

**NEW AND CURIOUS.**

Throughout the world there are 672 known volcanoes, 270 of which are active.

The largest needle manufactory in the world is at Redditch, Worcestershire, England. Over 70,000,000 are made there weekly.

More than 2,000,000 trees have been planted along the line of the Northern Pacific Railroad in North Dakota to serve as protection from snowdrifts.

The statistics of all the French, Italian, German, Russian and Belgian criminals show these facts: Out of 1000 assassins, 990 are devoted Christians, nine are indifferent, and one only does not believe in God!

In Germany crystals of silicon-carbide, called carborundum, which are practically as hard as the diamond, are employed instead of small diamonds for ruling fine lines on graduated scales. It is said that they produce lines more evenly drawn than those made by diamonds.

A singular result of the recent experiments of Prof. Angelo Mosso on the physiological effects of high altitudes is that a mountain ascent may produce such a flattening of the lumbar curve that a man may be an inch and a half shorter on the summit of Monte Rosa than when he is in the valleys beneath. The height of Monte Rosa, the second loftiest peak of the Alps, is 15,215 feet. The cause of the shortening is probably the exertion of climbing. The human stature always diminishes slightly during the day.

With a pencil of aluminum indelible characters can be written, or drawn, on glass or porcelain, and when treated with hydrochloric acid the surface covered by the characters becomes etched. When the characters are not etched, but simply burnished, they exactly resemble inlaid silver. This property of aluminum was recently discovered by Mr. Charles Margot, of Geneva, Switzerland. It is indispensable first to remove every trace of grease from the surface to be ornamented by polishing with chalk, else the aluminum will not take hold. Since the effect is only produced on substances containing silicic acid, it has been suggested that an aluminum pencil would be an unerring detector of false diamonds. Magnesium, cadmium and zinc act in a similar manner, but their traces readily oxidize.

Secularists would you not like to have some letterheads printed with Secular sentiment and Wettstein's Freethought badge, to use in corre-

spondence with your friends? We will furnish them to you with your name and address printed on them for 75 cents per hundred, \$1.50 for 250, or \$2.50 for 500, post paid. Let the people know where you stand.

**REFLECTED RAYS.**

Virtue itself turns vice, being misapplied.—[Shakespeare.

If we knew ourselves we should not judge each other harshly.—[George Eliot.

The main point is not, What does the Bible say? but, Who is behind what it says?—[Ex.

If God exists I believe that he is good. But there is no proof for it. If a world that has badness in it could be made by a good God, a world that has goodness in it could be made by a bad God.—[Ex.

It is to be regretted that there is no hell. If the punishment should fit the crime, it is the only suitable place for those who believe in it. St. Peter ought to be able to ask, "Do you believe in hell?" "Yes." "Well, then go to it."—[Ex.

I love science, but I also love liberty. Nothing is good out of its proper place. Tyranny in the name of science is as bad as tyranny in the name of anything else. Priestcraft is odious, whatever its denomination.—[G. W. Foote.

Life is a building. It rises slowly, day by day, through the years. Every new lesson we learn lays a block on the edifice, which is rising silently within us. Every experience, every touch of another life on ours, every influence that impresses us, every book we read, every conversation we have, every act of our commonest days, adds something to the invisible building.—[J. R. Miller.

We should like to know what honest debt civilization owes to Christianity. What reform started from the words of Jesus? Did he plead for woman's emancipation? did he appeal to man to be merciful to the brute? Did he advocate political liberty and the dethronement of kings? In what age has the Christian church been the pioneer in human progress? When has the pulpit demanded human rights against the tyranny of government? Had civilization depended upon the Christian priest and minister, man would still be living in the dark ages.—[Investigator.

**Eleventh Annual Convention.**

Pursuant to the call of the Executive Board, the Eleventh Annual Convention of the Oregon State Secular Union will be held at Dayville, Oregon, on the 10th, 11th and 12th of June, 1899. Much business of importance is to be transacted,

and a good attendance is requested. Speakers from a distance have been invited, and a general good time is expected. A full program will be announced later.

E. STEWART, Pres.  
KATE DEPEATT, Sec.

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