

FIELD NOTES.

Sunday I again took up the banner of Secularism and the Torch, and started on my trip south. I spent a very pleasant day with a friend in the Waldo Hills, and in the afternoon went on to Salem, where we arrived just in time to witness a balloon ascension. I was welcomed to the pleasant home of an old school friend, where I spent the night. In the evening we attended the Congregational church, of which Rev. Mr. Kantnor is pastor. He took for his subject, "The Survival of the Fittest," and he tried to show that modern Christianity, as he termed it, contains all that is good of the old religions and that it is in every sense "the survival of the fittest." He acknowledged that the golden rule was uttered by Confucius several hundred years before Christ, "but," he said, "was not God in the beginning, and did he not reveal this to Confucius?" thereby virtually acknowledging that the religion of Confucius was a revealed religion. But I must say that the sermon was a very liberal one, and showed plainly the advance in the Christian religion.

Monday brings rain, but by eleven o'clock I am in Turner, at the home of Mr. Matteson, that old pioneer of Freethought who has sent us so many valuable specimens for our museum. Mr. and Mrs. Matteson are about the only outspoken Liberals in the place. I spent a very pleasant afternoon conversing with them, and about eight o'clock we went to the hall. The night was quite stormy and we did not have a very large audience, but Mr. Matteson said it exceeded his expectations. Miss Kate Matteson, a promising young Freethinker, kindly lent a hand and presided at the organ. After the lecture we announced that the subject was open for discussion and called upon Mr. Earheart, pastor of the Presbyterian church, to make a few remarks. He did so, and made the statement that "in saying we do not know regarding the future life we put a limit to knowledge; that I talked a great deal about uplifting humanity, but when I tried to destroy faith in the bible I denounced humanity; and that the church has elevated woman." I answered that as far as limiting knowledge is concerned, I put no limit to knowledge; that I was open to conviction and would accept whenever proof was placed before me, but I thought he was the one who limited knowledge when he declared he did know. As far as religious power is concerned, is there any intelligent person today who will say that the church has as much power as formerly? The very fact that I am lecturing on this subject would show the decline of religious power. Then as to denouncing humanity when I destroy faith in Jesus Christ, I asked

him if he thought I denounced a little child when I destroyed its faith in Santa Claus? Many children firmly believe that Santa Claus exists, but that does not make it true. He replied that it was not a parallel case, but I told him that to me it was; that we had no proof of the existence of Christ, or of his divinity, and that because some had faith it did not make it so. He never offered to give me any proof. Then I quoted for him a few passages from the bible relating to women, and what the good old saints Augustine, Jerome and Gregory had to say about women. The gentleman declined any further discussion, and after Mr. Matteson made some telling points the meeting adjourned. I will say that the gentleman was very courteous, and treated me with the utmost fairness and respect. I explained our work to him, as he is from the east and unacquainted with our plan of work.

I must say, however, that there was some of the audience whose conduct was not very admirable, for their sneers and talk became pretty loud, thereby showing their conception of the refining touches of Christianity. Mr. Earheart, in the debate on the woman question, remarked that he was very sorry to see one of my sex denounce the liberator and savior of women. I would advise him to read "The Woman's Bible." I sincerely hope that he will make a study of the principles and workings of Secularism, see the true way and come to the light.

This morning I will go on to Albany, where I lecture Wednesday evening. KATE DEPEATT.

Coming to The Fore.

EDITOR TORCH OF REASON:

Enclosed find \$1.50 in payment of one year's subscription to the TORCH OF REASON and the Freethought Magazine. My subscription to the TORCH ran out with the issue of September 2. Please let it begin with the next issue of the 9th.

I am glad to see the progress that is being made towards building the Liberal University, and the success of Oregon Freethought in coming to the fore under your influence. Yours for truth, Oregon. C. W. SAUNDERS.

Miss DePeatt's Lecture Dates.

SOUTHERN OREGON.	
Turner	Sept. 13
Albany	" 15
Harrisburg	" 18
Junction City	" 19
Eugene	" 20
Coburg	" 22
Roseburg	" 24
Grant's Pass	" 26
Central Point	" 27
Medford	" 28
Talent	" 30

NEWS AND NOTES.

We need a few more teams right now. Can we get them?

A fine specimen of a goat's skull has been added to our collection. The donor is Chas. Page.

There have been about fifty valuable books added to the library this week. Keep them coming.

Another unabridged dictionary and a fine dictionary stand has been added to our school outfit.

Many interesting and instructive experiments can be performed with our new magneto-electric machine.

Miss DePeatt started on her Southern Oregon lecture tour last Sunday, delivering her first lecture at Turner.

One of the most highly prized articles added to our schoolroom outfit this week is a very nicely articulated skeleton.

H. C. Page and family moved to Silverton this week. Miss Ada will act as assistant in the kindergarten department of the University.

Eliza Mowry Bliven is enrolling tract distributors in many states. The last person to enroll is in Massachusetts, and he will take \$2 worth of the tracts.

Franklin Steiner gave us another very interesting Freethought lecture last Sunday evening. He may be with us again one week from next Sunday. Watch for the announcement.

We are assured that another Liberal family will soon move to Silverton on account of the University. The children were here on a visit last winter and went to our school a short time. The more Secularists that come the better it will suit us, and we will do all in our power to make their coming both pleasant and profitable.

LITTLE POINTS.

Honest doubt is a strong wall of defense; blind faith is a cesspool of ignorance.

People would have much more knowledge now, if it had not been of interest to the priests to keep them in ignorance.

God controls the universe. Yes? I wonder why he don't call intelligent men like Chas. Darwin and Col. Ingersoll to preach Christianity?

"Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings" is a very appropriate phrase to apply to those who are using their strength (?) to keep up the old dogmas.

If a Secularist should write the following, what would the Christians say of him: "For if the truth of God hath more abounded through my lie unto His glory, why yet am I judged as a sinner."—St. Paul. Wouldn't it sound funny to substitute the word science for the

word God in this inspired acknowledgement? Science needs no lies.

If God loved the world why did he "put a lying spirit in the mouth of all these thy prophets?"—(I Kings XXII:23.)

While Christians are praying and repeating psalms, Secularists are studying science and arousing the people to depend on their own strength. The fittest will survive.

The bible says that after we are dead our love and hate and envy all perish and that the dead do not know anything. Christians do you believe the bible? (Read Eccles. ix.)

"Verily I say unto you, this generation shall not pass away, till fearful sights and great signs from heaven" (See Luke XXI) will be considered by civilized people as old heathenish superstitions.

An Alabama murderer addressed the following note to the governor: "I wish you would grant me a thirty-day respite. I am short on religion. Intended to get it last week, but was too busy."

A Secularist was talking with a Christianized Indian and asked him a question that he couldn't answer. The Indian was puzzled what to say for a moment, but finally thought of his Christian medicine-man, and excitedly exclaimed, "Ask preacher, he know!"

The Christians who selected and compiled the books now known as the new testament were very ignorant and superstitious men. They believed that demons were the offspring of angels who loved the daughters of men; that the hyena changed its sex every year; that the hare had as many young as it was years old, etc., etc., etc. Were such men competent to select what is and what is not the word of a god?

Let us Gather.

EDITOR TORCH OF REASON:

Enclosed you will find money order for \$6, five of which is for the college fund, donated by the Rock Springs Mutual Improvement Society, and the other one to pay for a year's subscription to the TORCH OF REASON. Both Mr. Davis and I are glad to hear that steady progress is being made toward the establishment of the Liberal University. We would like very much to be in Silverton and to be able to help this cause more. It will only be a matter of time, however, for we aim to make our home in Silverton and to educate our children in your school. At present we must be satisfied to let well enough alone. Mr. Davis is doing quite well this year and I am teaching in the public school.

Mr. Davis joins me in well wishes for the success of the college. I am sincerely, MRS. DAN H. DAVIS, Wyoming.