

CORRESPONDENCE.

A Silvertonian Abroad.

EDITOR TORCH OF REASON:

On March 21st there will be commenced a debate between the Rev. R. Y. Blalock, of the Baptist church, and Mr. W. Butt, Sr., a Spiritualist, at the Hebo school house. Mr. Butt is an ex-minister and knows the Bible "by heart".

There are five points of controversy, as follows:

1. The holy scripture as given in Hebrew and Greek is the infallible word of God.

2. Man is a fallen being and in himself totally depraved.

3. The only redemption for fallen man is through the atonement made by God through Jesus Christ.

4. The dead will be resurrected and appear before Christ, and the wicked will go into eternal punishment and the just into eternal joy.

5. The devil is a personal being.

I shall attend and report to the Torch readers the result as near as may be. I have heard Mr. Blalock. He is quite Liberal for a Baptist minister.

I am within two miles of the mighty Pacific. The roar of its thunderous waves are heard during school hours. As the irresistible force of its mountain billows rush in against the rocks, the jar of the ground may be felt. The rock is the headland of Cape Kaiwanda and rises perpendicularly on three sides to a height of a thousand feet or more. What a sight in a storm! I am here at a time to observe the combined effect of equinoctial storms and spring tides. Standing behind a cluster of spruce trees that are half buried by the drifting white sand, real sheets of water are torn from the breakers and hurled upon us at a distance of nearly a mile. But nothing short of a rock-smashing tornado could drive me from my point of observation on the hill. At times when I am told that some one made the ocean, I almost believe it; but when told that some one made it "be still" real quick in a storm, I can't believe it at all.

The valley of the Nestucca and its tributaries will be one of the richest dairy districts in the world. The climatic conditions are perfect in every respect. With the thousands of acres of meadow and pasture lands and the healthful conditions for cattle, there is a near and bright future for this section. Some experiments have been made in the sugar beet industry. The analysis at Corvallis shows 94 per cent. of juice to 100 pounds of beets; and of the whole hundred pounds 19 per cent. is real sugar. The beets were grown on the farm of G. M. Landingham. Also his trial proves that more than \$100

per acre may be cleared. The only necessary thing is a beet-sugar factory.

Tell the "Information Bureau" that I have a good school, and am more than pleased with the position it secured for me.

J. K. BUFF.

Hebo, Ore.

The Goal in Education.

It takes more than the admixture of a little physical science in a school curriculum to make, in a wide sense, the education that is required for life. What is further required is a proper adjustment of the mind toward life with its varied activities and infinite possibilities of good and evil. When we see men of fine literary gifts growing more cynical as they advance in years, and treating the world to stronger and stronger doses of pessimism in their writings, we are compelled to believe that their adjustment to life must have been wrong. When we see men of science who year by year seem to have less and less in common with their fellow creatures, and whose studies only develop on the intellectual side an ever increasing passion for the infinitely minute and the vastly unimportant, and on the moral side a morbid sensitiveness to all kinds of personal questions, we find it difficult to think that they were properly oriented at the start.

It may not be given to every one to "see life steadily and to see it whole"; but it ought to be possible for a well trained mind to see it with an eye of calm, tolerant and sympathetic contemplation. No education is complete that leaves out such knowledge of the world and of the relation which the individual sustains to it, as shall at least tend to give a right purpose and direction to the individual life.

Life has its burdens, but it is not vanity; and the normal action of human beings on one another should be to give to each separate existence a higher value and deeper sources of happiness.—[Popular Science.

But Which Church?

A dispatch from Tokio says: "The Japanese government is considering the wholesale Christianizing of Japan, making Christianity the official religion. The reason alleged is the belief that the move would aid Japanese progress."

We believe so, too, but would like to know which of the Christian churches will be chosen—Catholic, Episcopal, Presbyterian, Lutheran, Baptist, Methodist, Evangelical, Christian, German Lutheran, Dunkard, Universalist, etc., etc., etc., or will it leave an open door for them all, just as the government should?

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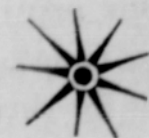
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