

Coming Events.

Thursday Evening, Nov. 30.—Opera, "Four-Leaved Clover", at Liberal Hall.

Friday Evening, Dec. 1.—Captain Preston's last program at the Y. P. S. S. C. meeting, at Liberal Hall.

Saturday, 3:00 P. M., Dec. 2.—Woman's Social Science Club meets at the home of Mrs. T. W. Davenport.

Sunday, 2:00 P. M., Dec. 3.—Prof. T. B. Wakeman's Thanksgiving Sermon at Liberal Hall.

Friday, Dec. 8.—Fall Term of the Liberal University closes. Y. P. S. S. C. Supper in the evening, given by the defeated side.

NEWS AND NOTES.

Remember there is to be a dance after the opera.

Our library room is nearly finished, which gives us an additional class room.

Mr. Robert Down, of Down's Station, Oregon, entered the Liberal University Monday.

Mr. Samuel A. Foss, of Silverton, is a new student at the University, he having entered school Tuesday.

Mrs. Clara Bailey, of Portland, secretary of the Oregon State Secular Union, is visiting the University.

Of course we will all go to see the opera on Thanksgiving evening. Tickets should be purchased of the Brooks Drug Co., Main street.

The Torch of Reason office will soon be moved to the University building. A room in the basement has been fitted up, which will be very convenient.

Messrs P. R. Barnhouse and Aubray Wolfard arrived in Silverton Friday from Eastern Oregon. They come to spend the winter in the Liberal University.

Prof. Thaddeus B. Wakeman is going to lecture at Liberal Hall on Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock. This will be a genuine Thanksgiving sermon, and all should hear it.

Captain Hosmer and his noble crew gave their last program for the term at the Y. P. S. S. C. meeting Friday evening. It now remains for Captain Preston to give the last program of the series and then the result will be known. An exciting meeting is evident for next Friday evening.

At the annual congress of the American Secular Union and Freethought Federation held in Boston, the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: J. E. Remsburg, Atchison, Kansas, president; E. C. Reichwald, Chicago, Ill., Secretary; Otto Wettstein, Rochelle, Ill., treasurer; vice-presidents, E. M. Macdonald, New York City, W. A. Croffut, Washington, D. C., T. B. Wakeman, Silverton, Or., F. Steiner, Des Moines, Ia., Susan H. Wixon, Fall River, Mass., Mrs. M. A. Freeman, Grand Rapids, Mich., L. K. Washburn, Boston, Mass., J. D. Shaw, Waco, Tex.; board of directors, J. E. Remsburg, E. Macdonald, W. A. Croffut, E. C. Reichwald, and Otto Wettstein. A further report is crowded out of this issue, but will appear in our next.

The Silverton Thought Exchange.

Last Sunday, the 25th, there was a good solid rain outside of Liberal Hall, and an interested and cordial audience within it to hear Prof. Pearl W. Geer's lecture about his last summer's trip to the East, in behalf of the Liberal University, and the emancipation of education. Prof. Louis Rauch, vice-president, presided, and the evening opened with a beautiful solo by Mrs. Addie Davenport Martin, accompanied on the piano by her sister, Miss Alice Davenport. The heartiest applause failed to bring an encore, and so the audience had to give up their desire for a free concert, and go to business.

First was the declination of Mr. Lou Ames, who had been elected president, but who on account of the cares of this world felt compelled to suggest a younger man, and so Mr. Clyde Mount was elected in his place. Mr. T. D. Allen was also elected treasurer.

Then Prof. Geer had it all his own way for about an hour. His scheme was to introduce the cities and peoples of the Atlantic and Pacific coasts to each other, so that they could see how strange and funny they looked to each other, but also learn how to imitate and thus acquire each other's good things. He went over the good and bad points of the cities and peoples of the East, as shown by their street-cars, railroads, parks, business streets and general appearance; and then took up the habits and good qualities of the people which come out after you become better acquainted.

New York was cosmopolitan, but too busy to be really happy, but was not so bad as Chicago, and was so large that the visitor had to take time to learn that there was a large mass of steady and comfortable life there.

Philadelphia, however, was the comfortable city, and its people had enough of the spirit of Penn left to make them take even the shocking things of our progressive age with an astonishing composure.

Boston was a queer place. It seemed to think that it was the "hub of the universe" with a little circle of water around it, and a big state house, and a curious little common where they hung their quakers, but where now any one can take a box under his arm to stand on as a pulpit, and make a speech to his heart's content. But the old trouble of exclusiveness still hung about Boston, and made it appear to be very much fenced in. Its little island was not big enough for it, and seemed to have hemmed in not only the circular web of its streets, but the character of its people. But the environs of Boston saved it; and with Cambridge, Lowell and many a beautiful town connected with it by rail, made it

one of the most beautiful cities in the world.

Washington, with its great Capitol and new Library and public buildings, and ease of travel, is the pride of America. Silverton people lost a lot in not hearing his description of his retreat over the Long Bridge after his Bull Run defeat at Arlington. Of course the terror of Mr. Geer's trip was that horror "the great middle West." After trying all sorts of railroads and street and trolley cars, and comparing them all, he found that they "arrived at places," but there was no "travelling" so as to know what sort of country or people he was passing through.

At Salt Lake City the car transfers are punched through pictures on them, which are supposed to represent the various kinds of heads of the passengers, so as to distinguish them by kinds of whiskers, hats, bonnets, etc. Mr. Geer was first punched as a "smooth-face," but a Mormon conductor discovered his incipient mustache and stopped him. He was shaved as soon as possible, but it was no go, for his trip-time was up and he had to escape to Silverton as soon as possible. There he arrived with his rejected car-ticket in his pocket, but with some money and many promises for the Liberal University, and with the assurance that the Wakeman family were also on the road to meet him in his great work for the emancipation of education. The lecture was easily, gracefully and humorously delivered, and evidently pleased everybody. The discussion which followed was unusually interesting.

Prof. Wakeman used the account given about Boston as a warning to young Western cities not to get fenced in, for they could never get over it. Silverton, therefore, should start right now with trolleys, park, straight streets, etc., and so help its University to flourish and be a great centre of business, comfort, and education.

Prof. Buff wanted greater accuracy of description, and very interestingly contrasted dreams and facts.

Dr. Leonard was sure that the lectures at the Thought Exchange were proving its value; and went on with amusing incidents of his travels and Salt Lake experiences.

Mrs. Martin spoke of the interest women took in the public improvements of their cities, and why and what they wanted in Silverton.

Miss Clara Wakeman contrasted the American cities with those she had visited in France, Holland, and England.

Several others spoke, and then Mr. Geer went for his critics and laid them all out so amusingly that they all went home in good humor.

Next Sunday Prof. Wakeman will give the Thanksgiving Sermon at 2 o'clock p. m., and there will be no meeting in the evening. Remember to be there! X. Y. Z.

Holiday Goods

Will be scarce in some lines. Waltham and Elgin factories can not supply the demand. It will be to your interest to order now.

Diamonds have advanced, but I can supply orders direct from importers and guarantee to undersell any other retailer in the United States.

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Otto Wettstein,

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