meetings to hear their ablest lecturer for the people? Probably you could select others as well or better qualified. Darwin, Huxley, and Agassiz are gone, and I do not know who the great scientists are now, so I could not introduce their names.

When this scientific Religion

wins the field, school-boards everywhere will be composed of the wisest scientific thinkers; and our ideal teachers and curriculum will be realized in free schools of all grades including the kindergarten and college, throughout every state, and thence over the whole world, and compulsory attendance of every child. Instead of hazing, praying, and cramming with a mixture of science and dry bones, the youth will climb the ladder of wisdom, developing character and garnering practical, beneficial knowledge at every step.

But first, tracts must sow the seeds of doubt broadcast and give glimpses of the needful. Then cultivate by lecture bureau and press, till the growth of scientific religion shall bear a bountiful harvest and feed the famishing millions into fully developed strength of body and mind, and wise enjoyment of life.

ELIZA MOWRY BLIVEN.  
Box 76, Brooklyn, Conn.

The method outlined by the above article for distributing Secular literature and furnishing lectures for societies to be established in every neighborhood in the United States, meets our hearty approval.

Of course as the work progresses it might be thought best to change the plans somewhat to meet the demands of changing conditions, but we believe the general outline is just as near perfect as it can be, and we will do all we can to help this noble effort to bear fruit.

There are many things to think of and much work to be done in order to get this great educational plan into working order and we hope that Secularists everywhere will write us any suggestions that they may have; and by all working together we may be able to set the great wheels of progressive Freethought into activity.

**Communication.**

EDITOR TORCH OF REASON:—A copy of the TORCH OF REASON, received, and after reading it, I must say that any intelligent person, who gets acquainted with your "TORCH" will like it. It is well named. "A light, kindled to supply the want of the sun." !!!

A light, which reveals God is God, and when it floods man's consciousness makes him a Christ (christian), a truly begotten son of God, (or daughter of God, if you please,) many shut out the light, declaring that God has gone away, leaving us in darkness; that once he condescended to reveal himself to us, in Jesus Christ and since then, both the father and the son have left us strictly alone, and that there is no further hope for light or help on this side of the grave. But the light of God shineth forth for ever and ever. Nothing can quench that light. The darkness may not comprehend it; yet the light is here

omnipotent, everywhere; yea, it is within every one born on the face of the earth.

True knowledge is dawning on the mind of reason and as it grows, reveals indwelling divinity—that light which is all comprehensive. It must and it will make itself known and fill the whole earth. Some may despond, because reformation or regeneration does not go with a rush, although we notice a wonderful progress, since Freethought and science entered the battle-field for freedom and happiness to humanity. But supposing it is slow; it is better to go one foot, in the right direction, than miles taking you no nearer the goal of your aspirations. If every family in Oregon would take your "Torch" for one year at least, more prosperity and happiness would be achieved, than either McKinley's or Bryan's administration could bring about, in forty years.

Excuse me for failing to stick to the text, but I can't help it. As sure, as we are in need of a practical religion, we need practical politics. Do away with "parties" in politics the same as with creeds or denominations, in churches. The tyranny of party is the most dangerous enemy, freedom can have. It leads to frightful despotism. I wish Miss Nettie Olds could come here again, having received so much news from her, that I feel that I could receive bushels of light more and I thankfully will receipt for any comfort in my present helplessness, as I am one of the "Blessed are the poor."

Fraternally, E. E. LANGE.

**UNIVERSITY NOTES.**

We are very much in need of a new dictionary.

Keep the library in mind. Let every friend of our cause send us a good book and encourage others to do the same.

Some of our christian friends have named our residence House of Knowledge. We accept the name and hope to demonstrate that we are worthy of it.

Prof. Vinter F. Cooper visited our school and gave us many kind words of encouragement. He says that our management is just right from a phrenological stand point and that he never saw students more interested in his life.

Mr. Roy S. Wiles has drawn a perspective view of the proposed University building. W. L. Jones, the Silverton photographer, will soon have a half tone engraving ready for us and we will treat the readers of the TORCH to a view of what the building will be when erected next Summer.

Last Saturday a number of the University boys did a very manly act. A widowed lady whose wood pile needed attention was surprised to see these stalwart youths come and saw up the whole pile. They did not wish to take pay, but the kind lady made them take fifty

cents. And guess what they did with the money. They turned it into the University building fund. When we have such boys as this we are sure of success, Rah! Rah! Rah!

**SECULAR NEWS.**

We would like to hear from some of our friends regarding the press fund.

Secularists of the State of Oregon, remember the convention of the Oregon State Secular Union to be held in Silverton April 3-4.

The entertainment to be given at Liberal Hall Sunday evening April 4, promises to be the best of the kind ever given in Silverton. A splendid program is being arranged.

Nettie A. Olds will return to Silverton next week and after resting awhile, will make a lecture tour of the lower Columbia river country. People in that section will please arrange for her lectures.

Prof. Vinter F. Cooper, the blind phrenologist, delivered four lectures at Liberal Hall last week to large and enthusiastic audiences. He is very logical in his arguments and showed how moral education had been neglected and children taught to obey through fear. He made some telling blows at orthodoxy, showing the crimes that had been committed in the name of christianity. He had a large number of christians at each meeting, who, no doubt, heard many things unpleasant to them but the logic was so sound they cannot dispute it. We request our readers to arrange for lectures by Prof. Cooper whenever they can. He is a Free-thinker.

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