

NEWS AND NOTES.

The Social Science Club will spend a social evening at the residence of Mrs. Lou Ames Saturday, May 19th.

Find an M. D. who is a Christian, and you can safely label him "Hypocrite". This is meant as a compliment to the doctors.

We are in receipt of some very encouraging news from business manager Geer this week. He is about recovered and is among friends who are friends indeed.

Don't be afraid to help a little, if you can't help much. If each reader of the Torch would send us a few cents this week we could go on with our building and save valuable time.

Don't forget that the date of the drama, "East Lynne," has been changed to June 1. This celebrated play is to be given in five acts at Liberal Hall by home talent. Get tickets at Brooks' Drug Store.

The press we are using for the Torch of Reason is a job press, which necessitates very much more work as our subscription list begins to grow. Think of it; we are obliged to make eight impressions for every paper. This is a waste of labor, but it can't be helped until we are able to buy a new press.

In a private letter received this week, these kind and encouraging words appear: "Please allow me to assure you that I mean every word—and more—that I say in congratulation on the success of the L. U. O. It is the best thing that has occurred during my lifetime. Mine eyes are seeing the beginning of 'salvation'."

As we go to press news comes of the death of our friend and fellow-citizen, Mr. E. J. Thurman. Mr. Thurman took no stock whatever in gods, ghosts, heavens or hells, as he has often told us himself; and the best of it is he was not afraid to express his opinions. Let those who dare say that our old friend is not through with all his sorrows and cares. He believed this part of the Bible: "that all comes alike to all;" and so do we. He is at rest.

One of our best friends, a well-known professional man in the East, writes: "I think that your institution at Silverton is the only one in the country founded on perfectly correct principles. It will do more to build up the constructive side of the Liberal cause than any other agency within my knowledge. I am better pleased with the Torch of Reason than I expected to be. It is not so large as some other papers professing to follow the same lines, but it gets more successfully at foundation truth than any paper I read."

The following letter, written over a year ago by our deceased friend, comes to us today like a voice from the grave, and shows us that in one way though a man be dead "yet shall he live again." Dr. Mosier says to us today, "Never give it up!" "Enclosed find money order for one dollar, for which please continue sending the Torch. I am surprised that the Liberal University fails to get the encouragement it deserves. I sometimes think there is some fiendish obsessing power holding back or restraining the grandest movement that was ever undertaken in America. I would say never give it up, as the frozen clogs may be thawed loose and knocked off after awhile. Respectfully, P. C. MOSIER."

CORRESPONDENCE.

Death of Another Friend.

LIBERAL UNIVERSITY:—I wish to inform the University that Mr. D. Buckingham, of Raymond, Cal., who took a great deal of interest in seeing the University prosper, died on the 25th of April, at the Madera hospital, and his body was taken to San Francisco and cremated. He was 79 years old, and was one of the early settlers, coming to California in 1852.

Mr. Buckingham was one great Freethinker who carried the honor of the University to his grave.

I used to get a paper from the University which I think my great uncle, Mr. Buckingham, sent to me, and we all found it very interesting to read.

Hoping that the University will remember him as a true friend, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

MISS NELLIE DAVEY.

[Mr. Buckingham was indeed our friend and a friend to our work, and we are full of sorrow to hear of his death. We hope his friends and relatives all appreciated his great, noble life, instead of thinking him, as is so often the case, only another victim of an awful punishment. Long will he live in the memory of the Liberal University and in his good words and works.—ED.]

Chicago Liberal Society.

EDITOR TORCH OF REASON:

The Chicago Liberal Society has commenced its second year under very favorable conditions. At a business meeting called immediately after the lecture on May 6th, President Dahlstrom stated that ten new members had been enrolled within the week. The treasurer's report showed a balance in the treasury, after all bills were paid. A hearty response greeted the call for pledges of support for the ensuing year, and the society seems destined to grow and prosper.

The great Methodist Conference now in session in this city furnished the subject for Dr. Gregory's lecture. He said that the Methodist church had done a great deal of good in its time, but the church today is not the church of John Wesley. Times have changed, and the church had to follow the march of progress. The Methodist church, he said, will not die, but as it becomes more civilized theology will give place to Humanitarianism.

J. B. BEATTIE.

[As soon as the theology in the Methodist church gives place to Humanitarianism the Methodist church is dead, but of course we understand what Brother Gregory means, and we will do all we can to help him bring the Methodist, as well as all other orthodox churches, to the knowledge that they "must be born again".—ED.]

Congratulatory.

TO THE LIBERAL UNIVERSITY FACULTY, Pioneers in a Good Cause, Avant Couriers of the New Dispensation:—

Please allow me also to offer congratulations for the successful term of the L. U. O. just closed. It is in line with the fulfilment of my prophecy that the L. U. O. is the forerunner of a new era in education and civilization. And if all those desiring more light, more freedom—mental and civil—better government, and improved conditions generally for themselves and their posterity, would take half as much interest and do half as much toward bringing about the end desired as do the devotees of ignorance and superstition to perpetuate their old relic of barbarism, the L. U. O. would not only be a large success, but similar institutions would, in time, be springing up all over the land. That time will come. It is coming perhaps as fast as new ideas can grow healthily. "The world was not made in a day", and civilization requires time. Moses (not Moses Hull—the other one) had to wait till a crop of fighting men could be raised before he could go up and take the land of Canaan. And the L. U. O. is preparing a crop of educated "preachers of righteousness" to spread the "glad tidings of great joy" wherever they may go. And in due time you will reap if you faint not.

Very respectfully,

Your enthusiastic friend,
F. S. MATTESON.

Answers to Correspondents.

C. G. B., Ithaca, N. Y.—The P. O. order received and your letter forwarded to the Secretary.

F. S. M., Turner, Ore.—Yes, Satan is a bad beast, but your forced idleness is not idleness, it seems, af-

ter all. Thanks for your work and kind words.

W. B., Washington, D. C.—We had over eighty students enrolled this year. This is a gain of over 400 per cent. in four years, and that, too, when other schools in the State have lost 25 to 50 per cent. Already many new students have written their intention to come next year.

Notice the Contribution Box.

One hundred thousand dollars may seem like a large sum to try to raise this year, but it is a very small amount if all will act together. Let each subscriber send us a few cents each week and it will not be long before we can finish our building, buy some much-needed apparatus for printing office and school, heat and light our building, complete our gymnasium and fix up our grounds, so that every one who sees our Secular Home will at once be impressed with the idea that Liberals can build, beautify and be happy as well as other people.

Now let us all lift a little. If we wish to save postage, and can afford it, we can send several donations at one time. If five cents is all one can afford to invest each week, don't let that one think it too small an investment but send it along. If he can send the whole amount for fifty-two weeks and save postage so much the better. If we can learn to pull together, this financial problem can easily be solved. Of course we will have to take what we can get, and keep trying until the University is on a paying basis. But it is very essential that we raise at least ten thousand dollars right away in order to straighten up some small debts and finish our building so as to accommodate the students who are coming next term. The workers here are tied hand and foot; we can't afford to let them become discouraged; and nothing will encourage them so much as the where-withal to continue the good work they have begun.

Each member of the Torch family please take up a collection and don't forget to put in a nickel for yourself.

TO RAISE \$100,000.

This is Our Building Fund Contribution Box.

Previously acknowledged . . . \$10.00