

Torch of Reason

The Only Paper of Its Kind.

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Notice!

A pencil mark here denotes that your subscription will expire with the next number. You are earnestly requested to renew so that you may receive the paper without interruption. We have decided that it is best for all concerned that we do not send papers longer than the time paid for unless so ordered. This will prevent any loss and we will know just where we stand.

We request you to send us the names of Secularists who might become subscribers and we will mail sample copies.

THURSDAY, OCT. 6, E. M. 298

Opening.

The third year's work of the Liberal University has begun in earnest. At this writing it is impossible to tell just how many will attend, but the outlook is very bright. Miss Lillian Johnson, who attended last year, has returned and adds her talents and enthusiasm again to our great cause. Her brother Edwin will follow as soon as his work will permit. She expects him about the 15th of this month. Mr. Frank Brown, of Ontario, arrived Saturday, and even our short acquaintance has convinced us that he is to be a valuable addition to our little band of workers. James Officer, of Dayville, who has been attending the state fair, came back and with Mr. Dick Barnhouse, from Caleb, has been helping the carpenters get the rooms ready for the school; and since his arrival, Wilson Bennett has been waiting on the carpenters, driving the new team and assisting the work wherever he could. These new students from distant parts of our state are sure to add much to the success of our school this year and be the means of bringing others into the work in the near future. Most of last year's students who live in Silverton are back again, with quite an addition of new ones. Victor Dahl, Harry Melson, Winola Allen and Martin Klein have cast their lot with us and we hear of quite a large number of others who will be here in a few days.

Our buildings are going to answer our present conditions better than we thought at first. We will

be somewhat crowded, but if the good weather keeps up for a month or so and our friends give us enough financial aid, we will be able to move into the main building in a short time. Of course we will have a much larger degree of success when we get into the building that is being built especially for school purposes, but "what can't be cured must be endured". We must all "learn to labor and to wait".

We have been fortunate in securing another teacher, Mrs. Harry Town, who comes to us highly recommended and holding papers of high moral and educational value. Many will be sorry to learn that Professor Geer will not be able to take his classes at present. On account of his ability as salesman and our great need of the "almighty dollar", he has contracted to work a short time for his former employers, Messrs Adolf Wolf & Son, who are closing out their immense stock of general merchandise and were very anxious to have Mr. Geer help them.

As we are writing the mail comes laden with another one of those angels without wings, a fifty-dollar check. It came from South Dakota, and Mr. A. Slaman is the Secularist from whose Liberal, Freethought brain originated the idea of sending out his angel of go(o)d.

Well, our good work is marching on, and in a few years we will look back upon these days of constructive, moral work for Secularism with pride and feel well paid for our labors with the coin that passes current in the minds of all—the thought that we have been of service to our fellow men.

Wanderings.

One of our professors being led astray from the fold by the enemy known as Filthy Lucre, we are induced to help him escape to his former home across the Coast Range, close by the great roaring sea.

We (the editor and his better-half) started one day last week, with a new team which was just that morning donated to the University by Messrs Glaze and Officer, for the home of the cog and salal.

The first half-day's drive was a very pleasant one, but in the afternoon we reached the McCoy hills, and the trouble began. The load was a heavy one and the hills were just wet enough to be sticky, and we "got stuck". After waiting some time help came and we dragged along up the hills, but after talking with Mr. Reese, with whom we staid over night, we concluded our team could not take our heavy load over the mountains; we therefore began to try to buy, beg or borrow another horse. We at last found a good one and bought him at a very

reasonable figure, and with his aid we reached the Indian reservation and camped for the night. After taking care of our three horses and eating our cold lunch, we went to sleep on Mother Nature's lap. There we slept with the beautiful blue dome of the great star chamber above us, but thoughts of our long drive on the morrow awakened us very early, and ere the stars had ceased to shine we started again toward the great Pacific.

Driving three horses when one is not used to driving is hard work, and before dark we had a "tired feeling", but we were bound to reach Tillamook City that night, and so, by our better half driving the lead horse, we crossed Green Mountain after dark, reaching the city about 11 p. m., where friends and relatives gave us a hearty welcome.

We regret very much that we could not stay longer, but much work in Silverton called to us to hasten, and so we staid only one day; but this was long enough to learn that our school has many warm friends there and that quite a number of Tillamook students will finish their education in the Liberal University.

W. E. Page made the school quite a number of presents, among which was a fine, large steam cooker for the dining hall.

We came home via North Yamhill but on account of a heavy rain, our homeward journey was not a pleasant one. While on the mountains we were wet and cold—chilled to the bone, but by patience we arrived safe and sound where we found everybody hard at work and students coming from afar to attend the only Liberal University in the world.

A Promoter of Truth.

If the theories of Christianity are true, there is nothing that will make so many good Christians as a school like the Liberal University. We teach the strictest and highest kind of morality. We believe that there is no danger of being too good, and that every one should be just as good as he or she is capable of being. It is our duty to make the very most of life, and nothing can be made of a moral wreck compared with what can be made from a character that has never gone to pieces on the slimy rocks of dissipation and abuse. Therefore, in our teachings of pure manhood and womanhood we are building up "fit temples of the Holy Ghost", provided there is one and that he (she or it) understands his (her or its) business. No modern Christian can deny that a good character is the very best foundation for a perfect Christian life, and as our school is purely non-sectarian, always endeavoring to train

the intellectual faculties and give students knowledge of all the facts of history and of nature, it must be plain that the REAL TRUTH along every line will be discovered, as a general rule, by such an educated one much sooner than it will by those whose mental powers are weak and whose stock of historical and scientific facts is small. If Christianity is true, then, and if Christians honestly believe it to be true, they should do all in their power to promote non-sectarian institutions of learning.

To be sure, we the faculty are known to be Infidels, but we believe in freedom of thought and endeavor to teach the students to be independent—to do their own thinking; and when Christian ministers or Christian laymen combat our institution, it is pretty good proof that they are not anxious for the young people to discover the truth, but are afraid to have them learn to think and are like the old church, desirous of forcing the people into the mental slavery of the Dark Ages.

Imagination and Insanity.

EDITOR TORCH OF REASON:

As usual, the Torch of Reason was read with avidity. It is doing humanity more good than all the exclusive political clap-trap published in the land. It contains the substance of all true political human conduct. It, through reason, removes that blind, orthodox, religious prejudice that hampers the free action of the mind. It removes imaginary fears of an asserted hell. It removes the imaginary, unproven pleasures of treading heavenly streets paved with gold, and angels for associates with harps galore, based upon the wild imaginings of a few prolific minds. It brings man back to himself, to a study of himself, within the true and natural sphere of man. Nature may be perverted, but can not be changed by imagination, upon which orthodox creeds are based.

In the letter you honored by publication, allow me to state it contains only the everyday incidents by which the priestcraft subsists upon man's imaginative mental elements. To the orthodox bigot imagination becomes fact, from which arise crosses upon the back and sleeves with overcoat capes, formed after the holy, sacred heart of Mary, which to me is a play upon the imagination of bigots to cover the rottenness of the wearer, the holy priest. How rational minds detest them:—craven hypocrites in robes! It begets disgust for the whole outfit of the would-be holy fraternity. A man is only a man, a substance existing in Nature, governed by Nature's laws.

This brings to thought the word