

Traveling.

BY PEARL W. GEER.

"Blessed be the tie that binds." The Torch of Reason is the tie I have reference to. It binds together a family of Liberals, every member of which it is a pleasure to meet. But what a pleasure it is for a member of that Torch of Reason family who has strayed away from home to get in sight of the Torch once more,—be cheered by its brilliancy and comforted by its warmth. You can't realize it as I do. I have just received and read the issue of March 15th, and it comes freighted with good things.

I didn't think that my simply starting on the road would be the cause of so many donations coming in, but let us hope that they will continue as begun. Do not think, dear reader, that the L. U. O. is so rich now after this windfall, that it doesn't need any more help. Just kindly bear in mind that the Liberal University, Oregon, has come to stay, and the degree of success with which it meets depends on the support and financial aid it gets from its friends.

Make the Liberal University self-supporting this year without delay, and we will have captured a "kopje" that we can hold against all the guns and shells of the combined armies of ignorance and superstition. This is an easy matter. We have always had about all the students we could comfortably care for, and our work has just begun. We have forty-four acres of land, and buildings planned and in course of construction that will accommodate 300 students. As soon as these buildings are completed, we are assured enough students to pay running expenses of the school. That will be the kind of success that succeeds, and I have implicit faith in the Liberals of the United States making this possible.

Be prepared to meet me or let me meet you while I am on this trip, and we will try and see if some plan can be devised whereby the Liberal University will flourish, and we shall all feel proud of our work. If I don't call on you, I hope you will not wait nor feel slighted, and to prove this, I hope you will follow the example set by Mr. Griswold, Mr. Holman, Mr. Garth and others. Why not raise enough by May 1st to do what I have set forth above? Did it ever occur to you that we can do it if we try? Let's try.

The first day of March was my last day in Silverton for some time. Now that I am in the midst of snow and ice, I can hardly make myself believe that that beautiful spring day was a reality. It seems like a dream. I left Silverton Friday morning, and spent part of the day in Portland with friends. Mr.

Wittenberg is entitled to the honor of being the first one to respond to my call on this trip. He is now the owner of two shares of stock in the Liberal University, and he seems to be as delighted over it as I am. Mr Wittenberg is a Free-thinker in earnest, and he knows why.

The weather was still delightful when I boarded the 4 o'clock train and started up the great Columbia. This river and its grand scenery have been described by me before, and I will let it rest this time. We were soon at The Dalles, and I was delighted to see our student, James Officer, walk into the car. He was on his way home, and we had a pleasant visit until we reached Heppner Junction, where our roads parted, and we had to do the same. Let us hope that James will be with us again next year, as usual, at the Liberal University.

When the train reached Wallula the rain was splashing against the car windows, and after we had crossed into Washington the rain had changed into snow, and I have been in a blizzard ever since. In the morning I was at Spokane, where I changed cars for St. Paul. Nothing exciting transpired on the journey. We had rather a jolly crowd. There were several people returning to eastern homes from the Klondyke. They were all broke, but each had about a thousand dollars' worth of experience, which he said he would not sell for twice that amount. I don't believe they will. I didn't hear any one make any offers.

In Missoula, Montana, there lives a member of the Torch of Reason family who is also a stockholder in the Liberal University. His name is Donahue, and in response to a telegram from me, he was at the depot for a fifteen minutes, chat while we changed horses and drivers. Mr. D. is a deputy sheriff, and I should judge by his size that he is a good one. He was bundled up in a huge fur coat that magnified his size considerably and made me feel all shriveled up beside him, especially when that zero zephyr got after me. Our friendship was warm enough, but our conversation was necessarily cold to correspond with the weather.

The time passed very quickly, and I was soon spinning away toward the east. We were unfortunate in not having many ladies on the train. One would get on occasionally, but we were all so anxious to talk with her, or at least look at her, that she would soon be completely exhausted or stared out of countenance and glad to leave at the next division. St. Paul was reached Monday afternoon and our crowd divided up, never to meet again.

Woodworkers, don't forget to send for a set of the Forstner Auger bits.

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