

## PACIFIC CHRISTIAN MESSENGER.

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SATURDAY, DEC. 21, 1878.

Will Subscribers please notice the date following their names on the paper? It tells the time when your subscription expires; thus, if the date reads 1879, your subscription will expire Jan. 1, 1879. If the date after your name is a time past, you are in arrears. Please remit a little before your time is out, if possible.

The report from Eastern Washington Territory has been unavoidably crowded out this week. It will appear in our next.

### General Christian Missionary Convention.

We call special attention to the communication under the above caption, in another column. The field is broad, the harvest is abundant, the "Macedonian cry" is repeated in quick succession from many points. Neither the individual nor the congregation can respond fully. It can be done only by general cooperation. The veteran, Bro. F. M. Green, puts the matter in clear light in the correspondence above referred to.

### The Work Before Us.

"And let us not be weary in well-doing; for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." Gal. vi. 9.

The promises of God are to them who do, who act, who work. Correct views, right feelings, noble impulses will not avail to feed the hungry, educate the ignorant or convert sinners unless coupled with well-directed effort and material aid.

The work of the church in accomplishing these ends must be done by the instrumentalities which the members can supply, whether of men or money or both. Men without money can do but little; the latter without the former can do nothing. Both can and ought to be furnished to meet amply the present demand, which, though very considerable, is not greater than the resources of the brethren can meet. Will they make these means available? We have heard no serious objection to the system of 1877 urged from any quarter. The little sparring which we have had as to whether the Missionary labor should be concentrated or spread out over much territory will tend to show that there are advantages and disadvantages belonging to each method. The former might leave unemployed much valuable local talent, which could be utilized with a small investment, while the latter would, doubtless, bring larger accessions, many of whom would go back for want of culture. It is, we think, perfectly safe to leave this matter in the hands of the Missionary Board, who will, with the resolutions before them, and the further expression of views through the MESSENGER, do that which will result in the greatest and most permanent good. Indeed the method of doing this business is in the hands of the Board, limited only by the tenor and spirit of those resolutions. It is ours to furnish them the means wherewith to carry forward this work. This we should do, and do promptly. Nor should it be forgotten that very few if any have made contributions for 1878 and 1879. The contributions made heretofore were for the Missionary period ending Nov. 1878.

Contributions may be made either through the officers of each church or some member acting for the church, or directly by sending the money

through the mail to Bro. William Dawson, Monmouth, who will give notice from time to time through the MESSENGER, of the amounts received. Those who desire equality will find, in the resolutions the plan proposed by which one shall not be eased and another burdened. If you are able contribute one dollar. If you own property, add to the dollar one-half of one mill, that is, fifty cents for every thousand dollars worth of property you own above your indebtedness. Now keep in mind, that this system is binding neither as law nor in conscience upon any brother or sister. It is only what the brethren at Dallas agreed that they would do, and use their influence to have others do for the then current Missionary year, and the brethren in cooperation at Monmouth renewed this agreement amongst themselves, and with the promise to use their influence to induce others to contribute on the same basis.

If this plan does not suit any one, let him contribute according to his own plan, only let him be careful that his contribution reach the treasury promptly. It is a good time, brethren, between this and New Year's to send in contributions. The work should be revived; for it has almost, if not altogether ceased for want of means. The blessing of the Lord has been with us through the year now about to close. Let us respond with thankful hearts, and make our gratitude the basis of our contributions for the advancement of the cause and kingdom of our God and the good of our fellow man.

### Reading the Scriptures.

It is told of an editor that he said to his readers to look out for something entirely new to them in his next issue; and when the paper appeared with the first chapter of the Revelations of John as the leading article, they were all delighted with the wonderful production, but not one able to detect the fraud.

How many of the readers of the MESSENGER could be thus imposed upon with a chapter taken from the Bible—Old Testament or New? None we trust. And yet, there are, no doubt, in Oregon very many persons of mature age, who could not distinguish between a chapter from the Bible and a chapter from the Koran or the Vedas.

Christian parents ought to read the Bible so continuously in their families that their children would become familiar with every chapter and verse before they reach the age of majority. A judicious system of evening readings in the family at social worship would complete the reading of the Bible once a year. This would cause the volume to be read at least a dozen times over in the hearing of each member of the family before the twenty-first year had been attained. With such advantages, it would be indeed a stupid son or daughter that would not become familiar with the language, style and teachings of the sacred volume.

### Revival Meetings.

The church at Salem proposes to hold a series of meetings, God willing, to commence on Thursday evening, January 2nd, and continue each evening thereafter, as long as may be deemed profitable and advisable.

Brethren and Sisters of other churches, who may find it practicable, are especially invited to attend, and help us.

Persons from the country having occasion to visit Salem are requested to drop in, if Christians, they can help win souls to Christ; if not Christians, we may influence them to take up the service of their Savior.

We ask the prayers of God's people upon our efforts to revive his work in Salem.

### Words of Cheer.

SAN JOSE, CAL., Dec. 7, 1878.

Editors P. C. Messenger:

I see my subscription is out. I send enclosed money order for the MESSENGER another year. We have no regular preaching here, so I take all the papers I can. I am taking the *Christian and Review*, and shall take our own paper as soon as it is started.

Your brother in the one hope,  
C. D. WHITE.

[This was not for publication, but such encouraging letters we cannot pass by. Thanks Bro., excuse us.]

### Reports from the Field.

DRAIN, OR., Dec. 16, 1878.

Bro. Stanley:

On Saturday evening, the 7th inst., Bros. Morgan and Whitney commenced a meeting at this place, and continued until Sunday evening, the 15th, with an intermission of two evenings, Thursday and Friday; Thursday evening being prayer meeting night of our Methodist brethren, but they very kindly offered to give way, but Bro. Whitney said for the prayer meeting to go ahead, and their leader told Bro. Whitney to take charge of the meeting, which he did, and we had a union meeting, which was very interesting.

On Friday morning Bro. Whitney started for home, Bro. Morgan remaining.

The result of the meeting is as follows: three confessions and baptisms, two from the Baptists, one reclaimed, and one by relation. Seven in all, and we think a good impression manifest at the close of the meeting.

Your brother in Christ,  
S. HARLAN.

### General Christian Missionary Convention.

WORK FOR THE YEAR.

Dear Brethren:—The General Convention is not dead, nor sleeping; neither is it "a supernumerary" among our missionary agencies.

The money received last year did not, it is true, count up into tens of thousands of dollars, but the work done for the amount of money expended will compare favorably with the best work done by any of the Societies patronized by the Disciples of Christ. This year we propose to attempt more, and do more, than we did last year.

Though but little more than one month has passed away since the General Missionary Convention was held in Cincinnati, yet our cash receipts and pledges amount to one-third of all that was reported last year. This is very well for a beginning; but it must be, it is, we believe, only the first fruits of the new year. It is the desire and the determination of the Board and Secretary to raise this year, in cash and good pledges, for the General Convention, not less than twenty-five thousand dollars.

That many seem like a small amount for a great (?) people to raise for home mission; but, small or great, it is the sum which we shall make the attempt to raise, and below which we do not intend to fall. The Methodist Episcopal Church has already decided to \$500,000 for their home and foreign missions. Dr. C. H. Payne a "chief man" in that church, calls that amount a "meager sum." This is at the rate of thirty-eight cents per member for that church. He says nothing short of one dollar per member for missions ought to satisfy that church, and asks—

"Is this the full measure of the Church's obligations? Is it the extent of the Church's ability? Does Christ look with complacency and favor upon such an offering from such a Church, and will he pronounce his 'well done' upon us? Will He, who 'gave himself for us,' in sacrifice of toil and tears and blood, and bids us 'follow' him in self-

surrendering love, approve our tossing a few spare pennies into his treasury, and cheering each other with the complacent thought of the sublimity of our offerings?

We say that primitive "Christianity" is superior to Methodism; that "our plea" is better than theirs; and that our knowledge of the Bible is greater than that of the average Methodist—but do our efforts to extend the plea we profess to love, indicate and very decided convictions as to superiority over ordinary sectarianism? It is well for us to consider this question.

1. The General Society has already made arrangements with Mm. Herrington, of Springfield, Dakota, to devote his time to general evangelistic work in that territory, for this missionary year. Considering all the difficulties of frontier effort, he did well in that field last year.

2. In connection with the brethren in Nebraska Bro. R. C. Barrow will devote his entire time to preaching the word, under our direction. We need another missionary in that State, and will give employment to another as soon as the means are provided for his support.

3. Bro. J. L. Burns will labor under the direction of the General Board, and brethren in South Carolina, in that field. We expect some grand results from his year's labors.

New England is calling for help so persistently that it is hard to resist the earnest appeals of brethren and sisters there. Only the leanness of our treasury prevents us from putting one or more workmen into that field immediately.

Besides the above positive arrangements, appropriations have been made to aid the churches in Knoxville, Tenn. and Hiawatha, Kan., and elsewhere. There are hundreds of places where great good could be done at a small cost if we had the means of our command. And how it will be done unless our missionary societies help them, is a question for those to answer who affirm that the individual and congregational methods are the only methods for carrying the gospel to men that God will bless; or in other words, are sinless. If these brethren, who are undoubtedly wise, will show a better way to reach these outlying masses of people than the cooperative method, it will be adopted without debate.

The Cincinnati Convention instructed the General Board to make a "liberal appropriation for the wise employment in its work of the efficient agency of tract distribution." This instruction will be heeded to the extent of our means. If any have money for this agency let them send it on, and it will be used for this specific purpose. Information comes to us from every quarter testifying to the value of what has already been done in this direction.

As our society can do nothing without money; and as we ought to have a generous reply now, we make the request of all congregations that are in sympathy with our work, and all individual Christians in every State, to send as a *New Year's Contribution* for our missions. Let churches take a *time* collection; let individuals send a dime, a dollar, or more.

Brother ministers, fellow disciples of the once suffering but now ascended Lord, will you not give this question serious thought? We ask of each and all our preachers in every State and territory of this nation, to preach a sermon on "Missions; their value, and our duty to them," on the first Sunday in January, 1879. On that day pray especially for our missionaries at home and in foreign lands. If as we declare, "the gospel is not a cunningly devised fable; its experience is not a forceless superstition; its dispensation of grace is not a failure; and the cross is certainly to conquer the world," we ask that there shall ring out from the pulpit and press, from

every preacher, and elder, and editor, and large hearted disciple, a bugle-call to a higher standard, and a worthier consecration of means to Christ and the spread of his kingdom.

Let the fact be humbly and sorrowfully, and penitently acknowledged that *conscience* and *system* have far too little to do with the contributions of the church at large.

Instruct in duty rather than flattery; and stir the conscience rather than stimulate the pride of the thousands in "our Israel" who look upon the great work that has been done, and say with complacency, "We are a great people."

Let us have a revival of the primitive Christian conscience in this matter of proclaiming the "unsearchable riches of Christ" to perishing multitudes. Address me, and send your contributions to me at 180 Elm street, Cincinnati, Ohio.

F. M. GREEN, Cor. Sec'y.  
G. C. M. Convention.

### Literary Notices.

The December No. of the *Sermonizer* has reached us. It is edited with ability and deserves a large circulation. Price 50 cts. per year. J. C. Hornberger, Publisher, Lebanon, Pa.

The *Gardener's Monthly* for Dec. is fully up to its former standard of excellence, and contains many seasonable hints for the flower garden and culture of house plants. Published by Charles H. Marot, 814 Chestnut street, Phil.

MUSIC.—We have received from D. W. Prentice & Co., Portland, a new march entitled "Fatinitza," arranged by Henri Mauri. Price 40 cts.

The *Domestic Monthly* for Dec. is on our table. It contains several Christmas stories and poems with review of fashions, art-papers, small talk and puzzle column, altogether making up an interesting holiday No. of the magazine. \$1.50 per year. Blake & Co., 849 Broadway, N. Y.

The *Oregon Weekly Record* has again made its appearance. It is published at Salem by the People's Publishing Co. T. M. Wilcox and F. C. Paine, editors.

*Littell's Living Age* for 1879.—The extra offer to new subscribers for 1879, and the reduced clubbing rates, are worthy of note in the prospectus of this standard periodical published in another column. The remarkable success of *The Living Age* is well attested by the fact that on the 1st of January next it begins its one hundred and fortieth volume. It affords the only satisfactorily complete compendium of a current literature which is now richer than ever before in the work of the ablest writers upon all topics of interest. It merits careful attention in making a selection of reading-matter for the new year. The more numerous the periodicals, indeed, the more valuable becomes a work like this which, in convenient form and at small expense, gives the best of all. Its importance to American readers can hardly be overestimated, as no other single periodical enables one, as does this, to keep well informed in the best thought and literature of the time, and fairly abreast with the work of the most eminent living writers.

—Alluding to M. Gambetta, a correspondent of the *London Pall Mall Gazette* makes these significant statements: "It is, in fact, M. Gambetta who governs the country through the agency of the four ministers who are avowedly his devoted friends, namely, Bardoux, De Freycinet, De Marcere, and Waddington. It is growing more probable that Gambetta will enter the cabinet as Home Minister. It is well understood that he is nursing himself for the Presidential election of 1880."