

Correspondence.

Letter from Bro. Wilbur.

AUMSVILLE, Oct. 31, 1883.

Dear Bro. Floyd:

I have been intending for some time to write you a letter. But I am 77 years old, and seldom feel able to undertake such a task.

Mill Creek has a congregation of sixty-six members, though some live so far away they seldom attend our meetings. I am rejoiced to say that we have a house of worship completed except the stand and seats, for which just now we find it impossible to get seasoned lumber. The house was built by subscription and is to be free for other churches when not in use by the Christian church. We now have preaching once a month by Bro. Roberts.

Yours in Christ,
JONES WILBUR.

Letter from Bro. Geo. Sharp.

ASTORIA, OR., Nov. 18, 1883.

Dear Bro. Floyd:

Last Lord's day it was our happy privilege to speak to a few of the good people of Forest Grove. Having services in the M. E. Church house morning and evening.

The M. E. brethren were very kind to us during our stay. We have a few brethren at Forest Grove, about twenty-five in all. The sisters are pushing forward the cause. They are a tower of strength on the Lord's side. Among which I now remember the names of sisters Walker and Robinson.

The State evangelist will find Forest Grove a good field to sow the seed of the kingdom. May the brethren, one and all, so pray and work that when the Lord's evangelist comes, they may have a joyful meeting.

Met with the brethren at Portland last week in their social meeting. The attendance was good, the best we have ever seen in the city. The meeting was also good, that is if you will allow me to say the same thing the Deacon did, when he took part. Bro. Davis is to be congratulated in the social life and zeal there is now being manifested in the congregation. Met with our aged and good Bro. Henderson, of California. May his life be a useful one while in Portland.

In Astoria we have a few brethren, about eight or ten. I think. They have need to work earnestly. Calling at the house of Bro. J.

P. Dickenson, formerly of Portland, we had a pleasant visit with him and family.

Faithfully,
GEO. SHARP.

Current Religious News.

A gentleman and his wife, members of Dr. Little's church in Chicago, signalized their silver wedding recently by the gift of \$1,000 to the American Board; half of it for the girls' school at Kobe, Japan, the other half for the seminary in Mardin, Turkey.

Mr. W. C. Depauw, of New York, has donated, conditionally, \$240,000 now, and \$1,000,000 at his death, to Ashbury University, Indianapolis, Indiana. The name of the University is to be changed to Depauw University in consideration of his liberality.

The annual meeting of the Foreign Sunday-school Convention was held last week in the Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church, Brooklyn, N. Y. During the past year this Association has expended over \$5,000 in distributing Sunday-school papers throughout Europe, Cuba, Mexico, Japan, India, China, and Africa.

The International Bible Lesson Committee met at Nashville, Tenn., October 30, and will remain in session for several days in order to prepare the International Bible Lessons for the year of 1885; when the committee has completed its work the programme of lessons will be forwarded to England for inspection by the European Committee, and if indorsed by them will be returned and adapted for use in the Sunday-schools in this country.

The Old Testament Revisers, at a meeting held in New York the week in October, completed the third revision of the Minor Prophets. Dr. Schaff thinks that both the American and English companies will complete their work in January, and that the revised Old Testament will be published next spring. The Company of Revisers and friends were very handsomely entertained at the house of Mr. Morris K. Jessup on the evening of the first day of their session.

A cable dispatch from Cork Ireland, states that several rough characters assembled outside of the hall in which Mr. Moody was holding services, and attempted to interfere

with them; the police prevented any disturbance, and now guard the hall nightly. Mr. Moody's mission in Limerick was a success.

In the Maratha Mission, India, a remarkable advance is reported in the direction of self support, the sixteen pastors being wholly paid from native funds. While there is but one more ordained missionary than in 1873, the number of native helpers has increased from 41

to 83, and the church membership from 629 to 1,422.

Over £6,000 has been contributed by business men in London for the support of the mission of Messrs. Moody and Sankey in that city. A temporary building capable of seating 5,000 persons has been erected, and provisions made for the erection of movable iron halls in different sections of the city.

The Hebrew Orphan Asylum Society of Brooklyn, New York, dedicated their new building on Tuesday of last week. The building is of brick, three stories in height, and handsomely fitted up.

A new sword of State, meant to replace the old weapon handed down from remote ages as the symbol of authority in Siam, has just been completed for the King by an English armorer. The blade is double-edged, spear shaped, and fifteen inches long. Towards the hilt it is inlaid with gold of varying tints, wrought in different devices, the figure of Buddha being prominent on each side. The handle, which has no crossguard, is seven inches in length, and consists of enameled work studded with diamonds, while the sheath is one entire piece of wrought gold, set with precious stones.

The Grand Jury of New York City have presented the Excise Commissioners of the city for licensing seventeen liquor saloons known to the police as resorts for thieves, and nearly all kept by ex-convicts; their presentment has the endorsement of Recorder Smyth, who declares that "independent of the facts contained in your presentment, the many cases brought before me in this court have satisfied me that the Board of Excise has not exercised proper judgment." The ludicrously inconsistent apologies of the different Excise Commissioners, as reported in an interview in the New York Herald, still

further justify this presentment. We are only sorry that the Grand Jury did not indict instead of merely presenting the Excise Commissioners, who have not only utterly failed to perform the duty laid upon them, but, so far as we can judge, have not even attempted to exercise any discrimination or afford any protection to the community from the worst saloons kept by the most notorious characters.

Mormons from Europe are still coming. A large party arrived last week and went on to Utah and shame. They seem to defy the wisdom and energy of government, and make a question as hard for us as Ireland is for the British. And the problem becomes more intricate and formidable every year. Like Romanism, it is an organized conspiracy against the fundamental laws and liberties of society. One by the celibacy of the clergy puts a stigma on marriage, the other by polygamy puts a stigma on woman herself. Both are inimical to the ordinances of God and tend to deteriorate society, as all history shows.

Closing Up.

The close of the year is at hand, and I am anxious to settle up the business of the Christian Sower Tract Fund, so as to be able to prepare the second annual report. If you owe the Fund anything, or have any contribution on hand, see that it is promptly sent to me. Many again who promised to work and obtained tracts have not done anything for the good work. These are exhorted to ask the churches to take collections for the purpose of sowing tracts in destitute fields. Many individuals will give if asked to do so.

The tracts are doing good in many ways. Sometimes they convert people. The last convert was a methodist minister. At least one newspaper has been stirred up to attack the tracts. Often have they been denounced from the pulpit. They have already caused the brethren to support an evangelist in a hitherto unoccupied field. This is but the beginning of what might be told. This work merits a support. 21,000 card tracts are on their way here. I need money to pay for them. I have a good supply of six kinds of larger tracts. All are free to those unable to buy.

J. W. HIGBEE,

Madisonville, Ky.