

NEWS AND NOTES.

East Lynne! Liberal Hall! June 1, 1900!

Strawberries and cream are being made in Silverton.

Silverton is fast becoming strictly a Secular community. Help it along.

We would be pleased to receive letters from all our friends once each week.

Mrs. H. C. Page and Mrs. M. P. Hosmer are visiting relatives at Zena this week.

H. C. Page's neat little cottage near the University grounds is nearing completion.

The Turn Verein of Portland made Silverton a big visit last Sunday. See editorial.

Subscriptions to the Torch begin to roll in now in good shape. Keep them coming!

New subscribers should mention the fact if they want "English Secularism" as a premium.

It will almost break our "hearts" if we can't begin work on our building again by June 1st.

We received a large number of books for our library from the United States government this week.

Silverton needs manufactories. There are many ways in which capital can be invested to good advantage here.

Everybody in Silverton (with few exceptions) are "praying" for Secretary Geer and the cause for which he is so nobly working.

While in Washington, D. C., Mr. Geer attended the meeting of the Secular Society of that city, and he reports a rousing good time.

The persons taking part in East Lynne are devoting their entire time to the play, and are doing all within their power to make this celebrated drama a success.

The drama at Liberal Hall Friday evening, June 1, 1900, will be a source of education as well as entertainment. You cannot afford to miss it.

Fine, large pictures of Robert G. Ingersoll and Thomas Paine now decorate the walls of the L. U. O. study room. Ours is the "only school of its kind in the world".

The general passenger agent of the Southern Pacific R. R. writes us that he will soon make Silverton a visit, and will then discuss matters pertaining to their local agent's conduct.

If every subscriber would write to us once a week it would help us much. Get the young people interested and have them write. It will be a benefit to them and keep us from being lonesome during vacation.

The cost of living in the Willamette valley is said to be less than in the Eastern States. Farming tools, furniture, etc., are perhaps a little higher here than in manufacturing districts. We ought to make our own shoes, tan our own leather, make our own cloth, furniture, tools, etc., and we will in time.

The W. S. S. C. closed its work for the season last Saturday evening with a social at the home of Mrs. Lou Ames. After the secretary, M. P. Hosmer, read the report of the year's work, an enjoyable program was rendered, consisting of vocal and instrumental music and a short address by Prof. T. B. Wakeman. Then came delicious refreshments of ice cream and cake, and the good time closed with music, repartee and good will. The evening will long be remembered by all.

A blind friend in California writes: "If you publish it in pamphlet form (speaking of one of Prof. Wakeman's lectures which had been read to him), you may send me 25 cents worth, and probably I will order many more. I handed the Torch to a news agent here. I am blind and poor, but am doing what I can to further the cause of progress and humanity as I see it. I am heartily in accord with the Secular Union and its work. I keep the Torch moving and it is well liked." If all will do as much for the cause as this blind nobleman is doing, we'll see a wonderful victory for Secularism even in our day.

Specimen Essays by Students of the Liberal University.

We select for publication the following short essays from the late examination work. They were written by members of one of the rhetoric classes, from a simple outline given by their teacher, Mrs. M. P. Hosmer:

FREEDOM VS. SLAVERY.

Many are the beauties of a free life, unhampered by superstition. The minds of the free can soar like the eagle, because they are not bound down by the fetters of ignorance and fear, which always rob men and women of their freedom.

Are the free afraid to study science for fear of finding something which will destroy their faith in a religious creed? We answer no; but a great many instances can be cited of poor, misled creatures who are thus afraid, yet claim to be as free as any one.

The contrast between mental slavery and mental freedom is as great as that between physical slavery and physical freedom, but the world, unfortunately, cannot as yet be made to see it in this light. In many foreign countries they have not half the freedom which we enjoy, and it will probably be years

before they are brought to realize what great advantages our system of government gives. In Russia the power of the czar is absolute, and he is looked upon as being almost divine, i. e., as receiving direct communications from God, and this religious craze, with a desire to conquer the world, is what binds the people together. In them we have a good example of physical and mental slavery, and in the Liberals of the world we find a good example of freedom. In our own beloved country before the Civil War there were many examples of the horrors and cruelties of physical slavery, but the war did away with that and left only the mental slavery, which, though not so easily removed, is gradually giving way to the forces of Science and Humanity.

Our main object is and ought to be to help the world by setting good examples ourselves and by acquainting every one on every possible occasion with our views and the light in which we stand, letting the consequences be what they may.

Science, the true foundation on which we stand, Must and shall be taught throughout the land.

OLLIE K. GEER.

FREEDOM VS. SLAVERY.

Freedom in ancient times was almost entirely unknown, and in its stead there was slavery. The inhabitants of the Nile valley seldom, or never, enjoyed that ease of conscience and happiness that freedom always brings us. They had no eagle—the emblem of freedom—to look to and receive inspiration from; but, on the contrary, they were continually in fear of being tortured by their unmerciful masters; or, worse yet, of being made subjects of eternal torment to appease the wrath of their gods.

They were in a state of both mental and physical slavery, the former being perhaps a greater misfortune than the latter, for the physical forces are largely controlled and kept in harmony by the mental forces, and if we can bring about freedom of the mind physical freedom will follow as a matter of course. Then the first great struggle was to gain mental liberty. This was a long and hard struggle, and many of our greatest thinkers had to sacrifice their lives for the cause and suffer every possible torture that their barbarous age could contrive.

After an elapse of many ages a sufficient amount of mental freedom was gained to cause the struggle for physical freedom.

Then ensued innumerable wars, one of the last of which we had in our own midst, when the negroes of America had gained enough mental freedom to excite sympathy in their behalf. Then took place a great struggle in which many of our master intellects were sacrificed.

And now we have a new element that is fast becoming a means of enslaving our people, it is that of personal aggrandizement of wealth, and it is to meet this great question and successfully solve it, that many of our most progressive thinkers are devoting their entire time and attention.

Let us, each and all, do our share of this great work that is before us, and so prepare ourselves that we may enter upon the duty of playing our parts of the great drama of life with our "lines committed."

Oh, Freedom! under thy bright and joyous ray,
The troubles of the world will pass away.

LOUIE RAUCH.

FREEDOM VS. SLAVERY.

A free country, containing a free, happy, useful people, is one of the most beautiful things to be imagined.

Freedom and happiness go hand in hand, for without both mental and physical freedom true happiness can not exist.

Freedom, like the eagle which is its symbol, soars above all else and is cherished in every clime by each man, woman and child, although some there are so low in the scale of life that they have very little conception of freedom in its truest sense; yet even these enjoy a sort of freedom, though of a very different kind. To have enough to eat, to be able to exercise when they wish, to go when and where they please, is all that is consistent with their idea of freedom. They do not know what mental freedom is.

None would willingly be slaves, yet many consider themselves free, who in reality are not. They may have perfect physical freedom and yet be mental slaves, as many are today, whose minds are overshadowed by superstitions and dogmas. The sooner these people can give up the old ideas for those of science, the sooner will they have and enjoy their full freedom.

A new era of mental freedom is dawning and it is our duty to help those who need help in every way possible, for each in his own small way can do a great deal to bring about mental as well as physical freedom.

O, Freedom! more glorious than all the rest,
We love thee with true and patriotic zest.

LORA AMES.

TO RAISE \$100,000.

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