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Free Public Libraries.

A circular letter on the above subject, endorsed by the Library Committee of the Oregon Federation of Women's Clubs, has been sent to the different clubs throughout the State. It has been endorsed by the Woman's Social Science Club of Silverton. I hope the women will be successful in starting libraries all over the State. The following is an extract from the letter:

"To the Club Women of Oregon: The library department of the Woman's Club of Portland, after a thorough examination of the Constitution of Oregon and all its laws pertaining to education, has discovered that not one dollar of the State or City funds could be legally appropriated for the establishment or maintenance of free public libraries. Oregon stands almost alone in this respect.

"President Strong, of the State University, in an able address recently said, 'the key to the educational future of Oregon lies in its University,' and Carlyle has said 'the true university of these days is a collection of books'. The greatest question therefore before the club women of the State today is, can Oregon any longer afford to be without this most necessary means of public education—free public libraries? Realizing that unless libraries are established, giving to the masses this only means of continuing their education after school days have closed, Oregon—the mother State of them all—will fall behind in the competition for first place in this struggling galaxy of Northwestern states. The library department of the Woman's Club has determined to present to the next legislature a bill praying that 1-5 of a mill tax be levied or set aside for library purposes in every town of a given number of inhabitants in the state."

The proposed tax would be but \$1.00 on \$5,000.00 worth of property, and when the importance of libraries is understood our legislators will surely not hesitate to do as the women advise them. Prof. Wakeman's speech before the State Teachers' Association should be read and circulated to help this movement. P. W. G.

I wish you to understand that I speak with all literalness when I say that there is not a rite, a symbol, a ceremony in the church today which is not older than the church, which is not pagan in its origin. The cross was a religious symbol in many pagan nations before Christianity was born. Holy water, the eucharist, baptism—almost all these that are sacraments and symbols in the Christian church today and are regarded as of prime importance, were known and practiced in ancient Egypt and in other nations hundreds, perhaps thousands, of years before the Nazarene was born.—Rev. Minot J. Savage.

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