

For the Torch of Reason.

Luo Laudamus.

BY JOHN PRESCOTT GUILD.

If Wisdom's ways are pleasantness,
And peace paves all her streets,
Then Silvertown is Paradise,
Where youth for learning meets;
For there is taught the right of search
For treasure old and new,
Humanity its highest church,
Its creed—whate'er is true.

The Liberal University
Its banner has unfurled,
And "Luo" is its legend, too—
True freedom for the world;
Its Torch of Reason blazes bright,
A beacon unto all,
And many, wakened by its light,
Now list to Wisdom's call.

The Sun of Science shining clear
Upon grand Oregon,
Bids specters of the gloomy night
Be swiftly moving on;
The myths of Superstition
No more shall haunt the hills,
For Freethought's mighty mission
The ghosts of folly kills.

Flow on, then, fair Willamette, flow,
Thy valley smile in peace,
For there the fruitful "knowledge tree"
Shall flourish and increase:
By law of Evolution sure,
The plant will bud and bloom;
Silvertown's institution pure,
Each day demands "More

Travels.

BY PEARL W. GEER.

Mr. Moffitt referred me to other Liberals in Seward. I called on Mr. Brown, the real estate man, first and found him to be quite enthusiastic in the Liberal cause. He joined the Torch of Reason family without hesitation and referred me to others. Messrs. Lowley, Babson, Dunphy and Jones all subscribed in less than an hour, and I was ready to leave the town, well satisfied with the friends I have made there. I hope they will all feel like giving still more aid to the cause after they become better acquainted with the work we are doing.

In the evening I was in Atchison, Kansas, where I had the pleasure of meeting with Mr. John Remsburg, Jr. From him I learned that his father, the president of the American Secular Union, was on his farm ten miles to the south. So I journeyed on to Kansas City and then west to Lawrence, the home of Mr. A. Palm, where I always feel at home and never fail to enjoy myself. Mr. Palm has sold his business and will take the world easy the rest of his life. He certainly deserves to take the world easy for his has been an active life. He has been and is of great value to the Liberal cause. In the days when it was possible to arouse great enthusiasm over anti-Christian work, Mr. Palm was always foremost in the conventions, and no committee of arrangements was complete without his name. He was untiring in his efforts and his meetings were always a success.

The day of enthusiastic conventions has passed and now the time has arrived for constructive work to be done. This does not lessen

the importance of the work of clearing the way and breaking the ground, for without this work the Liberal University would not have been possible. Mr. Palm gave me some of the old bills and programs used in the '70s, which I prize very highly. His daughter, Blenda Palm Reynolds, and her sweet little Bessie, go to make up the family with whom I have spent so many pleasant hours. I am only sorry that I never met Mrs. Palm. All Liberals are acquainted with her work in the interest of our cause, especially with the children. It is too bad she could not have remained longer with us.

It was at Lawrence, Kansas, I had the pleasure of meeting Miss Emily Wakeman, the daughter of our own Thaddeus. Miss Wakeman is travelling with "A Poor Relation" troupe, and Mrs. Reynolds, Miss Bessie and I had the pleasure of seeing the play the evening after my arrival. I do not pose as a theatrical critic, but I know when a play pleases me. I enjoyed this play immensely, and while I didn't exactly like the acting of the leading man and some of the rest of the troupe, the most of the players acted their parts naturally and with great credit to the profession. Miss Wakeman is to be classed with the best, and if all in the theatrical profession would play their parts as well they would never be criticized by me. I am proud to know her personally. I had a pleasant visit with Miss Wakeman at the hotel where I was kept busy answering questions about Silvertown and the Wakeman family. Miss Wakeman is to spend her summer vacation in Silvertown. We shall all be delighted to see her and have her with us.

Mrs. Reynolds was kind enough to take me out into the country four miles to the home of Mrs. Robinson, the widow of the first governor of Kansas. We had a delightful time. The Robinson home is beautifully situated on a hill with the valley and the city of Lawrence in the landscape view. Gov. Robinson was always interested in the Liberal work and took an active part in the conventions. His wife still manifests a deep interest especially in the constructive work of the Liberal University. Mrs. Robinson is a typical New Englander, a delightful conversationalist and a splendid woman. I wish all of our readers could meet her. She is the author of a book on the early history of Kansas, a copy of which she was kind enough to donate to the L. U. O. library, together with a copy of a book on a similar subject by the governor.

The next day Mrs. Reynolds and I started out among the people of Lawrence to see if we could find any Liberals and any enthusiasm among them. We found both. We first came in contact with Mr. Agle,

a bright, industrious man and always wide awake. It didn't take us long to inform him regarding our work, and when we did you should have seen and heard him enthuse. He was not long in deciding that the L. U. O. is the best thing in the world, and to prove his earnestness he gave a dollar for the Torch and then invited us to follow him. We did, and the result was three more subscribers in less than half an hour. These three subscribers represent three good friends to the Liberal University who will surely stand by our work. They are Mr. Jacobs, Mr. Graeber and Mr. Henderson, all business men of Lawrence.

We had to suspend business for the evening as it was closing time for the stores, so we adjourned to meet again at the Spiritualist gathering at the beautiful home of Mr. McNair later in the evening. I there met so many people that I can't begin to recall their names. Mr. Henderson seemed to be the head of the meeting and he kept things stirring. It was a regular experience meeting and there were spirits in abundance. None came to me so I am still an unbeliever. The event was the celebration of the anniversary of the advent of modern Spiritualism.

One of the pleasant occurrences of the evening was the meeting I had with Mr. Isaac Farley, who is always full of fun and who is now a member of the Torch family.

Next day was Sunday and I accompanied the Palm family to the Unitarian church, where we listened to a very interesting discourse by Rev. F. M. Bennett. From my conversation with him I judge that Mr. Bennett is more Liberal than his sermon would lead one to believe. He has the appearance of being a gentleman in every respect and draws around him a congregation of intelligent, moral people, and they all work together for the Religion of Humanity. I also had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Bennett's mother, whose appearance shows that Mr. Bennett could easily have inherited his intelligence and refinement from the maternal side of the house. The work of the Lawrence Unitarian church is worthy of more notice than I can give here.

On our return home after the meeting, I was pleased to find Mrs. Etta Semple, editor of the Freethought Ideal, of Ottowa, Kansas, waiting for us. It was my first meeting with her, and how we did chatter the rest of the afternoon. We exchanged experiences in the publishing business and then Mr. Palm gave his experience as a subscriber and reader. No doubt his experience was more interesting to us than ours was to him.

Mrs. Semple is doing well with her enterprise and the Ideal is a good paper to which I wish all

Liberals would subscribe. Mrs. Semple is purely iconoclastic. Wherever she sees a system with which she is not in harmony she does not fear to attack it, and does so effectively. She says she will do the tearing down and the Liberal University can do the building up. In that way we can work together to advantage. Help us both, please.

In the evening, Mrs. Reynolds and I accompanied Mrs. Semple to the home of Mrs. Unthank, where we spent a pleasant hour. Mrs. Unthank and her mother, Mrs. Soul, talk of moving to Oregon, and I hope it will amount to more than talk. I told Mrs. Unthank to be sure and bring her "Soul" with her and she promised she would. She showed her interest in our work by subscribing for the Torch of Reason.

Monday was another active day. We found Mr. Agle in the afternoon and he gave his assistance again. Mr. Rose, Mr. Peterson and Mr. Pennington subscribed for the Torch. Mr. Rose is well known as a radical Liberal and is going to do all the missionary work he can for the L. U. O. Mr. Peterson is a brother of Mrs. Charlotte Palm and is a nice appearing gentleman. I regret that I was unable to accept the invitation to call at his home in the country. I will remember the invitation on my next visit. It was great pleasure for me to meet Mr. Peterson's accomplished daughter, who lives in Lawrence and is the wife of one of Lawrence's most successful merchants. If the other members of the family are the equal of this one, it will be a pleasure to meet them all.

I intended to leave Lawrence on Tuesday but Mr. Pennington persuaded me to stay so that he might take me for a drive among his friends, who might subscribe for the Torch. The trip was successful, and Mrs. Shibley, Mrs. Shimmons and Messrs. Snyder, Howell and Wilbur are listed as members of the Torch family. I took dinner at the pleasant home of Mr. Pennington, where I had the pleasure of meeting Mrs. Pennington and her daughter, who is a teacher of languages in the Lawrence High School.

I left Lawrence next day, and proudly took with me a handsome souvenir spoon of the old Palm windmill and a gold dollar watch charm in remembrance of its former owner, one of the noblest of Kansas' noble women—Mrs. Charlotte Palm. There is hope of sweet little Bessie being a student of the L. U. O. When that is a fact she will be the sunshine of our Secular home.

In Topeka, my next stop, I met Mr. Stebbins, who, although more interested in political reform than anything else just now, subscribed for the Torch and expressed a desire to see the L. U. O. a success.

I next visited my friend Mr. Billard, who is a stockholder in the