

NEWS AND NOTES.

Mr. John McArdle, of Omaha, Neb., has sent us some valuable books for our library.

Help us raise Two Thousand Dollars in the next thirty days. It will put our school right on its feet.

The Freethought Ideal, published at Ottawa, Kansas, improves with every issue and is a welcome visitor twice a month.

The work on the gymnasium is progressing steadily. Half of the siding is on and the building will soon be ready for the roof.

We were pleased to have Dickie Down with us last week, and hope it will not be long before he will be enrolled as one of our regular students.

We would be pleased if some one would send us a copy of the Torch of December 1, 1898, Vol. 2, No. 47. Our supply is entirely exhausted and we have no file. Send the bill and we will remit.

As per agreement Miss Jennie Cline took on the teachers' yoke at the University Monday morning. We hope our students will do their best to make the "yoke easy and the burdens light."

Silverton is experiencing some spring weather. This reminds us that it will soon be time to resume work on the University building. We hope the money will be ready as soon as the weather is.

Those unfamiliar with the work of publishing a paper and conducting a school can not realize what work has been accomplished in the last two years by a small force with very small means. We will win!

We are very sorry to say that Miss Wolf is suffering from an attack of la grippe and will not be able to resume her work in the University for a week or so. Her many friends wish her a speedy recovery.

Remember that each and everyone of our subscribers are invited to write to us. We are always pleased to hear from our friends, and want them to help us make the Torch of Reason the best paper in the world.

We are pleased to hear from our friend, J. P. Guild, again. His poems never fail to please our readers, and his pointed letters and contributions are interesting to read. We will publish one of his poems next week.

We are pleased to acknowledge the receipt of fifty cents from Mrs. Carrie Anderson, vice-president of the O. S. S. U., at Wagner, Oregon. If all of our subscribers would follow her example, we would have money enough to pay for the lumber for the University. Mrs. An-

derson is an enthusiastic worker, and is assisting our cause by selling Forstner auger bits.

Nearly all of our students are in school again, having recovered from attacks of mumps and measles.

Mrs. M. M. Turner is one of our most enthusiastic helpers in the East. She sends selections and original contributions and occasionally sends that much-needed article, cash. Her latest contribution is three dollars, which she sends for the good of the cause. We need just such helpers all over the world.

We are pleased to hear of the wedding of two young members of the Oregon State Secular Union. Mr. Ed Gfilespie and Miss Elva Martin were married at Canyon City, Oregon, on Christmas day. They will make their home at Monument, Oregon. The Torch of Reason extends greetings, and wishes the young couple a life of happiness.

Mr. Jerry Hay, of Harrisburg, went out among the "brethren" soliciting for the University and sends us a money order for two dollars, to be credited as follows: Benton Tracy, W. L. Tyler, Conrad Myers and Jerry Hay, each giving fifty cents. Thank you, brothers. That is what we need. We would also like to have a ton of "Hay" like Jerry.

LITTLE POINTS.

Love for an imaginary god is more fear than love.

The Chinese have a god for every disease, even for mumps and measles.

We are little whirlpools of the eternal elements and have been evolved, not created.

Santa Claus has gone north to live with the Laplanders and God is hurrying to the heathen lands of the tropics.

Brute force used in training children is like the old idea of hell fire. It degenerates to the point where the victim needs it.

Be not deceived; Good is not mocked; for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

For he that soweth to superstitious lies shall reap corruption; but he that soweth to the truth of science shall reap peace and happiness.

"Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? who hath babblings? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes?"

Not only they that tarry long at the wine and they that go to seek mixed wine, but also they that tarry long with spirits of imaginary gods and devils and they that go

to seek miracles instead of the truths of science. Ignorance stingeth like an adder.

A beginning or an ending of time and space; and also time without an end and space without a limit, are things which no being can possibly comprehend.

He alone enjoys independence, whose mind is unfettered. In fact, what is freedom? It consists in the power of acting conformably with our desires. And who is he that lives as he wishes? Certainly not he who is compelled to act rightly by fear.—[Common Sense.

AS FAR AS WE KNOW,—Without any beginning were the elements, and the elements were with the elements, and the elements were the elements. The same were eternally with the elements. All things were evolved from them, and without them has not anything evolved that is evolved. In them is the inherent energy of heat and light, and energy is the life of all living things. And the light shineth and produceth organs of vision, but some men comprehendeth it not.

The Crank in History.

Columbus was deemed a crank by the people of his time. So were Galileo, Jenner, Stephenson and Fulton. Hardly a discoverer or an inventor, an explorer or a philosopher who has made his mark in the history of the world but was dubbed crank before his merits were recognized. People who propose impossible things are cranks; after they have done the impossible things they are geniuses. If it had not been for "cranks" the human race today would be living in caves, wearing the skins of beasts for clothing and eating raw meat for dinner. The "crank" is the advance agent of civilization.—[Chicago Chronicle.

Queer world this, anyway! Gamblers, gossipers, scandalmongers, defrauders of just debts, those guilty of ingratitude, prostitutes, babe murderers, ruiners of health, cock-fighters, silly, chattering, simpering idiots can sit down in the holy bonds of sacred brotherhood, serenely backed by God, angels and devil, but woe betide the individual who, in the honesty of his soul, refuse to have the above trinity forced upon him. He is looked upon with horror and contempt; while with cheeks ablaze with righteous indignation he is ordered to desist from mentioning his honest religious views, even though he is innocent of all the above charges. Strange, what a multitude of faults a belief in God can cover.—[Freethought Ideal.

Have You "Common Sense"?—If not, send at once for a free copy of this liberal-minded advocate of advanced thought. Brings health and success. Address, Common Sense, 55 State Street, Chicago, Ill.

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.

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, hay bailer, good boat, tide water at door, 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 sawmill 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—½-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, 1½ miles from Silverton. Price \$700. 6

One hundred and sixty acres; 12 acres cleared, 6 miles from Silverton Price \$300. 7

Woodworkers, don't forget to send an order for a set of the Forstner Auger Bits. Price, \$2.60 by mail. See ad.