

FIELD NOTES.

Wednesday, Thursday and Friday I attended the Jackson county teachers' institute, held at Ashland. The session was a very interesting one, some of the most prominent educators being present. The leading questions were discussed, benefiting all present. President Hawley of the Willamette University delivered two very interesting lectures on the Nicaragua canal and the Cuban question. The teachers gained much practical knowledge from the session and visitors were well entertained.

Sunday morning I drove to Talent, four miles distant, to attend the Sunday school and lecture in the evening, Mr. Peil, one of Ashland's Secularists, kindly offering us the use of his horse and buggy. Mr. Peil expects to go to Klondike this coming spring and promises that if fortune favors him he will make the university a donation of some of the yellow metal. It is needless to say that Mr. Peil has our heartfelt wishes for his success. The Liberals at Talent are very enthusiastic, and I am greatly encouraged by their work. They have just moved their hall to a better locality, and are now bending every effort to make the surroundings useful as well as ornamental. The Sunday school is still in a flourishing condition, under the able management of W. J. Dean. Mr. Dean and his wife are a regiment in themselves. He is the author of that able pamphlet on Bible Prophecies, and every Secularist should make a point of reading it. I meet many of their active workers and feel much elated over the success of their work. We enjoy the hospitality of Mr. Dean's pleasant home and fully appreciate their fluent conversation. By half-past seven a large audience awaits us in the U. M. L. Hall. The Peterson family of musicians are present and give the audience some splendid music. They are staunch Liberals, and are more than glad of the opportunity to aid in the cause. They favor the audience with some more music at the close, and we all go our different ways with happy hearts.

The next morning, after bidding goodbye to our Talent friends, we turn the horse's head toward home and arrive at "Peachblow Paradise" about nine o'clock. At half past five I bid goodbye to home and friends and take the train for Central Point, where I lecture to a good audience the same evening. The audience, however, consisted almost wholly of men, for quite a while there being only one lady present. Three more finally came in. The Methodists were having some kind of an entertainment, and as is usually the case, the women attended that, although St. Paul said, "suffer not the women to speak in the

churches, but if they wish to know anything let them ask their husbands at home." But history has proved:

"Westward the star of empire takes its way;  
The first four acts already passed,  
The fifth, shall close the drama of the day.  
Time's noblest offspring is the last."

KATE DEPEATT

LITTLE POINTS.

The cannibal who lives on the human flesh is no worse than he who lives by destroying the minds of the innocent.

Mrs. God so loved luna that she gave her only daughter, that whatsoever lunatic believed in her might not perish, but have everlasting jim-jams.—Lunatic.

Chauute, who is doing so much to solve the flying machine problem is worth more to the world than the whole army of "sky pilots" who take their flights "in their minds."

Knowledge, honesty, temperance, energy, or any of the good things that go to make a happy, useful life, have nothing to do with supernatural religions. Let us cleave to that which is good.

Read the Secular poem on the first page of this issue and then ask yourself which is your ideal heaven, the one that is possible here on earth or the silly, imaginary one on old Abraham's brisket.

"And Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven."—(II Kings)  
"No man has ascended up to heaven but he that came down from heaven, even the son of man."—(John, III:13.) You must believe both or be damned. Some people are damned in TRYING to believe.

Humanity is selling out her old stock! The superstition in the Christian churches, the saloon system with its attendant evils, the tobacco, morphine and cocaine habits, freeloivism and libertinage, spiritualism and theosophy—all these must be sold. Going cheap! What will you give for the whole lot?

And the Lord was with Judah, and he drove out the inhabitants of the mountains, but could not drive out the inhabitants of the valley, because they had chariots of iron. (Judges I-19.) The Lord is having a hard fight with the people of our day. Our iron horses and chariots are helping to destroy all the old myths. Science is the Savior of the world.

We give the Torch of Reason and the Freethought Magazine for one year for the small sum of \$1.50. Now is the time to subscribe.

Notice our ad for our New Song Book. These little books have cost us much labor and we want to sell them. Send for one and write to your friends about it.

NEWS AND NOTES.

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

Mrs. Hosmer is drilling the students for another entertainment.

We contracted to sell two lots in the University Addition right away. Who will be the next?

We are impatient to have the work advance more rapidly. Can you tell us how to do it?

One corner of the basement of the new university building is up as far as it is to go. It is six feet above the ground.

Longfellow says that we should "learn to labor and to wait." We have learned the labor part, but waiting "makes us tired."

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

After school commences we expect to have meetings every Sunday evening. A good choir and orchestra will help us make these meetings entertaining and instructive.

We receive so many marks of kindness from our friends, in the way of vegetables, fruits, etc., that we do not always have space to acknowledge them, but we wish to assure all that we fully appreciate their help, and will do everything in our power to prove it.

It is a fact we hate to mention, but in order for our work to succeed, we must, in some way, raise quite a sum of money during the next few months. We thank those who have so nobly stood by us, and we earnestly invite all to especially interest themselves in our work now. Write to us.

We have printed some fine scholarship blanks and are very anxious to fill them out, for we need the help that the money will give us, and we need the students. Every student who comes and is faithful in the work will help our school more than we can tell. We can give more than value received. Do you want one?

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.

Mr. and Mrs. D. Wolfard and their son of Colfax, Washington, old-time residents of Silverton and thorough-going Secularists, made us a pleasant call Tuesday. Mr. Wolfard was raised a Catholic, but instead of becoming a priest, as his parents wished, he became convinced that the old religion of his fathers is a humbug. Mrs. Wolfard was a Methodist when married, but she

now also enjoys mental liberty. Mr. Wolfard subscribed for our paper, and they all gave us many words of cheer and kind wishes for our success.

We have received another valuable book for the library. The title is "A Story of Heredity," and the donor is Mrs. Ruth Brettell of Dakota. Mrs. Brettell knows how to help build a university.

In the TORCH of September 9th we published a letter from our friend F. S. Matteson of Turner wherein he offered to donate towards paying for our printing press the price of one pair of Belgian hares. We have sold the hares for one dollar and Mr. Matteson writes that they have been shipped. He has also offered for the University fund, one pair of Chinese pheasants to be sold for \$3.00. This is an opportunity to help the University and at the same time get good value for your money. If you do not want the pheasants, he will give you the choice of different stuffed and mounted birds amounting to \$2.50 to \$5.00. Mr. Matteson deserves great credit for his untiring labor for our cause.

Obituary.

The sudden death of Capt. Chas. M. Thomas of Nantucket, Mass., will be sad news to the many Liberals who knew him. Honor, liberality, and equality were his sentiments; yet what a consolation to Freethinkers to know that it is in their ranks such a man has marched and bravely and fearlessly expressed his honest thoughts and convictions, regardless of all else except the desire to speak and act truthfully and be true to himself and his fellowman.

GRACE E. GRUBER.

Better Than Bread.

EDITOR TORCH OF REASON:

Enclosed find draft for \$1.60 for yearly subscription and extra papers sent me sometime ago. Your valuable paper reaches me regularly and is considered by me and family the best little visitor that crosses weekly over our threshold. My wife would rather be without bread and butter than the paper, let the good labor go on and time together with the good work will make the world better.

Truly yours, DR. L. S. STOLL.

Atonement for Sin.

The doctrine of the atonement is of heathen origin, and is predicated upon the assumption that no sin can be fully expiated without the shedding of blood. In the language of Paul, "Without the shedding of blood there can be no remission of sin." barbarous and bloody doctrine truly! But this doctrine was almost universally prevalent amongst the orientals long before Paul's time.—Bell's Hand Book.

Card of Thanks.

We take this method to extend our most hearty thanks to the many friends, for their kind services rendered during our sad bereavement.

MRS. ANN SCOTT AND FAMILY.