

CURRENT EVENTS.

President Diaz, of Mexico, will soon visit the United States.

The government has given orders for the first steps toward establishing a mail route to Circle City.

A canvass of the senate shows that Hawaiian annexation has 57 votes, while the number required to ratify the treaty is 60.

King George is greatly depressed by the situation in Greece. He is willing to abdicate if the nation desires to form a republic.

The free homestead bill, giving over 20,000,000 acres of public lands for free homes to settlers, has been ordered favorably reported to the house by the public land commission.

A measure proposing an amendment to the federal constitution providing for the election of senators by popular vote is now pending in the senate, while a similar bill is before a house committee.

Japan has been removed as an element in opposition to the annexation of Hawaii by the United States, by an agreement which settles the status of the Japanese on the islands in accordance with the treaty of 1895.

It is reported that negotiations are in progress between the state department and the Cuban insurgents, looking toward the settlement of the trouble with Spain on some financial basis. The insurgents have expressed willingness to assume a reasonable share of the Spanish bonds issued against the Cuban revenues. The gradual occupation of the island by a naval force is understood to be part and parcel of the negotiations with the insurgents. When they are concluded, if everything goes on well, the United States will be in a position to offer Spain a heavy financial bonus for giving up the island, while at the same time the insurgents will find themselves in a position to make a junction with the United States naval forces at any one of the half dozen ports. The battleship Maine now occupies the port at Havana, and the Montgomery has been ordered to Mantanzas. The Spanish appear to be somewhat displeased with the presence of American war vessels in Cuban Ports, and a Spanish battleship has been ordered to pay a "friendly" visit to American ports. Official information shows that the war up to December had cost Spain \$240,000,000.

Freethought News-Notes.

Ephraim E. Hitchcock, a Freethinker, nominally a Universalist, and president of the Truthseeker Company, of New York, from 1883

to 1892, died in that city January 13th.

President J. E. Remsburg, of the American Secular Union and Free-thought Federation, has issued a wide-awake message to the Liberals of the country. He does not presume to dictate any policy, he says, but he urges organization, local and state, and the establishing of Secular Sunday schools, on practically the same lines as the Oregon Union has adopted, that is, the teaching of science and morality. He also calls attention to other important matters, among them the work of the god-in-the-constitution party.

REFLECTED RAYS.

The decay of the Christian superstition marks the triumph of intelligence over stupidity.

Shingles and clapboards have done more to make human life happy and bright than has religion.

A window in a house is better than a bible.—[Investigator.

Modern Society, October 9th, says the pope has in the Vatican not less than thirty tons of gold, all of it wrought up in works of art or works of holy trumpery. There are also in his palace more diamonds and gems than South Africa has so far yielded. The wealth of this old and feeble quack has been bestowed upon him by fools and rogues belonging to various countries, or swindled by his predecessors from their contemporaries. Considering the masses of paupers in Italy, it is the duty of the government to take possession of the Vatican and turn its treasures to account for the good of the people. That is what must be done when Italy becomes civilized. The pope is only the most successful of all imposters—that is the best thing that can be said about him. And no impostor ever had so many ignorant and poverty-stricken dupes to rule and rob. The pope pretends to be the representative of the penniless Jesus, and the successor of a fisherman called Peter. There he is the richest fellow in the universe, living in a palace of from ten to sixteen thousand rooms, and crowded with all the glittering toys and barbaric splendour that could be imagined. And they call that the true Christianity! Even for the sake of such unutterable wretches as Pope & Co., one feels glad that Christianity is a lie, that Hell is a fable. What horrors would await the rogues, if Christianity were true! One is appalled at the bare thought of them. No, no! Mr. Pecci and the rest of you, Hell is not for you—not for anybody. Go on, and enjoy as best you may your wages of sin, the fruits of your giant wickedness. It would spoil your pleasure to think of them.—[Liberator.

***** WESTERN *****

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Half-Acre Lot in West Silverton; beautiful location for residence. \$200.

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