

FIELD NOTES.

Sunday we take dinner at the pleasant home of Mr. J. D. Combs, and are royally entertained by his wife and daughter. Four o'clock has been set as the hour for our lecture and notwithstanding the extreme heat we meet with a fair audience. Here we meet Mr. Hayes of Burns, who kindly acts as chairman. We also meet Mr. and Mrs. Johnson and Mr. Taylor, who stand almost alone for Mental Liberty in John Day. It seems there are quite a number here who are Liberals at heart, but the name is so unpopular they dare not take a firm stand. In the evening Mr. Mosier kindly offered us a team to drive around the country. We gladly accepted, and drove to Canyon City and about the surrounding country. The country is very beautiful around John Day and Canyon City, everything being fresh and green. We cut our drive short so as to be back in time for church. The text was, "Agrippa, believest thou the prophets?" The sermon was one of the usual order of orthodox sermons, but probably below the average. The minister must have known there were two Infidels in the audience for he offered up a fervent prayer in their behalf, that they might be converted and give their hearts to God. When we went home we had our hearts and we still have them, so you see how prayers are answered. But the good book says, "the prayers of the wicked availeth not," so perhaps that minister was wicked.

We drove to Canyon City Monday afternoon where we were to lecture in the evening. No arrangements had been made for us, but we finally secured the courthouse and awaited the results. Here we met a few Liberals, but they were afraid to express their thoughts. Hampered by the yoke of public opinion individuality is lost and men become simply atoms. The old adage has it, "you cannot carry water on both shoulders," and as sure as you attempt it, the stumbling block presents itself and you fall. When I see people trying to do this it reminds me of the Irishman who, when asked if he was in favor of gold or silver, replied, "I have nather, and I'll take aither." So with these people. They are neither, but will be either as the occasion demands. Individuality and independence command the respect of all, but as long as we continue to bow down at the feet of popularity, so long will we continue to be fettered and chained to the post of ignorance and superstition. O, friends of liberty and justice, awake! The future generation is in your hands, and let it be a generation of free, fearless thinkers.

In the face of all the difficulties, we have a very good audience, quite a number coming over from John Day. We are satisfied that Secu-

larism could become popular in Canyon if the Liberals would only express their honest thoughts, and then show by their lives that they believe in making this world a paradise.

After the lecture we drive back to John Day so as to be in readiness to start for Prairie City in the morning. We are much indebted to Mr. Mosier for his kindness, for we have used his team during our stay in John Day and Tuesday we drive it to Prairie City. We take the cool part of the day and enjoy our drive thoroughly. The road follows the river all the way and the surrounding country is dotted with farm houses and fields of every varied hue. The fields, covered with waving grass, now red, now green, yellow shading into a deep brown, stretching as far as the eye can see, all form a picture to please the eye of the most fastidious. At Prairie City the hour was set at four o'clock instead of seven, as was generally supposed. This was necessary in order that we could get back to Canyon to take the stage at four o'clock the next morning for Burns. All things considered, we have a very good audience, and about ten o'clock we get back to Canyon City, where we remain until morning.

Secularists, stand firm! Express your honest thoughts and no more will orthodoxy be able to say, "bow down and worship me or you fall" K. D. & M. P. H.

LITTLE POINTS.

Science is the natural remedy for all human ills.

Ignorance is not only the mother of superstition, she is also the parent of fear.—Seaver.

Some men who ridicule the theory of evolution are of less account to the world than a good cow.

Does it make you happy to pray? Can you think of any other bad habits that make people happy?

An unselfish man could not perfectly enjoy a heaven unless his friends were at least comfortable.

Orthodoxy is a poison given by medicine-men, the priests, to cure the fear of death, but it only weakens the patient.

"Santa Claus will not bring you anything unless you do as I tell you to," is an exact epitome of what the priests are telling the grown-up children.

Under proper conditions people would be as happy as a healthy child; no one would fear death, for they would scarcely have time to think of it, and would drop from the tree of life at a ripe old age when the mind is ready.

God so loved the world that he cursed it and banished his first children from his garden because they ate apples; then he so loved it that he drowned all excepting one family; then he so loved it that he allowed wicked men to kill his only begotten son, and now he so loves it that "whosoever believeth not shall be damned."

NEWS AND NOTES.

Mr. Volney Leonard from Nes-tucca is helping us on the building.

We hope soon to be in our new printery. This will save rent and give us a better chance to superintend the work of the building.

Mr. Benton, the printer, is slowly recovering from his recent illness. We wish to thank the friends who have taken such an interest in his recovery.

We have been asked to arrange for a debate between Rev. J. T. Moore, of Arkansaw, and any champion of Freethought we may choose. Should we try to make arrangements?

Mrs. Ellen Geer, mother of Pearl, is with us. Her husband Cal Geer, is on his way to Silverton where they will make their future home. We are very glad to see them come as they are staunch, old-time Liberals and will help along our work very much.

Our friend John Leitch of Wisconsin sent us a postoffice money order for \$10 this week, and many kind and encouraging words. He says: "I think I would like to go to Oregon and live among Liberals like myself, but it will take some time to get ready."

Franklin Steiner will lecture in Silverton Saturday and Sunday, September 4th and 5th. The subjects are: "Morality Without Superstition," and "The Bible and Higher Criticism." Parties in Oregon wishing to engage Mr. Steiner to lecture should address him at this place.

Government and Force.

All government rests ultimately upon force, because there are certain elements which need governmental control, which only will yield to force. We are not speaking of what might be, or what ought to be, but of what is. Most of the governments of the earth have been founded in force. The sword has been the instrument used in cutting down other governments and establishing those which exist today.

A government of force is of divine permission or ordination. The Apostle tells us that the magistrate is the minister of God, and that he "beareth not the sword in vain." Rom. xiii. 4. In all earthly governments the sword, or the power of punishment, even to death, is found to be indispensable.

There are persons who may need no government. "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, temperance, meekness; against such there is no law." And people who are controlled by the Holy Spirit, and who bear these fruits of the Spirit require no law to keep them civil, obedient, faithful and orderly. The law was made for the lawless, and such persons require the strong arm of force to restrain and control them.

Christians are under different control. They are governed by moral considerations. They do not require to be compelled to do right. They yield to law and are governed

by that love which is the fulfilling of right and righteous law. Hence Christians in many cases have found it expedient to abstain from active participation in governmental administration. They are servants of a foreign King. His kingdom is righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. His kingdom is not of this world, if it were his servants would fight. They do not fight, they exercise a moral power far potent than the brutal force; this power may enable one to chase a thousand; for one with God is a majority.—The Christian.

The above shows that Christians are really and truly traitors to the best interests of our government. "They are servants of a foreign King" and they expect to capture our government for their king. Instead of the constitution we will have their creeds and dogmas for our fundamental law. Read this over and think, brother.

SMILES.

Tommy—Pa, the Chinese invented gunpowder, didn't they?

Mr. Figg—Yes; but it never really amounted to much for killing purposes until the Christian nations took hold of it.—Indianapolis Journal.

Even the children in eastern Oregon are skeptical. A little girl was watching the moon one evening as it rose over the hill, and finally she turned to her grandmother and asked: "Grandma, who made the moon?" "Why," replied the old lady, "God did, my child." The little girl thought for a moment, and then replied: "Well, anyhow, he made it with a mighty dirty face."

An old negro was out in a field near Charleston when the earthquake came. At the first shock he was frightened almost to death, and as the earth began to shake and tremble he dropped down on his knees and prayed: "Oh, Lord! come and help dis poh nigger. Oh, Lord, come quick! come yourself! Don't sen' yo' son. Dis am no place for chillen."

This reminds us of a German, who, when told at a revival meeting that God had died for him, remarked: "Vot, de old man! I haf always believed dat it vas one of de poys."—Freethinker.

University Fund.

The amount given in this fund is actual cash paid in, regardless of what has been promised:

Previously acknowledged,	\$399.50
A. Vanderpool, Wisconsin,	5.00
E. Stewart, Oregon,	50.00
Mrs. E. Smith, "	25.00
J. L. Barnhouse, "	10.00
E. R. Laughlin, "	5.00
E. Straube, "	5.00
A. Officer, "	5.00
W. Carsner, "	5.00
S. Ames, "	25.00
John Leitch, Wisconsin,	10.00

MATERIAL, ETC.

Previously acknowledged,	\$148.50
T. D. Allen, (rebate on land)	50.00
Cusiter & Davenport, (labor)	4.50
Martin Klein, (work)	11.00
Hardesty & Moody, "	5.50