

They did something else that has not passed out of fashion. Samson told a riddle, and he made a bet with some of the guests of thirty sheets and as many changes of raiment, that they could not unfold it in seven days, and they wagered as much that they could (12, 13). When the time came to decide the bet, it came to light that there had been some cheating (15-17); and his wife had had a part in it, Samson was mad about it (19), and in his anger slew thirty men and left his wife, and went home to his parents; and (20) his wife, after he left, was given to another by her father. After a time (xv.) he got into a better humor, and in harvest time he went back to his wife(1), and finding what had become of her, he tied fire-brands to a hundred and fifty pairs of foxes (4, 5), and sent them forth to burn up the grain-fields of the Philistines, who in turn, in their fear and rage, burned his wife and father-in-law with fire. Samson is again enraged, and smote a great number, and fled to the mountains to the rock Etam. It is very interesting to stand on a high place and look over the whole field of these tragical performances. So far the miraculous strength of Samson is not of any service to Israel, or much credit to his own fame. The faith that works miracles, and the faith that saves, are not the same. "If I have not charity, I am nothing." When I first learned to answer the question, "Who was the strongest man?" and, "Who was the meekest man?" I coveted the endowments of Samson rather than Moses but I have long since changed my mind. It is one of the marked evidences of the truth of revelation that the infirmities and sins, even of the chosen leaders of the people of God, are plainly brought to the light; and I am glad that we are not bound to defend them or follow them, except in so far as they were governed by the canons of the gospel. I would like to have a photograph of at least a hundred Old Testament worthies; but if I could have only a dozen, I think I would choose Job, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Joshua, Elijah, Samuel, David, Nehemiah, Ezra. As for Samson, I would be disposed to pay no more for his than for Balaam's picture. After all, I would perhaps give up some of the men's names for such women as Hannah, Ruth, Esther, Miriam, and Deborah.

In the further career of Samson among the Philistines there is little more to admire, or imitate, by any one who would be a follower of those who through faith and patience have inherited the promise." We next find him, after slaying a thousand Philistines with the jaw-bone of an ass, going after a harlot in Gaza (Judged xvi.) and leaving her at midnight and carrying away the gates of the city. Next he falls in love with Delilah, another Philistine, to whom he reveals the secret of his strength, and she betrays him into the hands of her people, who put out his eyes and mock him, and he pulls down the house and perishes with three thousand men and women. Samson was an instrument—a sword in the hands of the Lord—to punish the enemies of his people, as the Philistines seem to have been to chastise the Israelites for their sins, and neither Samson nor the Philistines had much comfort in their doings. "Shall the ax boast itself against him that heweth therewith? or shall the saw magnify itself against him that shaketh it?" These rich plains have suffered under the curse, in fellowship with our fallen race, almost beyond any other place, a notable exemplification of the truth, "The whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now." The Philistines suffered even more in the days of Samuel than by their conflicts with Samson. They captured the ark from Israel, in battle (Judges v.), and as they took it to Ashdod, and Gaza, and Ekron, not only did their god Dagon fall before it, but pestilence spread until they were glad to send it

home. So, also, under David and Solomon, and until the final dispersion of the Jews, and ever since, these rich plains have been drinking the blood of the slain. The rule of the Turk has been the most painful and oppressive in the history of this beautiful and fruitful region. While wars have not been frequent, the cruelties of the government have been severe and constant. The Turkish Empire is a great slave farm, divided out to tax-gatherers, who agree to pay the Porte a certain amount, and who may and exact as much more as can be collected. This is especially so in Philistia. Drudgery and despair mark the whole country. The sun and the clouds pour down blessings upon the land, but the people sow but little, for the reason that the tax-gatherer, who takes his share in kind, often requires all the crop under the pretense that a part of it has been secreted. Often fruit trees have been cut down for the reason that the Government demands the whole. The occupation of Cyprus by England, and her right under the late treaty to enforce reform, will secure a great change for the better in this region. It will soon again be a land abounding in grain in figs, pomegranates, lemons and oranges. I have never seen any land so beautiful and productive as about Jaffa, and so will be the whole maritime plain, under the rule and influence of England. The prosperity and safety now enjoyed at Beirut and Jaffa will extend everywhere.—J. G. M., in Review.

MARRIED.

At Salem, Or., Sept. 29, 1878, by Dr. L. L. Rowland, Mr. E. A. Kramer to Miss Sarah A. Weaver—all of Marion county.

On Oct. 6, 1878, by Mr. Charles Porter, Justice of the Peace, at the bride's father, Mr. J. W. Fisher, of Pleasant Hill, Or., to Miss Rilda Gilliland, of Whitman county, W. T.

At the residence of the bride's parents, Oct. 29, 1878, by Rev. — Birchard, Miss Mattie Shelton, of Yamhill county, and T. J. Graves, of Polk county.

Obituary.

Our columns have become too much crowded for the insertion of long obituary notices, except in cases where the deceased was extensively known among our readers on this coast. In all cases we will insert 100 words free. For each additional 100 words we will charge \$1. When long notices are not accompanied by the money, the editor will abridge them to suit.

A note from Bro. E. L. Bell, of Palouse, W. T., dated Oct. 6, 1878, brings us the sad news of the death of his mother, Sister Nancy Bell.

While she remained in Monmouth, educating her son and daughter, we knew her well, and remember with pleasure her pious walk and godly conversation. Left a widow while yet young with a dependent family, she nobly fought the battle of life, training up her children "in the nurture and admonition of the Lord," and providing abundantly for their temporal wants, she finished her work in peace, and calmly fell asleep in Jesus Oct. 2, 1878.

Her son says: "A desire to see the Church of Christ established in this new country was ever present with her."

She has gone where "the wicked cease from troubling and the weary are forever at rest."

Her daughter, Kittie, preceded her to the "better land" by only a few months, having died April 9, 1878. Mother and daughter dwell together now.

T. F. C.

Died, in Dallas, Or., Oct. 19, 1878, Sister Mary Lovelady, aged 67 years, 6 months and ten days.

Mary Lovelady, whose maiden name was Bounds, was born April 9, 1811, in White county, Tenn. She embraced Christianity in her fourteenth year, uniting with the Christian church, she lived a pious Christian life to the end. She was the mother of ten children, six of whom together with her husband, Bro. T. J. Lovelady, live to mourn her loss. She leaves them the sweet consolation of knowing that their loss is her gain. It is better to be absent from the body and present with the Lord.

T. F. C.

The National Gold Medal was awarded to Bradley & Rulofson for the best Photographs in the United States, and the Vienna Medal for the best in the world. 429 Montgomery Street, San Francisco.

Another Offer.

We will send the PACIFIC CHRISTIAN MESSENGER from the time the money is received till January 1, 1879, for 50 cents.

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Leading druggists who have been in the business for half a lifetime, state that they have never known a medicine to enlist the entire and universal confidence of the public, as rapidly as HALE'S HONEY OF HOREHOUND AND TAR. Although it has only been a few years in use, it has already taken precedence of all other medicines advertised as remedy for Coughs, Colds, and incipient Consumption, and its annual sale are without a parallel in the history of this class of preparations.

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This is to certify that the "Breeder's Manual" contains more useful information and practical hints on breeding and rearing horses, cattle, sheep, hogs, poultry, and fancy stock, together with their diseases and remedies, than any other book.—Com. Adv. Price 50c. Send for Circular, AMERICAN BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION, Buffalo N. Y.

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MISCELLANEOUS.

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