

NEWS AND NOTES.

Just a little ice, now and then a drop of rain and a lot of sunshine makes up the genuine Webfoot weather we have had for January.

Order a copy of Mrs. Turner's book, *The Bible God, Bible Teachings, and Selections from the Writings of Scientists*. For sale at this office, price 25 cents.

The drama "Topsy Turvy," played by the students and members of the faculty of the L. U. O., Saturday evening, is pronounced by all to be a decided success.

What can you do to forward the movement inaugurated by Mr. G. J. Holyoake, to endow an Ingersoll Chair in the Liberal University? Now is the time to act.

One thousand extra copies of the *Torch of Reason* will be printed, containing Prof. Wakeman's address delivered at the Paine Celebration at the Liberal Hall last Sunday. Help us distribute them.

The Woman's Social Science Club of Silverton will meet next Saturday afternoon at the home of Mrs. Nellie Brewer. Subject: Co-operation. All ladies are invited to attend.

The *Freethought Magazine* for February will contain Prof. Wakeman's Thanksgiving "Sermon," with a picture of the author. We hope every reader of the *Torch of Reason* will order a copy of this issue of the *Magazine*. Send 15 cents to H. L. Green, publisher, 213, E. Indiana St., Chicago, Ill.

Captain Davenport gave an exceedingly interesting entertainment at the Y. P. S. S. C. last Friday evening, many numbers on the program being original, for which the members of her side deserve credit. These meetings are more popular than any church in Silverton and draw larger crowds.

Prof. Wakeman was the first to declare Thomas Paine the Father of Republics and author of the idea of a Peace Conference. It is now generally conceded that Prof. Wakeman is right. A letter written by Paine advocating a peace conference in 1793 has been found by Mr. Moncure D. Conway.

It will be necessary for Mr. Geer to leave his work here at Silverton and travel in the interest of the L. U. O., unless the funds begin to come in right away for the completion of our building. Those who contemplate taking stock or otherwise contributing to this work will confer a great favor by writing to the secretary of the Liberal University at once.

The current number of the *Truth Seeker* (28 Lafayette Place, New York) contains some excellent new things about Thomas Paine. Some of his private correspondence just

brought to light by Mr. Conway is very interesting and shows Mr. Paine's true character. There are two excellent pictures of Paine and a picture of the key of the Bastille which Lafayette sent by Paine to General Washington on the demolition of the Bastille.

One of our most substantial friends has offered to give ten dollars per month to have one thousand extra copies of the *Torch of Reason* printed and mailed twelve times per year to people whose names we expect our readers to furnish. This will cost us about \$15 per month, and we hope others of our readers will contribute with this good friend to make up the necessary amount. We will begin with the next issue and we shall consider it a favor if our readers will furnish us with the names and addresses of college professors and students, school superintendents, scientists and all who may become interested in Liberalism. We want four thousand names, and we will see that each one on the list is treated to some solid food every four months. This will place twelve thousand copies of the *Torch* per year in the hands of four thousand people. You can afford to assist in this propaganda work.

Silverton Thought Exchange.

THADDEUS B. WAKEMAN ON "THE FESTIVAL OF THE REPUBLIC," PAINE'S BIRTHDAY.

QUO VADIS?

The drama on Saturday evening worked a hardship on some members of the choir, who could not be present at this meeting, but the members present did themselves proud and the music for the evening was worthy of special mention. A life size portrait of Thomas Paine was placed in front of the speaker's table on the stage, where all might get a view of the hero of the evening.

After the usual program, Prof. Wakeman was introduced, and to see the gleam on his countenance one could realize how pleasant the speaker's task must be to him. On two former occasions the writer has seen Prof. Wakeman equally enthused; once last May at New Rochelle, and on the 1st of last October in Liberal Hall. At the former meeting he was lecturing on "The Father of Republics," as he was the first to name Thomas Paine. At Liberal Hall he spoke on "The Emancipation of Education." Both of these subjects are of the utmost importance to Prof. Wakeman, and should be to every Liberal.

Last Sunday night he gave the audience to understand that he had already demonstrated that Thomas Paine was the father of Republics, and for further particulars he refer-

red us to his printed speech on that subject. Now the question is, "Quo Vadis?"—"Whither goest thou?" Shall we continue to uphold the Republic, the first born of this great father, or shall we abandon it and let it drift into a monarchy? Shall we have the Republicanism of Paine, or is Imperialism better?

Oh, well, what's the use of going into detail? The whole speech will appear in the next issue of the *Torch*, a thousand extra copies of which will be printed, and the Liberal University and the Silverton Thought Exchange will endeavor to shed their light beyond the confines of Silverton. Then the readers can criticize for themselves.

This meeting was intended as a starter for "Festivals of the Republic," which should be held all over the country on every birthday of Thomas Paine. Let us keep it up and in that way keep alive the Republican idea. Prof. Wakeman did not meddle with party politics, but gave a good, straight talk on the question of sociology, to which no reasonable person could object. Of course the Phillippine question was brought up, and at the close of the lecture he was asked what he would do with the Phillippines. His answer was that he would do with them what is being done with Cuba. He believes in expansion—the expansion of Republicanism, and hopes that will be the only kind of expansion the United States will indulge in.

Watch for the next issue of the *Torch* and read for yourselves the words of this apostle of Paine, the Father of Republics. Let us all act on the recommendation of Prof. Wakeman and make Paine's birthday a "Festival of the Republic" to be celebrated every January.

There were no announcements for next Sunday evening, as the officers think a little surprise occasionally is a good thing, and if you want to know what is going to take place next Sunday evening you will have to go. Let us add, however, that you will likely be very sorry if you don't go. With the usual song by the choir, the audience was dismissed.

All hail to the Republic and its father!
P. W. G.

Paine Celebration.

The Ohio Liberal Society celebrated the 163rd anniversary of the birth of Thomas Paine on Sunday evening, Jan 28th, with the following program: 5th Sonata (Beethoven); Variations (Mendelssohn), Mr. John Rueble and Miss Fithian; Solo (to be announced), Charles Clark; Travesty on "Brigham Roberts' Case," Mrs. May Levi; Consolation, Violin and Piano, (Rehfeld), Mr. John Rueble and Miss Fithian; Recitation, "The Surprise" (Will Carleton), Miss Flora Livi; Duet (Pleyel), Mr. Rueble and Miss Fithian; Thomas Paine—The Unusual and Imperishable Characteristics of His Genius, Mrs. C. E. Carl. After which a social time was indulged in.

Mrs. Turner's Book.

Continued from 5th page.

according to the clergy, is to be the abode of all those who do not believe that a man born of a woman is the Creator of the universe. The whole creative power was withdrawn from the ever open infinity of space and matter and compassed in the body of a man who ate 'broiled fish and honey-comb'."

There is not a useless word in the book. Mrs. Turner is usually brief but quite explicit. The Roman Pontiffs, the missionaries, prayer, woman, and even Mr. Gladstone's god all come in for their share and are all dealt with fairly. If there ever was a better book to open the eyes of the mentally blind, the writer has never heard of it.

The last part of the book is devoted to selections from the writings of scientists on up-to-date topics. A few selections from the "Conclusion" will show the belief and opinions of the author of this valuable book:

"Science claims that the Universe had no beginning and will have no end. Look into the pure blue depths by day, and the star-lit depths of night, the silent, solemn sublimity proclaims that the Universe lives by its own vitality, that it holds the secret of its being in its changeless laws, that man will know nothing of this secret but by knowledge of the laws. Science is the priest at the altar of the Universe and the only interpreter of its laws."

"Wherever nations have a god to worship, a hell to fear and a heaven to hope for, there the 'sole and supreme allegiance of conscience to the community, which is the first principle of natural ethics,' is betrayed. Man worships his god and himself, giving small dole of charity for God's sake and his own, overlooking natural justice."

"All nations spend their energy, time and money worshipping the power they fear and profess to love, instead of gaining knowledge of the Universe (which in itself is virtue) and using it zealously and lovingly for the benefit of the brother man here and now."

"Unworthy of the Universe is the idea that in a happy home he made for himself, where joy immortal reigns, and peace folds her white wings in the sunshine of eternal day, sits an omnipotent and omniscient God, leading at his arbitrary will and caprice, the human family for centuries by paths of agony to some 'far off divine result'."

We shall be pleased to publish extracts from the book from time to time and we hope the readers of the *Torch of Reason* will lose no time in procuring copies of said book for their own perusal and then hand them on to others.

P. W. G.

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