

Travels.

BY PEARL W. GEER.

Monday night it snowed and in the morning we couldn't see the ground by six inches. The sun was shining brightly and it was very nice overhead, but very few people travel that way. The inhabitants of St. Paul, however, enjoy the snow and there were sleighs of every description, and as they went slipping along over the snow, jingling bells in every key, they were more difficult to dodge than bicycles and automobiles. I went out onto the high bridge and took a picture of the great Mississippi, which at that time was an immense skating rink. I then proceeded to the depot, where I boarded a train for South Dakota.

I wired Dr. Slaman that I was on the road, and when I arrived at Lennox he was at the station to meet me. We were soon driven to his pleasant home, where Mrs. Slaman and the two children, Lamont and Corrinne, were waiting with a warm fire and a good supper. The evening was spent in pleasant conversation concerning the Liberal University and the Liberal work in general. Dr. Slaman is deeply interested in the work in Oregon, and says the time to help it is right now when it needs it and the help will do the most good. The doctor not only gives this advice, but he follows it. Lamont is a bright boy and expects to get his education in the Liberal University.

The next morning Dr. Slaman and I visited the Liberals of the town and I had a very pleasant time. Mr. Macomber, a druggist and a stock-holder in the Liberal University, was the first one we met. He is deeply interested in the work and renewed his subscription to the Torch. Mr. W. B. Smith, who keeps a store across the street, did the same thing. I also had the pleasure of meeting Messrs. Curtis, Gayken and Wilkinson, who joined the Torch of Reason family, and expressed great satisfaction on learning what we are doing in Silverton. It is likely that we will have several students from Lennox.

After an enjoyable visit and a splendid dinner at the Slaman home, I took the afternoon train for Parker, S. D., where I changed cars for Orange City, Iowa. Arriving at this latter town in the evening, I took supper at the hotel and then proceeded to the home of Dr. De Lespinasse, where I found Mrs. De Lespinasse and her mother at home. I was invited to remain until the doctor's return from a call in the country, which invitation I gladly accepted. Mrs. De Crane, a sister-in-law, and her daughter came in to spend the evening, and presently the doctor returned. We had a jolly time until far into the night, and the doctor showed his liberality and interest in the Liberal

University by contributing to the financial part of our work.

Next morning I met Mr. De Crane at the doctor's office and he subscribed for the Torch. We then proceeded to the office of Mr. Van Eizenga, who also joined the family.

Orange City, Iowa, is settled by Hollanders, and of course Boer sympathy runs high. Mr. De Crane had a large Oom Paul button on the lapel of his coat, which he very kindly gave to me, for which I am very thankful. It remained on the lapel of my coat until I reached Chicago, when Mr. Reichwald, a great admirer(?) of the pious Dutchman, took Oom Paul from me and wore him on St. Patrick's Day (in the evening) with a bow of green ribbon and a pretzel. I have recaptured the button, however, and will not allow him to remain a prisoner like Cronje.

The noon train took me to Alton, then to Sheldon, and then on to Madison, Wis., where I arrived bright and early Friday morning; in fact it was more early than bright for the day had not begun to dawn. I waited until Mr. Tenney came to his office, then I called and had a jolly as well as interesting time. Mr. Tenney is a stockholder in the Liberal University, of which fact he is very proud. He is very deeply interested in the work at Silverton and gives it all the support and encouragement possible. The productions of his pen are well known to the Torch family. We called on several Unitarians and had both love feasts and arguments. Madison does not possess many outspoken Liberals, but there are many progressive thinkers whom it is a pleasure to meet.

Mr. Tenney took me to lunch and then escorted me to the depot, where I boarded the train for Chicago. The last I saw of Tenney he was hunting his dog.

I reached Chicago in the evening and everything looks about the same as it did last summer, with the exception that the Chicago river runs the opposite direction from what it did, and the water is clear. At first I thought I was turned around, but I remembered reading of the great drainage canal and all was made plain. Chicago used to be situated at the MOUTH of the Chicago river but now it is at one of the SOURCES. Chicago hasn't moved but the course of the river has been changed. Instead of flowing into the lake, the river flows out of it, and the water instead of being so muddy and greasy that it occasionally caught fire and burned, is now so clear and pure that the gulls can swim in it, and it can be actually used for extinguishing fire instead of kindling it. This is an age of changes.

I soon found the Green family at the home of the Freethought Magazine, where I always have a pleasant time. The prospects are bright

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