

Queer Kind of Freethought.

There is a Freethought paper called the TORCH OF REASON published at Silverton, the editor of which seriously believes the authorities did right in suppressing the Firebrand. The TORCH devotes most of its space to fighting Christianity, and very frequently makes use of language which the orthodox Christian would consider shockingly indecent and immoral. It seems to me that the orthodox Christian has just as much reason to desire the suppression of the TORCH OF REASON by law as the said TORCH has to desire the suppression of the Firebrand. The TORCH does not mention the Firebrand at all, so as not to advertise it. It speaks of "licentious scoundrels", evidently referring to the Firebrand editors. Now we must bear in mind that there is no law to suppress a paper on the ground of its editor being licentious or a scoundrel. If there was nearly every editor would have his contemporary across the street sent to jail and there would not be enough papers to start fires with. The Firebrand editors may have opinions on questions of sexology different from those of the TORCH editor, but that can hardly be urged as sufficient reason why their paper should be shut down. . . . There is matter in the Firebrand that I do not approve of, but that is no reason for its suppression. On the other hand there are many good things in it. My plan is to pick the good out of everything and leave the bad alone. I believe in liberty of opinion and liberty of expression within limits of reasonable decency, and the law has not yet decided that the Firebrand has exceeded these limits. That is my idea of freethought. That of the TORCH seems to me to savor of orthodox bigotry and intolerance. I do not know whether the TORCH has lost its reason, or reason has lost its TORCH; there appears to be something the matter that I do not understand.—J.L.Jones, in Commoner.

We think the above shows a "queer kind of Freethought." In the first sentence Mr. Jones states as a truth what he has no reason to think is true. We did not mention his free-love, anarchistic friends' paper and we have no idea whether the authorities did right or wrong in suppressing it. We do not know that the paper published obscene literature. If they did we are sorry they were so foolish; and if they didn't we are sorry they are persecuted. By "licentious scoundrels" we had in mind other parties, but Mr. Jones seems to think the coat fits his friends, so forces it on them. Poor fellows, how much more must they suffer for righteousness' sake? We believe that all should have the right to think and to express that thought and we also believe as Mr. Jones does, that it is a good plan to pick the good out of everything, and when he says "within limits of reasonable decency," he shows that he thinks there is a limit. We do not know whether the editors of the Firebrand reached that limit or not, and as we did not refer to them at all in speaking of "licentious scoundrels", we think Mr. Jones is using orthodox methods of jumping at conclusions and has lost his torch and his reason both and there seems to be something wrong with his understanding

*** WESTERN ***
INFORMATION

Bureau and Exchange

*Is there anything you want? Have you property to sell?
Do you wish to buy a home? Do you wish
to go into business? Do you wish
to exchange real estate or
personal property?*

FRIENDS:—We have recently established a general Exchange and Information business in the thriving city of Silverton, and have for sale a number of town lots, vacant and improved, some well established business enterprises, some splendid farms near Silverton, and last but not least, all the lots in

SECULAR HOME

a tract of land adjoining the Liberal University grounds, and beautifully situated for homes. Below is a partial list of the property we have for sale.

CITY PROPERTY.

- Half-Acre Lot** in West Silverton; beautiful location for residence. \$200.
- Corner Lot** near the Liberal University. \$100.
- Lots in Secular Home**, location to suit, at \$25, \$50 and \$75.
- One Set** Blacksmith's Tools and well established business. A bargain at \$150.
- House and Lot** near the depot. \$750.
- House** and lot in center of town. \$375.
- House** and barn with 1½ acres of land in Silverton. \$750.

FARM PROPERTY.

- 23 acres**, well improved, fine house, barn and outbuildings, one mile from Silverton, \$4000. Will trade for larger farm of equal value not over twenty miles from Silverton.
- 313 acres** of splendid fruit and farming land, well improved, good running water, three miles from Silverton, at \$27 per acre. Can divide if necessary to suit purchaser.
- 160 acres** of fine timber, near a large sawmill, \$1000. Logs can be floated nearly all the way to mill.

Silverton is the home of Secularism, and families moving here will have the splendid advantage of schooling their children in the only Liberal University in the world. Silverton is beautifully situated in the great Willamette valley in the foothills of the Cascade mountains. A fine sparkling stream affords splendid water power and great advantages for drainage. Write to us for further information. Yours for business,

INFORMATION BUREAU AND EXCHANGE.

WATER STREET,
Opposite Liberal Hall.

Silverton, Oregon.

WESTERN UNIVERSITY

AND **Absent Teaching Institute**

INCORPORATED UNDER THE LAWS OF ILLINOIS

To teach, educate and confer degrees of scholarship upon those who by studiousness are entitled to them in Art, Science, Literature, Law, Philosophy and Theology. It is well known that hundreds of people are highly qualified in various lines of scientific research, and have become practical as well as theoretical scholars since leaving the school room and are deserving of a degree suitable to their calling. Many are worthy and fitted, and WESTERN UNIVERSITY is fully authorized to honor such with a suitable degree. Others, not quite ready, to aid them our plan is to direct courses of reading and study, followed by periodical examinations, and when the candidate is qualified, to grant a diploma for a suitable degree, according to the standard of scholarship attained. The degrees that may be conferred are B. P., B. S., L. S., Ph. D., A. M., M. S., LL. D., D. D.

Among the patrons as students, and graduates holding the fine Latin diplomas of Western University, are teachers, doctors, pastors, lawyers, merchants, mechanics, authors and inventors. For full particulars, address,

J. H. RANDALL, Ph. D., M. D.

PEOPLE'S INSTITUTE - - CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

GOOD BOOKS

At Reduced Prices

We can furnish the following books well bound in cloth; good print, standard sizes, for the extremely low price of 60 cents each, postage 10 cents. Don't fail to take advantage of this offer.

- Origin of Species.....Chas. Darwin
- Descent of Man....." "
- First Principles.....Herbert Spencer
- Data of Ethics....." "
- Emerson's Essays
- Sartor Resartus.....Thomas Carlyle
- History French Revolution " "
- Discourses of Epictetus
- Past and Present.....Thomas Carlyle
- Hypatia.....Chas. Kingly
- Autobiography of Benj. Franklin
- Fifteen Decisive Battles of the World.....E. C. Creasy
- Tennyson's Poems
- Shelley's Poems
- Longfellow's Poems
- Pope's Poems
- Milton's Poems
- Hood's Poems
- Burns' Poems
- Robert Browning's Poems
- Byron's Poems
- Shakespeare's Poems

Address,
JONES' BOOK STORE,
291 ALDER ST. PORTLAND, ORE.

ELMER HARDESTY,
Attorney at Law.

Will practice in all courts of the state. Special attention given to collections and notary work.
ROOM 3, WOLF BLOCK.
SILVERTON, OREGON.

N. Jerman, J. H. Lyons.
JERMAN & LYONS,
PAINTERS.

House, sign and carriage painting. Paper-hanging and interior decoration a specialty. Charges reasonable. Work guaranteed.

M'MILLAN & PITTMAN
BUTCHERS

—All kinds of choice—
...FRESH MEAT...
Always on hand and sold at
Standard * Prices.

We pay the highest price
Cash for Fat Stock.
...Give Us a Call...

SILVERTON...
Barber Shop
...Artistic Work

When you want a...
Good Smooth Shave
Or a First-Class.....
Hair-Cut
—CALL ON—

E. E. TAYLOR

SILVERTON, - - - - - OREGON