

To Raise Five Thousand Dollars For The University.

Last year Mr. P. C. Mosier of Homer, Illinois, started a fund of five thousand dollars for the Liberal University, by offering to pay fifty dollars himself providing ninety-nine others would pledge like amounts. All told, thirty-three pledged fifty dollars each, when the plan was abandoned, we having decided to incorporate.

The following persons have paid the amounts subscribed, without waiting for the list to grow to one hundred names:

P. C. Mosier, Lou Ames, D. Buckingham, A. Slaman, R. C. Burtis, C. F. Ames, P. Rauch, E. Stewart, Friend from Waldo Hills, Henry Allen, A. Wolf and Son, B. A. Leonard, Warren Carsner, J. L. Barnhouse, Mrs. E. J. Smith, Cal Geer, James Officer and C. E. Glaze, making in all sixteen persons who have paid fifty dollars each into the University. Others have informed us of their intention to pay in the near future. The \$800 received from the above-named sixteen persons has been a great help, and the promoters are indeed grateful for the assistance which was received at a time when assistance was necessary. Mr. Mosier deserves great credit for what he has done both in starting the fund and paying his share before the list was completed.

NEWS AND NOTES.

Remember that Thanksgiving week is the time to visit Silverton.

Our library room is about completed and donations of books are again in order.

The grass is fresh and green in the Willamette valley. The weather is like spring.

The young people of Silverton are busy practicing for the opera to be given Thanksgiving.

Mrs. M. M. Turner has sent a volume of Volney's Romances to the L. U. O. Library. Many thanks, dear friend.

Samuel and Fred Klein have moved to Silverton to spend the winter in the University. They began their studies Monday.

How do you like our stock certificates, a fac simile of which appears on page 6. We hope that every one of our subscribers will be able to own at least one share.

If our readers could attend the Y. P. S. S. C. and hear stories of over 500 words written and read by children 10 and 12 years of age, and behold the little original plays and listen to the original poems, debates, screeds, etc., etc., they would think that the L. U. O. is certainly beginning to be a great success.

Captain Preston broke the record on scoring points for a program at the Y. P. S. S. C. Friday evening. The Hosmer crew will rally their forces and bring out a rousing program this week.

The Board of Directors met at the University building last Saturday evening and transacted some important business. The stock certificates are being forwarded to the stockholders as fast as the money is paid in.

An extra express train leaving Silverton for Portland in the morning and arriving at Silverton from Portland in the evening, places Silverton in closer communication with the rest of the world. The new time table went into effect Monday.

If the number of students of the L. U. O. increases next year as it has this, we will be obliged to finish the west wing of our building next summer. There are good reasons to think that it will increase more rapidly now that our accommodations are growing better.

Mrs. L. E. Fuller and Mr. B. F. Hyland, two substantial Liberals of Corvallis, have kindly clubbed together and sent "Waifs and Wanderings", "Golden Throne" and four volumes of Bennet's travels to the Liberal University library. We wish to express our gratitude for this splendid gift.

The Woman's Club of Silverton reports an excellent meeting last Saturday at the home of Mrs. Dr. Leonard. The subject for discussion was, "What to Eat and What Not to Eat." The next meeting is to be held at the home of Mrs. Samuel Ames, and the subject is, "What to Wear." All ladies are invited.

An Ingersoll Chair For The Liberal University.

EDITOR TORCH OF REASON:

George Jacob Holyoake, of London, writes to me in a private letter: "If you and other leaders took it up, you could easily get gifts to found an Ingersoll Chair at the Liberal University." Mr. Holyoake is now, since Ingersoll's death, the best known Freethinker in the world. He is the father of Secularism. And now that he has suggested the raising of a fund to found an Ingersoll chair at the Liberal University, I would suggest to the Board of Directors of the University that a committee be appointed for that purpose. And may I be pardoned for suggesting the following names for said committee:—For America: Dr. E. B. Foote, jr., D. A. Blodgett, B. F. Underwood, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan H. Wixon. For England: George Jacob Holyoake, Charles Watts, G. W. Foote.

Yours truly,
H. L. GREEN.

Chicago, Ill.

[Acting on Mr. Green's sugges-

tion, the Board has adopted the plan and appointed the above committee, with the addition of Prof. Daniel T. Ames, of Mountain View, Cal., for America. Those interested in this movement may address any member of the committee, the Editor of the Freethought Magazine, or the Editor of the Torch of Reason.]

Thought Exchange.

The Silverton Thought Exchange held its regular meeting at Liberal Hall, Sunday evening, and a splendid crowd was present to hear Prof. Buff in his lecture on Astronomy. The Liberal University choir opened the meeting with a beautiful song well rendered, after which officers of the Thought Exchange were elected as follows: L. Ames, president; Minnie P. Hosmer and L. E. Rauch, vice-presidents; Miss Clara Wakeman, secretary; and John Hicks, treasurer.

Mr. Geer, acting president, then announced Prof. Buff, saying that a fellow townsman who is known to all needs no introduction. Prof. Buff mounted the stage amidst the cheers of the assembled audience, and took his place at a table, on which was a globe, a spirit level, a straight-edge and numerous books.

It was plain to be seen that Prof. Buff was just where he wanted to be and just where he ought to be. He began by giving a practical example of the uses of our five senses, and led from that directly into the depths of astronomy. Those who went to the lecture expecting to be lulled to sleep by a dry discourse on the planets, had no time to sleep while those expecting nothing but fun found much solid food for thought.

Prof. Buff can pass from the sublime to the ridiculous as quickly as anyone, and there is something sublime about his ridiculousness, which always has a point. He was not at all pious in his discourse and in his analysis of the universe he left no room for heaven. He even disputed the rising and setting of the sun, and proved to us that the 19th of November was only the 7th. He explained the causes of the seasons, told us all about comets, and gave the reason for reckoning longitude from Greenwich. The Professor gave us to understand that he knows just about all there is to know about mathematics, and exhibited twelve books on the subject which he said was the complete course, and was the only exhibition of the kind ever given in Silverton and perhaps in the whole world.

Only a few took part in the discussion that followed. Prof. Hosmer wanted the audience to understand that the heaven and hell ideas were entirely exploded; and Prof. Rauch suggested the idea of adopting other terms rather than saying that the sun rises and sets.

Prof. Wakeman followed next, and said he is anxious to know what is to become of Silverton. He said that he was lonesome since leaving the Manhattan Liberal Club and advocated a similar organization in Silverton, to be known as a Thought Exchange. The subject of Public Improvement at the second meeting nearly drove the people wild, and they said it was too much for Silverton. The next subject was on Expansion, and that made the good political brethren shiver with fear lest someone might say something against someone's opinions of long standing. "This time," said Prof. Wakeman, "we have gone entirely off the earth to get a subject. What is the result? The speaker has left us neither heaven nor hell and Silverton is in a worse plight than ever!" Prof. Buff was likened to Giordano Bruno, both in ways and personal appearance.

As a whole, the meeting was interesting and entertaining, and we are all thankful to Prof. Buff for the knowledge we have gained. He is ready to lecture at different places on the same subject, and should be engaged by other societies. His next subject before the Thought Exchange is, "The Mind of all Animate Creation: Ante-natal, Post-natal, Post-mortem, etc."

The speaker for next Sunday has not been announced, but the committee assure us an interesting subject and an able speaker.

P. W. G.

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