

California Department.

CONDUCTED BY PROF. J. DURHAM.

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Brief Notes.

Sister Luse, of San Francisco, has assisted the sisters in Oakland, in organizing a Home Missionary Society. Sister L. is a ubiquitous little body, and may it be said of her, "she hath done what she could."

Bro. McHatton has had a very successful meeting at Harford, Tulare county, resulting in 21 additions. The church has let the contract for a new house, to be enclosed and ready for use by the first of April. They will not complete the house this spring.

A general rain has visited all the State of California, so that with what may come in the spring, good, fair crops are expected, on which every thing depends. Business is reviving in every part. The brethren in different parts will move all along the line of the enemy's works, so that we look for a good harvest "as the days are going by."

About two miles from Washington College is one of the oldest Catholic Missions on the coast. The little village is called San Jose Mission. Over two years ago they erected a building and opened a school for the education of priests. They have, we are informed, five pupils in attendance, taking their prescribed course for which to make it complete it takes about four years.

The brethren at Oakland have called Bro. D. R. Vanbriskirk, of Bloomington, Ills. Bro. V. has agreed to spend February and March with the Oakland church with a view of working for them. We met him many years ago during the beginning of his work in Bloomington. He is one of our most efficient workers. He is now in his second or third call at Bloomington. We will give him a hearty welcome to our sunny slope.

The *Disciple of Christ* is fully up to all expectations from what we can hear. It comes to the front to fill up a very important place in our Christian literature. We have needed a real repository for literary gems and where we might collect in a casket views of our literary and religious men. Heretofore an enormous expense was involved

if we made an attempt to fill an album of those whom we loved for their work's sake. And we must cull several of our weeklies for the best literature or pore over the long articles of a quarterly with aching head if we would read any carefully prepared articles. All these are met in *The Disciple*. We hail its advent with pleasure. The price is so reasonable that it is placed within the reach of every one, large pages, clear type, good paper, at the rate of \$1.00 per year. Standard Publishing Co., Cincinnati, Ohio. Send for it.

KONG HI FAT CHOY.—January 27th was the opening of the Chinese New Year. This advent of a New Year is the tenth anniversary of their reigning prince, *Kong Shue*. Kong hi fat choy is "I wish you a happy New Year" in "Melican" language. This was a great festal day in San Francisco. The blue-bloused, almond-eyed, celestials were richly attired, if one could not afford a nice suit for the day he would hire one that he might make his calls on his friends in a gaudy attire. It is said they were so gaudily dressed that their Caucasian brethren moved aside to let them pass, a free interchange of greetings. Dried clams and sweet meats of all grades were eaten to-gether, and from 8 to 9 A. M. and from 4 to 6 P. M., the air was suffocating from the fumes of burning firecrackers. The city authorities having limited the time for the discharge of fire cracker-nuisance. Their deafening and pestiferous sounds were to be heard all day. It being much beneath the dignity of a chinaman to either welcome in their New Year or drive away the devil from his habit by firing a single cracker at a time, but it must be done by the hundred. So much for the "heathen Chinese."

The great hindrance to Christian progress is unchristian Christianity—Christian doctrine without a Christian practice. The chief priest, scribes and elders were religious after an irreligious kind. They mumbled the right words, but they did not live the right life or develop the right spirit. It was religion gone sour—the wine of piety turned into the vinegar of resentment.—*Joseph Parker.*

Jesus is the purest, among the mighty the mightiest among the pure.

Educational Department.

CONDUCTED BY PROF. J. D. HAWES.

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History.

This subject is one of intense interest to all intelligent students. What can so attract the attention of any person as the history of his own country taught in a manner at once practical, as well as an accomplishment? What theme so prolific of refined and cultivated conversation? Where so many ideas can be brought out, original thought

stirred up, or opinions formed as to the correctness of the positions taken by our great ancestors. How often have we seen this study treated as a dry rehearsal of facts, with a dryer date attached. The philosophy of history never referred to in the whole course, nor a useful application made of the great events passed and gone. We used to be taught this way ourself, and well do we remember the feeling with which we took up the history. Well do we remember when our old and highly respected teacher, now Dr. Chisholm, of Arthur, Ont., took hold of, to what was to us a disgusting subject, and, by skilful questions and well directed talks, with the useful lessons for future life to be learned from the successes and failures of the past, fresh hope dawned upon us; the margin of our book was soon filled with interesting annotations, and we began to know something of the history of our own, and other countries. Here is where most of the failures are made in this study. The reason is never called into action, cause and effect is never spoken of, and the subject is dry and very uninteresting. What do we care to read of war, bloodshed, &c. Let us read and study the great inventions in art, science and literature; discuss the policy of the different administrations. There is a great amount of useful information to be gathered from history in this way. There is no subject more intensely interesting than the History of the United States from Washington down to the present. Some of our old men and women remember more than half of the great events, so that if the pupil is interested, he will get the family interested as well. Avoid all political troubles as much as possible. We would not advocate the teaching of the secession war in our public schools, as that is

a very sensitive point to touch upon, or some people are very sensitive upon it. But above all try to get any useful moral lesson that can be gleaned from the study. In this way pupils are made to feel that they are learning something that will benefit them both present and future. The teacher should always know more than the textbook contains, and be ready to give any little information that will fix the great events on the pupils' minds. Frequent reviews should be had, and soon, in review work, the questions should be asked, and answered rapidly, so as to make the leading points to be second nature almost to the student. Studying topically is the better method for regular class work; give the pupil time to think, if he hesitates let him think standing up, it will do him good, as thinking standing on his feet is something every one will have to learn some time or other. In extended courses of reading we would say read Ancient History, and talk about it to those who know something of it. It will cause good sober thought in young minds that brings careful work in all other branches. "History makes a young man to be old without wrinkles or disease, privileging him with the experience of age without its infirmities."

Science.

There is a disposition among people to undervalue the works of the scientist. We hear them say, "We want something practical;" "Why spend so much time in laboratories experimenting, when the vast amounts of time and money thus expended could be turned to account in increasing productiveness?" It is the part of some to work in one way, and of others in another. We can not all be farmers. The country needs merchants, millers, stock-raisers, preachers, teachers, officers, and while these are busy in their particular vocations, they can not spend any time improving the condition of the people only in their own department of labor.

Again the experimentalist is more useful than is often supposed. Of course he only studies the properties of the physical substances which he works upon; yet the knowledge thus gained by him and then communicated to others is of more importance than any kind. Why? Because knowledge acquired of the principles of science