

Rabbits and Pheasants.

EDITOR TORCH OF REASON:

The institute must be made a success. Reforms never go backward. A forward step is being taken in human progress and will no more "down" than the ghost of Macbeth. Churches of humanity and Secular schools have come to stay; delays may occur, but not failure. The Silverton people are on the right road. Remember the tortoise.

I can't help much, but Christ accepted the "widow's mite," so I guess the Secularists will accept mine. And I may say here, that if everyone who is interested in this progressive movement, whose children and children's children are to be benefitted thereby throughout all coming generations, will do as much according to their ability as I do there will be no delays.

For the press fund I offer a pair of young Belgian hares, worth \$1. For the university fund I offer a pair of young Chinese pheasants, (the ring-neck variety) the famous game bird of Oregon, worth \$3. These will be crated and delivered f. o. b. here, ready for shipment to any part of the United States, purchasers to send the price to the proper fund at Silverton, and the hares or pheasants to be shipped on order from there. Directions for management sent with goods when desired. I will offer also a choice of one big horned owl, stuffed and mounted, \$3; a Chinese pheasant cock, stuffed and mounted, \$2.50; or a goshawk, stuffed and mounted, \$5; packed, f. o. b., same as above. F. S. MATTESON.

Oregon.

Some Comments on the New Testament.

Is it not strange that in a book claiming to be a revelation direct from God, that the author should give no account of himself, his birth, parentage or anything else? Not one line of the new testament is of his own writing. He has left that to other people entirely. It is nevertheless called a revelation from God to man, but it has never been revealed to me. All that I know about it is what some one else has said. Revelation can only be applied to something which God reveals of his own will to man, and then it is only revelation to the person to whom it is made. It is ignorance or imposition to apply the term revelation in cases in which man has been the actor, yet the bible is represented to us as being all revelation. When it is revealed to me I will believe it. It isn't right that I should take the word of a man as the word of God,

and put man in God's place. But if Jesus was in reality the remarkable person that he is represented to be, if he came of his own accord or was sent on a mission in which the future destiny of all mankind was at stake, why did he not go about it in a gentlemanly and respectable way, and give us an account of his own writing, or have some one to do it for him under his instruction, so as not to leave even the shadow of a doubt in the minds of the most unbelieving, of the truth and magnitude of his mission; but what do we find? He comes and goes on this important mission and he don't leave us a word of his own writing, neither does he authorize anyone else to give us a record. But in the course of time, four men calling themselves apostles of Jesus undertake to give us a history of him and his mission here on earth, but they make the worst bungling, mixed-up, contradictory mess of it of anything I ever read in my life. Two of them may agree on some certain point, but the other two will contradict them, word for word. Three of them may agree but the fourth will contradict them positively. They might all agree in what they say, but that would not prove their statements true, because the parts might all agree, and the whole be a fabrication. But their disagreement in what they say proves falsehood positively. Had the writers of these four books gone into a court of justice to prove an alibi, and given the same mixed-up, contradictory "mess of stuff" that we find here, there is not the least doubt that they would have been arrested for perjury, and they would have justly deserved it, yet this is the kind of Christian evidence imposed upon the world today. JOEL M. BERRY.

The Statesman.

Salem, Oregon.

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