

## Travels.

BY PEARL W. GEER.

My first stop in Ohio was at Sidney, where I visited with Mr. and Mrs. Robinson. Mrs. Robinson is better known to the Liberal public as Ida Ballou, editor of the Children's Page in the Boston Investigator. I only had a few moments to visit, but it was sufficient to convince me that Mrs. Robinson is intellectually capable of undertaking and successfully carrying out enterprises of far greater magnitude. I found Mr. Robinson at his store, where he keeps a supply of all kinds of photographic goods, phonographs and bicycles.

My next destination was the city of the seven (or more) hills, with a clean-sounding name and a dirty face. Who would think that Cincinnati could be a dirty place? To me the name would signify cleanliness. But perhaps the Cincinnatians think that "cleanliness is next to godliness," and they won't have it. It is very plain that there is not much evidence of either. The dirtiness can't be helped. Cincinnati lies in a good place to be dirty. The lack of godliness, however, is desired, and the people of Cincinnati are very Liberal. It is certainly an ideal place to hold a congress of the American Secular Union and Freethought Federation, and the next one will be held there. Remember the date, next November, and if you want to have a rousing time be in Cincinnati during the congress.

Dr. Hjermstadt went with me to Levi Bros. store on Central Ave., where I met Messrs. Chas. E. and A. W., and they are just the same as ever. Charles E. informed me that I was to make my home with him while in the city, and I accepted the sentence without a shiver. People who make the Levi home theirs when they go to Cincinnati are liable to stay longer than is necessary, for they are bound to have such a delightful time that they are in no hurry to leave. Mr. Levi is indeed an earnest Liberal and one can't help admiring his good common sense which he mingles both with his business affairs and his Liberal work. He is one of the most interested friends of the Liberal University and true Liberalism I have met on the trip. He is laying plans for the next congress, which he is going to make a success. Mrs. Levi is one of those delightful ladies whom one seldom meets. She is a combination of womanly grace and beauty and good practical sense. Of course she is a thorough Liberal and a deep, clear thinker.

Next comes Charles E., jr. You will have to get up early in the morning to keep ahead of this boy. You never saw a brighter one.

There is certainly a bright future for him. He and I had many jolly times together and I hope we will have many more. He ought to be a student in the Liberal University and I hope he will. Charley Levi and Bryant Wettstein would make a good team. Miss Levi will please excuse me for mentioning her. She is not a Freethinker, nor a Christian, nor anything else but just herself; and as herself she is a very interesting person. She is just like the rest of us in one regard—she is peculiar. We are all peculiarly like ourselves. Some of us try to imitate others, but I don't think Miss Levi does. Others would do well to imitate her in some respects, for she is an excellent character, to which all who are permitted to make her acquaintance will testify.

My friend Hjermstadt is the same good-natured fellow as before and his wife is an amiable woman of a sweet disposition. The young Hjermstadts, two in number, are developing and becoming more interesting all the time. We had lots of fun with our kodaks, and spent two evenings developing films and printing pictures. Dr. Brant, who lives next door, was of great assistance to us and we all had a jolly time. Dr. Hjermstadt doesn't live in the United States, he lives in Kentucky! I was a little timid in going into that warlike country, but the doctor promised to protect me, and I knew by his physical development that he would be able to whip all Kentucky. Everything was quiet while I was there and we were not disturbed in making our moonshine pictures. Moonshine business is popular in Kentucky. I wonder if Uncle Sam will ever try to annex Kentucky or attempt benevolent assimilation.

Dr. Wilson is still in his accustomed place on 4th St. He is as interested in Freethought matters as ever and his writings are always read with great interest by the Liberal public. He is one of the few really able Liberal writers. He is just now deeply interested in the Moore case, which he says must be carried our way. This is indeed an important case, and the doctor should receive the aid of all true Liberals.

One of the pleasant recollections of my stay in Cincinnati is the visit Mr. Levi and I made to Mt. Lookout to call on Mr. Glenn. It was a lovely car ride, on a bright morning, along the bluffs overlooking the Ohio river. The trees were just blooming and sending out little, delicate leaves. We found Mr. Glenn in his house nestled among the trees, and our visit, though short, was very pleasant.

Mr. Glenn is a very excellent man and deeply interested in the Liberal University. He proved his interest by making a good, substantial donation to the L. U. O.,

which made the morning appear all the brighter to me.

That same evening, I attended a meeting of the Ohio Liberal Society, where I had the pleasure of hearing Judge Thompson deliver an address on the "Comic Phases of Evolution". The Judge is indeed a competent man, and always has something to say that is worth listening to. I had the pleasure of meeting many of the Cincinnati Liberals at this meeting, among whom are Mr. Patrick, one of the Torch family and president of the Liberal Society. He is always to be found at his post. I was pleased to learn that he is soon to become a stockholder in the Liberal University. Mr. Clark was over from the Kentucky shore and I had a very pleasant chat with this enthusiastic Liberal, who is also a member of the Torch family. Mr. and Mrs. Gaul were there and joined the Torch family. Mrs. Gaul is a sister of Mr. Levi. Mr. Wilms, the anti-Spiritualist, was at the meeting. He takes delight in exposing fraudulent mediums, and I don't think he can gain admittance to any seances now. Dr. McCleod was there, too, and he impresses me as being a man of good common sense. At his office I spent a very pleasant hour in a friendly chat. The doctor is interested in the welfare of the L. U. O., and is a member of the Torch family. Then there is Brother Kaplun, whose enthusiasm is pronounced, and who handles the funds of the Society. He subscribed for the Torch and assisted me in many ways.

Well, there were others at the meeting, but I can't be expected to mention them all. I was called upon to make a little speech on the aims and objects of the Liberal University, to which invitation I responded quite willingly. Long live the Ohio Liberal Society. It is an excellent institution.

They play baseball in Cincinnati on Sunday, and some 13,000 people attend. Isn't that wicked? No, it shows good common sense. I doubt if all the churches in Cincinnati could draw that many people together, especially if there were any other places to go. Chas. E. and A. W. Levi and Chas. E., Jr., and I attended the game, which was played between the Cincinnati and Chicago and was very exciting.

Just before leaving Cincinnati, I had the pleasure of meeting Mr. R. H. Power, the husband of Lulu Monroe Power, who kept the Ironclad Age alive as long as she lived after the death of her father, Dr. Monroe. I was sorry not to be able to meet the daughter, Miss Pearl. There are others in Cincinnati whom I did not have the pleasure of meeting. I met Mrs. A. W. Levi for a few moments, but was disappointed in not meeting the rest of the family, some of whom I hope to see enrolled as students of

the L. U. O. Mr. Allen, who quit the Liberal Society for the Liberal Congregational Church, and Mr. Hogg, my Anarchistic friend, I did not have the pleasure of meeting.

After a delightful stay of over a week in Cincinnati, I ventured out into the interior, a trifle timid I admit, for I didn't know what might be the result of my last year's write up of that section of the country. I found, however, that there is a shortage of crops, and even old maids and thunderstorms are scarce. I only saw one of the former, and as soon as she saw me she began to pray for a thunderstorm to help entertain me, but it didn't come.

I arrived at Mechanicsburg at noon, and found Mr. and Mrs. George Van Ness at home. I stopped for dinner and a pleasant visit and then went down town in quest of Mrs. John Van Ness, whom I learned was in town and would take me to the country home where I had such a lively time last year. Well, I found her, and as a result I am at the homestead, where all seem as natural as ever, except that Miss Nellie is not here and we all miss her.

## Animal Symbolism in Ecclesiastical Architecture.

The latest of Prof. Evans' works is one for which every student of history, in its largest and best sense, should be grateful. Under the title of Animal Symbolism in Ecclesiastical Architecture he has thrown a bright light into the evolution of thought during the middle ages, and at the same time into the whole course of human development.

The great majority of thinking Americans who travel abroad are naturally attracted and impressed by the medieval cathedrals. Representing the most profound and brilliant phase of architecture, these great creations attract even those who have little feeling for art in general. Among all structures reared by man they take the strongest possession of thoughtful minds.

Yet few, even of the most attentive, see in them their full depth of meaning. Even the most scholarly traveler has been wont to give up some of the most interesting cathedral problems in despair. By the side of some sculptured group of heavenly beauty he sees masses of carving—grotesque and not unfrequently profane and even obscene. He cannot understand why a sculptor who seems to have caught sight of cherubs and seraphs should suddenly revel in the creation of devils, imps and animals, real and imaginary. The whole seems an incongruous jumble. This jumble and much else Prof. Evans interprets to us, and shows us how all grew naturally out of human thought and aspiration.