

NEWS AND NOTES.

Miss Ollie Geer is with the University people again.

June 1st we begin to build in earnest. We need your help.

Silvertonites will attend East Lynne at Liberal Hall to-morrow evening.

Our printers have been rushed with job work this week. Keep it coming!

Mr. A. Kautz's little son, Tony, is staying at the University with his father. Tony is a worker.

Strike while the iron is hot! Now is the time to work for the L. U. O., the cause of Science and Humanity.

Mrs. Emily Wakeman, representative of the W. S. S. C., is attending the meeting of the State Federation of Women's Clubs at Pendleton, Oregon, this week.

Now the time has come again for us to BUILD. Let every one help all he or she can and we'll soon have an L. U. O. building to be proud of.

The University building will be used for a polling place next Monday. We consider the Woman's Suffrage question the most important before the people of Oregon at this election. We will vote YES!

Even to us who have seen just how every addition to our building has been made, it seems wonderful how God (his(?) agents) have permitted such an "awful" thing to be done "right in a Christian country."

A PROCLAMATION has been sent out by a local defense committee of C. C. Moore. The proclamation gives a brief history of Mr. Moore's persecutions and calls for help in his defense. Contributions should be sent to Peyton Parrott, 49 East Short Street, Lexington, Ky.

R. G. Ingersoll's complete works will be sold at \$18 cloth, \$36 half-calf or morocco, and \$75 full Turkey morocco, until July 1st, when the price will be advanced to \$25 cloth, \$50 half-calf or morocco, and \$100 full Turkey morocco. Send orders now to Torch of Reason, Silverton, Oregon.

The little defenseless boys and girls in the Deaf and Dumb School of Oregon have given them pictures of Jesus being crucified, etc., and other mythical Bible scenes, and are taught that they are true. They are taught to sing, "Jesus, Lover of My Soul," etc., on their fingers, instead of something of some meaning and utility — and Freethinkers pay their taxes.

Torch Sent to Japan.

EDITOR TORCH OF REASON:

Prof. Frederick Guthrie says: "In a hundred years floods of Scientific knowledge may be poured

upon the Western world by Japan and China, unless these nations become victims to some so-called higher civilization;" namely, the Christian religion. As missionary work for the cause of Science I subscribe to two copies of the Torch of Reason to be sent to Japan, to the addresses given.

M. M. T.

OBITUARY.

Mrs. Anna Barth.

On Saturday, the 26th inst., many of the Liberals and friends of Marquam, in the Abequa valley, attended the very impressive funeral of Mrs. Anna Barth, in the church house by the cemetery. They, with the family, children, grand-children, and great-grand-children of the deceased well filled the building. Mrs. Barth may be well-named as a "Mother in Israel," and few have been more sincerely loved, respected and even venerated.

Mrs. Barth was born in Bavaria, Germany, in 1822, and so has experienced a long and varied life. She came to this country in her youth, married when 23 years of age the husband who now mournfully survives her. In early life they moved to Wisconsin, were successful as farmers there, and about 24 years ago they came and settled on their present valley farm and home, where they have been reasonably successful, and saw their large family of ten children grow up and marry and "replenish the earth" with a large number of children and great-grand-children. In her youth she had been of a Catholic family, but when she left the old country she left there its despotisms, political and religious. For some time she was with the Methodists, but finally she, with her husband and children, dropped church attendance and superstitions and lived in and for this world and its future, without any pretences, but with an industrious usefulness, genuine love, sacrifice and sincerity that made her life a victory for her husband, family, neighbors and friends, who, at her decease, gladly "rose up to call her blessed."

The family requested Prof. T. B. Wakeman, of the Liberal University at Silverton, to conduct the funeral exercises. With simple music, flowers and tears of young and old, his discourse, showing how the life of the deceased had nobly illustrated the new, true, Liberal view of life, and death, and hope, fell upon sympathetic hearts. Then, with a few touching words at the grave, the form of the noble Mother was committed to the "Mother of All," and the mourners turned away to make more real the higher life, which her life has continued itself in making possible to them.

A FRIEND.

Washington Secular League.

At a meeting of the Secular League of Washington, D. C., held on Sunday, 13th inst., after a paper by Chas. L. Snyder was read, clearly proving that the Bible is a human work full of inconsistencies, contradictions, errors and false teachings, Gen. W. Birney, the president, evidently much interested in the subject, introduced Mr. P. W. Geer to the audience, as the representative of the Liberal University of Silverton, Oregon. Mr. Geer's enthusiasm and his profound conviction that the work of the L. U. O. is in the line of the purifying and organizing work of Science, gave force and urgency to his words, grace to his style and pleasing intonations to his voice. His statements as to the object of the University, and the method by which that object is to be obtained, met with frequent applause. More substantial proof of approbation was given after the meeting had adjourned.

This Liberal University is the only outgrowth of its kind—of the broader, deeper, more purifying, and unifying knowledge which Science has given and is giving to the world.

M. M. T.

PRIEST-FORBIDDEN FRUIT.

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simply little whirlpools of these wonderful, eternal, all-in-all elements; and when our life-forces have expended themselves, or have been changed in their course, the matter of which our bodies are composed simply follows the line of the least resistance, or by their affinities are caught by other atoms which overcome the round of correlate actions we call life and hurls the pure, the beautiful, the eternal carbon, and hydrogen, and oxygen, and nitrogen, and phosphorus, and sulphur, and calcium back into the great inorganic reservoir to again be taken up and whirled about by other little whirlpools in the great cosmic ocean.

And what if there be some phenomena of that wonderful vortex we call the human brain but little understood? Is not the remedy to follow the line of reason, of science, of honest, normal investigation, rather than that of faith, revelation and fearful religious credulity? What if through the faith, fear and fanaticism of our ancestors, some of us inherit a longing, an unrest, a perverted appetite for something stronger than the beauty and happiness of this lovely earth-island? Should we yield to these barbarous impulses and accept the myth food from those who profit by keeping great mental restaurants, whose agents are shouting the praises of their respective theological hashes and metaphysical soups, or should we follow that higher

mental impulse we call reason and learn to live and grow and be happy in Nature's Eden, while feasting from the tree of knowledge on the priest-forbidden fruits of Freethought.

WE MUST USE BUSINESS SENSE.

There is no change, growth, retrogression, decay, advancement, nor inertia without a cause, and to find the causes of things is the first work of the masters of the world; then comes the "laying on of hands" and removing the causes of evil and the promotion and cultivation of the good. It follows that if we, the Freethinkers of the world, are master builders, i. e., if we are to be "any good on earth," we must find the cause of our previous slow progress and inability to swing the great masses on to the right track of the Religion of Science and Humanity. We believe that we are beginning to understand things better, and as we learn, see how our cause takes a leap forward!

Freethinkers have lacked discipline in organization and have thus been self-centered and bred selfishness. We do not lack numbers, and as far as our work appealing to the reason of all men and women, and especially to the young, is concerned, we have a very great advantage. But the orthodox people have schools. They do not neglect their own business much, but their recreation is church going, organizing, sustaining and teaching Sunday schools, Epworth Leagues, Christian Endeavors, etc. Their spending money is used for Christian literature by the tons, and it is scattered everywhere by the millions of dollars' worth. It is not so much that they do this because they succeed, but THEY SUCCEED BECAUSE THEY DO THIS!

If we Freethought Secularists succeed it will be because we learn to use GOOD BUSINESS SENSE in our Freethought work. We can do it! And we don't need to rob the widow and orphan either. Let us go at it in earnest and the ministers of Science and Humanity will have their "innings," and there will be great rejoicing on earth by a generation of men and women that need no blood atonement to save them, for all men will be their brothers and to do good will be their religion.

TO RAISE \$100,000.

This is Our Building Fund Contribution Box.

Previously acknowledged...\$20.00