

To Raise Five Thousand Dollars for the Unversity.

- 9 Secularists,
 - P. C. Mosier, will give... \$50
 - Lon Ames will give... 50
 - A Friend will give... 50
 - D. Buckingham will give... 50
 - A. Slaman, M. D., will give... 50
 - R. C. Burtis will give... 50
 - A Friend will give... 50
 - C. F. Ames will give... 50
 - P. Rauch will give... 50
- provided that

91 more men (or women) will give the same amount. Where are the ninety-one?

NEWS AND NOTES.

The class in history will soon take the final examination.

Tract No. 4 is now ready. Send in your orders. Fifty for ten cents.

Fred Welch and Vivian Messenger are the new students this week.

Harry Bowers presented the library with the "Life of David Crockett" this week.

Several friends have visited our school this week. Those who are interested in educational work are always welcome.

The drama, "Texas," played by local talent at Liberal Hall Saturday evening, was one of the best ever given in this city.

Do you want to earn your way to the Liberal University? Read our offer on the third page. This is a splendid opportunity.

Miss Kate DePeatt has returned to her work at Liberal University, having regained her health after her six weeks' illness. We all give her a hearty welcome.

We are in receipt of a picture of the home of our friend D. C. Andrews, of Lone Rock, Oregon. Many thanks. We invite others of our friends to follow Mr. Andrews' example.

You see we are still calling for ninety-one people with fifty dollars each to build the University, no addition being received this week. Don't let this happen again. Can't we make up for lost time next week?

We have moved our library into the office upstairs where it has been put in splendid shape, and will be more convenient for the use of the students. There is room for many more books and donations in that line will be gladly received.

The two sides of the Y. P. S. S. C. are busily contending for points which will decide, at the end of the present term, which side is entitled to the treat at the expense of the other side. Captain Wolfard gave

the first program of the series last Friday evening. Now it is Captain Mason's turn. Look out for an interesting time.

The students of the University are preparing another drama, "The Spy of Gettysburg," which they will present to the people of Silvertown in the near future. They did so well with their first one, that this one will be looked forward to with pleasure.

Remember if you send us the names and addresses of 25 of your Liberal friends and acquaintances, we will make you a present of a copy of the Torch of Reason Song Book No. 1. This will only cost you a few minutes work and a two cent stamp.

The Salem Statesman issued a supplement this week giving a review of Silvertown and her resources, institutions and people. Among the rest, is a picture of the Liberal University building, in course of construction, and a splendid account of that institution.

Mrs. Bliven requests the readers of the TORCH to write their opinions, in about fifty words, on the subject of "Immortality", and mail them to us not later than March 1st. We published a short symposium on the same subject last week and will publish another the first issue in March.

Secularists, do you realize how much good you can do by distributing Mrs. Bliven's tracts of Scientific Wisdom? She is devoting much time and study to this work, and will undoubtedly do a vast amount of good in the world if Secularists everywhere will help her what they can.

Secularists, would you not like to have some letter heads printed with Secular sentiment and Wettstein's Freethought badge, to use in correspondence with your friends? We will furnish them to you with your name and address printed on them for 75 cents per hundred, \$1.50 for 250, or \$2.50 for 500 post paid. Let the people know where you stand.

The Negroes and Religion.

Mrs. R. A. Bell, of Texas, writes us many entertaining letters. The following from her pen is a very interesting description of the colored people and their ways since the war:

When the war ended, we had \$30,000 worth of cotton besides a great deal of land and stock. My husband tried to give the negroes a chance to make something for themselves and for him, but they thought of nothing but preaching and praising God for giving them their freedom, consequently they had no time for work. They would sometimes sing and pray nearly all

night, and of course were not in a condition to work the next day. They sing and pray a great deal yet, but nothing like they used to. They seem to be getting ashamed of it. They are not progressing in this part of the country as fast as they would if they had good teachers. Their teachers are ignorant themselves and poor disciplinarians. Their pupils play nearly all the time. Still, they do advance a little. I had an old negro woman cooking for me soon after the war, who was in every way a good servant, except that she would steal. I went one Sunday in company with several other ladies to a negro church just to hear them shout. They would get happy, fall on the floor, and have to be carried out by main strength. The first brought out was my cook. The very next day she stole a whole side of bacon, and then vowed and declared she did not do it. I did not punish her for it, but made her own it and then shamed her. She stole it to give to some one else.

Some few of them are natually very good. I think my present cook is one of the best I ever knew. She is honest and good and not a member of the church. There is an old negro man living near me who is eighty years old and not a member of any church, which is very uncommon indeed; so I think he must be a Freethinker, as he comes nearest being honest of any negro I ever saw except my cook. The negro preachers all paw up the earth sometimes, beseeching God to convert him; and yet they all have more confidence in his honesty than they have in their most devout members of the church. Not long ago he called in to see my cook, and stopped at the window of my room to speak to me. He had a broad grin on his face. He knows I admire his honesty, and always tells me of the honors conferred on him by the church people. They have their societies and clubs like the white people and they always elect him treasurer, and while he is a negro of a good deal of natural sense, he has no education and don't even know his letters. I'll give you what he said in his own language:

'Good mornin Missus. Well Missus dem niggers done gone and got anudder 'ciety up, and las night they all got togeder and insulted each udder and collected me treasurer.'

I tell you these little things on the negroes that you may see how little good reiigion does them.

University Fund.

The amount given in this fund is actual cash paid in, regardless of what has been promised: Previously acknowledged, \$565.55 J. A. Hunt, Oregon, 5.00 University students, 7.00 MATERIAL, ETC. Previously acknowledged, \$274.50

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