

are sure that this work is worthy of our best endeavors.

We wish that those outside of Silverton could be acquainted with the noble young men and women who are working here to gain an education and with what interest they are looking forward to the time when they will have a building with suitable recitation rooms so that one grade will not interfere with the other's work. The students and teachers are all looking forward to this time and the time when we will have a new and better home where the work of decoration, mounting specimens, etc. etc., will be permanent.

We cannot appeal to your superstition as many other institutions do, but we do appeal to your common sense. Please take hold of this work, for it needs your assistance at once. We have now subscribed, counting land and all, less than \$3000 and we should have, before we commence work, at least \$5000 and this would only finish and furnish part of the building. So you see this work needs your help. We are doing all we can. The Liberals of this little city subscribe about \$1000 cash besides the land. The very life of our cause depends upon the success of our University and every liberal in the United States ought to pray for our success in a way that will do us some good. Do not hesitate! We need your help now!

An Open Letter.

Silverton, Or., May 13, 1897.

My Dear Will:—

Yours received. I will be punctual in answering. Perhaps I didn't make it as plain as I might. I understand everything better now myself so can explain better. Here goes.

Once upon a time—I suppose that is the way to begin but my story is newer so can't be commenced in that way. The Secularists are working to build up a Liberal University—at present the only one of its kind in the world. Here everybody is at liberty to think for himself and the students are not compelled to listen to learned discourses upon the goodness of the Lord God or Holy Ghost, and are not required to waste half an hour every day in singing praises as I did when "I was young." You know already how much all the orthodox teachings dwarf the mind so you see how all important is the work. Morality and charity is the only religion taught here. The purpose is to fit students for pure, useful lives. Now everybody in sympathy with the objects should not hesitate to do all they can for the cause. Four acres of land has been donated for the purpose and about one thousand five-hundred dollars has been subscribed. It will take five-

thousand for the work at first. At present the Liberal Hall is being used but to say the least it will not afford suitable accommodations so the need for a new building is very great. Our motto is "Universal mental liberty." On the opposite side of the enclosed blanks you will find a cut of the proposed building. Now write your name on that immortal scroll of fame and rustle up some contributions if they be only fifty cents each. We will succeed. Your friend,
D.

From Idaho.

Council, Idaho, May 10, '97.

Editor Torch of Reason:

I enclose money for renewal of subscription. I first subscribed for your paper for three months, as a trial, and now I cannot possibly get along without it. As long as I can get the necessary money I will be a subscriber. It strikes me that a great mistake is being made by preachers and others instructing children and those seeking information by teaching things they cannot prove, that has never been proven and things that are contrary to the laws of nature. No greater wrong can be done to the growing young than to make false impressions upon their youthful minds.


Do not tell your children things for facts that you do not know to be true. Beware of false ideas. Be frank with your child, tell him you do not know these things; do not try to stuff him with some old erroneous idea that has been handed down from your great-grandfather. Allow him to hear both sides, and as the child grows up to manhood his reason and judgement will select the path he chooses to follow through life.

The child naturally looks to its parent for an explanation of all things. The teachings of the parent carry great weight with the young child, therefore if the parent teaches myths and miracles the child naturally becomes superstitious and it takes a long while before reason is able to prove their fallacy.

As long as we become oblivious to this world in anticipation of another, just so long will we be rocked in the cradle of superstitious fear.

Let us make the best of things on this earth that we possibly can; let us wait until we get to the bridge before we cross it. According to Christ's command, "take no thought of the morrow," apply it to this case, and take no thought of another world until we come to it (if we ever do.) In the meantime let us turn our attention to this world, try and help the poor and unfortunate, seek after truth and honesty, and live in a brotherly love.

MORGAN P. GIFFORD.



Unexcelled
Our Stock
Of Medium-Priced
Shoes
Mail Orders Given Prompt Attention.
Yours to Please
A. WOLF & SON
Silverton, Oregon.

J. E. Hammond
DRUGGIST
DEALER IN
Chemicals, Drugs, Medicine, Toilet Articles, Perfumery
and Soaps, Stationary, Patent Medicines, Paints
and Oils, Combs and Brushes, Etc.
SILVERTON, OREGON.

Cusiter & Davenport
DEALERS IN
.... GENERAL MERCHANDISE
Corner Main and Water Streets
SILVERTON, ORE.

JOHN HICKS SAMUEL AMES
Hicks & Ames
DEALERS IN
Hardware, Tinware, Stoves,
AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS
Guns, Fishing Tackle, Cutlery, Sporting Goods, Etc., Etc.
SILVERTON, OREGON.