

NEWS AND NOTES.

Please remember our Donation Day, July 20.

"Freedom" in the wilderness is reported as having really killed a bear.

Secretary Geer is expected to be in Chicago tomorrow, en route for Silverton.

Geo. Healy arrived Sunday and at once entered into his work in the L. U. O. printing office. Mr. H. has been with us before, and we know his work will be done with dispatch and neatness.

One of our good friends writes: "Do the members of the L. U. O. Faculty recognize the tremendous responsibility resting upon them? I think they do, and I believe they are equal to their task."

Our foreman, J. H. Morris, will take a vacation by moving to his farm at Laurel, Oregon. We are sorry to see him go out of the office, but his health demands it, and we hope to have him back next fall "as fresh as a rose and as brown as a berry."

The first and only Freethinker who has responded to our call for help by using the supplement headed "Attention!" is Miss Lily A. Powers of Lakeside, Ill. Through her efforts we received \$5.00 this week, which fully pays the cost of printing the supplements.

Our old friend, F. S. Matteson, of Turner, Oregon, has met with an accident. While riding up a steep grade the hack seat turned over, throwing him to the ground, breaking a rib and otherwise bruising him up. He writes that he is taking the "cherry cure," and can testify to its pleasantness and efficacy.

We are in receipt of a kind letter from our friend, Elizabeth Cady Stanton. A valuable literary contribution from her pen will appear in the Torch next week. Mrs. Stanton also sends us a handsomely bound volume of her Woman's Bible, which is indeed a valuable work and should be in the hands of every intelligent man and woman in the world.

Notes and Comments.

BY F. S. MATTESON.

One Sunday morning, the boy who acts as janitor for the M. E. church, rang the bell early and kept it up for half an hour or more, steady ringing. He, with some other boys, did this for amusement, apparently.

Suppose Secularists should do such a thing, and "harrow the air with a thundrous din" for a half hour, on Sunday morning, wouldn't the Christians howl, though, and threaten all sorts of prosecutions

for "desecrating the Sabbath day," committing a nuisance, etc.

The difference would be that one was their nuisance and the other wasn't—that is all! "Sauce for the goose" ought to be "sauce for the gander." But Christians very seldom do to others as they would have others do to them. Their maxim should be: "Do as you please and compel others to do as you want them to—if you can."

Christian people here say that the L. U. O. and the Secularists are trying to destroy Christianity. If Christianity is pulled off the government teat, and compelled to keep off other people's backs, will that destroy it? Cannot Christianity stand on its own merits?

I think that Secularists are only trying to "choose the good and eschew the evil" of it. The Christians preach at us to do this, and when we take them at their word they abuse us for it. They appear very hard to please.

The radical difference between Freethinkers and Christians appear to be that the latter are all the time striving to make facts fit their theories, while the former fit their theories to the facts. The Christian clings to theories regardless of facts. The Freethinker accepts facts regardless of theories.

Some Historical Facts in Regard to China.

EDITOR TORCH OF REASON:

As China is at the present time coming in for her share of the spoils and causing the government officials at Washington some little uneasiness about a lot of soul-savers they have sent over there, we propose in the following to give a short historical account of the country, together with a few of our private opinions on the idea of one government interfering with another in its religious affairs, while at the same time one is just as liable to be correct and honest in its religious devotions as the other. By reference to history, we find that the Chinese empire was founded 2100 years before Christ. But its history does not extend above the Greek Olympiads. The first dynasty was when Prince Yu reigned, which was 2207 B. C. Before this time Chinese chronology is very imperfect. By some, Fohi is supposed to be the founder of the empire and its first sovereign, 2247 B. C. Literature revived and the art of printing was practiced, 206 B. C. The first history of China was published by Sematsin, 97 B. C. Its first grant was the island of Macoa, at the entrance of the Canton river, to the Portuguese in A. D. 1586. The country was then conquered by the eastern Tartars, when the emperor and his family killed themselves. This was in A. D. 1635. An attempt was made to establish Chris-

tianity there by the Jesuits in 1692, but in 1724 the missionaries were expelled. In 1900 they ought to be expelled again. There is neither sense nor reason in our people sending shiploads of missionaries there under pretense of converting the heathen, and at the same time leaving thousands of heathen here at home who need to be converted (changed) worse than the Chinaman does. Let them finish their work at home before taking contracts in other countries and disturbing them in their religious worship. Truly yours,

JOEL M. BERRY.

National Military Home, Ohio.

Our Scientific Magi.

Concluded from 6th page.

In view of this general state of thought, the Article we printed last week from the Open Court of Chicago, by Dr. Paul Carus, is very important, for it treats the Magi continuously under the light of evolution. We regret that we could not print the whole of it with its beautiful illustrations. There can be no more attractive nor useful material for a Liberal to have at hand.

But we must now close by calling attention to the mental health and general importance of our modern Magi, the prestidigitors, or wonder-performers. They should be used and encouraged as the assistants of our Scientists. Their public exhibitions, plainly showing the difference between the actual facts and laws of Nature and Mind, and the pretended miraculous and supernatural, are needed now more than ever. For, as Dr. Carus points out, our regular Scientists, instead of being the most competent, are very often the most incompetent to detect the mediums, Shamans and medicine-men of our modern Thaumaturgists. But our people at large are absolutely at their mercy; they have no defense against the ordinary tricks of necromancers and jugglers; no possible way of understanding or exposing them.

Our modern Scientific education should make it a point to furnish this defense. This necessity has not been wholly overlooked at our Liberal University. We have had some expositions of the "Black Art," and sleight of hand and eye; and more are in prospect. Honesty must be protected from the supernatural by a thorough knowledge of its "Arts," and so should acquire, as a needful element of education, the dexterity, cunning and rapidity of act and glance which has enabled illusion, delusion, disease and fraud to victimize our race. We must have our Scientific and expert Magi, as the detectives and guardians of an honest and healthy mind. The new Magi must protect us from the old.

Satan or Buck Ague.

EDITOR TORCH OF REASON:

I don't think our brother in the wilderness of Tillamook county should lay his inability to hit a bear on Sunday to the Christian's Satan. It is too orthodox. Be candid, brother. Say "buck ague." You can't "gull" an old Oregonian with such thin wind. I've "been there." F. S. M.

Notice.

We have just received a handsomely bound copy of The Woman's Bible, including three essays under the title, "The Bible and Church Degrade Woman," from the pen of Elizabeth Cady Stanton. Her works can be obtained from the European Publishing Co., 68 Broad St., New York, or from Robert Livingston Stanton, Esq., whose law office is in the same building. There is but a limited number of these handsomely bound volumes, so those who desire to have one must apply soon.

DONATION DAY FOR THE LIBERAL UNIVERSITY.

The Liberal University is in great need of funds, and as a "day of prayer" would be behind the times, we have concluded to appoint July 20, 1900, as a Day of Donation.

We earnestly request every Liberal in America to send us a remittance on that day, if it is no more than twenty-five cents. The name and address of each donor, with the amount given, will be published in the Torch of Reason. "In union there is strength."

Address, J. E. HOSMER, Silverton, Oregon.

A Liberal Offer.

A good friend of the L. U. O. has offered to donate Two Thousand Dollars in cash to our institution if other Freethinkers will raise it to Five Thousand.

Let us fill up the contribution box!

TO RAISE \$100,000.

This is Our Building Fund Contribution Box.

Previously acknowledged....\$47.50

Mr. Wm. Stagg\$2.00
Mrs. J. H. Dingwell..... 2.00
Miss Lily A. Powers..... 1.00