

SAUL'S LAST BATTLE.

Again the Philistines assayed to conquer Israel; this time their gathered forces made ready for battle under the shadows of Gilboa, on the borders of the plain of Esdraelon. Strong in chariots and horses and skilled in the use of arrows, the Hebrews beheld their invasion with sinking hearts, knowing the morrow's battle forboded defeat; Saul in his extremity, deserted by God, because of his wretched life, sought the night before the battle, the witch who dwelt at Endor near the plain, so noted before Saul's time and since, as the battle field of many nations, and begged there of Samuel the knowledge of what the next day's battle would bring. The ignominious end of the first king of Israel was at hand, and we admire, in spite of ourselves, the doomed man who fought so hard against the enemy, when he knew his army would be defeated, and that he, with his three sons, should be killed, and go each to his own place in the world from whence he had called up the spirit of the prophet. Jonathan, loyal to the last, fell before his father, with his two brothers, all fighting in a useless cause; Saul himself, struck by an arrow, committed suicide by falling upon his own sword. A touching little episode, showing how faithful some were to Saul, and from which we also understand that he kept some of his youthful magnetism till the last, is the record, "And when his armour bearer saw that Saul was dead, he fell likewise upon his sword, and died with him." The Philistines, coming to gather the spoils of the slain, took the armor of Saul and his sons as trophies, and insulted the dead by hanging their bodies upon the wall of a little town near the Jordan. The valiant men of Jabesh, across the river, rescued the bodies and burnt them, burying the bones and ashes near by under a tamarisk tree. David's lamentation over Saul and Jonathan is left us in a beautiful elegy.

"Ye mountains of Gilboa, on you be no dew,
Nor rain nor fields of fresh fruits;
Since there has been vilely cast away,
The shield of the mighty, the shield of Saul
The armor of him anointed with oil.
How are the mighty fallen in the midst of battle!
O Jonathan, slain on thy own mountains!
I am grieved for thee, O Jonathan, my brother!"

Selections and Comments.

PLEASE CORRECT.—The *Christian Herald* thinks the convention or picnic party at Island Park, which ordained the foreign missionaries, was a church of Christ, a congregation of Christians, because it was a gathering of Christians. On the same ground, an assembly of disciples at a wedding, a mill, a threshing or a log-rolling would constitute a church of Christ.—*Christian Messenger*.

Did the CHRISTIAN HERALD take this position, or was it the editor of the Kentucky Department? Please give us justice, brother editor.

IS IT SO?—The following question and answer we take from the *Christian Index*, Georgia:

The *Indiana Baptist* says that children dying in infancy must be regenerated in order to be saved, and that this view is taught generally by Baptist theologians. Is this so?—*Baltimore Baptist*.

We have met with but one Baptist minister, in fifty years, who taught differently, and hope never to meet with another.

We do not believe that the word "regeneration" in its New Testament sense is any more applicable to dying infants, or any other infants, than it is to the soul of Adam. Will the *Index* please tell us how it knows dying infants are regenerated, and by what means this regeneration is brought about?

WHICH SIDE?—Baptism is essential to salvation—or it is not. Now, brother Baptist, which side do you take? You can't straddle the fence; can't hold to the horse and run with the hounds.

Thus asks the *Christian Index*. We say get down on the side where Peter stood when he said, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." Please see Acts 2: 38.

ROMAN EMPERORS.—Professor G. B. Willcox in writing on the "Portrait busts of the Roman Emperors" says:

Perhaps one of the best faces of all the emperors is that of Domitian, the author of the fiercest and bloodiest persecution that ever raged against Christianity. The expression is thoughtful, even gentle, and decidedly winning. And, indeed, he was a man by no means to be classed with the Neros and Caligulas. His edict against the new religion was evidently the attempt of a blind but sincere patriotism to revive the falling fortunes of the empire. He saw

that the temples of the gods were deserted. And the temples of the gods were indissolubly associated in his thought, with the old glory of Rome. A return to the ancient religion, he believed, would revive the ancient fire that had made Rome what she was. So, too, Titus, the conqueror of the Jews, whose triumph is recorded on the triumphal arch not far from the Colosseum, was a man of exceptionally good-natured look. As you study his features you can easily imagine him attempting to reason with the zealous Jewish leaders, amidst the horrors of the siege of Jerusalem, to save their magnificent temple and the further waste of life.

Missionary Column.

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All communications relating to the employment of evangelists, protracted meetings, cooperation in securing pastoral work, etc., all pledges of assistance with requests for the same, and all business properly coming before the Board will be addressed to the Cor. Secretary. All collections, payments of pledges, etc., will be addressed to the Treasurer.

MISSIONARY NOTES.

Bro. Floyd:

I would like to ask the brethren to aid me in getting all the information I can about our congregations I suppose we have brethren in all the following places: Some are well organized; some imperfectly, and some I suppose are scattered as sheep without a shepherd. What I desire is that brethren from all the places named will report through some one to the HERALD or to me. I do not ask for statistical reports. But would like to know the general condition and what is needed for greater success. I want a complete list of congregations in the State, so that we can open correspondence with them; and so we can send to them blank Reports for the next meeting; and so we may regulate the Evangelist's work, and if possible have all represented at the next meeting in Portland next June. If I have included any name where we have no brethren I would like to be informed; and I know I have omitted many, now will some one from every place in the State where there is a congregation write me or the HERALD stating the fact. I am not so particular about hearing from the stronger congregations where we all know there is a congregation; though I believe the brethren would be pleased to hear briefly from all at different times

through the HERALD. It is the small congregations in small towns and the country that we wish especially to get acquainted with. All would like to know of the existence of every congregation or band of brethren throughout the State. Our church paper ought to go into every locality and be a medium of intercommunication. With just a little interest upon the part of all we may be able to know each other better, to be more helpful to one another, and to raise more money for mission work. We can also have fuller statistics than we have ever had and a larger convention, and more churches represented next year than ever before. I have sent out Reports of the Convention to about fifty places and persons. If there are any that have not received them that would like to see the Report drop me a card.

But here is the list as far as I am able to go: Salem, Portland, Monmouth, McMinnville, Carlton, Scio, Fairview, Lafayette, Trent, East Chehalem, Pleasant Hill, Hebron, Amity, Junction, Clear Lake, Brownsville, Eugene, Liberty, Albany, Forest Grove, Aumsville, Independence, Centerville, Bethany, Damascus, St. Helens, Sheridan, Bethel, Hillsboro, Central, Oak Creek, Dixie, Halsey, Coast Fork, Crawfordsville, Harrisburg, Coquille City, Gaston, Coos Bay, Corvallis, Irving, Chester, Cottage Grove, Drain, Stayton—45. Now if the editor of the HERALD or any of our preachers can increase this list I would be much obliged. Possibly the Rec. Sec. has the names of some that do not appear here. Another thing, only 19 of these have pledged any thing for missionary work for 1884.

Brethren, can we not increase these pledges? Now certainly it is not asking to much to ask for a knowledge of your existence. Don't hide your light under a bushel. Does any church or churches together want a preacher? There is a good preacher a man of experience right here in Salem who would take charge of the work somewhere. Do any of you need the Evangelist?

J. W. SPRIGGS, Cor. Sec.

Salem, Nov. 22, 1883.

"One should be careful," says Goethe, "not to carry any of the follies of youth into old age; for old age has follies enough of its own."