

Torch of Reason

The Only Paper of Its Kind.

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THURSDAY, OCT. 5, E. M. 299.

OUR OPENING DAY.

Monday morning came, and everything around the Liberal University was alive.

The carpenters and masons went to work as usual, with the exception that three rooms were left to the visitors, students and faculty. The students began to arrive long before the appointed time, and we soon found that there were to be more students the first morning than we had provided seats for.

The time having arrived to open the Liberal University for its fourth year's work, at the tap of the bell the students, teachers and visitors found seats as best they could, by two sitting in one seat, and the opening exercises commenced.

Did we open by prayer, as is usual in nearly every college and university in the United States? Ah, no! unless our devotion to one another and the "upward look" toward a higher humanity as expressed in each professor's speech might be called prayers. "He prayeth best who loveth best," says the poet, and it is certain that he loveth best who has learned the altruistic idea of a heaven here on earth for those who are here and those who are to come, rather than the egoistic idea of a little, narrow, exclusive, selfish heaven for the "elite". We sang and the professors talked. The students enrolled, received their numbers, and then went home to get ready for the grand reception in the evening.

One very pleasant little incident occurred in our first morning's work, which we must not forget to

mention. Professor Wakeman told the school about Luo being a Greek verb, meaning "I set free," and that it is used by all the students of Greek many, many times in all the colleges and universities in the world. Now the letters of this word stand for Liberal University, Oregon, or, as we sign it, L. U. O., and he proposed to add, in some way, this word Luo to our college yell. So we have a yell that means more, and one that may attract more attention from educated people, than any other yell in the world. Luo—"I set free." How appropriate for freedom of thought!

And now all over this great republic, — all over the world, wherever "the good tidings of great joy" that our University represents, reaches, let the Freethinkers shout "in spirit and in truth," as we, the teachers and students did at the close of the first day's work for E. M. 299 and 300.

Rah! Rah! Rah! Zip! Rah! Boom! Liberal University; give us room! Luo!

THE WAKEMANS.

As per last week's issue of the Torch, "the Wakemans" have arrived in Silverton. Of course we were all anxious to see them and find out by actual experience of thought exchange what they are like; and now, as they have been here a whole week, we think that we should have the privilege of giving our opinion, especially as that opinion is in favor of our subject and apt to help give our cause another impetus in the direction of its glorious future success.

The Wakemans are simply immense! No other family on earth, that we know of, could and would do us so much good as they will. The days of miracles are past, or we might believe that Prof. Wakeman had been led by God to prepare himself for this particular work in this, the only school of the kind in the universe. Why, do you know that his ideas on every important subject touching the great departments of education exactly coincide with ours? This is not because we are anxious to have it so or appear so. We have found out that it never pays to try to make things appear right when they are not right. The nearer the honest truth we can come the surer we are to succeed every time.

Prof. Wakeman's inaugural address last Sunday evening was a triumph for our University. We could scarcely change a word and make it suit us better, and everyone of the large audience knew that he believed what he said and that he knew what he was talking about. Friends of the new dispensation, of the emancipation of education, of the religion of Humanity, do you know what the advent of this great

and good man among us means? He "comes not to destroy, but to fulfill," and our prophecies of the future growth and ultimate success of the Liberal University and of the cause which it represents will now rapidly prove true, even if not written by a god or his holy prophets.

But what about the lady Wakemans, do you ask? Mrs. Wakeman is one of the most even-tempered, intelligent and refined ladies we have ever met. One, whose opinions we have learned to respect, remarked that "Mrs. Wakeman is just as nice as she can be," and we thoroughly agree with her. We all love her, and although some might say it is a case of "love at first sight," yet it is the best we can do, as we can't crowd any more time into the week of our first acquaintance with the Wakemans.

Miss Wakeman, who now occupies the important position of Professor of Painting and Drawing in the Liberal University, takes after her father and mother both, and that is saying very much. Nothing in the history of our school seems more wonderful to us than the fact that we have secured such a talented worker in the very work that we need most. It is as Dr. Leonard, our Professor of Biology, said in an address before the students last Monday morning, "if one studies a subject enough to draw it or paint it, he ever afterwards sees similar things with an added interest and can understand their meaning much more completely." Miss Wakeman shows great enthusiasm in the work, and her pleasant manners and high ideals are sure to make her department a very important factor in our emancipation of education.

We repeat, "the Wakemans are immense!" and now let us all appreciate the great advantage we have gained by their journey hither and make the very best of our opportunities, and not let their energies be wasted on a desert of expectancy, but give them the reality of help and encouragement that is so necessary in any great undertaking, and especially one that is outside of the old ruts and trodden paths of a dead past.

Friends, let us truly appreciate these talented workers.

SUNSHINE AND SHADE.

As soon as we try to purify the stream of life at its fountain head instead of trying to purify its filth of depraved humanity at its mouth, just so soon will the world begin to be saved. "The time is coming, and now is" when the source of the stream is being examined with the purpose in view of purifying the whole stream. In fact there is one institution in the world that is free from the poisonous debris out

of which has grown the diseases of weakness and crime.

To be sure it may be a hard struggle to purify the whole stream of life. It will take years and scores of years, but there must be a beginning. We have all been weakened by the awful filth that has been cast into the stream by the old priests, and even we, who are at work on the purifying plant called the Liberal University, of necessity work with weakened energies.

O, the awful past! How we have been stunted! How fears, like spectral bands, haunt us! How we fly into our selfish selves, instead of going boldly out to the spring of life's river and clearing away the debris that all in its current and all who are to be in its waters for ages to come may see clearer and farther and have more sunshine.

There are millions who would like to be free from the slime of selfishness, but how can they? Religion is a trade, and the young soon find that those whom they supposed to be good are only frauds. Politics is a trade, and the statesman as a rule turns out to be a schemer. Fraud begets fraud. The smile of those who smile for a selfish motive, like a gift to a priest for the purchase of heaven, is degenerating, and unless the current of thought is turned more toward the genuine and away from the policy idea, the human family may degenerate into grinning, tricky, human-like monkeys.

As we look upon this weak side of the world, we feel a nauseating disgust with everything and begin to settle back into our own selfish self. But no, thanks to the Religion of Science and Humanity, the ignorance, and fraud, and crime and superstition is shown to be only relics of an ignorant past, and the bright sun of truth reveals the fact—"the blessed assurance"—that our weakness comes only from an evil condition of mind caused by the wrong teachings of the priests, through long ages of a misled ancestry.

Ah, look! Do you see the few brave ones in all the ages of the past, and the increased number of our own rapidly changing times hard at work purifying the stream at its source? We determine to help! How full of interest life is. It is worth living! It is beautiful! Life and death, childhood, youth and old age all are enhanced and are full of happy meaning.

Self sinks into nothingness, excepting for its helpfulness, and heaven is here!

The most common error of men and women is that of looking for happiness outside of useful work. It has never yet been found when thus sought, and never will be while the world stands.—[Sel.