

## Abroad.

BY P. W. GEER.

I went to hear Col. R. G. Ingersoll lecture on "Thomas Paine." The subject was not a popular one and the theater was not crowded as it is usually when Col. Ingersoll is advertised for a lecture, but I am informed that \$150 was cleared for the bronze bust which we are to dedicate at New Rochelle on Memorial Day. The bust was on the stage where every one could have a good look at it, and close beside it sat the venerable sculptor, Mr. Macdonald.

The chairman, Mr. Rowley, announced Mr. Ingersoll at the close of a song composed by Geo. E. Macdonald. As soon as the speaker began, I knew he was going to keep his audience awake and that those who stayed away from the lecture were missing a treat. While the subject was "Thomas Paine," and Mr. Ingersoll proved that he was the grandest man this world has ever known, he also took the opportunity to hit orthodoxy, priestcraft, kingcraft and slavery many a hard-jolt, which brought forth rounds of applause. He said Paine had no respect for old mistakes and did not take off his hat to any aged falsehood. He remarked that to one who has studied the human family love comes slow, but Thomas Paine was great enough and good enough to really love humanity. The whole lecture was splendid, has been printed and ought to be studied over by every man and woman in the world. I only want to add that the power of Ingersoll's oratory is more than I expected, and from what I read I expected a great deal. He must be heard to be appreciated. I was very glad to have the opportunity of hearing him—an opportunity which I had longed for all my life. When I attended the Freethought congress in 1896 I was determined to meet Col. Ingersoll and hear him lecture. I went to Elgin, Ill., for that purpose, and just before the time for the lecture word came that the "Great Infidel" had been stricken with paralysis and had gone to his home in New York City. I was greatly disappointed as well as being worried over the state of Col. Ingersoll's health. Had he taken sick this time I would have decided that I was his "hoodoo," but he is still in good health, and I have had not only the pleasure of hearing him lecture, but I have called on him twice, had splendid visits with him and his daughter, Miss Maude, and have an invitation to call on them again before I return west. Of course I will accept the invitation, for I am fond of such company. Col. Ingersoll is a splendid entertainer, can tell a story as it ought

to be told to be effective, and the intelligence and good sense of the man is away ahead of the average. He is interested in Secularism and the "Cause in Oregon," of course, and he thinks the Liberal University is a grand enterprise, which he hopes to see, and will help to make, a success. Further details in regard to the action of the New York and Eastern Liberals in support of our work will be reported later.

I have had a splendid visit with Dr. E. B. Foote, Jr. He was kind enough to take me for a drive of sixteen miles through the upper end of the city, along the "Riverside," past the Grant tomb, over the Washington bridge, along the speedway and back to the heart of the city through Central Park. It was a lovely drive and I had a splendid view of the city. Dr. Foote is splendid company and is one of New York's most active and enthusiastic Liberals. I enjoyed his hospitality at dinner the evening after the drive and hope to have many more visits with him, and also to meet his father, of whom all Liberals have heard so much.

Another New York Liberal whom I have long desired to meet, and with whom I have enjoyed a pleasant visit, is T. B. Wakeman. He is the kind of a man I like. His plan of work in the cause of Secularism suits me exactly and our constructive, educational work in Oregon suits him. The chances are that we will see him in Oregon some of these days, and he is bound to meet with a royal reception. Mr. Wakeman and his son are lawyers and both are interested in Secularism.

By chance I met C. Elton Blanchard, but only for a few moments. He is now in Boston, where he is connected with the Arena. He is well known to Torch readers, having written many articles under the title of "Bohemian Evenings." He is a bright young man, and I hope the Arena will prosper under his management. I expect to be in Boston soon, where I will meet him again.

I have also had pleasant visits with the Macdonalds, of the Truth-seeker. I called on George in his "den" in the office and had a very pleasant chat with him. George is a great fellow. He can see the ridiculous side of everything, whether it has a ridiculous side or not. He is jolly good company and I enjoy a conversation with him. I did not see Eugene, the editor, until later. I had met him before and knew what to expect. He has a delightful home at Glen Ridge, N. J., and it was there I spent a very pleasant evening with Mr. Macdonald and wife and remained for dinner. I enjoyed the time spent with my friends and was kindly invited to accompany

Mr. Macdonald and a delightful company on a bicycle trip the following day, but on account of other company I had to give it up, much to my regret.

One of the most pleasant visits I have had during my stay in New York City was with Elizabeth Cady Stanton, who ranks among the smartest and best-known women in the United States. The evening spent at her home was, indeed, a pleasant one, never to be forgotten, and I consider it a great honor to have made the acquaintance of Mrs. Stanton and claim her as one of my friends. I was pleased to dine with the little family, which consists of Mrs. Stanton, her daughter, Mrs. Lawrence, and a granddaughter from England, who is a bright little miss attending a co-educational school. After dinner Mrs. Lawrence took me to the roof of the fine apartment house in which they live, and we had a fine view of the city and the great Hudson river just as the shades of evening were falling. Life in an apartment house of a great city, with all the modern conveniences, though very pleasant, does not equal suburban or country life when it comes to true living.

Freethinkers generally are quite familiar with her work and writings, and henceforth the readers of the Torch of Reason will be familiar with her writings of the present day. She is, indeed, a remarkable woman and her noble life is worthy of being studied by all. In the eighty-fourth year of her life, she is exceedingly bright and her mind is as active as ever. She knows no pain and has never been sick. Her eyesight is poor and she has a secretary read to her. But her eyesight is good enough for her to see to write, and what a splendid thing it is, for when she has a new idea she wants to give to the world, or when she hears of injustice being done to woman, she goes to her table and writes, and it is needless to say that the different publications to which she contributes are ever anxious to print articles from her pen, and the thinking public is ever anxious to read her writings. She was good enough to give me three volumes of her own writings, "Eighty Years and More," and parts 1 and 2 of the "Woman's Bible," besides a pamphlet of her own writing and "Superstition," by Col. R. G. Ingersoll. All of these she subscribed to the Liberal University over her own autograph, and it is needless to say that we will prize them highly. These gifts she did not consider enough for our school, so she gave us the "Life of Susan B. Anthony," in two volumes, and has written Miss Anthony to send us the "History of Woman's Suffrage," in three large volumes, of which Mrs.

Stanton is the principal author. These books will occupy a prominent place in the Liberal University Library and will be kept in memory of the noble woman who has done so much for humanity. Mrs. Stanton has promised to write an article for the Torch of Reason on "Co-education," which I am sure will be relished by all Torch readers. It is well to add here that the Liberal University stands for co-education and equality.

It is impossible for me to enumerate the names and virtues of all the Liberals I have met in New York City. I spent one evening at the anniversary of the Independent church and met many splendid people of both sexes, as well as enjoying an excellent program and partaking of a splendid supper. Mr. Henry Frank is doing splendid work with his church. The evening I spent at the Manhattan Liberal Club was, indeed, enjoyable to me. The hall was crowded, as is usually the case when Mr. T. B. Wakeman is to lecture, for he always has something to say that is good for all to hear. His subject for that evening was "How to Live," and if he follows his own advice, as I believe he will, he ought to live to be a hundred years old and still have a bright intellect. He cited evidence to show that man, by nature, is an omnivorous animal and ought to "sample the cosmos." He was replied to by vegetarians, wheat-eaters and fruit-eaters. Mr. Macdonald, the sculptor, and I were the only ones who sided in with the "poor cuss" who made the speech, but by the way we were applauded I am inclined to think that others favor omnivorous diet, though said nothing. A woman, whose name I disremember, got up and said a lot about love and the fatherhood and motherhood of God, and claimed to be the mother of us all, or something like that. That is contrary to what I had previously been taught, and I didn't believe her. So far as love is concerned, I don't know much about that, for I have never been in love, but I am somewhat afraid too many people are "omnivorous" in their love affairs and want to "sample the cosmos." Mr. Wakeman's lecture was in reply to ideas entertained by Citizen George Francis Train, who lives on fruits and nuts, and as Citizen Train was present, of course he had to defend himself, which he did by showing his eccentricities. Mr. Wakeman's final reply was conclusive, although I suppose it did not convince Mr. Train. Mr. Wakeman said that different animals use different foods, and to be a complete man one must use a variety of foods. He said that Mr. Train proved these theories by his actions, for he lives on the food of squirrels, and his performance on the stage, as well as his looks, reminds one of