

PACIFIC CHRISTIAN MESSENGER.

D. T. STANLEY, EDITOR.

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THURSDAY, MAY 31, 1877.

OUR AIMS.

1. To fearlessly advocate the teachings of the Bible, in the spirit of kindness.
2. To earnestly plead for the union of all Christians on the Bible alone.
3. To point out evils in the church and suggest a remedy.
4. To keep our readers posted on the movements of the brotherhood in this state and elsewhere.
5. To entertain and instruct the young.
6. To give a brief summary of state news and the latest telegraphic despatches.
7. To make this the leading religious paper on the Pacific coast, either at the same or any other price.

TO OUR CONTRIBUTORS.

1. Articles intended for publication should be written with ink, legibly, and on one side of the paper.
2. The Editor claims and will exercise the right to reject such manuscript, as from any cause will not, in his judgment, subserve the best interest of the paper and its readers.
3. We do not hold ourselves responsible for the sentiments of contributors, or the truthfulness of advertisements, without our personal endorsement.
4. Contributions on all matters of interest to the cause of Christianity, are invited.

The camp meeting season draweth nigh, and announcements of the times and places of the various meetings are numerous in the papers of the state.

Can't you secure one or more new subscribers for the MESSENGER before the Annual meeting? make the effort, show the paper to your friends and ask them to subscribe, and success will attend your efforts.

It is very gratifying to see such a uniformity of sentiment in favor of some definite action at our coming annual meeting, to have some evangelists put into the field. We earnestly hope such unanimity of sentiment may prevail in the meeting that a strong united effort may be made in this much needed direction.

Bro. William Huntington of Castle Rock, W. T., writes us definitely that he has a written agreement of the Superintendent of the N. P. R. R., granting all persons who attend the W. T. Annual meeting half fare over the road—full fare going and return free. Bro. H. has obtained half fare rates as above, for four successive years, and thus has greatly aided the success of the meetings. We hope the attendance may be all that is desired and that the meeting may be greatly blessed in doing good.

Our readers will miss our Washington letter for a few weeks, but our correspondent asks for a leave of absence to recuperate and will resume correspondence soon.

Correction.

In the CHRISTIAN MESSENGER of May 10th, there is an extract from Bro. Warren's letter, stating that our annual meeting will commence on Thursday 3 P. M., before the third Sunday in June. This is a mistake; it was so changed last year as to begin at 11 A. M., June 8, 1877, and embrace the second Sunday. The MESSENGER please correct.

M. W. WATSON,
W. F. LEXARK,
Elma, Chehalis Co., W. T.

Evangelizing.

The organization of the church shows the purposes to be accomplished by it. Elders and deacons to minister to the wants of the body materially and spiritually, and evangelists to spread the Gospel in the world.

That congregation which has its officers, in number adequate to the wants of its members, and its evangelist, one or more, in the field is in good working condition, filling its mission. This is the happy condition of no congregation known to us.

A church may do very much in propagating the Gospel in its immediate vicinity through its officers and members without an evangelist. But distant and destitute localities can not be reached without one sent for that purpose.

It requires more money to sustain an evangelist than any one congregation in our new country can furnish. Hence the necessity of cooperation in this work. The combined means and efforts of several congregations can accomplish that which no single church could do.

The two important items in the work of evangelizing are, first, the money, then the man.

We have had much talk at previous annual meetings and but little done. Can we not take with us a few dollars to the approaching meeting for this purpose, and make a fund which will put two or three evangelists in the field at once?

From one to ten dollars, according to their several ability, contributed by every Christian attending the meeting would make a salary for two evangelists many months.

If the money can be provided, we can secure the labor of competent, zealous and efficient men to do the work.

We have now in our midst ample talents and attainments to evangelize the State, if the parties could be sustained. Indeed we know several preachers who are doing much evangelizing at their own charges, employing, for this purpose, time much needed by their families. These would gladly give their whole time to the work for moderate remuneration.

The demand, judging from the pressing invitations we are constantly receiving, is very great. From every quarter the "macedonian cry" is sent up, "come and help us."

The church should not be deaf to this demand. It should send forth the Gospel to gladden the heart and make happy the life of those who are anxious to know the way of life. It is to be hoped that some material aid will be furnished, and some efficient action taken at the approaching annual meeting to meet this demand. T. F. C.

Linn County Annual Meeting.

The Linn county Annual Meeting will be held this year with the brethren at Harrisburg, commencing on Friday before the first Sunday in July.

The place selected is near the B. R. bridge. Persons going to the meeting by rail can get off the cars near the grounds by notifying the conductor in time.

P. R. BURNETT.

We welcome again to our office the CHRISTIAN MESSENGER, of Oregon, has resumed publication and which promises to do a good work on the Pacific coast. Long may it live to plead the ancient Gospel.—*Texas Christian.*

Our New Dress.

Religious papers, like preachers, will get a new suit once in a great while, and when they do it makes them feel rather proud, in spite of all their expressions of deep humility.

So we feel highly gratified to be able to send forth the MESSENGER this week with a new dress of type for the reading matter, new head, and such other additions as will make it one of the neatest papers sent forth on the Pacific coast.

We were in great need of the change, for we were using some of the worst material in the State, and it was only by the greatest care that our printers were enabled to make the paper present a passable appearance.

But we have not fulfilled our expectations at this time. We purchased a power press some two weeks ago, and expected to have had it in place and to have enlarged the paper and almost doubled the space for reading matter, this week.

We were delayed in getting the press, and shall not be able to make the enlargement for some two weeks yet.

We have always carefully guarded against making promises for the future of the paper, lest we might not be able to fulfill them, but now we feel safe in saying that with the addition of the power press, it is our intention to enlarge to six columns to the page, the same as our eastern weeklies. With such material as we now have, and our list of able editors and contributors, we feel assured with the enlargement, we will take the front rank of religious papers on this coast, and verily believe that our brethren and friends will give us the support that such effort as is necessary to build up such a paper, demands.

Let every one who reads this, go to work at once to send us new names, and those in arrears, try to make payment as far as possible during the stringent times, as we need all the money we can get at such a time as this. It costs several hundred dollars to enlarge the paper.

Our Editorial Staff.

As will be seen, we have increased the editorial force of the MESSENGER, by the addition of brethren Rowland, Burnett and Warren. These brethren are known to a large number of our readers, as men of ability, zeal in the cause, successful proclaimers of the Gospel, and intimately acquainted with editorial work. By this addition, we believe the interest and usefulness of the paper will be largely increased.

These brethren residing in different parts of the country, will make the editorial work more of a general and less of a local character. Bro. Burnett, residing in California, will take especial interest in furnishing matter of importance to the many brethren of the golden state. While we have had to lament the failure of their efforts to establish permanently a paper in their own state, the MESSENGER will in a very great measure, meet their requirements, and we hope will receive their support accordingly. We almost consummated arrangements with brother B., by which the MESSENGER was to be published simultaneously from Santa Rosa, Cal., and Monmouth, Or., which would have fully met the demands of the brotherhood of this coast for a paper of their own. That effort was a failure, and we now present

to the California brethren our humble efforts and the efforts of one of their own tried veterans to furnish them a home paper of which they may be proud.

Bro. Warren, residing in Washington Territory, will look after the interest of the brotherhood in that country. We have many good brethren up there, though somewhat scattered in the western part. We believe they will appreciate our desire to make the paper of special interest to them.

Bro. Rowland, our efficient State Superintendent of Public Instruction, resides in the city of Salem, the beautiful capital of our State. But his official duties calls him from home a large part of the time, and as he travels over the different parts of the State among the brethren, it will be intensely interesting to all of us to learn from him the condition of affairs, and what are the prospects.

Brother Campbell and myself residing in Monmouth, cheerfully take the heaviest of the labor in the editing and management of the paper. We do not design to lighten our work by the increase of assistance, but working on the same, to increase the efficiency and popularity of the MESSENGER.

But these five are only the conductors of the work, and we hope our contributors and correspondents will at once redouble their efforts to fill our columns with the ablest discussions of important topics, and the spiciest and most interesting news items. Particularly let every reader see if he can not send us at least one new subscriber.

Christian Advocate Suspended.

The Portland Standard of May 23d has the following: "The Sheriff has taken charge of the office of the Pacific Christian Advocate, and no paper will be issued from that establishment this week unless the sum of \$300 is raised to satisfy the claim of Mr. James. We understand that friends of that journal are exerting themselves to obtain the amount by subscription." Referring to the above the Oregonian of this morning says: "Such a statement, we have been informed, was premature. There was some trouble between Mr. James and the managers of the paper, of a financial character, but all differences have been adjusted, and will in no way interfere with the regular issuance of that journal."

The above we clip from a daily exchange, and regret to learn by this that our cotemporary is in trouble. It is an easy matter for a printing office to get in debt, and not so easy for it to out, these hard times. As the Advocate of the 24th has reached us, we presume some arrangement was made, by which it resumes, though we find nothing in its columns on the subject.

Personal.

Bro. Peter Shuck, of West Chehalis was with us in Monmouth last Lord's day. He seems strong in both mind and body for one of his years.

Bro. Warren has been preaching down the valley. He was at Amity when we last heard from him. We hope to see him again at the Annual Meeting.

Bro. Waller is at Brush Prairie and Vancouver, W. T. He will return home this week, but will be at the W. T. Annual Meeting next month.

Old Bro. C. T. Davidson and wife are visiting relatives in Polk county.

Aid to Public Improvements.

The enterprise of the City of Corvallis is very commendable in her efforts to secure the construction of the Willamette Valley and Coast railroad. We hope they may succeed as the road would benefit not only Corvallis but the entire valley.

At the meeting recently held, a committee was appointed to wait upon the Governor and ask him to call a special session of the legislature to so amend the State constitution as to allow counties, cities and towns to aid such enterprises.

We desire to raise a warning voice against any such amendment. The history of other states need only be referred to, to show the ruinous results following such provisions in state laws.

As an illustration, we will look at the state of Missouri, where we have seen the workings of this system of aids for some years. So soon as the laws provide for subscriptions of county and city aid, the railroad companies begin demanding large subsidies from the counties and towns through which the road may pass, and threaten to put the road elsewhere if the aid is not given.

The people excitedly rush forth with their ballots in behalf of the aid asked for, and soon find themselves groaning under a debt, the interest of which alone, is a grievous burden. Many counties are bankrupt as the result and can never pay what they have thus agreed to pay, and have lost their credit accordingly, so that their bonds are now almost worthless in market.

But what is worst of all, many counties and towns have thus burdened themselves and are compelled to pay their obligations and still have no railroad. They have expended probably a quarter of a million dollars to grade the road, and the work is still only begun. There are hundreds of miles of road bed are graded, upon which there are no irons laid now and probably never will be.

As a general thing land has depreciated in value, until it is not worth more than half what it should be on account of the immense burden of taxes that is bearing down on every acre, in counties who have voted aid to railroads.

When too late to save most of the counties, the constitution of Missouri has been so amended as to forbid the ruinous business of aiding public works many of which they never get.

It may be thought that people will have to much judgment to do that which is contrary to their own interests. But the experience of every state with such laws, shows that people act under excitement in these matters—act in haste and repent at leisure. Our only true freedom lies in not giving ourselves too much liberty.

When Oregon farmers and business men are ready to have their property taxed from five to ten cents on the dollar to encourage improvements that they may and may not get, they can then encourage such a constitutional amendment as the one proposed.

A movement is on foot to have the proceedings of the annual State Teachers' Institute published in pamphlet form for distribution. That is as it should be. The proceedings and some of the principal addresses of our Annual Meetings ought to be so published, and distributed throughout the state.