

NEWS AND NOTES.

Examinations in the University again this week.

The University boys play ball these beautiful, sunny days.

Bernhard Walther at Liberal hall, Friday and Saturday evenings.

The president of the University has given up his proposed soliciting trip, and will remain in the school the rest of the school year.

A covey of eleven beautiful Mongolian pheasants was seen on the University grounds one day this week, within fifty yards of the University building.

We hope every friend of the cause will read and use the supplement we print this week. We cannot overestimate its importance. It is sent out because of a great emergency.

We feel very sorry that it has been necessary to postpone our Y. P. S. S. C. meetings so much of late, but if each subscriber does as our supplement suggests, we will have a hall of our own next year.

The Information Bureau is doing good work. It succeeded in securing a good school for Prof. J. K. Buff last week, and at present it has important real estate deals on the docket. Patronize the Bureau.

The editor's mother and two sisters with their families talk of moving to Silverton. Their home is in Wisconsin, where it is too cold in the winter and too hot in the summer, especially when such a delightful climate may be found in Oregon.

The Bernhard Walther Concert Company will return to Silverton this week, and their many admirers will be pleased to have the opportunity of enjoying two more of their high class programs, to be given at Liberal hall, Friday and Saturday evenings, under the auspices of the United Artisans.

F. W. Hubbard of Colorado sent in the names of seven new subscribers to the Torch this week, and in a private letter informs us that he likes the Torch more than ever and cannot think of doing without it. We hope other of our subscribers will lose no time in sending in new subscriptions.

Mr. A. J. Shrum, an Oregon pioneer of '46, is visiting in Silverton. He has not been in this part of the state for twenty-six years, and he comes from his home in Crook county, where he is known as Jack Shrum, the rancher and stock raiser, to renew his acquaintance with his old friends in the Willamette valley. He expects to remain in our city and vicinity several weeks, and would like to meet with all the old pioneers who came across the plains in the early days.

Monday, February 27th, is the beginning of the spring term in the Liberal University. We have the assurance of several new students, and our school promises to be very interesting the balance of the year.

The Bernhard Walther Concert Company consists of the following specialists: Madame Walther, English balladist; Bernhard Walther, Belgian violin soloist; Harry W. Fay, comedian; Ada J. Cosgrove, vocalist, impersonator and dancer, and Miss Eschelmann. This is a strong company and should be well patronized.

Philip Marquam, who wrote the Bible of Civilization, has been judged insane and is now in the asylum at Salem. We published his bibles for him, and we dare say his writings are as sensible and his ideas as well founded as are those of Moses. His manner of building Paradise is in advance of the one contemplated in the skies. We wish the Christians would read his bible.

Tobacco, Insult, Charity.

EDITOR TORCH OF REASON:

I find in the Torch of February 16th an article, taken from an exchange, on the use of tobacco. While agreeing with the exchange that the use of tobacco in any form is a filthy, disgusting and injurious habit, yet I think such an article should not be placed in the columns of as good a paper as the Torch, because it is an insult to many of the very best thinkers.

The exchange says a tobacco smoker cannot be expected to do much thinking. Now, I would like to call its attention to the fact that a majority of the best thinkers of the past and present were and are inveterate tobacco users in some form—mostly smokers.

Do you think Grant could have been the great general and statesman that he was if he had not done much thinking? How about the majority of our best army officers and thousands of others, both of the dead and living, who might be mentioned? Now, I don't say their intellect was any better for having the habit. On the contrary, I believe it would have been still better if they had never contracted the habit.

No, I do not wish to encourage the use of anything injurious. I would advise all who have not contracted the habit, to shun it as they would a contagious disease. I believe it to be contagious to a certain degree. Who ever knew a cigar maker who did not smoke? If the habit is indulged in long enough it will become a disease incurable. For a disease it certainly is, as soon as the first poisonous dose is taken, and I believe it to be to a certain extent hereditary.

I can't remember the time when my father and mother did not use

tobacco, and I have used it for at least fifty years. I do not say this boastfully, for I am ashamed of it, but I believe in telling the truth, if it does shame the devil. I have tried many times to quit, but could not. Now, Mr. Exchange, you will perhaps say: "O, yes! you, or any other man, can stop, if he has a mind to," but I will say, that if you have not the habit and made the trial, you know no more about it than the preachers do about heaven and hell, God and the devil. They are trying to teach the people something they know nothing about themselves.

I will admit that many have, and many can, quit; some of them after using it as long as I have, but that is no proof that all can. A man who has been bitten by a venomous reptile can be cured if he has an antidote in time and of sufficient strength to overbalance the poison, but if the antidote is not strong enough the poison is fatal. The only antidote for the cure of the tobacco habit that I know of is will power, and any one who has not enough of that power can not quit and should be pitied rather than censured. Let us never insult nor kick a brother of the human family because he is down, but give him our sympathy and try to educate the youth to avoid the block that so many of our best thinking men and women have stumbled over. No nice man uses tobacco, but many good men do. So let us not insult them by saying there is hardly a more disgusting spectacle than a man with a dirty pipe stuck in his mouth. I will add that your article is as disgusting to many good thinkers as the man with the dirty pipe stuck in his mouth is to you.

Please pardon my criticism of your article. No offense is meant. Let us be charitable, for charity covers a multitude of sins.

C. R. Cook.

McMinnville, Ore.

Brother Cook may feel assured that we have charity for our many friends who, like himself, have caught the filthy tobacco disease, but his idea of the article mentioned being as disgusting to many thinkers as the man with the dirty pipe is to us needs a little explanation. He seems to think we are right. Now, should we withhold the truth because it may be disgusting to those who are guilty of disobeying its laws? And in his criticism Mr. Cook has done the very thing he criticises us for doing; that is, he says that "the use of tobacco in any form is a dirty, filthy, disgusting and injurious habit". If it was wrong for us to print those words from an exchange, is it not wrong for Brother Cook to write an article containing them? We believe Brother Cook, even at this

late period, CAN quit the filthy habit, and that even now he could become a more logical thinker and a better writer than he is. This terrible curse has robbed our very best thinkers of their best thought and sent many, as it did General Grant, to an untimely grave.

Let us be so charitable as to love our fellow men too well to remain silent on such an important subject for fear that some of our friends might feel insulted.—Ed.

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 widow, 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

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