

NEWS AND NOTES.

Mr. Geer is in Chicago this week.

Mrs. Wakeman has joined the botany class.

Several of the University lads and lasses went to Salem on their bicycles last Sunday.

A good audience listened to Mr. Beaty's lecture at the Thought Exchange and all appreciated it very much.

In next week's issue of the Torch will appear an excellent article from the pen of Charles Kent Tenny.

Mrs. Addie Davenport Martin will lecture before the Thought Exchange next Sunday evening. All come.

Our rhetoric class has begun writing poetry. We expect that Shakespeare and Marquam will now be left in the shade. Watch the Torch.

The president of the L. U. O. will speak at the next teachers' meeting, to be held April 14th at the public school building in Silverton. The subject will be "The Cosmopolitan Mind."

The program at the Y. P. S. S. C. was excellent last Friday evening. The workers are now put on their honor, the credit system being abolished. Most all have learned to enjoy the work as well as the play.

We learned much more about the Hawaiian-Islands last Sunday evening at the Thought Exchange than we could have learned in many hours studying the books. Mr. Beaty knows his subject and can tell what he knows.

The public schools are the bulwark of our liberties, and one of the principal reasons that the Liberal University is being built is that its founders and promoters wish to help free them from religious domination and prevent their use as political and personal cats' paws.

Which savior, Jesus or Science, saves, is illustrated millions of times every day, and yet churches, which are used once a week, are still built by the thousands, while one purely Scientific University (the only one of its kind in the world) struggles for existence. It will not always be thus.

Chicago Liberal Society.

EDITOR TORCH OF REASON:

The Chicago Liberal Society is now, after an experience of some months, in a prosperous condition. Dr. Gregory, the lecturer, always interests his audience, and I believe the character of the audiences at these meetings will compare favorably in intelligence and respecta-

bility with those found in any of the churches.

Last Sunday as I entered the hall about the first man I saw was Sec'y Reichwald, of the A. S. U. & F. F., and with him was Mr. Pearl W. Geer, of the Liberal University. After one of his characteristic lectures, Dr. Gregory introduced Mr. Geer, who was greeted with applause. Mr. Geer spoke briefly of the Liberal University, its aims and objects, and stated that the object of his trip is to secure funds to complete the University buildings in time for the increased attendance which they are sure to have for the next school year. Mr. Geer was introduced to most of those present and, as usual, left the impression that he is a worthy young fellow—an impression that is only strengthened by a closer acquaintance.

J. B. BEATTIE.

Silverton Thought Exchange.

UNCLE SAM'S EDEN.

The eight Hawaiian Islands, or a goodly part of them, the part now mostly inhabited by the remnant of the native population, might well be set apart (like the Yellowstone Park) as a public reservation for the safety of the natives and the delight of our own people. This is what came into the mind after Mr. Beaty's account of them at the Thought Exchange last Sunday night. He had been on the ground, not long, but with the open eyes of a Liberal newspaper correspondent, and he saw through things and knew how to make a most interesting account of them. The audience was charmed by his narrative of the islands, volcanic in origin, but girt with coral, and over which the trade winds breathe a perpetual spring. The fruits of Eden and the birds of paradise make one think that the fabled garden was not on the Tigris nor sunk in the Indian ocean, but here in the center of the Pacific seas and now annexed to the United States.

But unless special care of them is taken, they cannot be Eden-like very long. They have had a hard time since Capt. Cook struck them in 1787. The immoral, brutal shippers and sailors were bad; the missionaries were bad (unintentionally), and the sugar planters, with their mass of practical slaves, who are Chinese, Japanese and Portuguese, are the worst—unless it be the descendants of the missionaries and original white settlers, who have managed to get the land and the control of everything—and are running a play republic of their own, with Uncle Sam as nominal guardian, but without any present responsibility.

The lecturer spent an hour and a half in recounting the charms and peculiarities of this strange land of fairest flowers, mightiest

volcanoes and most interesting and childlike substitutes for Adam and Eve to be found in all the world.

Applause of the heartiest kind closed the lecture. Then came questions, and the evening was closed by the "Moral" of it all from President Hosmer of the Liberal University. He pointed out that environment was fate; that these islanders, adapted to their lovely climate and "poi" as their chief food, could only want changes of civilization very gradually. Without any choice of their own, they have been made the wards of Uncle Sam; that means US. While the sugar and the "slavery" should be looked after, special care and protection should be awarded to those children of the mountains and the sea, who must otherwise soon disappear.

Next Sunday Mrs. Addie Davenport Martin will lead the Exchange in the consideration of "Religions."

TO BE A LIBERAL ONE MUST WORK.

[Concluded from 4th page.]

that they will use force wherever they can, read the following:

Montreal, March 13.—Pelletier (father and son), proprietors of Le Petite Revue, a French weekly literary journal, were this morning fined \$100 each for libel of the worst possible kind against the teachings of Christ in an article published in that paper about a year ago. Judge Desnorres intimated to the accused that should they again come before the common court on a similar charge, no leniency would be shown them.

Here in Oregon we are free from such fines and we can scarcely imagine how one would go to work to "libel the teachings of Christ". We have the liberty to show how childish some of the teachings of Jesus Christ were, if he ever taught at all, or any other teachings, and as long as we use good language and do not repeat too much of the vulgar language of the Bible, we are perfectly safe in person, papers and effects. Now why have we this liberty? It is because such men as Bruno, Paine and Ingersoll were NOT WILLING that their brothers should remain in ignorant belief of the old dogmas; and these brave men were willing to sacrifice time, money, chances for preferment and everything for the advancement of the truth. Shall we imitate them as far as our limited talents will permit, or shall we settle back into the "let everybody think as he chooses" state, and thus become dead in our selfish indifference?

We must wake up if we are to do anything. "The night cometh when no man can work," and while we must be polite, kind, forgiving, and understand that there are causes for the mistakes of our poor Christian brethren, yet we must corner and knock in the head every old skulking lie we can chase down;

and we must put in their place the beautiful truths of Science. The sooner we all take hold of this work the sooner will the job be done, and verily, verily, we say unto you, this generation ought not to pass till these things be fulfilled.

Let us up and at it in earnest! Liberal means to set free; and if we do nothing to set our deluded brothers and sisters free, we are less liberal than they, for many of them think their religion is the right road to freedom. If they really believe it and it makes them happy, why disturb them? some may ask. If a younger brother is about to drink a deadly poison, it matters not to us if it tastes good to him, nor that, for the time, he is happy. Our duty is plain. What is the final effect of superstition? Why is the world still full of hypocrites, and what is the awful effect of this hypocrisy? That little girl who is studying the worst of lies in an orthodox Sunday school and that youth who is listening to the "good man's" words of myth and mystery will be grown up some day and have children of their own, and they will have an influence on this and coming generations that is simply too great to estimate. If they and their children are weak mental wanderers in the world—mere tramps in the field of thought, or if they are cunning, deceptive tricksters, isn't there sufficient cause for it? Would it not be much pleasanter to live in a world where mental weakness, selfishness and hypocrisy were not known? And what is more productive of these evils than the stories of our Christians' unholy book and unholy traditions?

It is a sad thing to say, and the fact almost crushes us, but the few progressive, scientific, moral Secularists have the salvation of the whole world resting upon their shoulders. No one else can do anything. They are all in the fog, as Prof. Wakeman would say. Let us draw closer together. Let us let dishonest "policy" entirely alone. Let us "hew to the line, let the chips fall where they may."

You should have a copy of the Torch of Reason Song Book, No. 2. They are only 10 cents each.

 **JUST AS NATURAL** as the old hen and a good deal more reliable. Doesn't break its eggs or make its chicks lousy. Doesn't stay off the nest and allow the eggs to chill but hatches every egg that can be hatched. **THE PETALUMA INCUBATOR** is absolutely perfect as to incubator essentials—proper application and distribution of heat and moisture, regulation and ventilation. For 50 to 350 eggs. WE PAY FREIGHT ANYWHERE in the U. S. Handsome catalog free. Petaluma Incubator Co., Box 1, Petaluma, Cal.



The Wiley B. Allen Co.

The Oldest! the Largest! Music Store. Leading Pianos and Organs. 209-211 First St., PORTLAND, OREG.

SAMPLE copies of 100 different Leading Newspapers and Magazines sent to any address upon receipt of 10 cents to pay for mailing. U. S. SUBSCRIPTION AGENCY, 126 N. Liberty St., Indianapolis, Ind.