

## Torch of Reason

The Only Paper of Its Kind.

Published Weekly by the Liberal University Company, in the Interests of Constructive, Moral Secularism.

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

Entered at the postoffice at Silverton, Oregon, as second-class mail matter.

### SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

One year, in advance.....	\$1 00
Six months in advance.....	50
Three months, in advance.....	25
In clubs of five or more, one year, in advance.....	75

Money should be sent by registered letter or money order.

### 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, JULY 26, E. M. 300.

If the Torch of Reason and Liberal University are not doing just what is for the best interests of Freethought and the Religion of Science and Humanity, write to us about it. We need help, and perhaps the very best help you can give us, dear reader, is the very thing needed.

We asked a Christian the other day to loan us a bicycle and being stubbornly refused, after much urging we quoted: "And from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away." Our friend saw the trap, acted embarrassed, but still clung to the bicycle. Verily, the products of science are more valuable than the teachings of Jesus.

Jesus never rode a bicycle. Do you suppose he will learn how when he comes again in his glory? We ask this with all reverence, as the preachers say. We want people to see how foolish it is to be waiting for the coming of an old Jewish, traditional savior, and nothing much can be done toward bringing about right conditions until we stop waiting for something to come from the skies. We must look to the earth for our redemption from ignorance and sin.

A Christian of Silverton, one of our best friends, said to us the other day that he did not love his enemies and that he was not going to pretend nor try to love them.

Quoting Jesus words, "love your enemies," did not seem to change matters much either. He insists that the scriptures clearly show that it is best to "leave them alone" and that it is impossible for him to do good to those who hate him although he would gladly forgive them if they come and ask forgiveness in a proper spirit. Now some think he is wrong, and yet a God's book should be so written that "way-faring men though fools need not err therein,"

### MOUNTAIN CAMP.

People are apt to "get wheels in their heads" if they work and think too long on the same subject without a change so we (the editor) in company with the sweetest and best young lady he ever met (his wife) mounted one of those most wonderful wheel horses, human steam engines, traveling gymnasiums and embryonic flying machines, the bicycle, and started for a cooler climate on the beach of the great Pacific.

It is night and as we write by the light of the camp fire we feel happy to think that there is, particularly speaking, a new canal in this locality which, as far as we are concerned, is much more important than the Nicaragua canal. It is our Alimentary canal which is sure to be much benefitted by our short outing before next year's active school work begins. To be sure, every part of our human anatomy is lame and sore, but my, how we eat! Yesterday, in the Willamette valley, although it is not as bad as the East, we suffered with the heat, and here it is cool and delightful all day.

Well, the camp fire is low and we must sleep, so as the sleeping apartments of Mountain camp are in order we give our readers a rest and go to roost. Good night.

### THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT.

Matt. 5.

Our little rhymes in last week's issue, composed from the examination of the first six verses of the Sermon on the Mount, caused us to study this most of all divine(?) pieces of literature in regard to its practicability as a guide. To show that it is faulty, and thus not divine, is our object, to the end that Christians may be led to the light of our Religion of Science and Humanity. We will say nothing about its being written, not by Jesus, but, even according to Christian scholars themselves, years after Christ was dead, by priests or disciples. Christians say from memory; we think mostly from imagination. But the truth or falsity of the doctrines of the first few verses is all we can spare room for at this time, and as the weak-

ness of any of it will show that it is imperfect and not divine, this will suffice.

"Blessed are the poor in spirit." If it is a good thing to have a spirit, it is certainly not a blessing to have it a poor one. Christians are not agreed as to what the spirit is, but if by spirit is meant mind, how foolish a thing it is to think a person blessed who has a poor mind and that he would be more apt to inherit the kingdom of heaven on account of his weakness. If heaven is a home for imbeciles, we prefer to be damned with fire, because we would soon get used to it; and we've seen enough imbecility in this world. "Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth." Should we be meek, mournful creatures instead of a brave and happy people? It can not be true; and if the Christians want to be really blessed, they had better take the Torch of Reason's advice instead of that of their "blessed master." It is not best for any to mourn. Be happy; work for what you honestly think is right, and your life will be worth much to yourselves, to your friends and to the world. It is a good thing to be comforted when we are forced to mourn, but it is not a blessing for people to mourn for the sake of being comforted any more than it is for a man and wife to fight in order to kiss and make up.

The priests have always advised the people to be meek, and it seems to us unnecessary to show why. But those who have taken the advice, their children and their children's children have inherited very small portions of the earth in consequence, while the priests of religion and the priests of politics have owned it all and made us slaves. The children of meekness are born to poverty and are stood up before cunningly devised instruments of death to protect and secure the earth for those who are far from being meek. If these false doctrines were not written expressly for the priests' use in robbing the people, they have at least been used for that purpose and are the very best of instruments. The priests need only to point to the words of Jesus in case we rebel against the unmeek. Be meek! Take your medicine, ye meek and lowly, for it is God's will; and if they take your sons and set them in the front of battle and craftily watch the game of robbing others for their own aggrandizement, remember that, "Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted." They will grant you a pension, or board and lodge you in the county house. What a comfort for the loss of a son or a husband!

O, brothers and sisters, let us

arouse ourselves as we never have before, and cease our mourning and put away our meekness. Let us shout aloud, so that all may hear the good tidings of great joy that a brighter and better day is dawning.

"Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness for they shall be filled." Under proper conditions, people would be continually filled with righteousness. To be hungry and thirsty for righteousness shows a lack of it, and it is a curse to be starving or choking to death for the want of this very essential condition of mind. Many Christians are empty a good share of the time, and if one can judge by their statements at "experience meetings," they think it a smart thing to be unrighteous so as to be very hungry. One who does right as near as he knows how need not worry about being blessed. He has enough righteousness to eat and drink all the time, and if the young are well born and trained properly they will have strong, robust characters, unlike those who need to be filled continually with artificial, look-at-me-be-good righteousness.

It would be a poor sermon, indeed, that had no good in it, and some things in this Christian masterpiece, when separated from the chaff, are food for the mind, but they are purely human, as their origin, their history, the illogic of many of them, and the light of modern thought plainly show.

### The King of Death.

BY R. G. INGERSOLL.

How is it known that it was claimed, during the life of Christ, that he had wrought a miracle? And if the claim was made, how is it known that it was not denied? Did the Jews believe that Christ was clothed with miraculous power? Would they have dared to crucify a man who had the power to thrill the dead with life? Is it not wonderful that no one at the trial of Christ said one word about the miracles he had wrought? Nothing about the sick that he had healed, or the dead that he had raised? If Christ had wrought the miracles attributed to him; if he had cured the maimed, the leprous, and the halt; if he had changed the night of blindness into blessed day; if he had wrested from the fleshless hand of avaricious death the stolen jewel of a life, and clothed again with throbbing flesh the pulseless dust, he would have won the love and adoration of mankind. If ever there shall stand upon this earth the king of death, all human knees will touch the ground.