

Correspondence.

Letter from Seattle.

SEATTLE, W. T.,
Nov. 29, 1883.

Dear Bro. Floyd:

On looking over the HERALD of 23rd inst., my attention was arrested by the following lines: "After all that has been said of the great knowledge of the word of God, possessed by our brotherhood, is there not great danger of that knowledge being very one-sided and partial, and of its thus being imperfect? Has not our knowledge run very largely into what we call 'first principles,' almost to the exclusion sometimes, of what we call 'second principles?' This query presents what seems to me a suitable basis upon which to predicate what I shall term my first letter to the HERALD. While I hold, and teach, that any preaching which ignores, or even treats in a light and frivolous manner the elementary principles of Christianity to be utterly imperfect, and as falling far short of the exalted duty and privilege of a preacher of God's word; I also believe and teach, that those principles are an integral part of a grand whole. I sometimes compare this great spiritual structure, which all are admonished to help build to a grand Pyramid.

What the base or foundation is to this great Pyramid, the elementary principles are to our great spiritual edifice; and, as it is indispensably necessary that persons ascending this Pyramid must begin at the base and thence ascend step by step, just so must every step or round, in our great spiritual edifice be built upon, in order that the structure may be complete, and the builders thereof become a part and parcel of this great moral edifice.

To my mind it would be no more an evidence of incapacity on the part of a house-carpenter who would lay the foundation of a house and then unceasingly lecture his under-carpenters upon the proper manner of laying foundations with the expectation that they would become adepts in the art of house-building, and that each succeeding part of the structure would raise itself, than is the habit which many have fallen into, of perpetually haranguing the church upon the matter of "first principles" to the almost utter neglect of laying upon them their duty in adding to, or building upon this great spiritual edifice.

Amid all the incongruities and sinful devices of the world, I believe it to be true that men and women generally are honest and desire to do right and would, (if they understood how) lend a helping hand in the great work of lifting our sin-cursed world up to higher attainments in Christian perfection—but one great hindrance prevails which we should never lose sight of, and should do all in our power to correct it, viz.: the masses of mankind are not sufficiently educated in letters, nor in their duty as Christians, to be capable of a perfect understanding of Scriptural teachings and religious duties.

We know the masses of the people have a very limited understanding of our common literature; they have not had the reading and many are too poor to have the time to read. If this be true in common things, how infinitely more true must it be in regard to the "great mysteries of Godliness."

The boy who has just learned the rudimentary principles of mathematics must, if he would obtain perfection in that science—pass on from the first principles of that science; but if he has not the ability of himself to do so, he is not prepared to "graduate," and his teacher ought to help him on till such time as he is capable of going on; and just so, it is the imperative duty, of the preacher to kindly and lovingly, yet unswervingly teach the church in all the details of perfection in the great school of God's dear children. Sinners are perishing and half-taught saints are chilling and starving to death, under the imperfect tutorage of teachers who are only such in the theory of "first principles."

Not only is this conclusion a logical deduction from the premises, but there is underlying all this another thought which is paramount. It is this, the almost exclusive teaching of those observances which bring us into Christ, and therefore saves us from the consequences of sin, are selfish, because it exhibits a willingness to accept salvation; but an unwillingness to perform those duties of self-denial onerous on our part, but honoring God, and which therefore is "one-sided and partial."

The true teacher will not fail to "declare the whole counsel of God," and cannot fail to impress upon the church such wholesome lessons as "Wherefore, seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud

of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God." Heb. 12:1 2.

Most Fraternally,
F. D. HOLMAN.

Letter from California.

MODESTO, CAL.,
Nov. 15, 1883.

Dear Brethren:

Since I last wrote I have passed through a variety of scenery both pleasant and unpleasant. I left Bandon in a sailing vessel on the 22nd of October, and we had scarcely crossed the bar when a storm arose from the south-east (came up) and drove us north nearly to the Yaquina Bay. It was a terrific storm and lasted two days, tearing away our rudder and starting a leak that poured in at the rate of 40 gal. per minute; but they lashed on a temporary rudder, and kept men at the pumps night and day, and slowly, but surely, wended our way toward the Golden Gate, which we reached in eleven days, having been out of sight of land for eight days. My stay in Sacramento was short, and on Saturday last I took steamer for Stockton, where I arrived Sunday morning. I was not long in finding my way to the house of worship, and although a perfect stranger, I was soon made at ease by the kindness and sociability of the brethren I met there at the usual hour, and was permitted to listen to one of the best discourses I have ever heard; it was delivered by Father L. B. Wilks. He is one of our strongest men. He has left a church in Missouri of 300 members, and is visiting the Golden State in search of health; and we are glad to know that he has so far recovered that he is able to preach twice a day. The church at Stockton has not been prospering for some time past, but under his care it is livening up. They have a good house and there is nothing visible to hinder them from building up rapidly. After services were through, I had the unexpected pleasure of meeting Dr. Payton, of Snowdon Springs, Oregon; but was denied the privilege of a conversation, for the train was due and I had to hurry away to catch it. I

arrived at this place in time to attend the closing services of a fruitful series of meetings. They continued for 30 days, and resulted in the addition of 23 members; 10 by baptism, 10 by letter, 2 from the Methodists and 1 from the Baptists. The meeting was started by Bro. R. L. McHatton and finished by Bros. Henry Shadle and F. H. Tandy. Bro. Shadle is located here and preaches every week. Bro. McHatton arrived in this State last January, and has averaged over one sermon per day since he came; but the power behind the throne must not be overlooked. He is supported and kept in that place by the Christian Woman's Mission Society and is doing a grand work. Let this be an example to others. There is work for us all. If we are not gifted with the talent of speaking, we can hold up and push forward those that have. If we cannot preach like Paul we can give the widow's mite. The church at this place is strong, numbering about one hundred. I shall stop here for a week or two and then resume my journey south to Los Angeles.

Desiring an interest in your prayers, I am yours fraternally,
L. J. TODD.

India Letter.

HURDA, C. P., Oct. 11 1883.

Our friends will be glad to know we are in fair health for climatizers in India, having passed through the two trying seasons of this country. The rainy season extending from the middle of June to the first of October, has been a heavy one, the rainfall in Hurda having been 50 inches, and in Bombay 87 inches.

We are now entering a long season of the most beautiful and pleasant weather imaginable, and we are thankful to be in a reasonably good condition for work. Miss Kinsey has returned from Bombay much improved by her trip, and we are in hopes that Miss Graobiel, who is still there will be benefitted to an equal degree.

The cholera has been very bad all around us, and many thousands have died, but we had only a few cases in Hurda. Among those who have fallen victims to this scourge, I have read of some prominent civil officials and a few missionaries, while in one province 25,000 natives perished. When I see how they violate every law of life, both of body and soul, I am inclined to think there is a special providence over them, or they would all be