

Liberty and Patriotism.

(CONTINUED FROM SIXTH PAGE.)

was made of the value of exempted church property, and at the regular rate of taxation this property would yield the state governments over thirty millions of dollars. And to that extent the whole community is taxed. I appeal to you, irrespective of your religious belief, is this right, is it just, is it granting special privileges to none and equal rights to all? A home is of far more importance than a church, yet side by side, we find the untaxed, magnificent palace of God and the taxed hut of the peasant.

Washington said: "The government of the United States is not in any sense founded upon the christian religion." And we say that they should not in any way seek to control it. I tell you we must keep God out of the constitution. The question is, are we to be a free people—free to think, to reason, and to speak according to conscience? In Rome before christianity was introduced, we found neither caste nor aristocracy, but with christianity it came with a force which shook the very walls of Rome and made them totter and fall. It took Rome one hundred years to die; and our death if we perish, will be as much more terrific as our free institutions have given us more bone and sinew and vitality. O, thou beloved land! Bound by the ties of brotherhood, common interest, and perils, live forever—one and undivided!

We, as Secularists, have a chance to be more patriotic than the christian. One world at a time is our doctrine, and this world should be our heaven. To accomplish this, let us be honest, true to ourselves and true to our country and true to humanity. We have been accused of being unpatriotic, and that we are trying to tear down the foundation of our government. But there is not a true Secularist living who would not shed his life-blood for his country if called upon. Your presence to-day speaks more than words. We must make our presence felt everywhere. Ay, there's the rub. If we make any headway we must stand firm and lead. No one else will lead for us. Let me tell you what we did at Silverton on Memorial day. All the Sunday schools in town were invited to march. We accepted the invitation, and at the appointed time marched proudly forth with our banner proclaiming Universal Mental Liberty. Right here I may as well state that our school contained over twice the number of all the rest of the Sunday schools combined. In one hand we carried our nation's flag, while in the other our offering of flowers to those

veterans true and brave.

"The grass is green where they calmly rest,  
Those veterans true and brave;  
Their memory shines like a radiant star  
O'er the land they died to save."

We marched with the procession, but we afterwards learned that the Methodist Sunday school would not march and, as one of the ladies expressed it, "We aren't going to march with those infidels." Another one said, "The infidels wouldn't have marched at all if she had had her way." I don't doubt it. If a good many of them had their way you and I would not be here to-day. We would live in the time of another inquisition. The churches would be turned into slaughter pens and the ministers become butchers. Improved racks would be invented, and only the select few would be saved. As it is they systematically bury us every now and then, but we are like the Irishman, we always come to life. Pat had the unhappy failing of living up to the scripture and taking a drop now and then for his stomach's sake. But this time he over-estimated the capacity of his stomach and became what we would call dead drunk. His companions decided to hold a wake over him, so they procured a casket, held their wake and carried him out to the cemetery, where they left him. As morning dawned he partly recovered, and sitting upright in his casket, glared around on the white monuments about him. Then in tones of joy he exclaimed: "Howly Mither! This is the morn of the resurrection and I'm first on the field."

They bury us only to awaken and find us first on the field, where let us hope we will ever be, for as sure as the sun shines to-day Secularism will continue to shine and shed its radiant light through the world.

Sink or swim, live or die, survive or perish, I give my heart and my hand to the cause of liberty. Over six score years ago our fathers established this principle and it remains for us to guard it zealously.

To-day we have met to celebrate the one hundred and twenty-first anniversary of the birth of equality, of liberty. To-day we have met to lay our humble tribute at Liberty's feet. We have met to honor the men who have fought and bled for the rights of man. We have met to dedicate this day to liberty. But it must be remembered that it has been dedicated in actions more than words. It was dedicated on the fields of Bunker Hill, through the long winter at Valley Forge, and on the commons of Yorktown, far above our power to add or detract with words. It remains for us to grasp and uphold the work which was thus begun. It remains for us to honor these men by deeds rather than by words; for us to see fulfilled the glorious mission of the

Declaration of Independence—the uplifting of humanity. Our flag will then speak to all, of their homes, their rights, their freedom and their government. It will say to the whole world, "Where I float—there all men shall be equal." It will wave a welcome across the sea and hear the echo of its own voice, "Liberty and Union are now and forever one and inseparable." "Flag of the heroes who left us their glory,  
Borne through the battle-field's thunder and flame;  
Enlaced in song and illumined in story,  
Wave o'er us all who inherit thy fame.  
Up with thy banners bright,  
Sprinkled with starry light;  
Spread its fair emblems from mountain to shore,  
While through the sounding sky  
Loud rings the Nation's cry,—  
'Union and Liberty, One ever more.'"

Field Notes.

Wagner, Oregon, July 6th, E. M 297. Never again can it be said that Secularists are not patriotic for a more patriotic crowd could not be found than that which met at the Liberal hall on the birthday of our country. At eleven o'clock we opened the celebration with the old but ever-new "America" instead of the invocation. For over an hour the audience gave their undivided attention and then we all adjourned to dinner. And such a dinner! There were fat chickens, lean chickens, hams, roast beef, beef, boiled beef, cheese, pickles and, well, all that was necessary was to wish and it was before you. How hard we did try to "lick the platter clean," but it was an impossibility for, as the ladies of Wagner expressed it, "They had been to picnics before." After dinner we were entertained with some splendid music by Wagner's band and about three o'clock we again lectured, and at the close of the declining day with happy faces and hearts full of patriotism we all returned to our homes with the promise to meet again in the morning. Early Monday morning we again met and exchanged greetings. We lectured both in the morning and afternoon and were greeted by an attentive audience, and last, but not least, we enjoyed another of those picnic dinners for which Wagner is well noted. Wagner's band again furnished us music during the day and also for the dance in the evening, at which the glowing faces spoke more than words of the enjoyment of everyone present. Truly Wagner is a home for Secularists in the broadest sense of the word.

The scenery is rough and rugged but beautiful with nature's green carpet everywhere to rest both eyes and feet. We met all the stanch Liberals among which are Mr. Carsner and family Mr. Gates and family, Mr. Collins and family, the Wagners and others too numerous to mention. We enjoyed the kind hospitality and conversation at Gates', Collins', and Carsners', and

it is with regret and many fond remembrances that we start for Fossil Wednesday morning.

We have visited the grave of that Secular hero, Katie Kelm Smith, who worked so diligently for the cause she loved, and who died while yet in the prime of life. We placed some flowers on her grave in esteem of the noble work she has done.

After the last lecture here we arranged ourselves in front of the hall and had our picture taken.

We can truthfully say that we never enjoyed a more splendid Fourth of July in every respect than the one at Wagner. It was one long to be remembered, and Wagner must still hold the honors and remain the banner town of Secularism in Eastern Oregon. Twenty-eight applied for membership in the Oregon State Secular Union, ratified our work and gave us a liberal donation for the University. There is no such word as fail when we have such earnest and enthusiastic workers. The world is still moving onward and Truth will triumph. Our wish is that Wagner may always remain as it is termed "The Infidels' Nest."

K. D. & M. P. H.

UNIVERSITY NOTES.

The work was delayed several days this week on account of not having teams to draw the lumber. This is a very busy season and teams can scarcely be had for love or money.

D. Leonard and Louie Rauch will begin hauling lumber next Saturday.

Did you see the big pile of shingles?

Mr. F. J. Beaty, of Chemawa, the man who donated the fifty dollars worth of furniture, has now donated two tons of fine timothy hay. Mr. Beaty wishes to educate his boys in the University and is anxious to do what he can to help along the work.

A number of our students are taking their summer outing on the beach or in the mountains.

We will push the work of building just as fast as possible. Let us all do our best.

If Liberals do not answer the Christians' prayers, by neglect or direct opposition, the University will be built very soon. He who is not for us is against us.

We hear from a number of families who intend to start for Silverton soon on account of the University. Friends, we must not disappoint them.

One friend writes to enquire if we expect to have a gymnasium in our school. Most assuredly we do. Secularists believe in physical training. A sound brain requires a sound body.