

NEWS AND NOTES.

Take the Torch.

Boom the Torch.

Come to the L. U. O.

Get up a club for the Torch.

Send a student to the L. U. O.

Mrs. Hosmer and Mrs. Case were in Salem Tuesday.

All is excitement at the L. U. O. for school opens next Monday.

Mr. Black, our new T. O. R. foreman, is becoming quite a favorite.

Mr. Chas. Dickerson entered the L. U. O. as chief cook last Tuesday.

The working force on the L. U. O. building is now reduced to ten men.

We have purchased a fine regulator clock for the study room of the L. U. O.

Mr. and Mrs. Blyback and their four children started for their Tillamook home last Monday.

The T. O. R. force has been working evenings in order to get caught up with the work this week.

Science's wonderful gift, electric lights, will shine in every room of the L. U. O. next December.

The Silverton public school opened its doors to the district school children last Monday.

Two hundred new chairs arrived from Portland on yesterday's train. They are for the L. U. O. assembly hall.

The assembly hall of the L. U. O. will have the best floor in the city. The hall will also have a fine gallery.

Patrons and friends of the L. U. O. are invited to attend our opening exercises Monday morning, Oct. 1st.

Don't forget the dance Friday night at Liberal Hall, nor the reception at the L. U. O. hall Monday evening.

Clara Bailey, Secretary O. S. S. U., is visiting at the L. U. O., where she will remain until after the convention.

The study room of the L. U. O. looks very inviting since the ceiling has been papered and the wood work stained and varnished.

Some will hear with regret that Mr. Geo. Healy (grandpa), who has been with us for several months, has moved to Portland.

The different rooms in the L. U. O. building are all finished differently. Some are left with hard finish on natural wood (yellow fir), some stained with alternate boards ash and mahogany, some finished in cherry, etc., and some painted with casings in different colors.

The editor, Mr. Geer, Mrs. Hosmer, Chas. Page and others have been exhausting their resources in trying to find a cook this week. Some of the old maid cooks of the East would do well to take Horace Greely's advice: Go west, young woman; go west.

"God Forbid."

The "Friend" says the audience was singularly affected and meditative at the close of Mr. Wakeman's address at Willie Kubin's funeral. But some seemed only astonished at the doctrine. "What do you think of the sermon?" said one elderly Methodist lady to another. After casting eyes around, as if to find an answer, it came with a sigh, "God forbid."

But if "The All" is God—all the God there is, then God and evolution will not forbid but fulfill. If Mr. Wakeman had met his end by the antics of the frisky horse in the funeral procession, how certain the Methodist friend would have been that "prayer is answered." But as Mr. Wakeman was "providentially" saved when in extreme danger, is it not evident that God does not "forbid", but if he means anything approves?

A Model Letter.

EDITOR TORCH OF REASON:

Mr. George Jacob Holyoak's English Secularism recently came to me through a subscription to the Torch of Reason. I am delighted with the book. This little volume is to me a veritable textbook of the true philosophy of life. It is clear, concise, logical and, best of all, intensely practical. It is an eloquent appeal to live within our legitimate sphere—this sphere of the senses. If that is too circumscribed, let us listen, look, feel, think and act, and when a new fact is learned rejoice and renew our labor in the larger field of activity. The book is an embodiment of the spirit of practical progress. To the ignorant in their night of superstition and the scholastics in their wilderness of mysticism, it is a guide book of the way to the promised land of self-thought, justice and liberty. I feel that by his life work, Mr. Holyoak has placed another star of hope in the heavens. It shines for all mankind, but most brightly for the poor, the ignorant and the oppressed.

I am, also, much pleased with your paper. The poems in the last number, "Transmutations," and "To the Honest Soul" are gems. I note that you announce your publication as being in the interests of "constructive, moral Secularism," and I believe you are very ably and consistently carrying out your purpose. We must destroy the gods of sacred error,

but we must, also, place something in their stead. That something is Secularism. When we give supreme attention to the affairs of this life, we progress. And by this means only man can attain salvation from the evils which beset him.

The interests of your paper are in good hands here. You must encourage Mr. Wheeler to push it together with the English Secularism. Be so kind as to send me quotations on prices of your series of Secular songs—fifty and one hundred copies. Answer by return mail.

Yours truly,
FREDERICK MAINS,
Secretary Chicago Liberal Society.

READY, FIRE!

Again the Western Division of the Freethought army begins to line up and prepare for action. Our L. U. O. fort has been strengthened very much since last year's campaign; officers and soldiers begin to fall in line and everything looks as if this year's victory is to be one of the greatest in the history of our march to mental freedom. We wish that time and space would permit us to give in detail all the improvements we have made since the school closed last year. Of course we haven't had money enough to do all that we wished, but what we have had has been carefully used and no one can fully understand the advantages we will have this year over other years unless they have been on the ground and have seen with their own eyes. The L. U. O. hall alone is better than all the room we had the first year. We now have beautifully decorated study rooms, recitation rooms, cloak rooms, office, dining hall and dormitory with waiting room, printing office, work shop, etc. And then we have forty-four acres of good level land, whereas when the school started, in '96, it had not a place to lay its head. All this in four short years. At this rate, and with the rapid rate of increase in the number of students we are having, what can we do in the next four years? The Christians feel no hesitancy in declaring their intention of capturing the whole world for Christ, why should we, if we really believe in our religion of Science and Humanity, hesitate to plan a Freethought campaign on as large a scale.

In truth this war against ignorance and superstition is no small thing and we must not let it longer remain a small thing.

"We want the earth, we want it all,
We want the whole terrestrial ball."

Yes our motto must be, "THE WORLD FOR HUMANITY," and as each Freethinker is his own priest, king and commander, let each who will, now, as we begin another year's campaign, give himself the order: Ready, Fire!

O. S. S. U. Twelfth Annual Convention.

The Twelfth Annual Convention of the Oregon State Secular Union will be held in Liberal Hall, Silverton, Ore., September 28, 29 and 30, E. M. 300 (1900). Much business of importance is to be transacted and new officers elected. A very interesting program, with receptions, music, lectures and ball, is being prepared. The L. U. O. will have its opening exercises on Monday following the convention. Questions as to further union, organization and propaganda will be proposed. It will be a most lively and interesting occasion. ALL people of Liberal sentiments are cordially invited. Those who can aid by contribution of means or by taking part in the program are respectfully requested to communicate with the present officers.

T. B. WAKEMAN, President,
Silverton, Ore.

CLARA BAILEY, Secretary,
91 N. 9th St., Portland, Ore.

Dated August 30, E. M. 300.

Programme of O. S. S. U. Twelfth Annual Convention.

Following is the programme of the twelfth annual convention of the Oregon State Secular Union, to be held at Silverton, Ore., September 28, 29 and 30:

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28.

2:30 P. M. Welcome Address, T. B. Wakeman; music.

3:30 P. M. Appointment of Committees.

7:30 P. M. Address, Prof. Freedom W. Hoffmann.

8:30 P. M. Social Ball.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29.

10:00 A. M. Business Meeting of O. S. S. U.

2:30 P. M. Completion of business; volunteer offerings for the good of the cause; short addresses, etc.

7:30 P. M. Address, Prof. J. E. Hosmer.

8:00 P. M. Literary and musical programme; music under the direction of Minnie P. Hosmer (solos, duets, quartets, choruses, etc.); instrumental music, Silverton Marine Band; recitations, etc.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30.

11:00 A. M. Picnic.

1:00 P. M. Addresses in the grove, Pearl W. Geer, John Prescott Guild of Massachusetts; paper, Mrs. Emily Wakeman; recitations, music.

7:30 P. M. Addresses, H. K. Sargent of Portland, Ore., Prof. T. B. Wakeman; music.

Everybody is invited.

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