

California Department.

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California State Sunday School Convention.

Our State Sunday-school Convention convened this year in June at Woodland. In previous years it met in May; a change was made to accommodate the professors of our colleges.

The convention was welcomed by a most excellent address by Pres. A. M. Elston, in which he reviewed the objects of the Sunday-school work as a Bible work. The influence of the Bible on the world was an important point presented in the address. Many examples being presented of the course of nations, led by its truths, the admissions of our learned statesman, and the last words of unbelievers. Everything tended to encourage the Bible teacher. The response to the welcome was presented by Pres. J. H. McCollough. Bro. Mc. came out in his ready style. We, as Sunday-school workers, tried to appreciate the magnitude of the work mapped out, and could but calculate what could be done by what had been done, and the facilities we possess for doing. The Sunday-schools have done an incalculable amount of good, and yet we are just beginning to learn how to work.

"The Worth of the Sunday-school" was discussed from three different standpoints: 1. "To the scholar," by J. Durham. 2. "To the church," by Phil. Bruton. 3. "To the State and Nation," by E. B. Ware. The different phases from which the subject was handled, besides the general discussion which followed each division, brought out many valuable suggestions and hints that made the workers feel like that in the future they can do much better in their future work.

"What the Sunday-school has done," W. A. Meloan. "The Sunday-school and the church," H. Shadle. "The Child Idea," Pres. J. H. McCullough. "The Truth and the Teacher," Pres. J. C. Keith, were handled in a masterly manner. The practical thoughts were valuable, and we hope to be permitted to present a synopsis of these addresses at no distant day. One prominent feature in most all

the addresses delivered, was that they were carefully written, such preparation as insures the best thoughts gotten up in the most telling manner. The addresses were all voted to be published in

The Church News. The discussions that followed each address brought out almost every conceivable feature of the subject. The question drawer opened many a teacher's difficulties which were promptly answered by different members of the convention.

The Sunday-school Convention of California has met for eleven years, and has been the means of doing a great good to the church and the Sunday-schools of the State. This is evident to every one who has been acquainted with its history and its work. Those who have been through all its meetings have grown in enthusiasm in the work from the first.

There were fewer vacancies on the programme this year than ever before, together with the better preparation speaks for its interest. We would like it much better if a greater attendance could be secured, but this difficulty arises principally on account of our large State it represents, besides the expense of traveling. The brethren who are contiguous to the place of holding each convention, generally give it a good representation, while a few from the more distant parts of the State are always present. Hon. William Johnson, who has been our presiding officer for years, was at his place. His venerable locks graced the chair with the greatest dignity, and his promptness in managing and dispatching business showed him to be as much at home as if he were in the State Senate.

Bro. R. L. McHatton, our State Evangelist, was our scribe, and with neatness and dispatch did he handle the proceedings of the Convention. He held a children's meeting one afternoon, which was very interesting. A semi-annual meeting was appointed for the State meeting in September. Also a plan inaugurated for putting a Sunday-school Evangelist into the field as soon as possible. Till then the State Evangelist was instructed to give especial attention to the work.

The next Convention will assemble at Watsonville in May, 1884.

The way to preserve the peace of the church is to preserve the purity of it.—*M. Henry.*

Current Religious News.

The Waldensian congregation in Rome, after being driven from one hired room to another, have at length erected a church of their own.

The Presbyterian Church has a prosperous Mission at Fort Wrangle and Sitka.

The Misses Cadwell of Watertown, N. Y., nieces of Hon. R. P. Flower of this city, have erected a beautiful memorial chapel in the cemetery at Watertown at a cost of \$15,000, and donated it to the Cemetery Association.

A stained glass window has just been placed in Elstow Church as a memorial of John Bunyan.

The Presbyterian Church at Benton, Mo., was completely destroyed by the tornado which swept over that city on the 13th ult.

Rev. William Cuthbertson, of London, will, it is confidently thought, accept the call extended to him by the Congregational Church of Chicago.

The work of rebuilding the church edifice of the Baptist Church at St. Albans, Vt, which was destroyed by fire last Spring, will be begun at once.

The "English Religion," is the name given Evangelical religion in France, as a term of reproach, by French Romanists, to prevent its success in their country.

The General Assembly of the Calvinistic Methodists of Wales has acknowledged itself a Presbyterian body by appointing a deputation to the General Council of the Presbyterians at Belfast next year.

Rev. J. H. Darlington, rector of Christ Church, Brooklyn, announces that several thousand dollars have been raised toward a memorial to the late pastor, Rev. A. H. Partridge; the memorial will take the form of a Partridge memorial church, with a marble or bronze tablet in memory of the diseased clergyman.

There are said to be about sixty thousand Christian Indians in the United States, and that one half of these are Baptists.

Brooklyn has 285 Churches to a population of 566,689, or one church to 1,988 persons.

The corner-stone services of Grace Methodist Episcopal Church, of Jersey City, were held on Monday evening, the 16th ult., in the West End Church. Among other features were the admission of thirty probationers into full membership.

The net results of the past year's work in the French Methodist Church is an increase of 11 chapels, 7 lay preachers, 174 members, 7 Sunday-schools, and 260 scholars. The English Methodists Mission in the north of France, is bearing much good fruit.

The National Baptist says that the first Sunday-school of Sweden was started thirty-two years ago, in Stockholm. Now there are in that city forty-six schools, with 630 teachers and 6,425 scholars, and in the whole of Sweden 20,000 teachers, and over 200,000 scholars.

Among the most deserving of the benevolent institutions of this country is the Home for aged Deaf Mutes, under the care of Rev. Dr. Gallaudet, St. Ann's Protestant Episcopal Church of this city. An effort is now being made by its friends to raise \$30,000 with which to place it upon a farm and start light industrial pursuits for the inmates. The patronage of the charitable could hardly take a more worthy or beneficent form.

In the imposing preparations making in Germany to do honor to the memory of the great Reformer, Martin Luther, at the approaching 400th anniversary of his birth, the Empire really honors itself. The venerable Emperor has always been a devoted member of the Evangelical church, and naturally takes a warm interest in the forthcoming demonstration. In his recent decree that the occasion be solemnly observed by the holding of a church festival on November 10 and 11 in all the Evangelical churches, the Emperor closes with the prayer that "the celebration may be productive of lasting blessing to our beloved Evangelical church."

The committee appointed at Pittsburg, Pa., in 1880, to select and report a suitable place for holding the next session of the General Conference of the Methodist Protestant church, have officially announced that they have chosen Fairmont, West Virginia. The location is central, and easily accessible, being situated on the main line of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. The Con-