

CHRISTIAN HERALD.

EDITORS:

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Our New Form.

We are pleased to greet you this week in our new form, as we promised last week. It will seem a little odd to you at first, till you get the run of the "make up" (the arrangement) of the paper, and then we think you will like it much better than the old.

We think you will be pleased as we are, with the nice book paper we now begin to use. It not only makes the paper look better, but is more servicable. Though it costs us more than one-half more than the paper we have been using, we felt that the way in which you have been working in the interest of the paper should entitle you to something nice.

We are already out several hundred dollars for new machinery and the increased cost of paper necessary to make this change, but we are satisfied that the brethren will so far appreciate our efforts to give them a good and handsome paper, that they will put forth renewed efforts to increase our circulation, and thus repay us for the outlay.

You can now file the papers away, keep them in nice shape and stitch them together like a book at pleasure. We shall probably offer a premium by-and-by to those who have complete files of the HERALD.

Brethren, pray for us that we may be able with your assistance to so direct your paper that it may be wholly for the glory of God and the good of his cause.

Premium Offer.

We have never offered a premium for subscribers, and the price at which we now furnish the CHRISTIAN HERALD would not by any means justify it, but we are anxious to do anything for our readers that we can to gratify them.

President T. F. Campbell has resigned his place in Christian College and expects soon to leave this coast. He is one of the best known and most loved men on the Pacific coast. Thousands of brethren and friends would like to have a good photograph of him.

We have had a negative carefully made to his liking, Cabinet size, a splendid likeness of a fine looking

man. We now offer to give one of these photographs for every new subscriber sent to the HERALD with the money, \$2.00, and one extra with every three new names.

Those who want to buy, can have them at 50 cents each.

The Work Before Us.

It is now a fit time for the churches of this coast to be considering the best manner of spreading the influence of the Gospel. The yearly meetings, County and State, are coming on, and unless they are made useful for the furtherance of the cause of Christ by some plan that shall continue the work in the counties and throughout the states and territories of the Pacific, they will accomplish but partially the work needed and within their reach.

The prospect was never brighter with us than now. The golden opportunity is upon us. We can not let it pass unimproved without great injustice to ourselves and our fellow-men, and injury to the cause that every Christian loves above all others.

We do not design laying out any plan of action. We may, however, make some suggestions. The situation differs in different localities, and no general method would probably be found suited to all. The good sense of the brethren will find a means of accomplishing the work in their respective counties or communities, when once they feel the importance of action. Several of the counties are able and should employ a county evangelist. These should cooperate with each other and with a State Evangelist to be selected and sustained by the State or Territorial cooperation.

This will reduce the work to system and enable us to see results entirely more satisfactory than any we have realized under our former want of system, and if well sustained, a very few years will give an increase of strength that will make still further advances more easy and rapid.

While this is only suggestive, we do want to emphasize the importance of every county meeting's taking action looking to a more effectual spread of the Gospel. We must either improve the opportunities now at hand or give up the field to those who will. The sects are at work vigorously. Every year we wait, puts us at just so much greater disadvantage; and allows the ground to become so much broader against the reception of the good seed of the kingdom.

Some Great Issues.

The present period is one of the most remarkable in the world's history. It is remarkable alike for the great questions agitating the minds of civilized nations and the manner in which these questions are settled. Other ages have been noted for wars and conflicts upon bloody fields. This is noted for conflicts in the forum and by the press.

Years since the battle-ax and javelin, the battering-ram and catapult were laid aside for the rifle and saber, the Gatling gun and cannon. Now, these are giving place to other weapons, less terrible but more powerful.

Not long ago two opposing forces repaired from the battle field to the halls of legislation, there, by honorable debate and magnanimous statesmanship, more gloriously to contend for human rights. To-day finds the world just emerging from fields of blood to the higher and more holy mount of valiant contest. The fierce, impatient, despotic spirit of man is being held in abeyance till truth can sound the notes of peace. Appeals to physical strength are giving place to appeals to reason, justice and human rights. But as the last boom of the cannon dies away, some voices, humanlike, yet fiendish in their tones, are heard, clamoring for the adjustment of all disputes by the sinews of war. And, though we often hear of wars and rumors of wars, is it not a proud boast that nations are learning war no more? However, this does not indicate that evils are swiftly disappearing. Nations have wisely concluded to contend with mightier weapons. This is all. Instead of laying siege to forts and citadels they are sending spirit messengers within to find the enemy. Instead of taking the city they are doing the better work of conquering the spirit. This they accomplish, not by wearing out physical energy, but by converting forces from the ranks of the enemy and saving them from the bonds of death.

This then is a great field for action. The issues are as various as the conditions of humanity. God designs that this humanity, the repository of his truth, shall be also made the battle ground of all these great spiritual conflicts. From this humanity must be evolved principles of action and to the laws of God and in harmony with all his truth before the struggles

are ended. Great issues are being constantly presented demanding prompt consideration and resolute action.

In the old world it is anarchy and despotism, or wholesome laws and good government. Shall landlords oppress tenants, and tenants murder landlords, or mutual good will by the harmonious adjustment of the rights of labor and capital be substituted? Religiously, the fanatic and priest ridden, reproach the cause of Christ, materialists and scientists decry against the purity and simplicity of Bible doctrine, while Christians contend earnestly for the faith once delivered to the saints. More interested are we in these questions which claim the attention of Americans. Some of the most important are: 1. Intemperance. 2. Pernicious literature. 3. Bribery. 4. Mormonism. 5. Spiritualism. 6. Free thought, and 7th. Catholicism. Upon these questions the pulpit and the press can not remain silent, and no jurist or legislator can consistently ignore their claims upon his attention.

1. INTEMPERANCE.

The whisky traffic is an issue of no small moment before the people. Shall it be put down? Will fathers, brothers, patriots and statesman decide this question? It may, for a time, be dodged by the common office-seeking politician, but he must ere long take sides—the right side or be counted unworthy of confidence and pushed to the wall.

2. PERNICIOUS LITERATURE.

The freedom of the press is often better called, in these times, "License of the Press." On this account, pernicious literature is spreading the blight of death over many homes whose inmates otherwise gave promise of great usefulness. The press is a great power and may be used for good or evil. How terrible the malady when it spreads disease and death throughout the land. It is one of the most subtle poisons in the whole domain of life. It is an evil destroying the life of the youth, invading the sacred precincts of home, and threatening to overturn the sanctity of every holy tie. How shall this tide of death be stayed?

3. BRIBERY.

At the polls, in the council chamber, at the bar of justice and in the halls of legislation, this iniquity demands our most earnest and prompt attention. It is becoming so sublimated in its character, embracing all things from a