

NEWS AND NOTES.

Boom the Torch!

Examination week is here again.

Next week another thousand extra copies of the Torch will go flying over the country.

Mr. D. A. Roberts, a new subscriber at Creston, Ill., donates \$10 for the good of the cause this week.

Again the Mongolian pheasants are becoming tame enough to come within a few rods of the L. U. O. building.

Read our premium offer and then see if you can get us some new subscribers when you renew for the Torch.

If we can get the Freethought world acquainted with our educational plan, our "yoke will be easy and our burden light."

A number of students and members of the faculty of the L. U. O. went to Salem Wednesday to see and hear W. J. Bryan.

The Dynamic Theory of Life and Mind, by James B. Alexander, has been donated to the library by W. H. Conley, of Sodus, Mich.

In the last examinations in the L. U. O., Miss Minnie Robison stood 100 per cent in seven branches, including Moral Philosophy.

In our great work we must not expect every little thing to be done just to suit us, but we must cling close to the main principles and do the very best we can.

Mr. J. B. Edington, in a private letter, says: "I am now better informed as to the goodness, greatness and importance of your magnificent undertaking. You will surely succeed."

The botany class of the L. U. O. run wild in the woods every chance they get in search of the precious gems of the plant kingdom. Truly life is worth living when there is something to live for.

Our friend, William Birney, of Washington, D. C., in a private letter to Prof. Wakeman, in which was enclosed twenty dollars, writes as follows: "I am proud of having the privilege of helping, even in a small measure, the men and women who are devoting time and talent to build up the first Liberal University. I have confidence in your principles and judgment."

Saturday, March 24th, the Woman's Social Science Club met at the residence of Mrs. Morris. "Ventilation" was the subject discussed. The subject was opened by Mrs. Morris. Saturday, March 31st, the club will meet at the residence of Mrs. Sol. Smith at 3 p. m. Mrs. Sam. Ames will read the paper of the day, "On Flower Culture." We are looking forward to a very interesting meeting, and

also a meeting at which we can gain a great deal of information on the subject of the cultivation of flowers.

An organization was completed in Silverton last Saturday at Liberal Hall, which is to be known as the Silverton Improvement and Entertainment Society. Every citizen and resident is eligible to membership, and we hope that the society will be productive of much good. The following officers were elected: President, L. Rauch; Vice-Presidents, Percy Brown, Dr. Chas. Brewer; Secretary, Dr. A. A. Leonard; Treasurer, John Hicks.

The Southern Pacific Railroad, through their agent here at Silverton, seems to be desirous of extending its business so as to run both private and public schools of this city. The president of the L. U. O. was put on the program of a teachers' meeting to be held here next month, but the railroad agent, who is one of the school directors, says that the teachers of this county cannot use the public school building if said Infidel is allowed to speak at their meeting. The following, from the Hon. T. W. Davenport, shows about how the matter stands:

PROF. HOSMER: I have heard that one, or maybe two, of the school directors here have said that if the County Teachers' Institute permits you to lecture at their next meeting, our public school house shall not be used for the meeting. I know nothing as to the truth of the matter, and don't miss the opportunity. The best way to vindicate the right of the institute to invite you, and your right to speak, is to speak. If it be true that the directors purpose as aforesaid, they have manufactured an issue with two horns of formidable dimensions, one of which, personal spite, they will be ashamed to be impaled upon; and the other, religious ostracism, by the common school management, they dare not suffer to enter their vitals.

Yours,  
T. W. DAVENPORT.  
Silverton, March 26, 1900.

Time will tell whether railroad domination, personal spite or religious ostracism are to appoint guardians for us, or whether freedom of speech is to be allowed.

Theory and Practice.

EDITOR TORCH OF REASON:  
Enclosed find postoffice money order for \$2.50, my day's pay for March.

Yours truly,  
ROBT. GARTH.  
Republic, Wash.

Approves the Plan.

EDITOR TORCH OF REASON:  
Please allow me to say: Lay off the L. U. O. grounds; build the cottages and fountains; plant trees and flowers and make "a park unsurpassed in its beauty," which will bring revenue and be a monumental glory for a thousand generations to come. Name the cottages after the teachers and builders of the L. U. O., beginning with the first, and so on in succession. 'Tis

only just to those who have the courage and ability to work in this "vineyard."

Respectfully, etc.,  
F. S. MATTESON.  
Turner, Ore.

What our Friends in England are Doing for the Liberal University.

EDITOR TORCH OF REASON:  
Emilie Holyoake Marsh, daughter of George Jacob Holyoake, writes to me as follows:

THE INGERSOLL CHAIR.  
Editor Freethought Magazine:  
On the death of Col. Ingersoll, his friends in America wished to perpetuate his memory by some memorial. My father, Mr. George Jacob Holyoake, proposed an Ingersoll chair in the Liberal University of Oregon, the only Freethought University ever established. The intention is the education of the advocates of Freethought. The faculty of the University accepted the proposal, and asked my father to make it known in England. By reason of age and literary work to which he is pledged, he is unable to do all he wished, and has asked me to communicate the project to such persons as might be pleased with the opportunity of expressing their obligations to the splendid services of Colonel Ingersoll.

My father has collected the sums appended to this letter. The University values very highly English aid in this matter, as students may go from this country to the Oregon University to take a degree, which will certify their instructed efficiency. Any further subscriptions may be sent to me, or to Mr. Pearl W. Geer, Liberal University, Silverton, Oregon, U. S. A., to whom I shall forward any sums I may receive. Yours faithfully,

- EMILIE HOLYOAKE MARSH.
- Mr. George Anderson, London ..... £5
  - Mr. Alfred Marsh, " ..... 3
  - Mrs. E. Holyoake Marsh, " ..... 10s
  - Mr. Thomas Allsop, " ..... 1
  - Mr. Robert Applegarth, " ..... 10s
  - Mr. J. M. Gunson, Leicester ..... 1
  - Mr. Arthur Gimton, " ..... 1
  - Mr. Sidney Gimton, " ..... 1

P. S.—Mr. Anderson has had so much delight reading Col. Ingersoll's orations that he tells my father that if the Ingersoll chair does not stand well on its legs we are to apply to him (Mr. Anderson) again.

Now let the Liberals of this country follow the good example set by our English friends and make this Ingersoll chair a great success.

H. L. GREEN.

A Premium.

Until July 1, we will give free with each yearly subscription to the Torch of Reason, one copy of George Jacob Holyoake's book, "English Secularism", neatly bound in cloth, containing 146 pages. This book sells regularly for fifty cents, and no Freethought library is complete without it. For a limited time we will give it and the Torch of Reason one year for only one dollar. Old subscribers paying one year in advance will receive the book free of charge. Address the Torch of Reason, Silverton, Oregon.

For the Torch of Reason.

With Ingersoll.

BY J. A. CLEMENSON.

I often feel I loved you, Ingersoll,  
For that plain, open truthfulness  
With which you treated mankind, one  
and all,  
And which still lives to comfort and  
to bless.  
So if I raise you from the peaceful bier,  
And place you once more, in a simple  
way,  
Before the people whom you held so  
dear,  
We may still seem to hear your voice  
today.  
When you have claimed the greatest law  
must be  
The love that operates from reason's  
throne,  
Can any claim they have yet failed to  
see  
That in your life you lived for love  
alone?  
In that last hour, when destiny drew  
near,  
To fold its silent and sublime decree  
Around those brilliant orbs that saw no  
fear,  
Can any say you sought what could  
not be?  
Had you not said you knew not what  
none know,  
And feared no law which reason would  
not bear,  
But trusted nobly, when time called to  
go,  
To pass, unflinching, to eternal care?  
So when my life shall meet its unknown  
time,  
And I have lived, perhaps to live no  
more,  
May others say my only fear was crime,  
My hope infinitude's unbounded shore.

"No Christian Mummeries."

The will of the late Marquis of Queensberry has been lodged in Edinburgh. The deceased in the codicil says:

At my death I wish to be cremated and my ashes put into the earth enclosed in nothing—earth to earth, ashes to ashes—in any spot most convenient I have loved. I particularly request no Christian mummeries or tomfooleries be performed over my grave, but that I be buried as a Secularist and an Agnostic. If it will comfort any one, there are plenty of those of my friends who would come and say a few words of common sense over the spot where my ashes may lie. No monument or stone necessary or required, nor procession, as ashes can be carried in one person's hand.

"English Secularism."

By George Jacob Holyoake, 146 pages, neatly bound in cloth, postpaid, 50 cents. Twenty-two excellent chapters, together with Secularist ceremonies on Marriage, Naming Children, and Over the Dead. No Freethought library is complete without it. Sent free with yearly subscriptions to the Torch of Reason.

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