

To Raise Five Thousand Dollars for the University.

- 33 Secularists,
- P. C. Mosier, will give. \$50
- Lou 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
- D. Bolton will give. 50
- Harry Fricker will give. 50
- E. Stewart will give. 50
- A Friend will give. 50
- Mr. Hjermstad, } 50
- Friend from Waldo Hills } 50
- H. Allen will give. 50
- L. E. Fuller will give. 50
- F. Wilkinson will give. 50
- J. E. Brooks will give. 50
- Julius Fisher. 50
- Adolf Wolf & Son. 50
- J. K. Buff. 50
- B. A. Leonard. 50
- A Freethinker. } 50
- Warren Carsner will give. 50
- J. L. Barnhouse will give. 50
- John Madden will pay. 50
- Alex. Hardie will pay. 50
- Mrs. E. J. Smith will give. 50
- Cal Geer will give. 50
- H. C. Edwards will give. 50
- James Officer will give. 50
- C. E. Glaze will give. 50

67 more men (or women) will give the same amount. Where are the sixty-seven?

NEWS AND NOTES.

New song books for the University.

B. B. Smith entered the University Monday.

Mr. J. W. Scott and his son John drove over from Salem Sunday.

New blackboards, and old ones freshly painted, during vacation.

Mr. J. W. Varns arrived from Portland Sunday and took his place among our workers.

Pitt Hicks, Frank Brown and James Officer are on the mump and measles list this week.

Mr. Lou Ames made the University a New Year's present of one hundred dollars in cash.

Master Ward Edwards, one of our primaries, arrived from Portland Saturday afternoon.

What do you think of the excellent poem on the first page, and its author, our Oregon Poetess?

The ground was white with snow Tuesday morning in Silverton, but it was nearly all gone before night.

School opened again with a larger attendance than we expected, there being mumps and measles among us.

New Year's eve. we realized a snug little sum for the gymnasium, and very much enjoyment at the Y. P. S. S. C. dance.

Ten Nights in a Bar Room to-night at Liberal Hall.

Sunday evening our business manager arrived from Portland, where he had been sojourning in the interest of our University.

Our talented elocution and music teacher, Miss Wolf, spent her holiday vacation in Portland. She returned on the afternoon train Tuesday.

Secularists ought to flock into Silverton by the hundreds and thousands next spring. Don't let's mind the obstacles. Go through them, over them, around them, and in some way help to build up a Secular community. It is getting a start. Help it on!

The Weber Dramatic Co. are in Silverton again and are giving some very interesting performances. Chick the Mountain Waif was advertised for Wednesday night, and the famous temperance drama, Ten Nights in a Bar Room, will be rendered tonight. Mr. Weber has a new company with him and does his best to please his patrons.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Our First Page Poem.

MR. DEVIL HATER:

Dear Sir, — Your reply to the preacher, while it was full of interest to all liberal-minded people, was particularly so to me, as, like yourself and wife, the estimable Mrs. Devil Hater, I have had a Christian experience. It took much from my life that, by right, belonged to me, and made me unhappy. However, I was very sincere, never having heard the other side of the question; and because of my own sincerity, I can not find it in my heart to condemn all Christians. But I am sorry for them. It is time they should hear the other side of the story, and with the convincing proof of the Age of Reason. My little song may be regarded as blasphemy by some of the readers of the Torch, but I shall sign my name to it, nevertheless. Kind regards to Mrs. D. H.

Cordially yours, ANNIE TUFTS.

Oswego, Ore., Dec. 27, 298.

A Michigan boy, son of a Baptist preacher, had given close attention to his father's performance of his religious ceremonies, especially baptism, the ritual of which he could repeat. One day he thought it would be a good notion to perform the ceremony on the family cat and her two kittens in a tub of water. The kittens underwent the ordeal without protest, but the cat scratched the boy's face badly, and, throwing her down in disgust, he said: "Damn you, then be a Methodist if you want to."

LITTLE POINTS.

People don't crucify the messiahs now-a-days. They laugh at their antics.

They say that Jesus chased the devils into the swine, but what have Edison, Morse, Newton, Darwin, Tyndall and Spencer done?

A Kansas woman hides her money in the family Bible, and in a married life of twenty-two years her husband has never found any of it.

Does an omnipotent god live up to his own doctrine, "Love your enemies," when he allows even the very wicked to suffer in eternal torment?

If young people are taught self-control, they are not apt to get excited over loving Jesus. The untrained mind is easily led into superstitions.

The man who says, "Jesus saves even me," should live a short time without the benefits of science, the true savior. He would soon be converted to Secularism.

It would be as sensible for a god to damn a man for having trouble with his liver as it would to send one to a hell because he had a diseased or dwarfed brain.

Christian England is helping to establish Buddhist schools in India. Why would it be wrong for Christians to help establish Free-thought schools in America?

The priests have made the people believe that to be an Atheist is something awful, but just the opposite is the truth. To believe in gods is unscientific and barbarous.

Jesus thought that sickness was a punishment for sin, as is shown in St. John 5:14: "Behold, thou art made whole. Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon thee."

Some think that Brigham Young and Jesus Christ walked on the water, but men of Science build ships, dig canals under rivers, and search the depths of the wonderful ocean in their cunningly-devised armor. Who are the saviors of the world?

Why is it necessary to pray to an all-merciful god to have mercy? If there is a good god, and we have a soul, it is an insult to him to pray, "O God, have mercy on my soul." Let us mind our own business, Mr. Preacher, and the gods will attend to theirs.

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 2 cent stamp.

Information Bureau

IS THERE ANYTHING YOU WANT? If so, make your wants known to us, and we will try and supply them. If what we do for you is worth nothing to you, we will expect no pay. Cast your eye over the list, and then write to us. Read our ad. on page 6. Address, INFORMATION BUREAU, Box 100. SILVERTON, ORE.

Merchandise.—A buyer wanted for a large retail business in the city of Silverton.

Housekeeper.—Wanted, by a widower, a lady as housekeeper; one who understands the care of children and wants a permanent home. None but a Liberal need apply. 14

20 Men Wanted.—If you are a Secularist and have \$500 to invest it will pay you to write to the Information Bureau. In writing state your age, family if any, occupation and views in regard to religion. 12

Agents.—Agents wanted to sell the Forstner Auger Bit. Money can be made. Send 60c for sample, or \$2.60 for full set packed in neat box. 13

80 acres.—About four miles from Silverton; small, unfinished house; about 5 acres cleared; \$600. Better see it. 11

Who Wishes to Invest?—104 acres of as good bottom land as there is in the state of Washington. Was offered \$10,000 for naked land 12 years ago. Sixteen cows, 9 heifers, 3 horses, wagon, harnesses, plows, harrows, dairy and utensils, 9 hogs, 6 pigs, 60 to 65 tons hay, 2 houses, 2 barns, spring water at both houses, berries of all kinds. Owner has milked 35 cows and kept 21 head of young stock, cutting plenty of hay from this excellent dairy and stock ranch, which he now offers, with all stock, produce and improvements, for \$5500. Write to the Information Bureau at once. 1

For Sale.—A fine little house in Silverton, with one acre of land, for only \$285. "First come, first served." 4

For Sale or Trade.—A farm, about 30 miles south of The Dalles, 320 acres, in good school district of about 100 scholars; county road crossing Cascade mountains, daily mail, short distance to saw-mill and flouring mill, two stores, blacksmith shop, free wood and an unlimited mountain range; box house 16x22 with kitchen and woodshed added, good brick fireplace, both up and downstairs ceiled with matched lumber; post barn 20x32; 3 miles of good fence, 120 acres in cultivation, about 50 more ready for plow. The owner holds deed from government. Price \$2000. Would trade for a place in Silverton of equal or less value. The price of the place is based on its money-making capacity, and it is now paying a good income. We will investigate any offer made. 2

For Sale.—A fine little home in Silverton—1/2-acre; apples, prunes, raspberries, cherries, pears; neat little house, painted and papered; good sidewalk. Price, \$450. 3

Wanted.—A buyer for a well equipped livery stable. Good horses, good buggies, good harnesses, etc. Cheap. Write to us. 8

School Teacher.—A gentleman with thirty years' experience in the school room, who holds a teacher's state certificate, would like employment as teacher. Teach vocal and instrumental music. 9

Secularists Wanted.—Secularists who are thoroughly interested in the cause are wanted to help build up a Secular community near Silverton, Oregon. It is thought best that each member of the community own a little home of his or her own, which can VERY EASILY be obtained. Write to us. 10

Real Estate for Sale.—80 acres, house and barn, good orchard, all fenced, 8 miles from Silverton, near school, 35 acres improved, on main road. Price \$800. 5

Twenty acres; 15 acres improved, all fenced, good spring, 1 1/2 miles from Silverton. Price \$700. 6

One hundred and sixty acres; 12 acres cleared, 4 miles from Silverton. Price \$300. 7