

Correspondence.

Letter from Brother Richardson.

WAITSBURG, W. T., Nov. 10, 1877.

Bro. Stanley:

Having received letters of inquiry relative to this country too numerous to answer in the detail, I have concluded to respond in a general letter through the MESSENGER.

The weather is pleasant. We have had an unusual amount of rain this fall, so the old settlers say. The grass is almost as good as in midsummer. Some wheat has been damaged in the sacks in the fields. There is a great amount of wheat awaiting shipment in Walla Walla and at various points on the river. The immigration is pouring into this country in vast numbers, just as if there had never been an Indian scare in these parts. We anticipate no more troubles with Indians, as the country is so densely filled with white people now that the red man will fear to commit further outrages. The present immigration to Palouse will see hard times owing to the destruction of grain and vegetables during the Indian troubles. Diphtheria has prevailed in this country from Willow creek in the south of Tinalilla county, to the northern settlements in Palouse, and has been of a very malignant character. There seems to be but little of it now. There is plenty of vacant land yet, but most of the choice lots are taken. Much of the country is held by transient men who do not expect to make permanent homes here, and would sell for a nominal sum, say from \$100 to \$1000 for a quarter section, but the purchaser would have to reside on and perfect his right to the land as if no one had lived thereon before him. Good land may be bought at prices ranging from \$5 to \$100 per acre, owing to improvements and locality; titles good. Stock raising is a great business here. Sheep pay better than any other stock for the capital invested, but the labor in caring for them is great. Horses pay better than any other business, all things considered, if one has sufficient capital to commence on, otherwise it is a poor business. Cattle and hogs pay well and are raised here in great abundance and of the best quality; no scrub hogs here. I would recommend the bringing of horses and cattle from Oregon. If taken immediately to the place where they are to remain they are not inclined to ramble, and this is a great item. We have but few graded schools in this country; we have one at Waitsburg, one at Dayton, and one at Walla Walla, aside from these I don't know of any. I think there is a public school in Walla Walla. As to teachers coming here we would say, yes, come, by all means, come, but don't think that you have nothing to do but to come and step into a first class situation, this you may do and you may have to wait awhile. We don't want bumpers; we want workers. If one has never been a success before, here is a poor place for him; this country presents a great opening for men of energy and of large views, for soft hands and pets its no place at all. Whoever comes must take their chances of success in common with us all. I never saw a better opening for good and talented young men, but old men, as a rule, had as well stay where they are, if they are doing good. I think I am too old for this country.

Since my last to the MESSENGER I have organized a church in Waitsburg of about 20 members, among that number is a Methodist preacher and his wife; he is a brother of good ability, and seems to be alive to the work. Of course his change is bitterly resented by some, and no stone will be left unturned in order to stultify his influence for good in his new position. God bless and keep him from all harm.

I aim to return to Oregon next fall with my family, how long I will remain or what I shall follow will de-

pend on circumstances. My health is remarkably good for a man of 54 years, and all the children are as healthy as is possible for little ones to be; the health of my wife has not improved by the change, and as a consequence she is not pleased with our new home, and will agitate question of early return to our old home and associations of more than a quarter of a century standing. I confess I long to see some, yes all of those kind and true faces that we used to meet at our annual meeting, but alas! our annual convocations in Oregon are no more, what a pity.

Affectionately yours,
G. W. RICHARDSON.

Washington Letter.

(FROM OUR REGULAR CORRESPONDENT.)

WASHINGTON, Nov. 10, 1877.

Congress has accomplished little since my last beyond the passage of the Bland silver bill by the House, which is now in the hands of the Senate Committee on Finance, where it is provoking warm discussion, as its members are divided in opinion as to its merits. Morrill and Dawes, republicans, favor; thus leaving Wallace to determine the nature of the committee's action. The opposition desire to amend in the committee, but those favoring want the bill reported in fact leaving the Senate to amend it at will. Mr. Bagard is very outspoken and claims that the bullion coinage clause gives the Nevada silver miners one dollar for 92 cents; a profit of 8 cents, which should go to the government rather than to a few persons whose incomes now amount to millions a year. Stanley Mathews claims that the bill passed by the Senate will be approved by the President. In the House parties are divided precisely as in the Senate, and it seems impossible to draw party lines upon this important question. Many voted for it in the House who are known to be opposed, and only in the Senate where the legislator is more removed from immediate accountability to his constituents, will we get anything like an honest expression of opinion upon it. It was put through the House by choking off all debate, under the operation of the previous question. But this course will not be tolerated in the Senate. Mr. Ewing in the House accepted a compromise anti-resumption bill in lieu of his own, which through his bad generalship was lost upon the Speaker's table, and will likely secure a vote upon it in a few days. Yet this measure, like Mr. Bland's, will provoke interminable debate in the Senate, and that too without regard to party lines. The Army Bill is under discussion in the House, and we have parties dividing also upon it. The whole Texas delegation favor an increase of the army because of their Mexican troubles, and as a consequence of so much heterodoxy among our partisan legislators the chronicler finds difficulty in determining in advance what will be the fate of any measure, and must certainly refrain from discussing its merits, because otherwise he will likely find every other reader of his article, be he democrat or republican in opposition to the views expressed. Beyond the fact that silver will be remonetized in some form or other, no one can now indicate the extent, and how the utterly diverse views of our legislative solons on financial matters can ever be reconciled is indeed a problem. One senator favors an immediate issue of \$800,000 of greenbacks, and opposes resumption in any form. He has many in Congress who share his views and claim unlimited issues of paper are in the end best for the country.

Mr. Buckner, of Missouri, has introduced a bill proposing a 17th amendment to the Constitution, under which the 15th amendment is to apply

only to those who were citizens on March 30, 1870. It will apply both to colored men and Chinese; the former not being citizens technically on that date. It will of course never be adopted, as the colored man has effectually passed out of the arena of politics, and the people will not now entertain any proposition which again makes him a bone of contention.

GENERAL MATTERS.

Two colored men are now under trial for forging deeds of trust and obtaining money thereon. These parties had evidently white confederates, who sold the forged papers at heavy discounts; but who were shrewd enough to escape indictment. The frauds amounted to many thousands of dollars; but have served the good purpose of making capitalists examine closely into all real estate titles. We have not as yet a class of swindlers among us who like their fellows in New York, will sell any piece of property that a purchaser wants, and in their offices make up bogus deeds, but we are nearly to that point through the above criminals.

Since my last Jack Frost has paid us his unwelcome attentions and swept away all the floral beauties of our gardens and parks. The beautiful colors of our forest trees have disappeared and Nature generally is fast putting on her winter attire, and preparing for the long sleep of months, from which April's sun shall arouse her again into freshness and vigor. One most desirable peculiarity of Washington climate is that few of our rain storms are followed by cold weather. Yesterday and last night was one continuous rain, and yet the clear bright sky, and warm sunshine, and absence of cold wind of to-day seem more like May than November. Proximity to the ocean undoubtedly serves to modify our climate and to deprive the rain storm; that the west and north send us, at this season, of the dreaded chill and rigor which nearly always attends it in those sections.

Residence here during fall and winter proves undoubtedly beneficial to many persons who have contracted lung, bronchial or rheumatic diseases in more northern climes. Coming here during the war from the west and campaigning with the army of the Potomac, gave us an opportunity of contrasting the climate of the two sections, and we prefer this to that of our native place. There the thermometer goes down to 10° and 20° below zero every winter, while the hardest freezing of winter here rarely lowers it to zero. This modification of temperature extends throughout the winter, and though we have snow and freezing, yet neither is so prolonged as further north.

The telephone is becoming one of the essentials here. The police commissioners will substitute it for the telegraphic instruments now used by them. Already the White House has been connected with the Capitol and executive departments, and at present rate of use, we shall soon put aside the telegraph on all our short circuits. The experimental tests here are satisfactory, and we presume we shall hereafter cease to speak of the telephone as a matter of news. It has become a practical every day matter.

The Smithsonian Institute insists that Congress must provide a building for exhibition of the Centennial stores of curiosities presented us by Foreign Governments, which are still boxed up for want of place to arrange them, where they can be seen. As \$125,000 will suffice, it is to be hoped ample provision will be made by Congress. If the appropriation carries votes with it, no particular opposition would be made. As the Government is now in full receipt of its appropriations made the Centennial last year, we trust it will now spare less than one-tenth of the amount for the preservation and proper exhibition of its souvenirs. These consist of gifts made by nearly

every nation taking part at the Centennial, and are of undoubted value to our country.

A recent decision transfers all district convicts to the Maryland penitentiary at Baltimore, instead of Albany, N. Y., and saves the cost, per convict of nearly fifty dollars aside from the assessed *per diem* expenses. It has been always a subject of wonder why our police authorities did not effect this change years ago and save us thousands of dollars annually. But we are thankful that the reform has come, and will not grumble because so long delayed.

An effort will be made to secure the introduction of the Moffet bell-punch into our liquor shops. The results over in Virginia, are so satisfactory that the great increase of revenue derived through it will sooner or later cause our people to adopt the system. The temperance people have already taken the initiative. Should we come to the bell-punch for drinks, many will be the curses put upon it by our German fellow citizens where he meets with a call for so many lagers at one and the same time, as the time lost in registering the number of loaves, will lose him probably the sale of more from the impatient customer waiting his turn. Already they denounce it has the "old woman's jingle."

FELIX.

The Jewish Brothers.

The following incident, told by a converted Jew, the late Dr. Capadose, of Holland, illustrates the words of our Lord: "Therefore, if you bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee, leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift."

My worthy grandfather was a very affectionate but passionate man. He had a brother for whom he felt a tender love. They had once fallen into a dispute with each other, and had returned to their respective homes in a rage. This happened on a Friday.

At the close of the day, when it began to grow dark, my good grandmother like another Martha began to make all things ready for the Sabbath. She called out, "My beloved Joseph, it is already dark; come and light up the Sabbath lamp."

But he, sunk in profound sadness, paced the room backwards and forwards, to the increasing anxiety of the good old woman who exclaimed, "See, the stars are already in the firmament, and our Sabbath lamp is still dark."

My grandfather then took his hat and staff, and with visible perturbation, hurried out of the house; but in a few minutes he returned with tears of joy in his eyes.

"Now, my beloved Rebecca," cried he, "now I am ready." He offered up the prayer, and, with evident feelings of delight, kindled the lamp. He afterwards made known his dispute, adding, "It was not possible for me to offer up the prayer and light the lamp before I was reconciled with Isaac."

"But how came it to pass that you returned so quickly?"

"Why," said he, "Isaac, like me, could not rest,—it was with him as it was with me,—he also could not enter upon the Sabbath without being reconciled. We met each other in the street,—he was coming to me, I was going to him,—we fell into each other's arms weeping."

One-seventh to the Lord.

A farmer in northern Illinois who keeps a dairy has for some time given one-seventh of the gross receipts to the Lord. It came about in this way. The milk needed the same care on the Sabbath as on week days. This troubled him. It was a work of necessity on the Lord's day, therefore he decided to give the proceeds of all the milk on Sabbath to benevolence, and he has sacredly kept his agreement,

both to his great delight and surprise. He is delighted to find how much he has to give, and surprised at the rapidity with which the fund accumulates. It is now a real luxury to give to the Lord. The fund is large enough to awaken interest in the objects for which the money is given. This leads to more careful investigation and more intelligent and prayerful giving. His farm is not large, nor is he wealthy; but by this system he finds it easy to do something for all good and worthy objects, and his donations are many fold more than ever before, and the joy is multiplied even more than the gifts. He has taken the Lord into partnership, and pays his dividends promptly, cheerfully, and with evident blessing to his own soul. *Christian Voice.*

"Shut Your Mouth."

The Indians, it is said, always breathe through their nose, and *Public Health* says that the habit of breathing through the mouth is the cause of much of our lung and throat troubles.

If any one breathes through the natural channel—the nostrils—the air passing over the mucous membrane lining the various chambers of the nose, becomes warmed to the temperature of the body before reaching the lungs; but if he takes in air between the lips and through the mouth, the cold air comes in contact with the delicate lining membrane of the throat and lungs, and gives rise to a local chill, frequently ending in inflammation.

Many persons, without knowing the reason why they are benefited, wear respirators over the mouth in winter, if they happen to go out of doors. By doing this, they diminish the amount of air which enters between the lips, and virtually compel themselves to breathe through the nostrils. But they could attain just the same result by keeping the lips closed, a habit which is easily acquired, and conduces to the proper and natural way of breathing.

We believe that if people would only adopt this simple habit; in other words, if they would take for their rule in breathing, "Shut your mouth," there would be an intense diminution in the two classes of affections, namely, those of the lungs and throat, which count many thousands of victims in this country in the course of a single year.—*Ec.*

Old Battle Fields.

The *Gospel Advocate* has the following about some of the battle-fields of the rebellion:

The battle-fields around Richmond are quiet meadows now, reclaimed by Nature, with few signs of the days of "blood and iron." At Cold Harbor, Fair Oaks, Seven Pines, and Malvern Hill, one sees little to remind him of the terrible scenes enacted there twelve and fifteen years ago. In the woods and on hillsides and river bluffs in the Peninsula, where no attempt has been made to cultivate the land, sloping earthworks are still to be seen, but elsewhere the entrenchments have been levelled. Below Petersburg there are few traces even of such formidable fortifications as Steadman, Hell and Damnation. The Crater and the fields around it are owned by Mr. Griffiths, who was born close by, and was in Petersburg when the mine was fired. He has built a house near the Crater, and now has his father's farm under excellent cultivation. The Crater itself has been left almost untouched, and a thick underbrush of peach trees and sprouts has sprung up from the pits thrown away by the soldiers during the siege. The ravine where the dead lay in great heaps on that terrible morning, has been brought under the plough year after year, until now only a slight depression in the field can be pointed out. The visitor has to pay 25 cents for a glimpse of the Crater and the interior of a shed stocked with battle-relics.