

by it unless they so choose.

Sunday afternoon was very pleasantly spent on the Ohio river. Dr. Hjermstad and I went on board a boat bound for "Cool Coney", an infringement on Coney Island, of New York, and the things we saw and the fun we had would fill every column of the Torch of Reason if properly written up. The boat was crowded, and as it proved to be a floating saloon, we were glad to get on the upper deck, out of the way of the smell of whisky. We started a conversation about things past and present, but some kind of a steam music box just over our heads set up such a howl that we could only make motions and grin.

The Ohio river is about as muddy and uninteresting as the Missouri, but the boat glided smoothly and the air was cool. The scenery along the banks is quite interesting in places and we enjoyed the ride for an hour or so, when we landed at "Cool Coney", the "warmest" place in Ohio for its size and atmosphere. We walked up the bank and entered the grounds through a gate around which a crowd had gathered waiting for the return boat. We had a notion to join the returning crowd, but decided to wait until the next boat came. We saw the people shoot the chutes, we saw the acrobats perform wonderful feats, and then we went to the side of the grounds where we watched some poor suckers ride around a quarter-mile track on burros and in little carts, for which privilege they paid a dime or so. Some of the riders were too spiritual, from the use of five-cent beer and Kentucky whisky, and would dismount in peculiar fashion, often before they were ready. The result would be a roll in the mud.

Dr. Hjermstad and I were more tired than rested when we got home that evening, but we had had experience, and that was what we were after. I met many nice people during my short stay in Cincinnati, and will try and visit there again in the winter time when the Liberal Society is holding its meetings. Among those I met are Dr. J. B. Wilson, Mr. John W. Patrick and Mr. Samuel Clark. I sold some shares of stock in the Liberal University, secured some subscribers for the Torch of Reason and promises from Dr. Wilson and Mr. Hogg, to write for the paper, all of which make my trip to Cincinnati very successful.

I am now in Silverton, where I can sum up the work that I have done and assist in getting our building ready for the fall term of school. I saw so many people and had so many experiences on the latter end of my trip that it may take a few issues of the Torch to tell it all. I hope that won't be the means of the paper losing all its subscribers.

Our National Seminary of Learning.

Extracts from an article by Prof. W. J. McGee, prepared for the Torch of Reason by Mrs. M. M. Turner.

"I have greatly wished to see a plan adopted by which the arts, sciences, and belles-lettres could be taught in their fullest extent, thereby embracing all the advantages of European tuition with the means of acquiring the liberal knowledge which is necessary to qualify our citizens for the exigencies of public as well as private life, and which with me is a consideration of great magnitude, by assembling the youth from the different parts of this rising republic, contributing from their intercourse an interchange of information to the removal of prejudices which might sometimes arise from local circumstances."

So wrote George Washington in 1795; and he justified his faith by works in bequeathing stocks, to the value of \$25,000, as a personal contribution toward this ideal "seminary of learning." Succeeding presidents, John Adams, Jefferson, Madison, and Monroe, as well as others in later years, shared Washington's convictions.

A century's exoteric history of the movement toward a national institution of learning, runs the gamut from enthusiastic support almost to the point of consummation, through inertia, indifference, doubt, antagonism, apathy, revived appreciation and renewed support. Meantime there was an undercurrent of progress in the direction indicated by Washington—a current so profound as scarce to ripple the surface, yet so powerful as to produce most of the results anticipated. The full significance, even the bare fact of this unheralded and unwritten progress is hardly recognized, yet it is a prominent feature in the exoteric history of the nation. We have a great national "seminary of learning." Albeit without name or proper domicile, without charter or definite organization, there is today in the national capitol a Federal institution of knowledge, more efficient and more useful, occupying a higher and broader plane than any other educational institution in existence. It is maintained at a cost equivalent to an endowment exceeding a hundred million dollars; its faculty and fellows, many of them men of international repute, reach into thousands; and its influence is felt in every organized university, college, academy, and normal school of the land.

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A College President's Testimony!

PROF. WM. H. COOK, for thirty years Dean of the Cincinnati Physio-Medical College, writes to the author as follows:

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Yours truly, DR. W. H. COOK."