

State Sunday School Convention.

Amity, Or. Nov. 20, 1882.

Bro. D. T. Stanley:
On Saturday last I returned from attending the State Sunday School Convention, held in Portland, and while it was a grand success in delegate representation and interest taken in Sunday school work, I was impressed with a few facts as connected with the Sunday-school work.

1. That the work before us is, How can we most effectively teach Christ and the principles of Christianity to the youth of our State?

2. That the Sunday school should be under the direction and control of the church.

3. The church should be responsible for its maintenance and growth just as it is for the maintenance of the prayer-meeting.

4. The officers of the Sunday-school should be elected just as a pastor, elder or deacon is. This puts behind the Sunday-school authority, remands it to its proper place, among church activities, and will prepare the way for a reform so much needed. The germ of the Sunday-school is in the Church of Christ. Whenever and wherever one has been planted, its origin and motive has been found in the heart of a disciple of Christ. The Sunday-school is only a modern phase of church enterprise, a part of its normal growth.

5. That a cheerful Sunday school room, excellent singing, and attractive and instructive prayers and books are necessary as helps; but any Sunday-school will be a failure, that stops with these and other pleasing features. Helps must remain helps, and the substance, viz: the Bible, must be first and last, and always the text-book of the Sunday-school.

We had a precious meeting here yesterday (Sunday) morning and evening. The evening audience was the largest that I have had here in months. May the Lord guide and still bless us with his presence.

I hope that each Christian church in Oregon and Washington Territory will send to the HERALD office for from ten to twenty extra copies of the "Missionary HERALD," and distribute them among the people. Thus we can "preach the Gospel" and do great good.

Fraternally,
S. M. HUBBARD.

From Petaluma.

Bro. Stanley:
I must send you a few lines in respect to our advance and prospect here in Petaluma once more of having a Christian church established. It so happened on the 5th of August last we had a visit from Elder S. P. Johnson, from Vallejo, California, who labored in preaching for us for one month. On his first meeting, on Lord's day, with the brethren, the Lord's table was prepared, and a goodly number of brethren united in partaking of the loaf and the wine, in memory of our risen Savior. From that time, up to the present, we have not failed to meet on every Lord's day to remember his death and his resurrection, and all his requirements enjoined on us as faithful followers of our risen Lord and Savior.

We have had a visit also from Elder G. O. Burnett, from Santa Rosa. He preached for us one Lord's day, and gave the brethren great encouragement, and promised to visit us again soon. As we have no local preacher here with us, we are trying to go ahead with what strength and help we have. The most of our brethren here are old people, and we hope, if they continue in union and love, they will reach, at last, to that everlasting home in heaven, where there will be no sickness, pain or death.

Please, dear brother, to remember us all to the brethren in Oregon. Now may peace and joy and love go with us all to our final home in heaven. With all due regards for your welfare and advancement, I remain,

F. B. YOUNG.

A Word in Season.

As a friend was walking along the streets of Philadelphia about the middle of the day, he passed the corner of Second and Walnut streets where at that hour may generally be found a group of loungers. His attention was arrested by hearing, behind him, the name of the Supreme Being uttered in a careless tone. Looking around, he noticed that it came from a stout built, weather-beaten man, perhaps past the meridian of life, who had just joined one of the small knots of men who were lounging about; and that it seemed to be a mere salutation to his friends, and not the result of any feeling of anger.

Our friend paused a few moments

to consider what was his duty in the case. It was very possible that any advice from him would not be kindly received, and might not prove of any real benefit to the person to whom it was addressed. But yet it was important to keep his own conscience clear of any neglect of duty. After deliberating a short time, the right course seemed clear; and finding a full in the conversation, he spoke to the man and requested his attention. He willingly stepped aside, and listened to the advice given him to avoid using the sacred name unnecessarily. There was no irritation, but a kind response to the remarks made, and a repeated and hearty thanking of the one who had thus shown an interest in his welfare.

The friend passed on, not only relieved of the concern that had pressed upon him, but with a sweet sense of tenderness and spiritual refreshment, which reminds one of what was said many years ago of Samuel Emlen—that he earned his daily bread by jobbing.

Simple and common place as this little incident is, it illustrates the way in which Christians are led. Their preservation and growth in grace largely depend on their watchfulness to the pointings of duty, of ten in very little matters, and on the honest faithfulness with which they obey the commands of the Lord of the vineyard and perform the work which he assigns them. Such will experience the fulfillment of the Scripture promise—"If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land."—*The Friend*.

There are a few Abrahams; not a large number of Isaacs; but a great many Jacobs;—to whom it is most comforting to know that however poor stuff we are made of by nature, God can make use of us, if only we will yield ourselves to him "vessels unto honor, sanctified and meet for the Master's use, and prepared unto every good work."—*J. Monroe Gibson*.

There is an old saying that love begins to die when it becomes dumb. There is no doubt that true love always seeks to express itself in some way, nor is its possessor usually content with showing it by act alone; he seeks to express it in words, and the very expression of it fosters and strengthens it. Let not the young Christian, or the old one either, lose sight of this. Give expression to the love you feel; do it often, do it earnestly, and so feed the flame and increase its power.

Prayer.

Dr. Cuyler, in the *New York Independent*, on the subject of prayer, says, "This is God's appointed channel 'to convey the blessings to give.' I sometimes think there are no equal number of utterances by reputable people in which so many falsehoods are told as in public prayer. Loving words are often spoken by people whose hearts rankle with mean spites and malicious grudges. Sins are glibly confessed in prayer which, if anybody else should charge upon the speaker, he would grow red in the face with wrath. Words of solemn self-consecration are fluently uttered by persons who are living to themselves, and not to Jesus Christ. Such prayers are a mockery. They cut no channels for God's blessings, but genuine prayer—born of contrition and soul thirst, poured out with faith and wrestling opportunity breaks its way up to the throne of infinite love. Such prayer always brings a revival; nay, it is itself a revival."—*Ec.*

It is affirmed that the young-ruffian period in New York has passed away. Time was, and that not so very long ago, when, in some wards of that city, the lawless boys were a dangerous element. They congregated on vacant lots, and in the public squares, spending their time in brutal sports, in wanton attacks on more decent lads, or even upon unoffending men, and in concocting mischief and planning crime. It was ascertained that organizations existed among them, the leaders of which, of course, were the worst and most laming of the crowd. How has this lawlessness been stopped? Not by the strong hand of the law. The police officers never could or would have suppressed it. It is the testimony of those who ought to know, that the reform has been achieved by the moral agencies that have been brought to bear upon the children,—the Sunday-schools, the Children's Aid Society, and other benevolent organized efforts in their behalf. And this is only one of many illustrations that show how much more potent is love than law.—*S. S. Times*.

Pleasure is the mere accident of our being, and work its natural and most holy necessity.

Who follow not virtue in youth, cannot fully enjoy old age.