

## NEWS AND NOTES.

Our library is now in shape, and we find that we have a few empty shelves that ought to be filled with books.

"Giordano Bruno, the Rising Star in the New Era," is Prof. Wakeman's subject for next Sunday evening.

Do you want us to send you one of Mrs. Turner's books? They are only 25 cents each and are great eye-openers.

Captain Davenport gave a very interesting program at the Y. P. S. S. C. Friday evening. Captain Geer gives his last program next Friday.

Mrs. Emily L. Wakeman is at Salem this week, attending the celebration of the 80th anniversary of the birth of Susan B. Anthony.

Remember the Bruno celebration at Liberal Hall Sunday evening. Prof. Wakeman will deliver an interesting address that you can not afford to miss.

Mr. G. Hickethier, a Liberal of Portland, made us a very pleasant call Wednesday. He expresses great delight to see the work we have done and the progress we are making.

Mr. Isaac A. Pool, of Melrose Park, Ill., in a written opinion of Maple's "No Beginning", heartily commends the book as follows: "I find it so valuable a help in a hunt for truth that I shall seek opportunities to re-read it many times. A constant and systematic study of this little volume will be of more service to humanity than all the priests and preachers of all the world, with all their Bibles, have ever been." The above mentioned book is kept on sale at the Liberal University at 75 cents per copy post paid. You ought to have one for your library.

The following books have been received since the acknowledgment on page 5 of this issue was written: "Behind the Bars No. 31, 498", by C. C. Moore, editor Blue Grass blade, Lexington, Ky.; "I Am That I Am", by Sum Quod Sum, published by Peter Eckler, New York. The Truth Seeker Co., 28 Lafayette Place, New York, has sent "Sinai and Olympus", "The Secret Instructions of the Jesuits", and "Collection of Forms and Ceremonies". These books are thankfully received, have been placed in the library, and are for sale by the Torch of Reason.

## Personal.

The first editorial of last week's Torch had an appreciation of the present contributor so sublime that it exceeds his imagination, and seems in danger of being a "step from the sublime to the ridiculous".

Had I known about it, something else would have appeared in its place, or a protest.

If many years and an unusual 'lot and fate' have given to any one in the Liberal ranks means and opportunities for extra usefulness, certainly let us all try to have THE MOST made of them during the few remaining years that the possessor may be with us. But estimates and comparisons—private, and enthusiastic beyond possibility of general recognition, are apt to excite a variety of feelings not likely to develop the usefulness aforesaid.

So let us drop all that could be thought over-praise until death has closed the record, and settle down to sober work and sober estimates of those who are trying to help us do it.

T. B. W.

## Silverton Thought Exchange.

## MISS CLARA WAKEMAN TELLS ABOUT HER TRIP IN EUROPE.

The night was perfect and the moon, though almost full, was not disorderly, and the weather was likewise quiet. It takes a great attraction to keep people indoors on evenings like this, and this lecture was fully equal to the emergency. A splendid audience was present and not one left the hall until we had followed the speaker to Europe and back home again.

The choir sang for us, and then the secretary read the minutes of the previous meeting. This was followed by a vocal duet by little Lelia and Mary Smith, with their dolls, and then President Brewer announced the speaker.

As Miss Wakeman appeared among the draperies and decorations of the stage, she was greeted with applause. When she announced that she was going to travel with us that evening away across the Atlantic, we felt that she was on the steamer, amid the fluttering of flags, and that we were just cheering and waving her an adieu. But no, she took us right along with her, and what a delightful voyage we did have!

The subject was, "An American Girl Alone in Europe;" but this time she was not alone—we all went along. That audience was so quiet that I don't believe one of us, not even the children, missed a single point of the journey. The voyage across the Atlantic did not make us sea-sick in the least, but we were pleased to catch a sight of land in England and go ashore in France.

Miss Wakeman said she did not visit Europe as a tourist nor as a Liberal, but as an artist, and it was as an artist that she would describe it to us. She is surely an artist at describing things. She interested us with her account of the life of the French peasant, and we followed her with pleasure through Paris.

We were next taken to England, where we had a glimpse of London, and from there we crossed over to Holland. Of course our traveler had many experiences with customs officials, but being an American girl, of course she got over all obstacles.

The account of the trip from Holland back to France was indeed amusing, and gave us a good idea of the modes of travel in the countries through which our traveller passed, and made us all feel proud of our improved system in America. I can not give all the details, and perhaps I will only say enough to make all readers wish they had themselves been in Liberal Hall Sunday evening.

The return voyage was quickly made, and while it is nice to get home, still we were all reluctant to have our pleasant journey end, especially when we had such an excellent guide who took so much pains to explain all in such an easy conversational tone. We arrived at New York, and then learned the "moral" of the voyage and why we took the trip. Then a few lines of poetry and all was over, and we were left right in Silverton without a jolt, but a little amazed for we did not expect such an interesting journey that evening.

The song by the choir convinced us that we were really in Silverton, and then the president announced that Prof. Wakeman will speak on Bruno next Sunday evening. This information was gladly received, and then we were dismissed. The weather as we went out was more beautiful than when we came in. How could it be "tearful" on such an occasion?

P. W. G.

## Acknowledgment of Helpful Books Received.

[Concluded from 5th page.]

national), making ten volumes. These were just in time to take part in the opening of a new phase of historical Sociology, and have merited the hearty thanks of the Faculty and Students, which were given with a unanimous College vote.

5. Mr. John McArdle, of Omaha, Neb., has sent us the Story of the Heavens by the great English astronomer, R. S. Ball, just in time to help on some astronomical questions underlying Cosmology.

6. PETER ECKLER, the well-known Liberal publisher, has deposited with us "The Wilderness of Worlds," by George W. Morehouse, just in time to be used in some articles in this Torch.

7. Last came the Poems of Perry Marshall, of New Salem, Mass., entitled "Launching and Landing," "Vineland," etc. How timely they were may be judged from one of them which opens the Torch.

We note the arrival of these books to tender our hearty thanks

for them; and to show who our active friends are. Their circle can be enlarged indefinitely, and with every assurance that every book sent us will be put to practical use.

We greatly need a copy of Prof. Giddings' (Columbia University, New York) works on Sociology. Where is the friend who will see that they are supplied?

A fuller notice of the over a thousand books now in our Library and of their use among the students and residents of Silverton awaits time and space.

T. B. W.

## Chicago Liberal Society.

## OFFICERS.


Harry W. Stannard, Pres., 1010 Home Ins. Bldg.; Martin D. Ell-edge, Vice-Pres., 6414 S. Green St.; Joseph B. Hogle, Treas., 1389 W. Madison St.; Frederick Mains, Sec., 812 Ashland Blk.

## DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES.

We believe in the universe and in its laws. We affirm it to be the part of wisdom not to attempt to change those laws, but rather to investigate and obey them. We know that by and through obedience to the laws of nature, we find our only salvation from disease, weakness, poverty and degradation. We declare that the enlightened reason and the educated conscience are our highest guides; and that it is our duty to follow truth and practice righteousness. We affirm that all men are equal in the right to think, to speak, to labor and to live; and that it behooves us, as members of the common brotherhood, to do our utmost for the promotion of the general welfare. We know that selfishness and hate are wrong and degrading, and that we are both happier and nobler when we live for the higher ideals of justice and goodwill. We believe that it is our duty, as rational beings, to do what we can to secure the peaceable overthrow of superstition, and the establishment in its stead of the reason which is the surest guide to and guarantee of the blessings of civilization.

## MEETINGS.

The Temple services of the society are held every Sunday morning at 10:45 o'clock in the Masonic Temple and are in charge of Thomas B. Gregory. You are cordially invited to attend the same.



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