

Twelfth Annual Convention of the Oregon State Secular Union.

When there is plain sailing either of a ship, of a party, or a cause, there is felt to be little need to help the crew of workers, especially when everybody has other pressing work of his own to do. Yet, when a bit of rest time does come in that work, all hands are on deck to enjoy the weather and company and hear the news of the voyage. That is just the description of the last convention of the O. S. S. U. There was no issue nor difference to call an excited or curious crowd. All Oregon people were working for dear life to get crops in and needful work done before the rain, and could not fully attend business meetings in the day time. But the three evening meetings were fully attended and very enthusiastic. All of the program was fully carried out, except that some of the speakers from abroad were not able to be present. President Wakeman's report, in another column, will speak for itself. All of the items and differences of the past have been settled as therein stated, and the seal, minute books, and all papers of the O. S. S. U., have been turned over to the secretary, Mrs. Clara Baily, of Portland. The secretary's report, and that of the treasurer, showing a balance of \$33.00 over all expenses was approved.

The following are the officers elected for the ensuing year: President, Pearl W. Geer, Silverton; Secretary, Mrs. Clara Bailey, 91 N. Ninth St., Portland; Treasurer, Louis E. Rauch, Silverton; Vice Presidents, T. B. Wakeman, Silverton; C. E. Glaze, Dayville; W. J. Dean, Talent; Mattie Barnhouse, Caleb; Addie Brown, Ontario; Carrie Anderson, Wagner; Mrs. L. Ames, Silverton; D. C. Andrews, Lone Rock.

Mr. Wakeman's addresses of welcome at the opening, and of summing up of the present position of Liberalism at the close of the convention, were well received, and may appear in the Torch.

The main and central address of the convention was given by J. E. Hosmer, president of the L. U. O., on the Definitions of Liberalism and Secular Science, and the union and organization of Freethinkers thereunder—an address which should at once remove all misconceptions as to the position of the speaker and these most important subjects.

Mrs. Emily L. Wakeman read an interesting paper on the progress of Freethought among women.

Prof. F. W. Hoffman's address, on Friday evening, was well received and was followed by a very pleasant social dance.

The addresses of Mr H. W. Sargent, of Portland, and of Mr. Guild,

of Massachusetts we hope to be able to print hereafter. Neither of these gentlemen could be present.

The new president, Mr. Geer, Vice President Wakeman, and Mrs. Bailey, secretary, were chosen delegates to the Congress of the National Freethought Federation and Secular Union, to be held at Cincinnati, Nov. 23d-25th next.

The following resolutions were unanimously approved and ordered to be published:

RESOLVED, That we heartily congratulate all friends of religious Liberty and Freethought in Oregon, upon the settlement and removal of all grounds of difference among Liberals that have existed in our State; that no reasons now exist for the continuance of any ill feelings that have in any way grown out of them; and that it is now the plain duty of all people of liberal sentiments to rally around this Union as the auxiliary of the National Secular Union, and the organizing center of Freethought and Liberalism in this State.

RESOLVED, That this convention extends thanks to the Silverton Marine Band and all other friends who have so kindly assisted in making our meetings a success.

RESOLVED, That we charge our delegates to the National Secular Congress, to be held at Cincinnati, to urge upon that body the necessity of taking further practical steps towards,

(1.) The organization of the Freethought and Secular sentiment in our country by Secular Unions, Thought Exchanges, Sunday Schools and similar societies.

(2.) The extension and strengthening of our Liberal papers and publications, and their friendly cooperation in the great cause of Universal Mental Liberty and Secular Union.

(3.) That measures of defence be taken to secure and maintain freedom of speech, of the press and of the mails, and the defence of all those who are persecuted by legal proceedings, no matter under what disguise or pretences, as long as the suppression of Freethought is evidently the main object of the prosecution.

(4.) That the attention of the government and of the people be called to the necessary measures to ensure a thorough Secular democratic and republican education in all of the territories of the United States, and all countries coming under their influence: that all alliances with, or use of Popery in Cuba, Puerto Rico or the Philippines; or of Protestantism in Hawaii; or of Mohamedanism in Sulu, be replaced by honest Secularism, or the people be left to their own government, education and mode of life.

RESOLVED, That we congratulate the founders, trustees and faculty

of the Liberal University of Oregon, at Silverton, upon the success they are achieving—a success which confirms the wisdom of our convention in 1898, which thoroughly separated it from our Secular Union, that it might be incorporated and act only and independently as an institution of learning and of Secular education. We believe that nothing could more strengthen the Liberal cause than its increased growth and prosperity, and we cordially recommend it to the support and patronage of all those who have that cause at heart.

Report of the President of the Oregon S. S. Union, Twelfth Convention, held at Silverton, Or.

To the Convention, Officers and Members:

At the last convention Warren Carsner Esq. was elected president of our Union for the ensuing year. He found it impossible for him to attend to the duties of the office and resigned, and suggested my election as his successor. The Executive board at its first meeting thereafter accordingly elected me to fill the vacancy. I hesitated about trying to serve, for it seemed that some one not recently come to the state must be better able to perform the duties of the office, and more deserving of the honor. When no such person seemed willing to take the office, I accepted and have tried to do what I could, and "hold the fort" until this Convention should meet.

I prepared a general letter and had the same copied and sent to all of the members of the Union by the secretary, and to others by myself. Pursuant to the requests of that letter, considerable correspondence ensued; lists of names were received. Literature referred to in that letter was sent out pursuant to the lists, and to many others. Many enquiries have been made by letter and otherwise, as to the objects of the Union, its present situation and its relation to the American National Secular Union and Freethought Federation, which is to have its congress next month at Cincinnati. All of which inquiries I have answered, or had answered by others.

Partially on account of my being president of this Union, I have made many lectures at Silverton, two at Salem and one at McMinnville. In the newspapers, especially in the Torch of Reason, of Silverton, Or., the Free Thought Magazine, of Chicago, and The Investigator, of Boston, I have put out many articles in support of the views and purposes of this Union. I have also conducted two funerals: one of an elderly lady (Mrs. Barth) and one of a child (Willie

Kubin) at which I made addresses applying the lessons and consolations of Science and Secularism in cases of such affliction.

As far as I could, I have sought to remove the differences of feeling which I found existing among the Liberals of this state when I came here. Arrangements have been made with Mr. E. L. Smith, a former secretary and treasurer of the Union to return the papers and property of the Union, which had been left in his possession and retained by him since 1898, so that all matters in that regard are settled amicably.

I do not know of any question or difference remaining which should prevent the hearty co-operation of all people of Liberal sentiments, in the support and extension of such sentiments through this Union; and I go out of office with the hope and expectation that the period of comparative rest we have had will be followed by an "Era of good feeling," and effective work. All of which is respectfully submitted.

T. B. WAKEMAN,
President O. S. S. U.

Jefferson's Arrival at the Liberal University.

BY T. B. WAKEMAN.

It is not only the good, well-wishing, interested living people, who are welcomed at L. U. O. Those whose lives have become parts of our "higher life" evidenced by their works and books, are if possible, more welcome and useful. Their lives in books come quietly, are entertained permanently and easily, and give us such fruitful information, that their mental lives spring up and live in us again. Among the best patrons of L. U. O. are those writers and editors who thus revive in us the lives of the great and the good of the past.

Moncure D. Conway's Life and Writings of Thomas Paine has thus resurrected and imparted the buried and almost lost life and legacy of the founder of the U. S., and of all modern Republicanism and Democracy, to meet our new "crisis."

John B. Foley and his publishers, Funk & Wagnalls, of New York City, have now resurrected out of the unread many volumes of his works, the real life of THOMAS JEFFERSON, and so the great revivor of the Republic, freed from the limitations of bodily infirmities and the passions and detractions of his time, entered our University this week in the form of THE JEFFERSONIAN ENCYCLOPEDIA. It will stand next to and verify Parton's Life of Jefferson, and is a grand work of 1009 pages, large Quarto size. It contains alphabetically arranged and fairly cited in his