

"A PLEA FOR SCHOOLS."

B. W. HUFFMAN'S ANSWER to the Arguments of Mr. Moore.

EDITOR SCOUT:

As the gentleman from Sand Ridge has taken pains to reply to my recent letter, it is nothing more than courtesy for me to return the compliment, and answer his article.

He begins with the statement that the import of my letter was, that sectarian schools are inferior in many particulars to other classes of schools. It will be seen by a perusal of the "Plea for Schools" that nothing very bad was said about sectarian schools—nothing that will make them totter, perhaps.

Again let it be said, "the idea of school erection is a grand one within itself." Mr. Moore wants to know where we shall go, if not to some religious body, for schools. It looks like some provision should be made by state government for the erection of colleges, supported by the state. What do we elect our senators and representatives for? Don't the people know the wants of their country? If so, it is time they ask the legislature for state-supported schools, and not be dependent on churches for what education they need.

The Liberals or Freethinkers have endowed and erected some of the finest institutions of learning in the United States. Who was Stephen Girard? What did he do? If the religious cranks who had power, had not stolen from the state of Pennsylvania the Girard College, and if it had been carried out in accordance with the last will and request of the good man, it would have been today one of our leading schools, and Stephen Girard was an infidel. What did James Lick do? Does the gentleman remember the Lick Observatory? James Lick was an infidel. Does the gentleman remember the college at Liberal, Missouri, where children go to a school for the value it brings them, and not to find the way of salvation? And, further, the age of free institutions is just dawning on this land. The old religious ideas that were brought from the mother country are beginning to be put before the eyes of the people in their true light. Religion no longer has power to persecute like it did in the early years of some of Moore's boasted religious institutions. Does he recall some of the presidents and graduates of his good old religious schools? Cotton Mather was a graduate of Harvard, and he was the leader in one of the wickedest persecutions of man kind. The inquisition was no more horrible. He burned and tortured people for believing in something he could not tolerate. In corroboration of this, Chambers's Cyclopaedia says: "Rev. Cotton Mather, a man who was considered a prodigy of learning, and piety, but whose writings and proceedings in regard to the trial and execution of witches, show a degree of fanaticism, credulity and blind cruelty, that is almost incredible, was the chief instigator, and Samuel Parris, minister to Salem, made use of the popular feeling to gratify his spite at individuals." Dr. Sprenger, in his "Life of Mohammed," places the total number of witches burned during the christian epoch at nine millions. That is one instance of religious graduates, when they have power. Cotton Mather had power, but was still, in some respects, as smart as some of the ministers of to-day. And, it is pretty safe to say that a large majority of nineteenth-century preachers would treat the unbelievers as harshly if it were not for the laws of the land.

The impression was not left by me that religious schools furthered the intrigues that so often dissolve and destroy the government. Mr. Moore seems to detect in my mind a general disregard for religion as taught to-day. He's just right. And let it be repeated that religion should find its limit at the bedside. There are other traits that should be found at the office, the counter and polls. But then if Mr. Moore believes as does the founder of his church, John Calvin, men in his mind are all totally depraved, and incapable of being honest, unless held down by the thumb of God. There is more in being honest and upright than in being religious. A man should regard his own good name and reputation for above any deity, and in all his dealings should be checked by the constant reverence for truth, honesty and charity. Is a man to be bound down to some old legend by a good old mother's word she was taught in the earlier days when things were not seen in the light of the nineteenth century? He should reverence her for her good qualities, but this little world of ours is a constant change. Not a hill, a rock, a mountain, valley, tree nor acre is today as it was yesterday. Something has wrought a change, be it ever so small. Shouldn't a man partake of

the same? Every day teaches some new idea, and puts man in a different view of his surroundings. As to the argument being lame in its grandest part, every man has his own way of thinking, and because Moore says it is not so does not prove it.

Religion is taught in sectarian schools, to a certain extent. He says schools of this character do try to throw around its pupils influences moral and religious. Socratic schools are designed to teach some special doctrine, and nine tenths of the graduates come out in spectacles and bigotry. They have grown themselves a shell while there, and know how to use a napkin and a fork, but farther than this are decidedly failures. As to practical purposes of life they are unfit. He says they do teach the bible in the school room, but not for religion's sake, as much as in a classic sense. As to this, the bible is taught for the sake of showing the child the way of salvation, as it is called, and as far as a classical study of it is concerned, it is as far from this as is the reading of "Peck's Bad Boy" for a classical study. He says the time is coming when a man will not be considered fully educated unless he shall have put in a goodly time in studying the "word of God." He also thinks the time is coming when the word of God will be found as a classic on the shelves of all our institutions.

If a man is a decent, respectable man, and has regard for his wife and children he would not pick up the bible, open it at random and read. Is this our future classic? He thinks that schools governed by religionists are not like ships manned by factory girls. It seems no more fit simile than this can be found. They run against rocks that they cannot get over. They hum and haw, and make all kinds of excuses to get around them, but the fact is there, and the school hangs up with the snag of a scientific fact sticking in its side. The professor can't explain it away, but tells the students to overlook it, as being too holy to investigate. Even Mrs. Humphrey Ward says: "I believe the whole university system to be a grand sham," and Ingersoll, "schools are the places where pebbles are polished and diamonds are dimmed." Of course there have been some good, great men who graduated and taught in the colleges, for heretofore, these sectarian schools were our only schools, so to speak; but show me a man who came from Harvard or Yale who possessed one fourth the greatness or goodness—the true sublimity of learning or the fluency of Abe Lincoln. Did Washington graduate at one of your boasted schools? These are practical men. Men who know the needs of and sympathize with common people. Your religion will do very well for men who are born good looking and rich. But it won't subserve the purpose of the follower of the plow, and the man who is vexed and worried by the vicissitudes of hard work, and the honest struggler for support. It offers a touch of sentiment to men who live in ease, and do not work, but it is not the religion for the common man.

The era of free schools is just streaking the wide land of America with its glorious dawn. Young Stanford, in California, is now laying plans for a large college where all subjects, and all doctrines will be looked at as equal in the scale of learning, as far as their adoption is concerned. Pupils can study any branch, and carve from it of any sect he pleases, but cannot attribute his belief to any teaching received therein. Dogmas are not to be considered within its walls. Scholars are to consider this life as the one to gain successfully. The miseries and mysteries of a future will not cramp and warp the youthful mind. The plan and specifications of a grand superstructure in the living present will be made, and let the future care for itself. This college at Palo Alto will mark one great step in this century's advance.

In conclusion, Mr. Moore prays for something "practical," as well as myself. The practical features we want must be tangible. Let us feel of them, turn them over and over, and handle them. Some mythical legend which has withstood the careless translation of ages, and that has come down to us with its contradictions and irregularities is not the practical stand-by we want. It may seem good. It may seem divine, but seeming so and being so are two different things. He says he is liberal enough in their definition of what is practical to allow all schools a chance to stand for their value. With the history of the Girard college staring him in the face, he is bold in making the assertion. The religionists were not liberal enough to regard the last will and request of a dying man, but covered up the record, and went on with their solemn mummeries

in the face of the law, and the written will of Stephen Girard. The Liberals of to-day are unearthing the fraud and their efforts are bringing out what the Freethinker willed—a free school and a place of learning for Jew and gentile.

BERT W. HUFFMAN. Union, Or., Dec 7, 1890.



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FREE! JONES BROTHERS' GRAND HOLIDAY ANNOUNCEMENT!

We have now on hand the most Superb and Handsome assortment of Christmas Goods EVER SEEN IN UNION COUNTY. Comprising Everything Imaginable in that Line. As it is Impossible in an advertisement to even give an Idea of Our Immense Variety, all are invited to call and see for themselves.

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Grand Gift Distribution According to our usual custom, to show our appreciation of the Liberal Patronage we have received from the people of this vicinity, we have completed arrangements for a GRAND GIFT DISTRIBUTION.

- 1 do First Prize, Two superb pastel pictures. 2 do Elegant parlor lamp. 3 do Large photo album. 4 do Complete water set. 5 do Silver plated cake stand. 6 do Pair vases. 7 do One vol. Shakespeare. 8 do Plush stationery box. 9 do Ladies' work box. 10 do Set ice cream dishes. 11 do Majolica fruit dish. 12 do Scrap album. 13 do Set glassware (4 pieces.) 14 do Music roll. 15 do Oil painting, 24x36.

Drawing to take place Dec. 31, at 7 P. M.

GIFTS for the CHILDREN. For every twenty-five cents' worth of goods bought of us during the remainder of the year, by the little folks, we will give a ticket entitling them to a chance to draw one or all of the following prizes:

- First Prize, Large doll. 2 " Scrap album. 3 " Box stationery. 4 " Paper weight. 5 " Pair vases. Sixth Prize, Combination bank. 7 " Cup and saucer. 8 " Basket perfume. 9 " 50 cents' worth candy. 10 " Steam engine.

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A full line of Groceries, Glassware, Cutlery, Stationery and School Books constantly on hand. We Will Not Be Undersold in Anything. Orders from all parts of the country solicited. JONES BROS. CORNER MAIN and C STREETS, UNION, OREGON.

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LANDS FOR SALE! THE Union Real Estate Association Have listed a large amount of DESIRABLE LANDS, Which are for sale on MOST REASONABLE TERMS.

- 78 acres adjoining the city of Union. Will be sold as a whole or in parcels. Good opportunity to secure a cheap home. Price of whole tract \$5,250. 80 acres ten miles north of Union; all tillable land; unimproved; price \$15 per acre. 1320 acres of improved land, fourteen miles north of Union; 200 acres farming land; 200 acres in meadow and balance suitable for meadow or pasture; good fences, buildings, orchard and plenty of water. A good home for a desirable husbandry. Price \$15 per acre; one fourth down and balance on three and five year's time. 10 acres adjoining the city of Union, known as the Moore garden; large orchard; shrubbery of all kinds; hot and dry house. A fine bargain for any one desiring to engage in the fruit and garden business. Price \$3,500. 100 acres one mile west of Union; fine grain or meadow land. Price \$90 per acre. 320 acres two and one-half miles northwest of Union; all grain and meadow land; well improved. Price \$25 per acre. 320 acres 25 miles south of Union; all fenced with good wire fence; Improvements fair; plenty of water and out-ranges; 8,000 rails on the place; 150 acres farming land; balance pasture land; good orchard; three miles from timber; lime kiln on place. Price \$9 per acre. 240 acres one mile south of Tolocaset and nine miles north of Union; 100 acres cleared and 80 acres timber culture; 100 acres good grain land; 30 acres fenced and under cultivation; 5,000 rails on place; dwelling, barn, cellar and out-buildings; good well. Price \$1,000. 100 acres just north of Tolocaset and 7 miles from Union; 40 acres timber culture; fair improvements. Price \$11.00 per acre. 100 acres two and one-half miles north of North Powder; 140 acres tillable land; 45 acres under cultivation; good house, barn, cellar and out-buildings. Mortgage \$750. Price \$41 per acre. 100 acres twelve miles north of Union, in Cove; 600 acres grain and meadow land; balance pasture; well improved; good fences, buildings, orchard, etc., and plenty of water; timber; natural meadow land and a fine range all round. This would be a fine location for a milk or stock ranch. One hundred tons of first class hay can be cut each year. Price \$850. Who wants a saw mill? Here is your chance. Only 9 miles from North Powder. A first class mill, with a cutting capacity of 6,000 feet per day, and has revolved 10,000 feet. This mill has a double circular saw, built according to the latest improvements, with first class machinery throughout. Only one-fourth mile from main river, by plenty of good mill race, timber, water power mill, 8th water privileges, etc. Easy payments. This is a splendid chance for a mill man. Price \$1,000. An 80-acre tract of as fine land as can be found in Powder River valley; on warm spring branch; splendid grain, or meadow land, and only 3 miles from North Powder. This is a rare bargain. Price \$600. Three blocks in one tract in North Union, known as the John Eaton place; has large and commodious house well and substantially constructed in every particular; entire place set in orchard of cherries, pears, apples, etc., also small fruit trees, etc. in perfection; entire place can be irrigated; all necessary out-buildings. For a neat residence in Union you can find no better place. This is a chance in a lifetime. Price \$1,750. One and one-half lots in Cove, upon which is an elegant two-story house with eight rooms, all well finished throughout, with stable, woodshed, etc., also good well. This is one of the neatest residences in Cove. Give us a call and we will suit you. Price \$1,750. Good farm of 160 acres, 1 1/4 miles from North Powder on the main road from Union to Baker City; well finished story and a half house; good barn, stable, granary, etc.; well for barn and one for house; young orchard of 50 trees beginning to bear, and small fruits in great quantities. This is one of the best farms around North Powder. 320 acres of improved land, 16 miles from Union and 5 miles from North Powder; mostly good tillable land; some meadow land; balance pasture; living water on the place the year round; fine timber and one-half mile from school house. Price \$1,000. 120 acres of good farming land two miles northwest of Union; 40 acres under cultivation; small house and stable. Price \$15 per acre. A half block in North Union with nice residence, convenient to business portion of Union, and a very desirable home; small barn and necessary out-buildings. Price \$1,500. A block of land in North Union; suitable dwelling for a small family; small barn, wood shed, cellar, etc. A very desirable location on Main street. Price \$1,200. 120 acres of improved land in Cove; all good meadow land but about 20 acres, which is suitable for pasture. Price \$20 per acre. Also a large number of town lots and blocks. All Letters promptly answered and all information desired will be cheerfully given. Address all communications to WILSON & HACKETT, Secretaries Union Real Estate Ass'n