

**OBITUARY.**

MRS. MAGGIE CARNSNER.

It has been said that "Secularism may be good to live by, but fear overtakes when death approaches." That this is not so, was demonstrated again when, fearlessly and calmly, with a peaceful smile lighting up her countenance, our beloved Liberal friend, Mrs. Maggie Carsner, wife of Warren Carsner, fell asleep in the arms of death at her home in Wagner, Oregon, on the 19th of October, 1897. This brave, noble little woman was conscious to the last breath; and, although for months realizing that the hand of death was upon her, she never swerved from her convictions formed in health, and without repentance, priest or prayer, died without a murmur and without fear. The beautiful home of Mr. and Mrs. Carsner has been for years the headquarters of Secular thought, and the hospitable rendezvous of Secularists for Grant county, and Mrs. Carsner kept even step with her loving husband in every effort to release mankind from the fetters of superstition, and to put in its place the sweet peace that comes from a consciousness of having lived up to one's highest conceptions of right, fearless of any gods, devils or hells.

Mrs. Carsner was born in Galesburg, Illinois, October 14, 1850, and came with her parents, R. G. and Evaline Frakes, to Oregon in 1853, settling at Harrisburg, in Linn county. She resided in Harrisburg until 1870, when she removed to Grant county, and in 1871 was married to Warren Carsner (October 22nd) and has continued to reside in Grant county ever since. She was taken sick about four years ago with what the doctors called a cancer, and since that time they have treated her for that malady, performing upon her in all six operations with the knife, any one of which seemed enough to kill any ordinary person, and yet she bore them all with great patience. Her devoted and generous husband and family spared no expense or trouble to restore her to health, and at times hope cheered them, but finally disease triumphed over the medical skill of the age, and death came to vanquish suffering. Besides her husband, she leaves a grown son and daughter and a very wide circle of friends, because she was widely known. Everybody loved her and respected her, and her family idolized her. She was a Secularist of thorough convictions, and the cause has lost one of its most enthusiastic champions. Her funeral was strictly Secular, and was ably conducted by C. N. Wagner. Mrs. Carsner was a devoted wife and mother. To her, death was no monster, but a natural law. As splendid a woman as ever heeded the voice of reason, she bowed

heroically to the inevitable, and surrendered her life with a smile.

These pulseless lips shall never feel again the kiss of love;  
This frail form gathered from the elements  
We now surrender back, grateful that it lived,  
If this is all, then we bow to the course of nature;  
If not, then we do not guess, we know,  
The virtues of our friend insure her continued happiness;  
And with those she loved,

D. W. SMITH.  
LILLIE MILLER SMITH.  
Castle Kehm, on the Willamette, November 1, 1897.

JULIA DAVIDSON.

On the 15th ult., one of our little Secular Sunday school girls closed her eyes in the sleep we call death. Little Julia was the daughter of La Roy S. and Alice M. Davidson of Montavilla, Oregon. She was six years old, and although it seems sad that she should fade away from our sight ere she had reached the age to even realize what life and death mean, yet after all, what do we who have lived a few days longer know? And she has missed all the cares and trials. Perhaps we may learn to feel no regrets when our loved ones cease to be, if we have done all we can to beautify and preserve their lives, and who can say that this little life has not done more than many who have lived out their four score years and ten?

The funeral address was delivered at the home in Montavilla by C. Beal, a well known Secularist of Portland, Oregon. Mrs. Clara Bailey, W. Feustel, and Prof. Wall sang appropriate songs, and Matie and Chester Van Houten, two of the little girl's associates in the Secular Sunday school, played touching music on the piano and violin. Little Julia is gone, but she will live on in our memories until we, too, fall asleep in the arms of Mother Nature.

**Can't We Do It?**

"The Board of Directors of the Y. M. C. A., which held its annual election of officers this week, are determined that the association shall have the new building it so badly needs. As the first official step in that direction the board by a unanimous vote has decided to purchase, for \$25,000, the lot adjoining the patched up building now owned and used by the Y. M. C. A. This will give them a frontage of seventy-six feet for the new building. It is confidently expected that the work to be done during the winter will give the association money enough to commence the erection of the new building early in the spring."

The above from our Washington, D. C., correspondent shows that Christians are also active and looking forward to building in the spring. They have buildings all over our country that cost millions of dollars. If we could raise one-fifth of \$25,000 by next spring we could do more genuine work for the cause of truth than all the angelic hosts combined. Can't we do it?

**NEWS AND NOTES.**

Mr. R. S. Wiles will paint us a new sign for our office.

Don't forget to secure one or more lots in Secular Home.

No extra charge for vocal music for students of the University.

The college yell of the Liberal University echoes through our halls again.

All persons wishing to study instrumental music should report at the University at once.

The session of the Liberal University for '97-'98 will bring forth splendid results if we all do our part.

The basement of our new building looks very well, since the masons have put in the window frames.

We expect to move the printing office next Saturday, to a more convenient location in the center of the city.

The battle against ignorance, superstition, and crime is on again. We need ammunition. Help us all you can.

Miss Gertrude Milliorn arrived last Tuesday to attend the University. She will room at Mr. and Mrs. Mason's.

We are glad to hear that Mattie P. Krekel is recovering from a stroke of paralysis. She has been quite sick for several months.

The Portland Oregonian lately called attention to our work by giving a picture of the building now in course of construction, and a splendid account of our progress.

Students can enter the Liberal University at any time, and when they have completed a branch they can take the final examination without waiting to complete the whole course.

The Y. P. S. S. C. will meet at Liberal Hall Friday evening at 7:30. All members and students should be present. Let us make the society as interesting and instructive as possible this winter.

We are very sorry to hear of the death of our Secular friend, Mr. Willis Dunagan. He has resided near Silverton for many years and was a supporter of the Secular cause. He has many warm friends who mourn his death.

We are glad to have so many of our readers renew their subscriptions. It is good evidence that they appreciate the TORCH OF REASON. Watch for the pencil mark on your paper and then renew so as to not miss a number.

The fall term of the Liberal University opened Wednesday morning with the following students in attendance: Winnie Whitlock, Alma Hicks, Leona Allen, Lora Ames, Gertrude Milliorn, Lillian Johnson, Elma Ames, Ada Page, Louie Rauch, Frank Morley, Reber Allen, Clyde Mount, Earl Whit-

lock, Harry Desart, Jerry Desart, Louie Wolfard, Elvin Ames, and Charles Page. This insures us a very interesting school for the ensuing year, and there are several students who expect to enroll within a week or so.

**LITTLE POINTS.**

The fear of doing wrong is the beginning of wisdom.

"Do good to them that hate you," of course doesn't apply to Infidels who love you, but hate your superstitions.

Do away with the ideas of spirits and spooks, and it will have the same effect as the doing away with witchcraft did.

The fundamental cause of all crime is the disunion of the members of society, and this disunion is the direct outcome of religious creeds.

"Pray for them that despitefully use you." This is easy. Do it and then tell sister Telltale the whole story, with your god-given interpretation thereof.

It shows that you have great love for your enemies, Christian friends, when you won't even go to hear your brother who thinks your belief a mistake.

Do I seem to say, "let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die?" Far from it; on the contrary, I say, "let us take hands and help, for this day we are alive together."—W. K. Clifford.

"There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." This wrong way is the following after mythical religions instead of studying nature's laws. Science is our savior.

If God loves his enemies, he must certainly love us who do not believe that he exists. If he loves us he certainly would like to save us, and if he wants to he certainly will, if he has the power, and they say that everything is possible with God.

**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
B. A. Leonard, Oregon,	5.00
Clara Bailey,	1.00
L. Ames,	75.00

MATERIAL, ETC.

Previously acknowledged,	\$254.50
E. W. Ross, (lumber)	10.00

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