

California Department.

CONDUCTED BY PROF. J. DURHAM.

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

Brief Notes.

Bro. Wallace is doing a good work at Healdsburg.

Bro. Logan is trying a union meeting with a Methodist brother in Lake county.

Bro. Foster has just closed a series of meetings at Santa Rosa with five additions.

Bro. Ely is expected soon on this coast. He is an able preacher and we hope he will find plenty of work.

Dr. Belding preached for us at Washington College in Bro. McCollough's place. He gave us a good sermon.

Bro. T. B. Hood, of Santa Rosa, has gone to Arizona on business. He will be missed in the councils of the church. He is faithful and true. Lord bless him.

Bro. Harrison Price, one of the scholarly men and a good preacher, goes from Ukiah to Seattle. While California must lose his presence Washington Territory will gain as much. We hope the brethren will keep him stirring out so much that he won't have time to look at a book for months. He has enough knowledge on hand. Let him use his present capital.

Bro. James Anderson, of Santa Rosa, has began a mission work in Bro. Gentry's neighborhood, a few miles west of Santa Rosa, near Forestville. We wish Bro. A. success. He is one of our old California pioneers. He is a deputy county clerk, and is a very popular officer as well as a devoted Christian.

Bro. Hand has been taking a mountain airing among the rugged, rocky, roundings, of the roughing of romance. He enjoys very much the finger prints of the Great Architect, whether it be in the tiny flower or the craggy mountain peak. "Every house is builded by some man, but he that built all things is God." Let every one learn to enjoy nature's grand workshop, he thus may have a higher appreciation of its Author.

Bro. McHatton's meeting at Cloverdale is another one of his successes. He organized a congregation with 24 members. Since the organization eight more have been added. They have bought a fine lot for a new house of worship. Money has been raised to secure preaching one fourth of the time. We do not know who will be secured for Cloverdale. It is a beautiful locality at the head of Russian river valley, in Sonoma county. Nature has added a host of charms to that lovely place. May the new congregation live in the unity of spirit and in the bonds of peace.

Bro. J. W. Craycroft, of Harrisburg, shows his presence around Washington often. His genial smiles are ever welcome. His better three-fourths is a host in Christian work. Her courage and council, like her worthy husband, are such as give comfort to the daily routine of life. The cheerful words and Christian hand-shake of such are like olive wreaths entwined around the brow of the laborer—they are lives that scatter fragrance of a roseate sweetness along the by-paths of life, and bring sunshine to drive every dark cloud that dare hover over the horizon. They have a daughter in college. May they have long and prosperous lives.

Bethany College, the old mother, comes out in the *Pacific Church News*, with a fine view of her beautiful buildings, and makes a worthy call for assistance to repair her buildings that were injured by fire a few years ago. This grand old institution should be placed firmly on her feet and told to go on with her work of usefulness. The philanthropist who will step forward and give Bethany a good lift of a few ten-thousands, will do a thousand fold greater honor to himself and posterity than if he were to erect a score of Bartholdi Statues in all the ports of entries of the world. Statues of brass and steel will wear and moulder, and like colossus at Rhodes be one of the seven wonders, yet how much is the world benefitted? Let some noble man strengthen the base of the old statue of Bethany, while the torch of truth she holds in her hand shall in reality light up the dark paths of life and point many a weary one to the peaceful entry into the New Jerusalem.

Educational Department.

CONDUCTED BY PROF. J. D. HAWES.

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Text Book Education.

This is a subject that, so far as our observation has led us to form an opinion, is one of the abused subjects. One class of educators ignore the text-book altogether, another can do nothing without a text-book. Between these extremes there is a golden mean to be sought. We have long advocated the idea that a text-book should only be used as a reference; that students should study subjects as not to get through the book. This system of having so long to get "through the book" should be entirely discarded in all of our schools and colleges, as it is merely a crowding and cramming to pass the examinations. Brooks' adage: "Better to know much of a few things than a little of many things" is a truism that needs no demonstration. We would prefer to see a student thoroughly understand algebra up to simple equations, than that he should have gone through all the algebras in christendom on the rush and drive process followed in most of our schools. We feel very much like appealing to a higher tribunal when we hear that just so long a time is to be given to this study, then passed and go on. The interrogation coming every once in a while, "Will we get through the book in time?" Truly, we would like to see this relic of barbarism done away with, and consigned to a lonesome grave never to be resurrected.

The text-book should be a book as nearly perfect in its plans and matter, and mode of treatment as possible. The teacher in beginning any topic in it should be able to give a short expose of the principles involved, the manner in which the book treats it, any suggestions he himself can offer as to other methods, and leave the student to think and invent for himself, try his own plans, and others suggested, until every inch of the ground is tested and contested; the reason called into action and originality of thought brought out. Any subject can be made original if properly handled, and the text-book, a leader in the thought of the subject.

We are living in an age of progress, and should be up with the times. Any branch of the arts,

and science; the professions, &c., have to be up and progressive, or they fall behind, and have to drop down and out. So with our text-books, if not up with the times, throw them overboard and get the best; but do not follow even the best in a slavish manner, but let the teacher bring his own thought and labor into action. In this way such subjects as reading, arithmetic, grammar, &c., can be made lessons in logic and reasoning, and the subjects thus taught will last in the mind of the student as long as reason holds her throne.

Northwestern Farmer and Dairyman.

We had a call the other day from our old friend Mr. Paffenbarger, of the *Northwestern Farmer and Dairyman* of Portland, who left us a copy of that excellent journal now in its third year, and well settled as a permanent institution of our State. We know all the proprietors personally, and well, and can recommend them as very honorable fairdealing gentlemen. The subscription list of the *F. & D.* is increasing at a very rapid rate every month showing hundreds of new subscribers. The *F. & D.* never fails to say a good word for the cause of education and the improvement of society at large. The firm consists of E. J. Casey, the old war horse of Polk county, S. F. Blyth a practical farmer and printer and A. Paffenbarger, who was raised up to follow the plough, besides having a college education and being a lawyer of good standing. In all a powerful team. We wish them the greatest success.

Teachers' Institute.

We have received the programme for the Institute of the Second Judicial District, to be held in Roseburg, March 4, 5, 6 and 7, 1884. The names of several prominent educators and citizens of Southern Oregon appear on the programme, which, together with some of the best talent of the Willamette valley, ought to make an interesting meeting, and do some good work for education. We notice several familiar names on for duty. State Supt. McElroy will be in his glory, of course; but we will tell the teachers and friends of education in that district, that they will have to work in the interest of the institute when Bro. Mc. gets there. We know by experience.