

From the Secularist Standpoint.

A very good audience assembled in the opera house Tuesday night to hear Miss Kate DePeatt, secretary of the Oregon State Secular Union. The lecture was preceded by some recitations and instrumental music by Miss High and Miss Lottie Pracht. Miss DePeatt is a young lady, born and reared in Ashland, and a graduate of the Ashland high school. When she came upon the stage alone to speak, it was with the ease and self-possession of one greeting old friends, remarking pleasantly that she did not feel the need of an introduction to the Ashland public. She proceeded directly to discuss the subject of the lecture, making an earnest and able plea for absolute mental liberty, as respects religious creeds, and an indignant protest against the bigotry and hypocrisy of the orthodox Christian churches. The speaker gave an interesting historical resume of the various religions of the world, pointing out how they had thrust themselves as obstacles across the way of human progress, and through the greed and selfishness of the priests kept the mass of mankind in mental and physical slavery, as in ancient Egypt, the parent of the earliest known civilization. She did not fail to comment upon the blighting effect of the early Christianity upon the high state of civilization attained by Rome and Greece, how the culture and refinement of those enlightened people were replaced by the semi-barbaric habits and superstitious savagery of the Goths and Vandals; literature of the Augustan age gradually disappeared, until finally there was no intellectual spark to be found outside the cloister, and the dark ages with their inexpressible horrors were upon the world. The influence of Luther and the rise of Protestantism in promoting mental liberty were dwelt upon. So also were the lessons of American colonization drawn upon with effect to illustrate the certain tendency to cruel bigotry and savage proscription of Christian fanaticism, when allowed full reign, no matter what creed was professed. The principal colonists were refugees from religious persecution. When they had learned the lesson of mental liberty they adopted the Declaration of Independence, the great charter guaranteeing freedom of conscience. While the church was an entirely different thing from what it was, not a century ago, there was much to be done, and a jealous watch must be kept upon its grasping and proscriptive ambitions. Its prestige and power were small, compared with former times, but its capacity to work injustice and spread unhappiness among mankind was still great. The speaker closed with an explanation of the

organization and purposes of the Secular Union. Her lecture was received with marked appreciation. The young lady has been a lover of books and a close student of the best literature for several years, and the information and fine culture thus obtained was much in evidence in this discourse.—Valley Record, (Ashland) Oct. 14th.

In Memoriam.

Died, at Wagner, Oregon, on Tuesday evening, October 19, 1897, Mrs. Warren Carsner, leaving a husband, son and daughter to mourn their loss. The direct cause of her death was a cancerous growth on the lungs, she having undergone several different operations for the removal of cancerous tumors. During her last illness she was constantly attended by her family, and loving friends and neighbors, all medical skill being of no avail.

Mrs. Carsner, during her life, was a bright example of patient courage and hope, and no priest-craft made her afraid of death. She made luminous the words, "a life well spent is well ended." No superstitious fear made her afraid to lie down in the bosom of Nature for her last eternal sleep. It might well be said of her that her life was an exemplar of the Secularist hope of immortality; the influence of example on present and future generations.

She held it truth with him who sings
To one clear harp in divers tones,
That men may rise on stepping stones
Of their dead selves, to better things.

How grandly beautiful is the thought of death when viewed in the light of a life spent in conformity with the principle contained in the words, "do unto others as you would have others do unto you." Well and truly has it been said, "a man's life is an appendix to his heart." Farewell, gentle sister, eternal goodbye.

Earth, let thy softest mantle rest
On this worn child to thee returning,
Whose youth was nurtured at thy breast,
Who loved thee with such gentle yearning.

She knew thy fields and woodland ways
And deemed thy humblest son her brother;
Asleep, beyond our blame or praise,
We yield her back, O, gentle mother,
M.

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