

A Defense.

Editor Torch of Reason:

Your paper of May 6th contained an article entitled some corrections by Mr. M. Johnson of Vale Ore. Mr. Johnson says that in my article entitled The Exodus of the Jews there are some mistakes which he, Mr. Johnson, claims to have corrected. These mistakes Mr. Johnson says are three in number. First, Reference is made to Gen. 15:13 where God makes certain promises to Abram 1913. B. C. 257 years before the flood began. Mr. Johnson says the above is a mistake, for Abram did not live before the flood see Gen. 7:7 and that the flood continued 2349 B. C. making the above referred to conversation between God and Abram to have taken place 436 years after the flood instead of 257 years before. Mr. Johnson's attention is called to the following, the date 1913 B. C. is given as it stands in the Bible, and is unreliable historically, for according to the Bible Abram was born 1264 B. C. Again Adam was born 4004 B. C., and Noah, 2948 B. C. The number of years from Adam to Noah was 1056; and if Noah was 600 years old when the flood began 1656 years B. C. and not 2349 B. C. and if God made many promises to Abram as Gen. 15:13 (1913 B. C.) says, then these promises were made 257 years before the flood and not 436 years after as Mr. Johnson claims, from this there can be no possible escape. Again Mr. Johnson says Abram did not live before the flood, but the Bible says he did, and places the Bible and God on the witness stand in support of its case, and the following is the testimony of God himself; Joshua 24:2-3 "And Joshua said unto all the people. Thus saith the Lord God of Israel your father dwelt on the other side of the flood in old time, even Terah, the father of Abraham, and the father of Nachar, etc. And I took your father Abraham from the other side of the flood and led him throughout all the land of Canaan—and gave him Isaac." The second mistake Mr. Johnson claims bears reference to Gen. 47:27 wherein Mr. B. is giving the number as 70 of Jacob's household that entered Egypt, stating that this happened 706 B. C. If Mr. Johnson had considered one moment he would have seen that the above date was a typographical error, and should read 1706 B. C. which date was just 50 years before the flood was threatened, and not 543 years after the flood began as Mr. Johnson claims. The third mistake Mr. Johnson says consists in Mr. B.'s reference to Noah and the greatest zoological collection on record in the year 1656 B. C. which Mr. Johnson says should have read 2349 B. C. the mistake if any belongs to the Bible, and

not to the writer of this article—for proof see the Bible. Adam was created 4004 B. C.; Adam to Noah, 1056 years; flood threatened 1756 B. C., and if Noah was 600 years old when the flood commenced, then 1656 B. C. must be the date thereof. It must, however, be borne in mind that the fabulous ages of men as given in the Bible are merely tricks to catch the gullible or ignorant and are not worthy of serious consideration and are intended to cover the period of time or age of the old testament for it can be proven by the evidence contained in the books themselves that they were not written until very near the time of Christ or at least

in answering thereto. In conclusion I respectfully refer Mr. J. to article on flood, Torch of Reason, March 18, 1897, taken from Gen. 6th and 7th chapters.

H. D. BURROWS.

UNIVERSITY NOTES.

Professor Geer went to Portland this week on business for the University.

Mrs. Dr. Brewer and Miss Hines visited our school this week and complimented our work.

School closes May 28th and the students and teachers will then do everything they can to help along the work on the new building.

there Charles picked up two more valuable specimens for our collection.

The president and one of the student, Morris Van Vaikenburg, went fishing Saturday, but although there were plenty of fish, they seemed to be Adventists, and wouldn't bite on the old-time Sabbath.

Captain Amie Forward's gallant soldiers, after a desperate struggle and fighting at a great disadvantage, their captain having been wounded in a skirmish with the enemy, swept the field and captured 111 prisoners at the Y. P. S. S. C. Friday evening.

Little Points.

A god who will permit eternal suffering is worse than a devil.

The spirit of kindness that is in the world is the only holy spirit worth having.

An infidel who has given up all enthusiasm for right living is worse than a Christian.

A Christian who will not investigate and examine both sides is worse than a heathen.

One honest, progressive thought is worth more than all the lies that have been handed down by the prophets and priests.

Has your past life been unsatisfactory on account of bad mistakes? The present is yours; use it that the future may be bright!

A freethinker who has bad thoughts may do more harm than a slave to orthodoxy, and an infidel may be as superstitious. What the world needs is that class of infidelic freethinkers called Secularists.

If all the energy that is now spent in the imbibing of alcoholic and holy spirits was used to educate the young in science and morality, we would soon turn seas of misery and crime into oceans of happiness and love.

The teachers and lecturers of the O. S. S. U. do not use tobacco and we advise the members to refrain from its use, as it robs men of their ability to think. It only becomes a pleasure by satisfying an acquired appetite, and the victim is soon punished. Save the tobacco money and spread the gospel of science and morality.

One extreme is the pious superstitious ideas of holy, sanctified saints advocated by the orthodox clergy. The other extreme is the foolith indulgence of the appetites and passions, thinking that this produces happiness. The golden mean is the ideas advocated by the Oregon State Secular Union. What the world needs is no superstition, no immorality, but honest, pure, truthseeking lives.

Blank No. 1.

Liberal University Fund

E. M. 297.

MR. JOHN HICKS, Treasurer Finance Building Committee, Silverton, Ore.:

Sir—Inclosed please find \$.....for Liberal University Fund, said fund to be used solely for the construction, maintenance and furnishing of the Liberal University of Silverton, Ore.

E. L. SMITH, Silverton,
ROBERT SCOTT, Woodburn,
JOHN HICKS, Treasurer, Silverton,
Committee on Finance.

Blank No. 2.

Liberal University Fund

E. M. 297.

I promise to pay to the order of JOHN HICKS, Silverton, Ore.,

.....Dollars, on or before..... said fund to be used solely for the construction, maintenance and furnishing of the Liberal University of Silverton, Ore.

E. L. Smith, Silverton,
Robert Scott, Woodburn,
John Hicks, Treasurer, Silverton,
Committee on Finance.

Cut this out or copy it, fill in with the amount you wish to subscribe, and return to John Hicks, treasurer finance committee, Silverton, Ore.

after the captivity of Babylon.

It may interest many persons to know that Noah was a girl and married during the time of Moses, her father's brother's son—see Num. 26:33 and 36:11—and as Moses and Aaron were living during the reign of King David—see I Chron. 23:13—1015 B. C., the story of the flood and Noah, Abram, Isaac and Jacob, including Moses, Aaron and Joshua—for Joshua was one of those who returned from Babylon, see Ezra and Nehemiah—are nothing but myth or fable invented by some smart person or persons for the double purpose of power and revenue.

I thank Mr. Johnson for his friendly criticism and take pleasure

Every one should do something to help build our new building this summer. What can you do?

Elvin Ames presented the school with a fine aquarium and Johnnie Thurman stocked it with soft-finned teleosts.

Miss DePeatt speaks in the Liberal Hall next Sunday evening on the subject, "A Glance Behind the Curtain."

Two more students entered the preparatory department this week, Lila and Lela Dolan. This makes thirty-nine on the roll, and the attendance is excellent.

One of our students, Charles Page, made a flying trip to his home at Zena last Saturday. While