

All Aboard!

Well, we are on the train at last, speeding away toward Portland, and as we whiz along we think and write, for, don't you know, Mr. Morris, our foreman, must be supplied with copy, or how would our subscribers get their Torch of Reason? We wonder how many would be really disappointed if it failed to put in an appearance this week or if it died entirely! Wait, there is a man who, by his conversation, appears to be a Secularist. I'll see. "Well, my friend, have you heard of the Liberal University at Silverton, Oregon?" "Yes; this other gentleman pointed out the foundation as we passed." Then ensued a long conversation, in which we learn that this man believes in a God, in the Bible as the word of that spook, that the modern scientific ideas of evolution are false, that man was made "by God" out of the dust and that woman was really made out of a rib. Poor fellow, he is trying hard to gain a home in heaven, and if credulity is a virtue, he'll get there. But here we are at Woodburn, where we change cars, and as we step onto the platform we at once recognize a schoolmate friend in the genial Mr. C. P. Briggs, who has recently established himself as landlord in the Delmonico Hotel. In just one minute Mr. Briggs is a subscriber to the Torch of Reason. Secularists should patronize him when they can.

But here we go again on the train. How much our trip is like the journey of life! We start out a merry company, but who can tell what successes and what failures will be met? The train is loaded with a large company of Odd Fellows, who have been at the capital city attending a convention. What a jolly crowd! We ask ourselves why it is that the Secularists cannot have such a large fraternal society, or even larger, and our hope looks forward to the time when we can. Many of these Odd Fellows are Liberals, and we meet a number who extend to us the right hand of fellowship. What a great moral lesson these fraternal societies are teaching, and how grand it will be when all good, freethinking people can join in a great brotherhood and work against the enemies of the progress of its members and of the world!

Soon we are at Portland, enjoying the hearty welcome of the Bailey family. Repartee and music occupy the evening until, hark! the firebell is ringing, and with many others we hasten to the scene of the conflagration and witness a sight that smaller towns never experience. After the fire is under control we return and rest in the same bed that Mr. Geer occupied a few days before.

Early in the morning we secure

our ministers' (of Humanity) half-fare tickets on the boat, en route for The Dalles, and are soon steaming down the Willamette. The big bridges swing open to let us pass, and we wonder if the difficulties of our work of establishing our Free-thought University will as easily move out of our way as we approach. We'll do our best, and if all who have been "born again" into the knowledge of Secularism do as well as the Baileys, who not only royally entertained us and wished us well, but swelled our purse, not only giving the encouragement necessary to carry on the battle, but the sinews of war as well, we will surely succeed; and if these people are doomed to an eternal hell for their honest thoughts, we hope to join them in that anti-celestial city, where we will all dance around in our tight-fitting jerseys and let the saints enjoy their wedding garments and crowns to their heart's content. So on, on we go with our work, and on, on plows the big river steamer up the Columbia. J. E. H.

Religion and Morality.

Take Europe today. Those countries that are under the power and influence of the church to the greatest extent are the countries where you find most of ignorance and vice. It is those countries that have been invaded by the modern spirit of science, the protest of Freethought and earnest endeavor after truth and the moral principles that underlie the progress of the world; it is these countries that stand highest, and where religion itself is freest from those blots and blemishes that disfigure and defame it.

Religion and morality were totally distinct and separate in their origin. Religion was simply an arrangement between man and his gods, by which he was to gain their favor or ward off their wrath. Morality, on the other hand, is a matter of behavior between man and man. The question as to whether a religion should be moral or not depended entirely upon the conception of a man as to whether

his god was moral or not; purely and simply on that.

Mr. Gladstone said: "To my great pain and disappointment I have found, during the last three years, that thousands of churchmen supplied the great mass of those who have gone lamentably wrong upon questions involving deeply the interests of truth, justice and humanity. I should hear with much comfort any satisfactory explanation of this very painful circumstance."

It was not the religion of the time that led in such a work as the great anti-slavery reform. The church was engaged in riveting the fetters of the slaves and reading to them lessons of pious patience from the Bible, when Mr. Gainson, in a hall of Infidels here in Boston, uttered the first words, the last echo of which is their song of deliverance.

It is the morality of the world that has made the religions as good as they are. Visit any clime you please in the past history of the world, and you will find that the religion of that people is simply the reflection of its moral ideals. The gods in heaven speak the words of the people on earth. The church—and in that word I include every religion on the face of the earth—the church never yet started the work of reforming itself—never. Every onward movement of the religious life of the world has been started as a moral protest.—[Rev. Minot Victor Savage.

LITTLE POINTS.

The God of the Bible never peeps until the war is over, and then he joins in with the victors.—[Presbyterian Minister's Confession.

How many prayers does God have to take to save the world? He's had quite a dose.

Jesus died to save the human race, but it takes lots of preaching, singing and praying to complete the job, don't it?

Are you acquainted with the merits of the Forstner auger bit?

How Much Will You Help?

As soon as we can raise One Thousand Dollars we will begin work on the University building. How much will you help?

If you can't send us the cash just now, fill the blank below with as much as you can afford, sign your name and forward to Liberal University, Silverton, Oregon; and when we have One Thousand Dollars signed we will call for your part.

.....99.
I promise to pay the Liberal University Company on demand \$....., to assist in the erection of their building at Silverton, Oregon.

\$.....

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.

\$3000.—Three lots and buildings, consisting of a 2½-story hotel, a saloon building, a blacksmith shop, two dwelling houses and a barn, situated in Oswego, Oregon. Would trade for other property. 15

Dairy and Fruit Farms.—A dairy farm of 36 acres, good alfalfa land, and fruit farm of 80 acres, 10 acres grapes, 2 acres peaches and other fruit, good house and barns and other outbuildings. All situated in San Diego county, Calif. Will sell cheap or trade for a stock farm. 16

To Trade.—Twenty-two acre fruit farm, 8 miles south of Salem, Ore.; 4 acres bearing orchard, mostly winter apples, 2 acres strawberries, new wire fence, good house and barn, plenty of pasture, excellent water, and timber enough for wood. Would like to trade for a larger place. 17

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

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

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

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. 11

Dairy Farm.—480 acres of deeded land, 80 acres in meadow and balance grain hay land, pasture, etc. A good stream of water runs through the farm the year round. Also 320 acres of timber culture and homestead which can be proved up on for \$200. Good house, dairy with utensils for making cheese and butter, smokehouse, blacksmith shop and tools, and large, new barn to hold 50 head of cows, 50 calves and 100 tons of hay. Good well at house and barn. This fine dairy farm is located in one of the finest little valleys in Eastern Oregon. The owner finds ready market for all his cheese and butter at high prices, and has made enough money at the business so that he can afford to retire. He wishes to locate in Silverton and educate his children in the Liberal University. He offers all this for only \$3000—one-half down and balance on easy terms; also 130 head of cattle and some hogs will be sold very cheap for cash. Address the Information Bureau, Silverton, Ore. 13

Teacher.—A gentleman, 40 years of age, residing in Missouri, desires to move to Oregon if he can get a position as teacher or find some congenial work. He has excellent recommendations and has had very successful experience in the school room. 19