

California Department.

CONDUCTED BY PROF. J. DURHAM.

All matter intended for this department should be addressed to Prof. J. Durham, College City, California.

The Abingdon, Illinois, Church.

In a private card written to us a few hours after the work was consummated, we were more than delighted to hear that what has been two congregations in Abingdon, Ill., is now one. For about nine years have they lived in this divided state, but like kindred drops of water they have become one. Many of these brethren I have known from the beginning of my college days. We have wept, sang and prayed together. I had learned to love them for their devotion, their faith and their love, and with pleasure, yes, a joy that is unspeakable, do I look back to that old sacred tabernacle where we were wont in days of yore with its windows open toward the New Jerusalem to sit down in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. I look back more than twenty years and see those brethren worshipping together. Some have been called to a higher life, others are left to wind their way to the old chapel again, and with heavenly benedictions unite their voices in singing "Rock of Ages," and "How sweet how heavenly is the sight." Their eyes have grown dim, their steps are feeble, but fresh on their minds are the words they have heard within those sacred walls from Campbell, Murphy, Franklin, Errett, Burnett, Burgess, Lard and others, unfolding in thrilling eloquence the glories of the world to come. Many times like Jacob at Bethel they could almost see the Son of God ascending and descending, the heavenly scenes were so graphically painted.

The church of Christ cannot be divided. Any other church can be divided, but *the church* is one. Members may differ in views and may separate from each other, but that is a division among its members and not a division in the church. For the brethren and the church at Abingdon, Illinois, I have the warmest affection. They have reared and fostered a college that has done untold good for the cause of education and primitive Christianity, and I hope and pray that Phoenix like, that that noble institution may plume herself for a more lofty flight toward usefulness than has ever been recorded. There

are still a few old soldiers in the church who were present when I made the good confession and obeyed the gospel more than a quarter of a century ago. It was within her sacred precincts I first met the partner of my youth and joy of my riper years, and there began the work of rearing two boys and two girls in the way they should go. They are fast stepping into the bivouac of life with educated heads and hearts, I trust with a holy ambition for lives of honor and usefulness. It was there from the hands of the founder of the college Bro. P. H. Murphy an able and faithful servant of the Master, that my companion and self received our diplomas. And lastly be it little or much it was by the authority of the church at A. that your humble servant was set apart to "Do the work of an Evangelist," and the same clerk, Bro. J. B. Scheitlin, whose name is attached to my certificate of ordination, is attached to the letter of greeting that the one church now sends out to the churches every where. Then with more than ten years spent in the church and college work at A. I can but feel the deepest solicitude for her welfare. And now while our chosen home is in this Sunny Land, and I write from where the tide ebbs with the setting sun, I look back to all those sacred scenes and with eyes dimmed with tears of joy, I hope and pray that they "all may be one that the world may believe," that the sunset of their lives shall be most happy and promising and when their footsteps shall stray down the shore of death's river the boatman, ever ready shall take them to the sunlit hills of everlasting rest. Amen.

Bro. Frank Tandy has located at Wheatland, Cal. He says, "My work opens out here very nicely."

Bro. James Logan is earnestly at work at his old home in Ukiah, Mendoceno county. Bro. Logan is a workman, and we expect good results from him.

Bro. J. B. Johnson who come to California with Bro. Ingram, has resigned his work at Los Gatos and Saratoga, on account of poor health. Bro. Johnson's health has not been good for several years, and he hoped that California would greatly improve him. He will soon return to Missouri.

Bro. Ingram's work in San Jose has greatly improved. The largest

attendance in the city. They have been using the Cumberland Presbyterian church during the summer. Their preacher has returned and our brethren will occupy the theatre until they put up a house of their own. They have begun already to move in the work.

Bro. A. M. Sanford, a graduate of our College City school, has just returned from a summer vacation with his relations in Marion Co., Mo. He preached several times, very satisfactory while gone, tho only beginning in the work. He will teach during the coming year near Butte city in Colusa county. We hope he will have ample opportunity to exercise his ability.

Bro. McHatton will begin a protracted meeting at Red Bluff on 13th of Sept.

Bro. G. R. Hand, of Mo., is expected soon to be in California. Bro. H. spent several years in Cal., and we are glad to hear of his return.

Falling Behind.

I intend to keep the brethren fully advised in regard to the Christian Sower Tract Fund. The contributions to it have well nigh ceased and the purchases have materially decreased during the past month or more. This cramps my efforts and cuts off a good many tracts from destitute fields. This work is no greater than the brethren make it. It is not my Fund any more than it is yours. It has no endowment from which to obtain assistance in time of need. If it fails in its work it reflects no more upon my zeal than upon yours. A new edition of 21,000 tracts is now on its way here, *but the cash box is empty* and nothing can be done till liberal brethren send in enough to relieve matters. At least \$50 is needed now. Many calls are being made for new tracts, but these cannot be issued unless more than this amount is sent in. From letters that are constantly being received I am sure the Fund has many friends, but each one seems to think that some other body is helping to support the work and so gives nothing. When the work first began making appeals the novelty of the matter caused some to contribute and some to purchase tracts. These have ceased their efforts. Brethren, you must not expect a conversion from every dollar's worth of tracts sown. Do you ex-

pect that much of the preacher? Out of 60 agents who offered their services and were supplied with tracts only two or three have sent in any money. Send in your gifts, orders for tracts, and encouraging words. I can not tell you all the good I am doing. The eyes of God and of the world are upon us.

J. W. HIGBEE.

Madisonville, Ky.

Weather Report.

During August, 1883, there was no rain, 2 cloudy days, the remaining 29 days being smoke, the smoke obscuring the face of the sky.

The mean temperature for the month was 63.84°. Highest daily mean temperature for the month 69°, on the 26th. Lowest daily mean 61°, on the 17th. Mean temperature for the month at 2 o'clock P. M. 75.81°. Highest temperature for the month 87°, at 2 o'clock P. M., on the 26th. Lowest temperature 55°, at 7 o'clock A. M., on the 19th.

The prevailing winds for the month were from the North during 26 days, S. W. 3 days, South 2 days.

During August, 1882, there was 0.03 in. of water fell on the 23rd, 27 clear and 3 cloudy days.

Mean temperature for the month 63.21°. Highest daily, 74°, on the 30th. Lowest daily, 53°, on the 25th.

T. PEARCE.

Eola, Or., Sept. 1, 1883.

The Freethinkers' Convention will be held at Rochester, N. Y., from August 30 to September 2. It will be one of the largest gatherings of the kind ever held in this country. Many prominent speakers are expected. In June, the Convention, through the columns of the *New York Herald*, invited to meet with them as their guest any representative of the orthodox churches. This invitation has been accepted by the Rev. Thomas Mitchell, of Brooklyn, N. Y., a distinguished Methodist minister. Mr. Mitchell is a member of the Hanson Place Methodist Church, and is not now a pastor; for a number of years he has devoted himself to literary work. His address before the Convention will be delivered August 30, and will be replied to the following evening by the Hon. T. B. Wakeman.

The dynamite type of politics is the outcome of atheism. What sacredness is there in the life of a creature without a soul?—*Christian Advocate*.