

## Torch of Reason

The Only Paper of Its Kind.

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J. E. Hosmer, ..... Editor  
P. W. Geer, ..... Manager

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### Notice!

A hand pointing to this notice denotes that your subscription has expired. You are earnestly requested to renew so that you may receive the paper without interruption. We have decided that it is best for all concerned that we do not send papers longer than the time paid for unless so ordered. This will prevent any loss and we will know just where we stand.

We request you to send us the names of Secularists who might become subscribers and we will mail sample copies.

THURSDAY, MAY 24, E. M. 300.

### SALVATION FROM CHRISTIAN CREEDS.

The Christian dogmas have antagonized the elements of society in such a way that the human race, instead of being a great fraternal family, is still a lot of warring tribes and clannish clans. The people from Norway, it would seem, should harmonize and help each other in this the land of their adoption. But no; there are two antagonistic Scandinavian churches, one holding that a god created man with a free will, and the other stoutly denying this and holding to the fore-ordination myth.

But that wonderful branch of the white race, the English-speaking people, they surely ought to have sense enough to harmonize. But no; they are divided on hair-splitting subjects concerning a ghost, how best to serve this ghost, etc., etc. Then we have a great Romish institution which, in the name of Jesus, is very antagonistic to all but its own mess of religious hodge podge. It teaches its members to look upon all the others as "children of hell". Then there are the mixtures—the wheels of superstition within the wheels of superstition, until the mind is dizzy with their revolution. And thus even the poor civilized(?) creatures of earth not only have the dark, the cold, the wild animals, the disease germs, the floods, the winds, the earthquakes, the drought, and famine to fight, but they are set against each other.

Now, let it be known that we blame no one class for this state of things. The people of the world are evolving and have reached this state in their progress. It is not as bad as it was in former times, and all classes are beginning to find out the causes of our disunion, and bye and bye the remedy will be applied. Then we will be a great brotherhood. We will have learned to be more anxious to know the truth of things and how best to live the truth than we will to have "our church", our society, our priest, or our preacher prosper. Then the important questions which affect and effect our welfare can be settled, and instead of our political, religious and murderous wars, we will have honest, earnest, friendly discussion and arbitration.

How is this harmonious chord of human music to be struck? Hark! the Religion of Science and Humanity! Do you hear? Do you understand? Does your whole being vibrate in unison with the melody of its sweet strains? Then you have caught a glimpse of the true Paradise; you are entitled to a golden crown of brotherly love and are endowed with the magic touch that can set in motion the chords of a most wonderful harp of human joy that will vibrate down through the ages forever.

### SOZIALER TURN VEREIN OF PORTLAND.

Perhaps it is not known by some of our readers that the Germans in the United States have a great fraternal organization, with branches in nearly every large city throughout the country. The people of Silverton were fortunate enough to have a visit from the Portland branch of this Turn Verein last Sunday.

When it was known that they were coming, many of the Christian-taught people appeared frightened, and a person unacquainted with these honest, industrious, liberty-loving Germans would naturally think, to hear the meek and lowly Jesusites talk, that the Turners all have horns and cloven hoofs. One with a good imagination could almost smell the brimstone as they talked. But the Turners have come and gone, and what a surprise to the timid! These Infidels were better behaved than Christians generally are at a camp-meeting, and although it was the Sabbath(?) day they danced, sang and played games uninterrupted by the gods or any of their ilk.

The mayor of the city could not give the welcoming address, and therefore our own Thaddeus Burr was called upon by the committee to welcome these liberty-loving visitors to our little liberty-loving city, nestled at the foot of the great mountains. The address

was well received and three hearty cheers, whose echo will not pass away in one generation, went up for Silverton and its Freethought people.

When pastor of the First Secular Church of Portland we became acquainted with many of these "Sabbath-breaking Infidels" from the Rhine country, and therefore we were very much pleased with the visit, for it gave us a splendid chance to show them our buildings and let them see for themselves what the L. U. O. is doing.

Mr. Wm. Feustal, ex-president of the First Secular Church of Portland, his esteemed wife and son Willie were here, and expressed surprise and congratulated us on our rapid progress. Then we took them to the pinnacle of our Freethought temple, and instead of saying, "Get the hence, Satan!" Mr. Feustal exclaimed, "What a beautiful piece of land!" and everyone agreed with him; and when we told them all about our plans they were indeed interested. Quite a number renewed their subscription to the Torch, and many took sample copies to give to friends, in order that they too might receive the "glad tidings" of our redemption from superstition and ecclesiasticism. We can't name all the friends who were here but we will give a short list of those who first came to our mind. Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Bailey and their daughter Ethel, Miss Bessie Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. Fick, Mr. and Mrs. Sylvester, Mrs. McVicker, Mr. Hanvill, Mr. Chas. Hainer, jr., Mr. Schuman, Mr. Newnert, Mr. and Mrs. Francis and others, all enthusiastic workers for the Freedom of Thought.

Early in the morning, bicycles, wagons and carriages loaded with people began to come in from the country, and by 10 o'clock between two and three thousand people had gathered at the depot to greet them, and as the Silverton Marine Band set the air vibrating with strains of harmonious melody the trains rolled in, the great engines puffing defiance to the gods and their holy ordinances. On account of some misunderstanding in regard to our places of business being closed, about six hundred of the Turners stopped at Mt. Angel; but sixteen car loads of happy people in one day is quite a treat for a city of less than two thousand inhabitants, and all was gaiety and excitement until our friends bade us goodbye at 6 o'clock p. m.

But what has all this to do with the Liberal University and the great cause which it champions? What indeed! Every friend who came is now doubly our friend and will spread the joyful news. The German people are workers, and when once convinced a thing is right they are invincible, unconquerable in their endeavors. The

only reason the L. U. O. has not moved still faster than it has is because of the fact that our work is not yet understood or known by thousands who will come to our aid as soon as they do know about it. The workers here are few and burdened with the work right at home and can do but little abroad in comparison with what must be done. But when we have friends in every community who will make it a business to let others know of us and of our labor for the Secular heaven, then our Freethought University will be like a city set on a hill—a great electric light, not under a bushel, but set in the sky of human thought.

### A FRAUD OR A LUNATIC.

We are in receipt of a Christian paper containing an illustrated account of an Infidel who has recently burned his books and has become "an example of Christ's power to save to the uttermost." The picture represents him sitting with a lighted torch in his hand, with which he has set fire to a large pile of books in front of him, and as the books burn he sits reading the Holy Bible. In the flames and smoke are interwoven hideous faces and forms, which are marked Doubt and Despair. The artist did his work well, and the picture alone will prevent hundreds from investigating scientific works and hold them in ignorance.

The article starts out thus: Marshall O. Waggoner, of Toledo, O., once a prince of Infidels, is today earnestly seeking salvation of men." Then the article goes on with an account of his conversion, the burning of his "large and costly Infidel library," the spirit of his departed wife, his work in converting sinners, etc., etc. Now while this proves nothing even if it be true, and while hundreds and thousands have been converted from Christianity to Infidelity, yet we do not believe that the story is true; for, if Mr. Waggoner, of whom there is no account in any of the societies, papers, or histories of Infidelity which we can discover, was once scientifically converted to the real truth of things, he never could while in a sound mind go back to the rot of orthodoxy. And again, if his library was a large and costly one, that he had gathered himself, it would be very improbable that a sane man would burn it, because of its value in showing up the errors that he is supposed to have recently found in them. We would really like to know if he is a fraud and has some selfish motive, or if his mind has become unbalanced by brooding over the loss of his wife and her dying request "to receive her Savior." We wonder how much of an Infidel library he had anyway, and what the books were.