

Correspondence.

Letter from Bro. L. J. Todd.

LOS ANGELES, CAL.,
Jan. 4, 1884.

Dear Editor:

As the holidays are over I thought you might find room for a few lines from this section of the country.

I arrived in this city on the 11th of December, and have had some time to look around and get acquainted; but what can I say of it, others have written of its beautiful groves drooping with their wealth of golden fruit, of its bright clustering flowers that don't cease to bloom, of its mild, salubrious climate of perpetual spring, all of which I have read with interest, and, of course, like others, had drawn an imaginary scene of them all; but when I stood on the height of Buena Vista that overlook the valley and saw it all spread out before me I was disappointed. The picture that I had painted with care was outrivaled and vanished from me, and all that I can say is beautiful; yet I felt as though I had said nothing. Certainly this is the most favored spot that I have ever been permitted to see, not only the pleasant climate and its beautiful scenery, but the people, too, seem to have inhaled the spirit of love that so freely shines upon the field of nature. Never have I visited a place that showed so much earnestness in doing good; not one seems to be idle. The Y. M. C. Association are doing much, they have a free library, and every week have two social meetings, singing and speaking, where all are invited, especially the stranger. This may be called the home of the stranger. There are hundreds of young men, like myself, who have heard of the advantages to be enjoyed here, have left their homes and friends in every spot on earth, and have come here expecting they know not what, and of course the market of employment is overlooked; but here they are met with a smile of welcome and a true and brotherly grasp of the hand, and all the assistance at hand rendered them free of charge. I know of no place where your paper could do as much good as in their reading room. It will be read by many an erring child and be the means of bringing him back to the blessed light. Among the first to form acquaintance was Bro. B. F. Coulter, a

most noble man. He is one of the leading business men of the city, but he finds time to lead a prayer meeting twice a week, Sunday-school, attend preaching, Bible class, and to fill the pulpit in the evening on Sundays. He now charges for his work and turns into the treasury all he obtains for marriage fees.

On Christmas night the children gave a reception, and all were invited. Bro. King and others from the East spoke to the children, and all was kind and lovely; but all the time I could not think of Christmas, for those wreaths of clustering flowers that robed the altar, and the snow-white Calla-Lillies that so gracefully tipped the arch above, spoke to me only of May day. All were so sociable that one could not help being happy; and those refreshments (thanks to the ladies); they were the closing gem of the evening. All were filled and retired home well satisfied with the evening's entertainment.

The church at this place is in a prosperous condition with about 200 members, a large well furnished house, and a kind and faithful leader, Bro. B. F. Coulter.

On New Year's day and evening the Young Men Christian Association and the Woman's Temperance Association gave a free reception that was well attended and greatly enjoyed.

I am thankful to say that it has always been so I could attend religious places of amusement, and in doing so, have been kept from many temptations. He who rules is kind and will guide us aright if we but trust him. How pleasant it is to look back and see how kindly and safely he has guided us through the many temptations that are continually around us, and often teaching us a lesson of trust by allowing us to be tempted. Dear friends, it is sweet to have one with us to whom we can always speak and tell our troubles, and who will guide us toward the shining goal. I desire an interest in your prayers, and will ever pray for you.

Don't know how long I shall stay here; will go South when I leave this place.

In the blessed farewell,

L. J. TODD.

The Governors of the six New England States are total abstinence men.

Letter from J. W. Craig.

Moscow, I. T.,
Jan. 4, 1884.

Editors Christian Herald:

C. J. Wright, our beloved brother and evangelist of this district (known as the district north of Snake river) commenced a meeting at our church, Pleasant Flat, on Thursday before the second Lord's day in December, or was to have been here at that time, but did not arrive till Saturday night; but his appointment was filled up to that time by our noble young Bro. T. J. Cannon, who preached two good discourses for us and let us know why Bro. Wright was not here at the appointed time. It was not because he had run off with some brother's wife, or had stolen a band of horses, and was seen rushing across the Bitter Root Mountains at break neck speed, when he at the same time was holding a protracted meeting for us. Such reports will be sent abroad by our enemies (and I suppose all able defenders of the gospel will have enemies) and they almost scare some of the brethren living at a distance out of their wits to think our evangelist has turned Beecher on us or become a Judas. Brethren, such stories the devil is the father of, and they don't bother us much here any more.

Bro. Wright has been our preacher and evangelist for over five years, and we are not tired of him yet, and I think the brethren will employ him for another year if they can get him.

The reason Bro. Wright did not arrive was on account of a death in our midst. Bro. Gilliland, of Eden valley congregation, who was a bishop of that congregation, and loved by all who knew him, fell dead with heart disease at his home, and Bro. Wright was called to preach his funeral.

Bro. Wright arrived on Saturday, preached that night and on Sunday at 11 A. M. He was discoursing on life and death, showing that it was not God that caused us to die, but that sin brought suffering and death; and while he was preaching the sad news came that Thomas P. Ruble, an elder or bishop of this congregation, had dropped dead in his door with the same disease. This was another sad blow for us. Bro. Ruble was highly esteemed by all who knew him. Bro. Wright preached his funeral on Monday, and on Tuesday we deposited his body in the tomb;

and while we mourn his loss, we sorrow not as those who have no hope, for we believe death was his gain, and we will meet him in the sweet bye and bye.

The meeting continued here till Thursday night with increasing interest each evening. The immediate result was one addition by commendation.

Bro. Wright went from here to what is known as the Clenton school-house, about five miles from Pleasant Flat, and began a meeting on Thursday evening, which continued over Lord's day, closing on Friday night. We were highly pleased at the able manner in which he handled the word of God, so plain that all could understand, declaring to the people the whole counsel of God in such a way that no one could fail seeing it to be the gospel of Christ in its simplicity, unless blinded by sectarian prejudice or the spirit of disobedience. The immediate result was two from the Methodists who were instructed more perfectly in the way of the Lord and united with us on the terms of the Bible. During the last discourse an old Methodist brother became so uneasy. He thought Bro. Wright was not preaching the Bible in its proper connection. He was quoting from Acts 22, concerning Paul's conversion, "Why tarriest thou, arise and be baptized and wash away thy sins." He said baptism was not there. Bro. Wright handed his Bible to one that was not member of any church, and asked him to read the verse; he read so that all could hear, and baptism was there. The old brother said it was not in his Bible. Bro. Wright told him if it was not in his Bible as he read it he would get him a three dollar hat. We have heard nothing concerning that hat from the old brother yet.

We believe that the good seed sown by our brother at this meeting will produce a rich harvest to be gathered in the future. We had the best attention I ever witnessed.

Bro. Hodgins, of Eden valley, was with us during most of the meeting, and assisted us in the singing; he is called by some Bro. Wright's Sankey. We had good singing. We use Hymn and Tune Book; like it very well. The weather was splendid during the whole meeting. There is about four inches of snow on the ground at present, but is melting very fast.

Yours in the good hope,

W. D. CRAIG,