

**FIELD NOTES.**

Sunday night I attended the Presbyterian church and listened to a—well, a talk, I should call it. The minister chose as his text that portion of the nineteenth chapter of Matthew in which the people are told that a rich man can hardly enter the kingdom of heaven. They were trying to pay for some new song books, so it seemed to me that the minister had an eye to the eternal fitness of things. How the bible and the old Grecian oracles resemble each other!

Last night I lectured to a good audience in the opera house. Miss Lottie Pracht rendered a selection on the piano very creditably, and Miss Mollie High recited "Why Don't He Lend a Hand?" with good effect. Miss High also favored the audience with mandolin music and was warmly applauded. I met many of the old-time Liberals, and everything considered, we had a good meeting. Christians are fast becoming more liberal in their views and the religion of humanity will soon be the acknowledged religion. Many are Secularists already if they but knew it. Let us keep up the good fight and success is sure. KATE DEPEATT.

Ashland, Ore., Oct. 13th.

**Obituary.**

On the 11th inst., in the seventy-first year of his age, Robert H. Scott, a life member and vice president of the Oregon State Secular Union, and a staunch worker in the cause of Mental Liberty, died at his home in Woodburn, Oregon.

Mr. Scott was born in Raouxburghshire, Scotland, October 22, 1826. When a young man, twenty-three years of age, he emigrated to Canada, and engaged in the milling business. Six years later he was married to Miss Ann West, daughter of the late Captain John West of Westport, Oregon. In 1856 he moved to Oregon and engaged in the sawmill business. He moved to what is now Scott's Mills in 1866, put in a grist mill and became owner of a large tract of land where the thriving little town of Scott's Mill's now stands. This tract of land he sold to the Oregon Land Company in 1892, and moved to Woodburn, where he was engaged in the gristmill business until his death. He and his most excellent wife, who shared with deep interest his every joy and sorrow for so many years, were blessed with ten children, all of whom, excepting one, live to mourn their great loss, with their mother and many sympathizing friends.

The life and death of this honest man is a psalm that will inspire thousands to live honorable, useful lives, and teach with ever widening influence the beauties of his Secular religion of doing good. During his busy life, he employed many work-

men, and one of the best things that can be said of any man is that he never had any trouble with his men. The large funeral procession, composed of friends from Woodburn, Silverton, and neighboring places, that in spite of the inclemency of the weather followed his remains to their last resting place in the Scott's Mills cemetery, was proof of the great esteem in which he was held.

Thus closes the life work of one whose life has proven that the true aim of all should be the elevation of humanity, physically, mentally, and morally. Those who knew him best loved him most, and every Secularist should cherish his memory and endeavor to live as he did—a noble, virtuous life.

**Ladies Do Good Work.**

EDITOR TORCH OF REASON:

Inclosed please find another dollar to assist a little in your noble work—the Secular University. I am very deeply interested in that institution, and although I have no children to be educated, and the expense involved in such a long trip may even prevent me from the pleasure of visiting your city to see the university when it is fully completed and in operation, yet I am determined to render all the assistance in my power. After a little while I will send you some books for the University library—Free-thought and scientific works from such men as Col. Ingersoll, Herbert Spencer, Prof. Tyndall, Ludwig Teuerbach, and others.

I like the TORCH, and would not say so if I didn't. The lady lecturers, "K. D. and M. P. H.," did splendid work during their tour. I admired their ability, as well as their pluck, energy and endurance. Their descriptions of people, towns, and scenery in their "Field Notes" were well written, and one never tired of reading them. They reminded me in many respects of the "News and Notes" of the lamented Putnam, so familiar to readers of the Truth-seeker. Miss Kate DePeatt, in her present lecture tour, is, I am glad to see, stirring up the towns she visits and spreading consternation amongst the enemies of Secularism. How I wish there were a few ladies here like her. There are a great many bright thinkers, both men and women, here, but only a few are outspoken; and I don't believe there are fifteen in this city of 140,000 who subscribe for a Freethought journal, and not half a dozen who contribute anything toward the funds of the American Secular Union and Freethought Federation. This seems strange in a city where I know there are several hundred Freethinkers, but some how or other they seem to be inactive. There are too many Freethinkers doing business who never express their honest opinions, for fear of losing an orthodox nickle. With kind regards for the TORCH and wishing the University success, I am, yours for Mental Liberty,

JOHN MCARDLE.

Council Bluffs, Iowa.

**LITTLE POINTS.**

People who do not live up to what they think is right are in hell.

Christianity keeps hacking at the branches of evil, forgetting that ITSELF is the principal root.—Ex.

Right opinions crushed by religious dogmas, are right opinions still.—Ex.

Some men who pretend to love their enemies don't know enough to treat their friends decent.

God is love, but he seems to be like some foolish people who hate everyone that does not believe just as they do.

Every honest man who lives and dies without belief in the superstitions of orthodoxy proves the Christian religion a fraud.

The plain truth seems like an awful thing to some people; they would rather feed on meaningless theories. They have a perverted appetite.

The barbarian's mind can only encompass things near at hand, but the civilized man or woman thinks and works for the whole human family.

Man would feed India if he could. God (if all powerful) could feed India if he would. Which is the more cruel, the one who cannot, or the one who can and will not?—Ex.

The Y. M. C. A.'s have raised \$30,000 to build them a hall in Washington, D. C. They ask the people of Washington to contribute \$125,000 more, in order to pay for their lot and furnish the building. Liberals, "where are we at?"

**NEWS AND NOTES.**

The Liberal University re-opens Wednesday, November 3rd.

Shingling barn—About 30 barrels of lime slacked for basement—Masons at work.

Send us word at once if you want one or more lots in our University addition to Silverton.

Many kind, encouraging letters came this week. It helps us to know we have so many friends.

We would be pleased to publish short articles from the students who attended the University last year. Can't you write one now?

Miss Lillian M. Johnson of Malheur county, Oregon, writes that she will be here in about two weeks to attend the Liberal University

B. A. Leonard of the Waldo Hills sent us a fine lot of vegetables and several sacks of flour this week. Mr. Leonard never misses a chance to do us a kindness.

The Silverton Secular Sunday school met last Sunday, after a vacation of three months. The attendance was very good, and both children and adults seemed to take hold of the work with renewed energy.

A young man in Mississippi writes that he hopes to be able to attend our University this year. In a short time we will have students from all over the world.

Robert H. Scott, a life member of the Oregon State Secular Union, and a faithful worker in the cause of Mental Liberty, died at his home in Woodburn last Monday.

Miss DePeatt's sister, Miss Jane DePeatt, is talking of coming to Silverton. We hope she will, as we understand she is a good musician, and a typesetter as well as a good dressmaker. The more busy workers that come the better.

Notice the ad on another page of "Uncle Sam's Homilies on Finance." Mr. Blanchard, the author, has made us a liberal offer, and the proceeds arising from the sale of the book are to go to the Liberal University. This book should be read by people on all sides of the money fence. If for no other reason, buy it to help the university. Price 25 cents.

**Wonderful Word of God.**

The Rev. Dawson Burns, D. D., writes in the Daily News on the Revised Version. He says: "Considering its incomparable superiority over the Authorized Version, I am surprised that so many men of education, ministers of the Church of England and Nonconformist denominations, should be content to make only occasional and incidental use of the Revised Version. Why, too, is so little done to extend its use in bible classes, Sunday schools, etc?" The reason is patent. To let young or ignorant and credulous people know that the word of God needed revision might lead to inquiry, leading to disproof of its being the word of God at all. So the Bible Society goes on multiplying myriads of copies of the Authorized Version, although, as Dr. Burns says, "one of two things is certain—either the Authorized Version is free from the faults which were thought to render a Revised Version necessary, or the committee of the Bible Society are persisting, without consulting its members, to give to the people a version chargeable with serious faults, when they might issue a version more accurate and faithful."—Freethinker.

**University Fund.**

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

|                            |          |
|----------------------------|----------|
| Previously acknowledged,   | \$410.80 |
| W. M. Richards, Oregon,    | 1.00     |
| C. E. Glaze, " "           | 3.50     |
| J. E. Johnson, " "         | 5.00     |
| Mutual Improvement Society | 5.00     |
| W. E. Page, Oregon,        | 1.50     |
| A. Slaman, Dakota,         | 25.00    |
| W. N. Jorgensen, Oregon,   | 1.50     |
| John McArdle, Iowa,        | 1.00     |

**MATERIAL, ETC.**

|                          |          |
|--------------------------|----------|
| Previously acknowledged, | \$228.50 |
| E. J. Thurman (work)     | 6.00     |
| A. A. Leonard " "        | 10.00    |
| Louie Rauch, (work)      | 10.00    |