

Reports from the Field.

Dear Brother Stanley:

We had a good meeting on last Lord's day, at Aumsville, Marion county, Oregon.

We had two additions to the church—one from the Baptist and one by confession. Bro. K. Bailes assisted in the meeting.

The meeting at the grove between Aumsville and Stayton, commences on Friday before the fourth Lord's day in June. We expect a good time. All are invited. There is a beautiful place at the grove for persons to camp out; besides a kind a brotherhood as you will find to take care of any persons wishing to attend the meeting. So come all and let us have a season of rejoicing from the presence of the Lord.

J. E. ROBERTS.

Monmouth, May 30, 1877.

Life Here.

The average view as to religion is, that it concerns only the life hereafter. There are about three classes of persons to deal with in presenting the claims of our Christianity as a life here.

First, there are those who do not know the purpose of life. They care to have no means of knowing. They scarcely know what reputation is. They do not dream that they are under any obligations to form character in this world that shall stand the tests of the final day. They do not know there is to be any final day. This class of persons are not all in the Fiji islands either. They are in our midst. Second, there are those who know very well the obligations of life but do not care a fig for them. Here they go—there they go; exhortations fall on their ears, and are resultless as the story of the locust carrying away the grain of corn. The Gospel is an old song with them. But the third class are somewhat more conscientious. They know and feel the obligations they are under to obey the Gospel, but they will wait awhile. They are going to obey the Gospel some of these days. They have a farm to pay for, house to build, or a note to pay off, or some half dozen axes and probably a few hatchets to grind before they do. They have these views because of popular misconceptions of the office and purpose of religion. With many it is regarded as eminently the thing for old people, delicate children and persons in the last stages of consumption.

But this of course is a total misconception of the mission of the Christ life into the life of this world. God desires us to be in the world as long as we can do any good. It is cowardly to spend the blood, muscle, and vim of life, in the gratification of unholy desires, and then throw in fear the dried up remains on the altar of God. Think of a pious Jew trying the inexpensive plan of drying an old ox or ram, salting and smoking him, and then tossing him on the altar saying here Lord I give my all to thee, 'tis all that I can do.

As Sydney Smith once expressed it, such persons burn the candle of life in the service of Satan, and then throw the snuff into the face of God.—Apostolic Times.

Hope is to mankind in general what the North Star is to the tempest-tossed mariner—by hope we steer our course through life, and although we may be destined never to attain all that we desire, still Hope lights and cheers us on our way.

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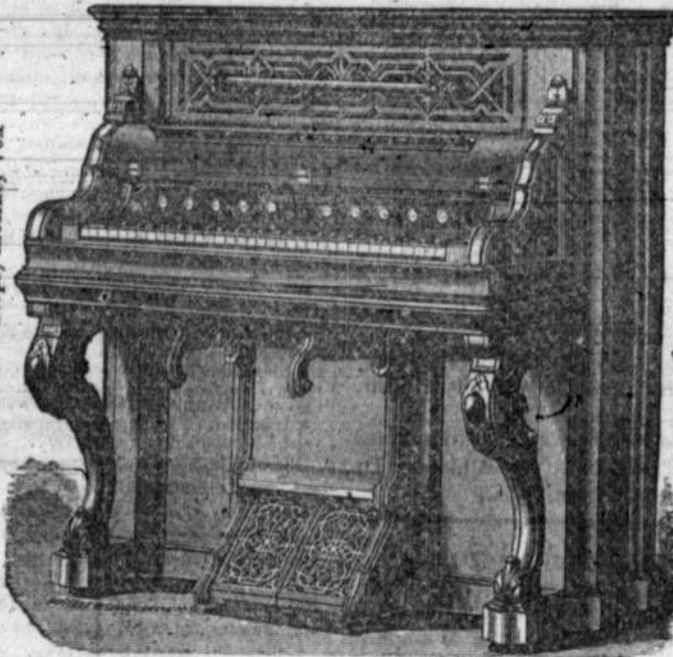
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