

number some hundreds and to embrace some wealthy farmers. They have a bishop, one Mr. Rayburne.

The introduction of Presbyterianism into Florida is to be celebrated in the Autumn. West Florida was colonized many years ago by Scotch Presbyterians whose descendants retain the old psalm-singing characteristics. It is proposed to establish a Memorial Presbyterian College at Lake de Euniak.

The 76th session of the general conference of the New Jerusalem Church has just been held in London. The Rev. Chauncey Giles, of Philadelphia, and the Rev. Louis Tafel, gave accredited messages from America to the conference. Special interest attaches to the present session as this is the first centenary of the establishment of the New Jerusalem Church. One hundred years are not actually complete until the 5th of December next, on which day, in 1783, at five in the evening, five persons met at the London Coffee House, Ludgate Hill, and the outcome of this meeting was the formation of the existing organization for the dissemination of Swedenborg's doctrines. At the time of Swedenborg's death it was stated there were only about 25 persons in England and the Continent who cordially embraced his writings. The number of societies connected with the New Jerusalem Church was reported to be 63 last year, comprising 5,490 registered members over 20 years of age, and 6,597 Sunday scholars. There were 35 ordained ministers and 15 licentiates. Missionaries of the church were successfully working in Germany, Poland, Denmark, Sweden, and Switzerland. The centenary of the New Jerusalem Church was celebrated by a great meeting held in the Memorial Hall.

The annual report of the British and Foreign Bible Society presents, in one view, the immensity of the circulation of the Scriptures going on in all parts of the habitable globe. This one Society has issued during the past year, of Bibles, Testaments, and portions, about 10,000 a day, a total of 2,938,000; and from its organization, 93,053,000! Add to this the Hibernian Society's issues, 65,675; the issues of the National Society of Scotland, 468,775; and those of the American Bible Society, 1,524,772, and we have a total issue for the last year, by four great societies, of 4,

989,224 copies. To this must be added the issues of several smaller societies, of private enterprise, and the vast multitude of the Revised New Testaments, if we would compass the work of publishing the Scriptures as recorded in 1881-82. This is simply prodigious, falling not much short of six and a half or seven million copies. But we do not get the full significance of this work till we follow the colporteurs of a great society like this into every nook and corner of the habitable globe—about 3000 scattered about Europe and 200 in the regions beyond. And to this still must be added similar agencies of many other societies; for example, in India the Vernacular Education Society has 158—eighteen more than the British and foreign Bible Society. And yet, again, the wonder grows when we find that the Scriptures are published in 250 languages or dialects, in 345 versions, more than four-fifths of which have been prepared since the Society was organized in 1804. So, the assertion we sometimes hear that the Bible is losing its hold upon the people is the emanation of shallow minds totally ignorant of the real facts in the case.—*Work*

The French bombardment of Tamatave, in Madagascar, has about put a stop to the mission work. The "French soldiers are going everywhere, burning villages." A letter from the Anglican Bishop in Madagascar, who states his belief that it was only the representations of the English missionaries to the Malgassy Prime Minister that prevented the French Jesuits from being murdered, adds: I have a strong conviction that the French will not be allowed to take this country, as I believe there is still a God of battles. It is a regular case of "The Wolf and the Lamb."

A terrible hurricane has swept over the Samoan Islands which must have seriously affected the English Mission churches. All vessels in the harbor were wrecked, and for twenty miles west of Savaii only one house remains. We hear that at Apia the Catholic church and school buildings were blown down, and one of the missionaries killed. The London Society began mission work in Samoan in 1830 and the Welseyian Society in 1835. The population of the group is about 120,000, and Savaii and Upola are the principal islands. The London Society has upward of 30,000 hearers and more than 7,000 in its schools, the Welseyian Society has about 1,700 scholars, and together the societies have perhaps 5,500 members.

California Department.

CONDUCTED BY PROF. J. DURHAM.

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

Bro. Jno. Sanford, of Missouri, is expected out to the State Meeting and will in all probability preach for some of the churches in Colusa Co.

Bro. H. B. Foster arrived at Santa Rosa, a few days ago and immediately entered upon his work.

I have not seen him since he was a little boy at his father's house in Illinois. His father was one of the able preachers whom I heard during my boyhood. And uncle Bob Foster as they, then, called him was a master workman. I hope to meet Bro. H. B. Foster soon.

The *News* tells us that Bro. Meloan has had six additions at Oakland lately. The prospects for the church at the Brooklyn of Cal. is truly encouraging. Bro. Meloan is the right man in the right place. We will hail with delight when the church at Oakland shall have a church of their own. This was the great desire of our lamented Bro. Reagan, and for years he had been planning for the consummation of that work. May the good Lord give Bro. Meloan his choicest blessings and may the brethren be knit together in love, and by every thing that supplies the body to its edification in love.

One more addition to the church at Healdsburg through the labors of Bro. Hiram Wallace.

Our venerable Bro. Joshua Lewis of Talare county, lost his companion last Spring. She was a noble woman and a faithful Christian. Bro. Lewis is preaching at different points and reports to the *News* several additions during the Summer. The brethren at Kelseyville in Lake Co., are making an effort to establish the cause at that point.

Bro. Belding who is now in San Francisco, has lately been paying a visit to the southern portion of the State. He visited Southern Cal., State Meeting, and reports the outlook for the cause as quite encouraging.

Two confessions at College City on the eve of Sept. 9. one of them, a lady teacher, for several years in the public schools of this Co.

The Southern Camp Meeting inaugurated by our venerable Bro. Kendrick of Downey City was very satisfactory. It closed this year with 23 additions, fourteen by confession and baptism. The great length of our state makes it almost impossible for our State Meeting to have the representation of the brotherhood of Cal., that it ought to have. We need to get together often and encourage each other, to rejoice together and comfort one another. It is said that the Hebrew soldiers after they were fully panicked for their warfare, they would eat together and pray together before they went out on the field of battle. We all feel stronger for duty. One brother who comes some distance to our State Meeting and has not much church privilege at home, said to me, he wanted to get enough to fill him up till the next meeting. So these meetings are like the relay batteries along a telegraph line they add strength to the whole line. So the line of our life-work is strengthened all along its way by these frequent communings. Let us come up to the house of the Lord and gain strength against the mighty evil.

We did not think when we chronicled the report that our State Evangelist, Bro. McHatton, was negotiating for property in Santa Rosa, that we would so soon, if ever be called upon to record the nuptials between him and a Cal. Sister. But we thought that notwithstanding it was known that "he was in the hands of his friends," yet we still thought that he was like all the young emigrants who come out to the golden west, that, in his silent musings he would sing of "The girl I left behind me." We acknowledge the invitation for us and ours to be at Bro. and Sister T. B. Hood's in Santa Rosa, at noon on Sept. 5th, to witness the celebrating of the marriage of their daughter Eva, to Robert L. McHatton. One brother writes that Bro. Mc. is Hoodwinked. Be that as it may, if she has agreed to put the Hat on for life, he has likewise agreed to take her Hood for the same length of time. But we must congratulate him on his selection. Sister Eva is well worth his coming to Cal. for, and may their lives be happy and prosperous and when its voyage is completed may they enter the portals of everlasting Peace.