

the world at all, and none of them to be made prominent, were it not for the existence and currency of the errors and perversions which they so happily effectually correct and supplant. Nor is it easy to perceive how we could, in faithfulness to God and to man, have avoided the course which we adopted—whatever the consequences that may have resulted from it, or that may yet result from it. The circumstances surrounding us seemed to justify and even to demand the making of those truths which antagonize sectarian errors *very prominent*. We consequently gave them great conspicuity, arguing and urging them with untiring persistency. Admitting, as I freely do, the necessity for this, it is still unfortunately true that it has tended and now tends to destroy the just proportion and beautiful symmetry of the truth as presented in the Bible. Take the doctrine of regeneration, for instance, and it will be conceded that we say more about it than the Bible does; that in our presentation of the Gospel it occupies a larger space in comparison with other truths than it does in the preaching and teaching of the apostles. So with the mode of producing faith; we deliver sermon after sermon upon it—the apostles not one. In like manner I might go through the entire array of anti-sectarian truth which we present, and find the whole of it open to the same objection. Nor is this all. The prominence and conspicuity which we give to these truths have placed them, so to speak, in the *fore-front* of our plea, thus leading the world secular and religious, to contemplate them first of all—which is a complete reversal of the order in which the system of truth was originally presented, and in which it is most clearly and justly apprehended.

Finally, these things have been so thoroughly discussed and investigated among us, that most of us regard them as settled. We hold them with a unanimity which is quite remarkable. They are the truth; any variation from them is error. I so believe; all of us so believe. They are coming, therefore, consciously or unconsciously, to be regarded more and more as tests of soundness. And from this it is but a step, and a very short and easy step, to making them tests of fellowship. Practically, as we have seen, the world and the sects make them so for us already; and it is not easy, on the contrary it is exceedingly difficult, for us to avoid a virtual acquiescence in this on our own part. *Is not the tendency in that direction?* Surely no one is so blind as not to have seen that a large part of our work, and a large part of what we call "success," consists in inducing men to accept our "peculiar views." And be the cause what it may, this acceptance has become, as we have seen, the almost universal antecedent of the Gospel and the commission. Where-

in, let me ask, does this differ in practical effect from the very vice which we have condemned in sectarianism? You say, perhaps, that the difference lies in the fact that our distinctive teaching is unquestionably *the truth*. And so it is; I believe it with all my heart. But have we so soon forgotten that the glory and power of our opposition to sectarian formularies as bonds of union and communion lay in this: THAT WHETHER TRUE OR FALSE, they were *wrong* as bonds of union; they were *false* in the use that was made of them; and that hence, regardless altogether of their internal character, they were necessarily *heretical and schismatical*.

Let us beware, then, and watch. Let us stand firmly by the grand principles which from the first distinguished our great cause. Let us carefully guard against the danger of sectarianizing the truth which we hold—a danger all the more insidious because it so evidently and certainly is the truth. We have fought a good fight; we have dealt many a valiant and needful blow against those institutions that would rival the church of Christ; we have, in a large measure, emancipated the church from the thralldom of the sects, and we have opened wide the door for its complete deliverance. Let us have no hand in conducting it back into bondage; and let us all have a care lest, by overweening confidence and heedlessness, we place ourselves where we shall be stricken by our own boomerang, and hoist by our own petard.

GOSPEL SUCCESS.

Reported by our correspondents and gleaned from our exchanges.

SOUTH CAROLINA.

RUSSELLVILLE, May 17th.—A good Methodist man immersed and received into fellowship last Monday.—Benj. F. Robert.

FLORIDA.

STARKE, May 15th.—My brother, Prof. G. P. Young, held a meeting eight miles from Starke, with 1 confession and baptism, in March. 1 more made confession in April, to be baptized soon.—W. B. Young.

TEXAS.

WILL'S POINT, Texas, April 13th.—We had a good meeting at Egypt, Kaufman county, on the 3d Lord's day in March. Two were added—one a Baptist of 30 year's standing, (a deacon in the church,) the other, a good citizen of that community, by immersion.—E. G. Gray.

WHITESBORO.—My meeting closed at Gainesville last Friday night. Four additions after preaching at night through the week. Two added last Lord's day here.—R. G. Officer.

IOWA.

PANORA.—2 additions from the Baptists to the church here since my last report.—J. A. Walters.

HUMESTON, May 15th.—3 accessions by commendation at the evening service

yesterday, making, since I came here, 6 additions to the church. More to follow. The future prospect for the church at Humeston is good.—J. W. McClure.

MARSHALLTOWN, May 15th.—3 additions yesterday—1 by letter and 2 from the Baptists. Our cause in this city is making slow but steady progress.—F. M. Kirkham.

CEDAR RAPIDS, May 15th.—We had 4 accessions to the church in this city yesterday—2 by commendation from a sister church, 1 by commendation from the Presbyterian Church and 1 by confession.—Robt. E. Swartz.

MISSOURI.

NEW LONDON, May 16th.—Meeting has been in progress two days; congregation large; 6 added to the church last Lord's day.—W. H. Cooke.

KANSAS.

PARSONS, May 15th.—Bro. C. W. Pool, of Wichita has closed a good meeting at Parsons, resulting in 6 added to the church—2 by baptism and 4 otherwise. They have the best Sunday-school I ever saw.—B. H. Smith.

NEBRASKA.

LINCOLN, May 15th.—There were 2 accessions yesterday by letter—Bro. Chaplin, a preacher of good ability, and his wife; recently from Illinois. We expect valuable assistance from them.—R. H. Ingram.

KENTUCKY.

ELIZABETHTOWN, May 16th.—There were 15 additions to the church.—J. S. Edwards.

FRANKFORT, May 18th.—We have just closed a two weeks' meeting here during which there were 22 additions to the church—16 by confession and baptism. Geo. Darsie.

FRANKFORT, May 17th.—I had the pleasure of spending ten days recently with the Third Christian Church in Louisville, assisting Bro. Enos Campbell, the pastor of the church, in a meeting that began several days before my arrival and continued several days after my departure. During my stay there were 11 additions and during the entire meeting I believe there were about as many more. Geo. Darsie.

INDIANA.

INDIANAPOLIS, May 18th.—I preached at Columbus last Lord's day. 3 persons united with the church by letter.—I. G. Tomlinson.

BRAZIL, May 22d.—There were 2 baptized here yesterday.—W. T. Sellers.

MADISON, May 5th.—Bless the Lord! 2 more "river men" made the good confession to-night—Capt. Morton and Philips—both in the prime of life, and well known as staunch honorable men.—C. Q. Wright.

WABASH.—I recently spent three days at Hagerstown, Wayne county, where we have a mission church. One gentleman made the good confession and was baptized.—L. L. Carpenter.

ILLINOIS.

ROCK ISLAND, May 15th.—2 confessions yesterday.—Pastor.

MT. AUBURN, May 16th.—1 restored at the Bartlet school-house since last report.—C. T. Cole.

EDINBURG, May 15th.—1 addition at our morning service yesterday, by let-

ter. The prospects are favorable; audiences large; interest good. Sunday-school is progressing finely.—W. W. Weedon.

METROPOLIS, May 18th.—Since last report we have received 5 into our congregation here—2 by confession and baptism and 3 by letter.—S. H. Bundy.

CAMBRIDGE, May 15th.—10 additions yesterday—1 by letter, 9 by confession and immersion.—C. Monroe.

NORMAL, May 22d.—Please report 3 more additions to our congregation yesterday. The church is at peace and prospering finely.—A. P. Cobb.

PENNSYLVANIA.

BELLE VERNON, May 15th.—Beginning with April 1st, I engaged to serve California, Pa., half of the time, and Belle Vernon and Redstone each one-fourth of the time for one year. Yesterday we had 1 baptism here, and organized a Sunday-school with flattering prospects.—O. P. Vogel.

JOHNSTOWN.—"Dedication" day came and so did Bro. James Darsie and Dr. Belding. The day was April 30th, and will be remembered both on account of temporal results and spiritual good. After the evening sermon, in which Dr. Belding made a touching appeal to those out of Christ, 1 young lady came forward and confessed Christ, and the same hour of the night Bro. Darsie baptized her. This was the beginning of a grand meeting which continued fourteen days, during which time 17 were added to the church by baptism, 3 by letter and 1 reclaimed.—C. A. Kleinberger.

WEST VIRGINIA.

GLENWOOD, Mason Co., May 12th.—I have just closed a week's meeting in Gallia Co., O., near Crown City. The result, as far as I knew, was 21 additions, some of them reclaimed, others were immersed. A Baptist preacher joined the church. From thence I went to Mason Co., W. Va. That is a fine point for preaching. I commenced there last November and have had 61 additions.—Bronson Wilson.

OHIO.

RICHWOOD, May 15th.—2 confessions at my regular appointment at this place last night.—W. F. Neal.

MARSHFIELD, May 16th.—Just closed a four weeks' meeting at Carbon Hill, Hocking Co., which resulted in over 60 additions—25 by confession, and baptism.—Geo. Vanpelt.

ADA, May 22d.—1 immersion after prayermeeting last Thursday evening here. 1 other not previously reported was immersed by Bro. L. M. Sniff. 2 others by letter since last report.—Z. W. Shepherd.

MUNSON, May 19th.—2 baptisms at our last regular meeting.—E. P. Cough.

OREGON.

HELIX, May 22.—Our County meeting closed here last evening. We have been hearing some good preaching by Bro. Moss, of Goldendale, W. T. He was the only preacher we had. Bro. I. N. Richardson's health has been so poor that he could not even attend the meetings. Your Bro. and friend.—C. M. Ely.