

NEWS AND NOTES.

Happy New Year!

School began Tuesday with a good attendance.

Master Ted Wolfard entered the University last Wednesday.

A class in German will be organized in the University next Monday.

The students and professors have all returned, and now we will have good solid work once more until the summer vacation.

The January number of the Free-thought Magazine comes laden with good thoughts for the New Year. Take it and the Torch for \$1.50 per year.

The students of the L. U. O. are kept very busy with their rhetoric, Latin, Greek, algebra, music, etc., etc., but they are happy and preparing for a grand campaign.

Remember to be present at the meeting of the Thought Exchange, Sunday evening, to hear Mr. D. E. Swank, of Aumsville, explain all about the soul and its immortality. A general discussion will follow.

Prof. Wakeman gave his ideas on school libraries to the teachers in Convention at Salem, last week, and received hearty applause. What he said will appear in the next issue of the Torch.

The Christians are now raising \$3,000,000 to endow the schools of the late Rev. Moody, the evangelist. How long must truth and right go in rags, while theological fanaticism is clothed in purple and fine linen?

We are very sorry to lose our student, Mr. John Steelhammer, who is soon to leave for Minnesota, where he will enter into business with his uncle. Our best wishes go with John, who has done well in school, and leaves every student and teacher as a friend.

Mr. John Madden, Jr., of Lone-rock, Oregon, has entered the Liberal University, having come to us from Portland, where he has spent the past few months in school. He comes to the L. U. O. to receive better instruction in an institution entirely free and emancipated.

How About the Endowment?

BY D. E.

It is pleasant to see so much in the Torch of Reason about the funds that are coming in for the Liberal University. Let them continue to come, in sums little and large. They are not coming too fast.

Indeed, this is a time when great things in this line ought to be done. This last year of the century ought to see one hundred thousand dollars or more permanently invested, the income of which should be for the support of the Liberal Univer-

sity. In addition to this, the grounds, buildings and school apparatus should be provided for.

They tell us that this is "the only university of the kind". It is a shame, if this is true. Only one university for the good of Man, whose needs we know; and hundreds of universities (fat ones) for "the glory of God", whose whereabouts, to say the least, are hard to find. There ought to be a Liberal University in every state. Let us endow the University at Silverton at once, and then, without waste of time, plant a similar school in every state in the Union.

Are the believers in Man all paupers and niggards? Are the believers in God the only ones who have any wealth or any heart to give? I think not. The writer of this article is not a millionaire, but he is good for the last ten dollars of the first ten thousand of the permanent endowment for the Liberal University, Oregon.

The Silverton Thought Exchange on New Year's Eve.

PRESIDENT HOSMER ON THE TRIUMPH OF HUMANITY.

The rain just held off to enable President Hosmer to sum up the past, and to open up the new century on New Year's Eve, and a large audience was there to greet him.

Dr. C. H. Brewer, the young and punctual President, and the choir were ready for work on time, and the musical efforts were heartily applauded.

The speaker of the evening had the place of honor in giving the third address of three Liberal Festival occasions:—Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year. He opened up by showing that the good and great qualities of the human race must depend upon the knowledge of the world outside of us and of the powers within us. It was not possible to be either great or happy without this knowledge, and in that would consist the triumph of Humanity. This brought him to the question whether mankind had worked out any sufficient knowledge of the world upon which it could safely stand as a basis of its individual and social life, without calling into play any supernatural, religious revelations, beliefs, or suppositions. He thus went right into that main question, and gave an outline of the main results achieved by Science in Cosmology, Biology, Sociology and the Science of the mind. It was a remarkable survey—a panorama of scientific results we might call it—showing extensive and accurate learning, but presented in such a manner as to hold the audience interested as to what the result and conclusion might be. That was all about the past. The result was that

Science had shown conclusively that the old theological or Biblical solution of the world around us, and within us, was wholly the result of childish illusions. But this negative result was only the beginning of the story, for in every case Science had replaced the error by verified conclusions which had reversed the old views about this world, and the relations and duties of man in it. This new Scientific gospel of Science and Humanity was the greatest achievement, triumph and glory of the human race. Nothing like it had ever been conceived possible until very recently—say within the last 75 years. The crowning victories in the Biological and mental Sciences had really been worked out in our own day. It was a sublime thing to be now living, and to realize those facts. But would these results be satisfactory? The question was an absurd one. If they were true, there was no question about their being satisfactory—they had to be. Who would be so silly as to pretend that falsehood and illusion were better than the truth? If things are not as we supposed and wished, the only thing to do is to make the best of what we have. The glory of the future of mankind would be in just doing that very thing, while we should go on every year extending, and consequently enjoying knowledge over the world around and within us.

The speaker showed that the new view of the world which relieved us of the old notions of creation out of nothing, total depravity, and eternal damnation, was one that would add immensely to the cheerfulness and happiness of our people. That the knowledge of the world which had done this was an inestimable power for the achievement of further mastery over our future environments. He took up the history of the human sentiments from animistic fetichism, Astrology, Polytheism, Christian Monotheism, with the result that our old theology had inherited the worst phases of each of these former phases of religious growth, and left a state of egoism, avarice, and yet of dependence and fear, that was absurdly amusing, and yet the main cause of human ignorance, selfishness, and misery. Take for instance the wars of the present Christian nations; the victories of peace and civilization if sought and applied would within a few years remove every one of the evils complained of, and such victories would be sought for instead of those of war, but for the sentiments that had been inculcated by the false religions of the past.

The religion of the future would be the Religion of Humanity, resting upon Science instead of theology, and would seek the welfare of all peoples according to their own laws of growth and mode of

evolution. The speaker then took up exhibits of the progress of Science looking to the future, presented in the New Year number of the New York Herald, and said that the very fact of such a newspaper exposition verified all he had said, and the world which could present such evidences of progress and of popular strength could never recede. He went over several of the items, but among the things not noted was the Emancipation of Education. This was shown by the general prominence given to Science everywhere; and especially by the establishment, incorporation and hopeful work of the Liberal University at Silverton, entirely upon and within the new and Scientific solution of the world and of human affairs.

The applause that greeted the lecture was hearty and showed an intelligent appreciation. There was no discussion expected, for this was a New Year sermon, but Mr. Wakeman had to close the evening with a vigorous and approving speech, which was also heartily applauded. Then the choir was heard again, and notice given that Mr. D. E. Swank would hold forth next Sunday evening on Spiritualism.

Secularists would you not like to have some letterheads printed with Secular sentiment and Wettstein's Freethought badge, to use in correspondence with your friends? We will furnish them to you with your name and address printed on them for 75 cents per hundred, \$1.50 per 250, or \$2.50 for 500, postpaid. Let the people know where you stand.

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.

Watches I have again reduced with special reference to undersell big catalogue houses. Pay no attention to my old price-lists, but send for latest; or if ordered from the old, I will return the change.

Opals, Garnets, Chains, Bracelets, Emblems of any order, or jewelry of any kind and quality, Silver Novelties, the Gorham Silver spoons, in sets or single, "1847" triple-plated ware, Gold Pens, Gold Canes, etc. I will send you best goods at lowest prices. Send cuts from any catalogue or describe closely and I will suit you or refund cash.

Ingersoll Spoons and Freethought Badges must be ordered early or the supply may be exhausted. Price-lists and my tract, "Theism in the Crucible", sent free.

Otto Wettstein,

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