

NEWS AND NOTES.

Master Henry Fisher is among the new students this week.

Our office has turned out a large amount of job work this week.

Notice the new ad. on seventh page.

Buy your reserved seat ticket of Guiss & Son for the concert Friday evening.

Captain Lora Ames' side scored 198 points at the Y. P. S. S. C. meeting last Friday evening.

Under the management of Prof. Mason, our writing class is doing some splendid work.

The Clow Family Concert Co., who will be here Friday night, are all Secularists.

The Sunday school entertainment last Sunday evening was thought by some to be the best our school ever gave.

The meeting of the Y. P. S. S. C. has been postponed till Sunday evening, on account of the Clow Family concert on Friday evening.

The first final examination for the completion of the Preparatory Course will be given in geography. About twelve students will take the examination soon.

We now have buckwheat cakes for breakfast. How can we afford such luxuries? Why, Mr. Julius Fisher belongs to "the gang of Infidels that wants to see the constructive work go on". See?

When a ray of light passes from one medium to another the index of refraction is the ratio between the sines of the incident and refracted angles. If you wish this explained call on one of the members of the philosophy class.

This is the day that those who are rich thank God that they are not poor, and those who are poor return thanks because they are no poorer; those in good health thank God for it, and those who suffer thank him because he don't make them suffer more.

As this is Thanksgiving, we wish to give thanks to whom thanks are due. We thank all our friends for their many kindnesses and take this way of assuring them that we appreciate their every effort to make our work count on the side of progress.

It seems that the Materialists and Spiritualists have been having trouble in Melbourne, Australia. It is the same old story. The editor of the "Liberator" states that the hall built by the Freethinkers in general is now controlled by "the worst of Melbourne Spiritualists." The true Secularists there have lately organized a new society and no doubt their experience with the Spiritualists has taught them to be careful how they build up their organization. True Secularists can

no more work with Spiritualists than they can with Catholics. Neither should be blamed for not working with the other — they should be blamed for trying it.

Our philosophy class was presented with a large, clear, glass marble by Mr. L. Ames this week. It was at once used in explaining the phenomenon of the rainbow, and we are quite sure the class now understands this subject much better than the man who thought it was a sign from a god.

A report from Kansas states that the Rev. Gilham, of the Christian church, preached a sermon there in which he affirmed there is no devil. The congregation took offense and the next time the reverend gentleman undertook to speak he was ejected from the house and about twenty pistol shots were fired at him.

We will send the TORCH OF REASON one year to five new subscribers for \$3.75, and the party getting up the club will receive fifty visiting cards for his trouble. These cards are what all Secularists should use, as they have an engraving of the famous Wettstein badge beautifully lithographed at the left of your name. This offer holds good until Jan. 1st.

The Clow Family Concert Co. will be in Silverton Friday and perhaps Saturday of this week. Their entertainments are well spoken of everywhere, and we earnestly request our readers to hear them while here if possible. The prices are exceedingly low for so good an entertainment. General admission 20 cents; children 10 cents; reserved seats 25 cents.

While we are hard at work teaching, writing, editing, etc., we have not time to follow up unprincipled people who are trying to "grind their axes" as we turn, so we will be obliged to let them grind until they get too bold and then we will do something radical. We wish to thank our friends who so kindly sent us "letters of recommendation". We will keep them for future reference.

Last Saturday, the teachers of this vicinity, met in the public school house at Silverton, and organized the Silverton Educational Association. County Superintendent Jones conducted the meeting, and very interesting papers were read by Profs. Copeland, Buff, and Anderson. There were seventeen teachers present, who are engaged in teaching, and a number of others who are interested in the work. After the discussion, arrangements for future work, and the election of Prof. Moores, principal of the public school, as President and Prof. Beaver as Secretary, the association adjourned to meet at 10 a. m. Dec. 11.

LITTLE POINTS.

If decency is a creed we want it. Truthseekers should put in practice the truths that they discover.

Some people fear being laughed at more than they fear doing wrong.

If man had not been humbugged into depending on a Savior, he would not now be in a condition to need one.

Liberals should not be so liberal (?) as to allow their fellow men to suffer without trying to help them.

The facts of evolution are knocking the theories of theology into a cocked hat. Let us help the good work along.

Every individual has evolved from a "simple form"; why should the "lords of creation" feel shocked at the race having done the same?

If Christ was "God manifest in the flesh," when he cried, "My god! my god! why hast thou forsaken me?" he only meant, "Myself! myself! why have I forsaken myself?" This is a question that it would be well for many to ask themselves. "To thine own self be true."

If God would let us have the gold that the streets, harps, and crowns in heaven are made of, and make the streets of asphalt, the crowns of gilt paper, and the harps of aluminum and catgut, we believe it would be a better plan of salvation than the shedding of innocent blood.

Pride of the West.

EDITOR TORCH OF REASON:

Your paper is the pride of the West, and we must keep the TORCH OF REASON burning until it has 20,000 subscribers. You have accomplished good work, and the West is ahead of the East in Freethought and reason. It is surprising what big salaries preachers get for telling the people lies.

I enclose five dollars for new subscriptions and the University fund. Yours for progress,

E. O. DECKER.

Alaska.

Buddhism.

The Buddhists number 400,000, 000, or one-third of the human race. Buddha lived about 500 or 600 years before our era. Buddhists do not believe in any god or gods as being pleased or displeased by their actions, and as assigning to the actors their future condition by way of punishment or of reward. The very idea of a God as creating or in any way ruling, the world is utterly absurd in the Buddhist system. God is not so much as denied; he is simply not known. Contrary to the opinion once confidently and generally held, that

a nation of Atheists never existed, it is no longer to be disputed that the numerous Buddhist nations are essentially Atheist; for they know no beings with greater supernatural power than any man is capable of attaining to by virtue, by austerity, and by science; and a remarkable indication of this startling fact is to be seen in the circumstances that some at least of the Buddhist nations—the Chinese, the Mongols, and the Thibetans—have no word in their language to express the notion of God.—[Chamber's Encyclopædia.

Esoteric Origin.

EDITOR TORCH OF REASON:

I was much interested in the article about "spirits" and the origin of the word, which was published in last week's paper. Having studied on that subject a great deal while going to school and since, I found from its derivation and other closely related words like soul, ghost, etc., that it can be traced back to where it means the ultimate atoms or molecules of matter, that are, as we know, indestructible and therefore immortal. In studying different languages, I find this holds good in all of the branches of the Aryian language.

Now, my theory of the origin of the idea of immortality was in the esoteric or hidden teachings of the priests or learned men in the times when it was not safe to know too much. Those ancients knew much more than some people give them credit for, and instead of saying and writing that matter is indestructible, as we do now, they hid their meaning from the ignorant multitude and revealed it to the initiated in the manner suggested. The study of languages and their origin is very interesting, and I would recommend all the students of the Liberal University to take up a few of them as a help toward understanding our own, if for no other. The comparison of languages and study of their origin will show any reasonable or unprejudiced student, where all our modern religions arose, in the ancient rites and ceremonies of the sun worshipers. Their method of teaching the truths of science indicate the origin of the idea of immortality. Their god was one that could be seen, and the fables and stories collected in the book we call the bible, nearly all show more or less plainly their close relation to the teachings of the sun worshipers. The stories of Samson and Christ show this system of teaching better, probably, than any other parts of the bible. I remain,

Yours truly,  
F. J. Beaty.

We will send the TORCH OF REASON from now until January 1st, 1899, for one dollar. Tell your friends about it and have them subscribe.