

Communications.

Our Troubles.

NUMBER XXIX.

Your readers, no doubt have enjoyed a respite, from our troubles, during our long absence from home; but we have been often immersed in them and are weary of them and are now ready to promise, not to trouble them, with but a few more numbers upon our TROUBLES.

I left San Francisco, upon the overland train, on the 2nd day of April last, at 8 A. M. and at 10 A. M. on the 9th, I landed in Austin, Texas, having traveled about 3,500 miles in seven days. We had quite a pleasant time, though it was somewhat lonesome; for at that time, there were but few travelers on the way.

I found the country, through which I passed in a prosperous condition in everything except monetary matters. Money was very scarce. But all were blessed with good food and raiment, and this is enough to enable us to worship and serve God, so we will be accepted of him, when we go where we will owe no man anything, but love and good will.

In Texas, the church of God is in a very prosperous condition; they have about recovered from their troubles, caused by the difference of opinion, among the church members, upon the much lamented late civil war. Many of our good preachers have moved to Texas, from the Mississippi valley; some for health, some to try a warmer climate, and some for the more noble and glorious purpose of preaching the unsearchable riches of Christ, in a more extensive field than they occupied before. They are doing a good work, in the vineyard of our Lord. I have strong faith that Christianity in its original purity and simplicity will soon be firmly established there.

I presented to your readers, the church at Austin, Texas, as a model church, and advised them to follow her example when she removed the organ, to ease the conscience of two old sisters who could not worship while that instrument was in the church house. On my return to that beautiful city, I found them too much model, and will not advise any church to follow her example any longer. In April 1877 they employed a young preacher to preach for them for twelve months, who had one of the gratifications of a pastor—that is a wife and one child. They paid him \$1200. The result of his year's labor was, every elder was dispensed with, and peace and harmony did not prevail. At the close of the year he took the vote of the church whether he should be reemployed, upon his own motion, and standing before them while they voted. About one-third of the church voted in the affirmation, while the others refused to vote. He was pronounced elected. He then told the church that his salary must be increased. To accomplish that much desired object, he relieved the deacons and told them he would go around himself and make up his salary. Now I could not advise our preachers, to act thus, nor could I advise the churches, to allow their preachers to discard the elders or assume the duty of the deacons, especially in making up their own salaries. But I will advise our preachers to withdraw when the church takes a vote to determine whether they will employ him or not. On my return home I spent about one month in the state of Missouri and visited many of the churches, and found all those who had preachers doing well. But those churches who had no preachers I found in a dilapidated condition. I was more than ever convinced that if a church prospers in this age and country, it must have regular preaching.

I met many of our preaching brethren during my travels, but most of them were young men, most of the fathers are gone to enjoy the rich reward of their labors. But the young

preachers are filling the vacancies made by their departure well; and if they continue faithful they too will reap their reward by and by.

I was received with much love and friendship, by the brethren and sisters with whom I labored in days gone by, and many a fine dinner was prepared for my reception, and though it cost me much money and labor, my trip was a success.

HENRY THOMAS.

Oakville, Cal., July 1, 1878.

The Contest Progressing.

BY S. H. REDBIX.

NUMBER II.

A close observer of passing events, realizes how difficult it is to conceive of the true state of society a short time after it has past into history, and therefore we are far from an accurate and full conception of the state of society and the amassment of all men when Luther in 1517 nailed to the doors of the church in Wittenburg his Thesis, by which he broke allegiance to Rome. In this was the sentiment often since better expressed than exemplified, that "the Bible alone is the religion of Protestants." Could the reformers have made the battle with Catholicism alone, as was doubtless their object, their success would doubtless have been much greater and their progress more rapid, or when the fierce enemy, Rationalism, rushed forward to burn their Bibles, could they have been relieved of their old antagonist, doubtless a victory to truth, almost universal demolishing Rationalism, would long since have been accomplished.

But in the contest with two extremes, their own position not yet fully known, their practices falling correspondingly below what was taught, they soon carried the character of mother Rome into practice, thereby leaving themselves too weak for the great conflict, and less so as they multiplied into rival sects, with as many different creeds, none sufficiently superstitious and erroneous to be Catholicism, and yet enough so to prevent it from living pure ancient Christianity. The contest between parties grew strong and sharp, often so absurd and ludicrous that Rationalism finds a new argument to battle what it now realizes to be an enemy, not exactly Roman Catholicism, before which it could not stand a single generation if Protestantism had ever been a unit in theory and practice.

In the mean time that people who had before been so ready to persecute what they called heresy, saw it enthroned in the heart of the people, and both the decrees of councils and edicts of kings compelled them to recognize its claims and existence. When once on the statutes as authority it became arrogant and defiant, often inflicting the punishment which they and their fathers were not able to bear; so that 134 years after Luther's work began the reformation, in this country we find Elder John Clark, Deacon Obediah Holmes, and John Crandall, of Newport, R. I., arraigned in Lynn, Mass., brought before Gov. John Endicott for trial on the charge that they are Ana-Baptist. They deny the charge, claim that infant sprinkling is a nullity, that when they immerse an adult that though water may have been sprinkled on him when an infant, there was in fact no rebaptism. The Rev. John Cotton assures the Governor "that this is a capital offense," the Governor admits that they deserved death, but humanely fines Clark £30, Holmes £20, and Crandall £5, or they should all be whipped. By the kindness of the jailer and others Clark's and Crandall's fines were paid, but Holmes was whipped with a three cord whip—according to Arnold's history of Rhode Island—30 lashes well laid on.

About this time Henry Dunster, second president of Harvard College, failed to have his baby christened,

and preached to the people that he found no authority in the Bible for such a practice, and for this offence he lost his position, and his back salary was not fully paid during his lifetime. (See Wood's Magazine, June, 1872, page 263).

Thus were many of the friends of liberty and Christianity dealt with by those who claimed to have sought liberty from Roman bondage.

Time and space forbids specifying in detail the persecutions of one sect against another, and almost always because their errors were in danger. Each sect made its creed and in that stereotyped its errors whether borrowed from Rome or invented for a special purpose on a special occasion, and could easily find some one to denounce it. Thus a war begins, and many, doubtless, have spent life in the study and defense of the errors of the creeds, rather than spreading the true knowledge of salvation. Thus each sect found all the rests warring against their errors and possibly some truths, and only come to a square issue with the bulwarks of Catholicism on the one hand, or infidelity on the other, occasionally. Thus the two great enemies of reform beheld its advocates in a war, which would, it was supposed, destroy ultimately every vestige of reform.

While infidelity stood with open arms to receive every one who revolted at the errors of any or all the creeds, and as before, when the reformers broke from Rome many run to Rationalism; so many good men among the sects of Protestantism revolting at his creed, run past the Bible truth, to some form of negatives held out by Rationalism.

When we think how meager were the facilities for gaining knowledge in the 17th and 18th centuries, of the fanaticism and superstition of the masses, is it not strange that more strong intellects did not run beyond Jerusalem?

In our future papers on this subject we hope to call the attention of the readers to some features of the contest in the age in which we live. With the past before the mind, to some extent, and a survey of the present, we may venture to prognosticate the future, to a degree, we hope, of probability at least, regardless of Mr. Longfellow's saying, "Trust no future, however pleasant." Our hope of a brighter day for Christianity truly has an abundance of desire and is growing day by day in expectation. May every soldier of Jesus truly "put on the whole armor of God." There are yet battles to fight and victories to win.

Minutes of the Christian Church in Eastern Oregon, Washington and Northern Idaho.

SATURDAY, JUNE 9TH, 1878, 9 O'CLOCK A. M.

Meeting called to order by W. T. Barnes, chairman of the cooperation. On motion of W. T. Barnes, Bro. G. W. Richardson was chosen permanent chairman. Motioned that the chairman appoint a committee of five on arrangements for preaching during the meeting. W. T. Barnes, W. F. Anderson, T. J. Hollowell, James Strong and R. L. Dashiell, said committee.

On motion, adjourned till Monday, June 10th, at 9 o'clock A. M.

MONDAY, JUNE 10TH.

The cooperation met as per adjournment, and was opened with prayer by the President.

R. L. Dashiell was chosen secretary, and I. N. Richardson assistant secretary. Minutes of last year's meeting read by the secretary. On motion, the chairman appointed a committee of three on credentials. W. T. Barnes, A. Sailing and James Strong appointed said committee. The President requested the reading of a letter from Paradise congregation, I. T. On motion, said letter was received and inserted in the journal. On motion, a committee of five were

elected on evangelizing; T. J. Hollowell, J. B. Perkins, J. M. Lamb, W. T. Barnes and A. Sailing, elected. On motion, this committee is required to report from time to time during this meeting. Adjourned subject to the call of the committee on arrangements.

TUESDAY, JUNE 11TH.

Coöperation met at 5 P. M. President in the chair. Opened with prayer by the president. Minutes of the previous meeting read and approved. Report of the committee on credentials read, and on motion adopted. Report of the committee on evangelizing. Moved that the committee have further time to report. Carried. Report of committee on credentials:

To the Chairman of the co-operation and Brethren: Your committee on credentials submit the following: Messengers entitled to seats in this convention—Harmony congregation, C. S. Wright; Tanchet con, R. L. Dashiell, A. Sailing and J. Bailey; Waitsburg con, James Bruce, J. Strong and T. J. Hollowell; Dixie con, J. M. Lamb, S. Hamilton and W. T. Barnes; Wild Horse con, A. Russell, I. N. Richardson and C. M. Ely; Bundy school house con, M. McCallay, C. Musgrove and H. Brown. We also find a letter from the brethren in Paradise valley, I. T., that they wish to cooperate with us, and thinking that none of the brethren could come down, they merely sent a letter requesting our cooperation in sustaining an evangelist north of Snake river. We find brethren present whose interest is with them, we therefore ask Bros. A. Buchanan and Silas Imbler to take part in our deliberations, all of which is respectfully submitted.

W. T. BARNES, Chairman.

Adjourned till five o'clock P. M., June 12th.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12TH.

Convention met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Bro. Buchanan. Minutes of previous meeting read and approved. Roll called. Moved that the reports of the churches be read. Carried. Moved that the reports of the churches be received and placed on file. Reports of the evangelist for past year read. Moved that the report be published in the P. C. MESSENGER. Adjourned till June 13th at 5 o'clock P. M.

THURSDAY, JUNE 13TH.

Coöperation met at 5 P. M. Prayer by Bro. Strong. Minutes of previous meeting read and approved. Committee on evangelizing submitted a proposition from Bro. Amos Buchanan to labor as an evangelist for one year for the sum of \$800. On motion, this report was received. Assistant Secretary reports the purchasing of a book to keep the proceedings of the cooperation from year to year, also ink, pens and penholder. Amount of money in treasury two dollars and fifty cents. Moved that the same be held by Assistant Secretary subject to order. Adjourned till June 14th at 5 o'clock P. M.

FRIDAY, JUNE 14TH.

The cooperation met according to adjournment. Prayer by the president. Minutes of previous meetings read and approved. Committee on evangelizing reports \$350 subscribed to support an evangelist the ensuing year. Adjourned till June 15th at 5 P. M.

SATURDAY, JUNE 15TH.

Messengers met in cooperation according to adjournment. Prayer by Bro. Buchanan. Committee on evangelizing reports the sum of \$478 subscribed. Adjourned till June 17th at 8 o'clock.

MONDAY, JUNE 17TH.

The cooperation met as per adjournment. Prayer by Bro. Elliott. Committee on arrangements for the past year asked to be discharged. Granted. Moved that a committee of one from each congregation in the

coöperation be appointed on arrangements for the coming year. Committee on evangelizing reports \$507 subscribed. Committee on arrangements for the ensuing year—Waitsburg congregation, T. J. Hollowell; Bundy, Leroy Brown; Tonchet, A. Sailing; Dixie, J. M. Lamb; Wild Horse, C. M. Ely; Harmony, J. Donaldson; Paradise, Silas Imbler; Pataha, J. Hastings. Adjourned to meet on Friday before the second Lord's day in June, 1879, at 4 o'clock P. M.

REPORTS FROM CHURCHES.

The elders and brethren meeting at Paradise church, Nez Perces county, I. T., sendeth greeting and Christian salutation to the elders and brethren when met at Waitsburg. It not being convenient to send messengers to meet and participate with you in your deliberation this year, we avail ourselves of the privilege of addressing you by these lines. We fervently pray that the spirit of the Great God may preside over all your deliberation, and that they may redound to his glory and the advancement of his kingdom in the world. Now, as we are in a very isolated condition, we trust that we shall not be forgotten by the brethren when assembled at Waitsburg. We therefore would request that you would send an evangelist to labor for one year in Nez Perce and adjoining counties north of Snake river. We would further state that we are living in a new country, are emigrants, have been here but a short time, have scarcely got the ground rail of our farms laid. Hence, are not prepared to do much in the way of remunerating an evangelist for his labors, but are willing to do all that we possibly can. We organized on the fourth Lord's day in March, 1876, with thirty members. Our present number is fifty-three.

Done by order of the church at our regular meeting this first Lord's day in June, 1878.

JOHN RUSSEL, } Elders.
J. W. ELLIS, }

The Church of Christ, meeting at Waitsburg, to the Christian brotherhood in Eastern Oregon, Washington and Idaho, in annual meeting assembled at Waitsburg. Greeting. We were called together in preliminary organization, by the labors of Elder G. W. Richardson, on the 5th Sunday in September, 1877. Our number is twenty-five. We meet once per month in the town of Waitsburg. Bro. Richardson is our preacher. All is peace and love as far as we know. Our delegates are Bros. Jas. Bruce, J. Strong and T. J. Hollowell. We pray God to guide you in your deliberation.

Done by order of the church this 11th day of June, 1878.

T. J. HOLLOWELL, Clerk.

Dixie congregation, Walla Walla county, W. T., fourth Lord's day in May, 1878. We, the Christian congregation, meeting at Dixie school house, in said county, appoint S. Hamilton, J. M. Lamb and W. T. Barnes as messengers to the annual meeting of the Disciples, to be held at Waitsburg, commencing Friday before the second Lord's day in June.

During the past year we have had regular preaching by Bro. S. Hamilton, once a month; occasional preaching by Bro. G. W. Richardson. Present number of members 28. Elders, J. M. Lamb and J. Seaman; deacons, C. R. Frazer and W. T. Barnes.

By order of the church.

W. T. BARNES, Clerk.

Columbia county, W. T. Number of members meeting at Harmony school house, seven miles east of Dayton, seventeen. At Webfoot school house, six. Preaching at each place once a month by Elder C. Wright. Added this year 11; by baptism 2.

J. DONELSON, Elder.
S. MENICK, Deacon.