

valuable souls would be lost that might otherwise be saved. This determined him to make an effort to create a fund, the main object of which would be the free circulation of tracts in destitute fields. In December, 1881, an appeal for this purpose was made through our papers, and in a short time money enough was raised to print 15,000 tracts. They were printed on card-board, both sides, were seven inches long and three and one-fourth inches wide, each one containing from one thousand to twelve hundred words, or more than enough to fill a column in either the *Apostolic Times*, *Old Path Guide*, *Christian Standard* or *Review*. He was thus forced to print new tracts, because the larger ones already in use were too expensive, the Fund being too weak to handle them, and the smaller ones not containing enough, and not being of the most desirable kinds. He also determined to use only card-board, as it presented advantages for a small tract over paper, because it was more attractive and more indestructible, and would thus be the cheapest. A card of the size indicated would contain about as much as a busy man would care to read, and yet enough to arrest the attention. The card-board being stiff, it would not double up in the pocket nor require to be unfolded, but would always be open, and thus ready for a talk with its possessor. A report of the success of his appeal, and of the supply of tracts obtained, was then made through the papers, in which an earnest request to the brethren to put them to work was made, those living in destitute fields and unable to buy being assured that they were free to them if they would only circulate them, and those able and willing to buy being urged to send for what they wanted, as the purchase would not only distribute those sold, but would enable the Fund to print others. Such was the beginning of this, the pioneer Fund among us for the gratuitous distribution of tracts.

RESULT OF THE YEAR'S WORK.

Soon calls from poor and weak churches and Sunday-schools, from evangelists, and others not able to buy tracts, as well as orders from those who were able, came pouring in. Often those who bought were kind enough to add a contribution to help send tracts among the poor and needy. The work for the year has been very encouraging. The total

amount received from all sources is \$223.33. This has been used in the purchase of suitable books, rubber stamps, &c., to help in the work; for the purchase and distribution of fourteen hundred copies of Our Position, a fourteen page tract, by Isaac Errett; the electrotyping of seven tracts, and the printing from these plates of fifty thousand card tracts, about forty-one thousand of which have been disposed of in gifts and sales. Add to this four hundred and sixteen tracts of various kinds which have been put to work, and which are not included in the foregoing statement. Some of these were written by Benjamin Franklin, late editor of the *Review*; some by F. M. Green, who kindly donated one hundred copies of his excellent tract on the Gospel, two hundred were sent as a gift by Thos. Holman, of New York, who is known as an energetic distributor of tracts, and foremost in every good work. About nine thousand card tracts, and a few of the other kinds yet remain on hand. At least one half of all disposed of have been given away to destitute fields, or to evangelists and others, who, though being eager to work thus, for the Lord, were unable to buy them. Of this number one was blind, one had lost an arm, and one was disabled through some severe affliction, though all were anxious to do even a little work for the Master, and thus sow the good seed of the kingdom. Applications have been made from England, Scotland, Jamaica and Canada, and from nearly every State in the Union. This work will grow till it becomes a mighty power in the land.

HOW YOU CAN HELP IN THIS GOOD WORK.

- (1) By making a contribution to it. You are not asked for much. You may not feel able to give a dollar, a fraction of one will help. If gifts of thousands of dollars could be obtained, the sum could be profitably spent in this work. The sects spend hundreds of thousands every year through the American and Foreign Tract Societies.
- (2) By buying these card tracts and seeing that they are distributed. They are easily carried about with you, and can be given out on boats and cars, and streets, or around the fireside. They will help you much in your city mission work, for they will go and patiently preach where you can not. Many who can not address an

audience, can in this way preach the word.

(3) By advertising the work, and pressing its value and its claims upon the brethren.

(4) Many have the tact for distributing tracts, but are not able to purchase them. The main object of this fund is to supply such gratuitously. Evangelists and other ministers should go well supplied. Call their attention to the work, and urge them to send for them. They are more than welcome to all they will use. Having been supplied once is no reason why they should not have more.

These card tracts will be furnished to those who wish to buy, at the following rates: Less than five hundred, by mail, fifty cents per hundred; more than five hundred and less than a thousand, by express, at purchaser's expense, thirty cents per hundred; by mail in this quantity forty cents per hundred. At this date, the Fund owns seven kinds:—Names for God's Children, Errors of the Anxious Seat, Salvation from Sin, What is Baptism? Design of Baptism, Helps to Bible Study and Advantages of being a Christian. True there is a few cents profit made on each hundred sold at these rates, but this is only because they are printed from electrotype plates, and in large quantities. Every cent received will be used in this work. But the profits will not keep the fund up, because there is not near enough made to pay for those that are given away. Unless sufficient contributions are received the work will cease.

It is but just to say that the services of the Trustee have been and will be given entirely free. He is sustained by the churches for which he labors regularly. An accurate account is kept of all received and disbursed, and this is always open to inspection. Less than one dollar can be sent in postage stamps. This subject is worth your immediate and earnest attention, and it is confidently expected that this appeal will not have been made in vain.

In the Lord,
J. W. HIGBEE, Trustee.

Madisonville, Ky., Dec., 1882.

Missionary Board.

Church of Christ in Oregon.

- W. H. Adams, Portland..... President.
- Henry Shadle, Portland..... Vice President.
- I. G. Davidson, Portland..... Treasurer.
- S. M. Hubbard, Amity..... Rec. Secretary.
- B. Wolverton, Corvallis..... Cor. Secretary.

Systems of Theology.

There have been more errors set forth in the name of religion, than in any other name. The greatest errors are theoretical. From the time of the fathers, until now, men have invented innumerable theories, or systems of religion. Each new apostle claimed to have a system that would meet all the theological difficulties, that we meet with in Bible investigation. Yet each one in turn is found wanting, and one about as defective as another. Man can invent no system that will meet the demands of the situation. In this the wisdom of God is manifest. It would detract from the glory of the redemptive plan, had it been left to the ingenuity of man to systematize it. The floodgates of endless strife would be opened and each theorist would have (seemingly) divine authority. But in spite of any authority men have committed this great error. From the days of John the Baptist until now, religious teachers have theorized, all to the detriment of spiritual growth, and Christian unity. Thinking men are just now learning to recognize the fact; hence the general inquiry for Bible facts.

We have not escaped this detrimental influence. We could not be expected to wholly avoid such a wide-spread error.

Our Bible schools are falling into the ruts of the old theological schools. We say this not in malice, but with due regard for, and appreciation of our schools, and the work they are doing. The universal fact that every religious movement, however simple, faithful and correct in its incipency, has degenerated, and departed, to some extent, from the designs of its originators, must not be ignored by us. We are liable to this human weakness, and will go fully into this error.

"Our plea," so called, is as much a human system, as many other religious pleas. We here refer to the system, and not to the facts set forth therein. We do not wish to be misunderstood in this. There is a wide difference between a system, or theory, and the facts of said system. To illustrate, our Baptist brethren teach about the same facts that we do; but they have a different system. Each teach faith, baptism, repentance, communion and godly life, &c., but their system differs from ours. This comparison might be made
(Concluded on page 7.)