

"Letters of Recommendation."

Observation of a fact on the reception of a member by letter to-day has brought this question before my mind. I turn to that blessed word, the only standard I know for information. 2 Cor. iii. 1, 2. I attempt to twist in as aid, but find nothing favorable to those letters there; then to Acts xviii. 27, with a like result.

Bro. Campbell, or some other that is capable of giving instruction on this subject, tell me please through the MESSENGER, of precept or example from which we derive this practice.

A claim for admittance is made on the merits of a recommendation given three or four years ago by a congregation known to be an exemplary congregation, and signed by members whose Christian standing has never been questioned. The life of the holder of such a letter has in the mean time been a hidden one. This recommendation may be for the benefit of one, two, three, or a whole family, presented by but one (a beauty to put on file), the others recommended may be in some other locality, or may have gone back to the beggarly elements of this world. Just now I think of other scenes. I hear the teacher say come. I saw earnest brothers and sisters pleading with those out of the cold, and saying, "Come." Then I turn to the word (Rev. xxii. 17), and there read, "Whosoever will let him come." Yes if no recommendation but a life of sin let him come "and partake of the water of life." Why? It was for sinners that Jesus died, and if we say "We have no sin we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us." When we see them come on the merits of Christ, what wells of joy spring up in us. We ask for no further recommendation; we have no right to ask for; if a Judas should come on this merit, we could but say, "Let him come."

Now will some one please give information on this subject. Certainly among so many followers there is a cause for action. "Where the Scriptures speak we speak, where they are silent we are silent."

J. L. WIGLE.

Monroe, Or., May 25, 1879.

Iowa and Missouri Dots.

An early spring, but little rain fall in April, and farmers are active.

Church matters are distressingly quiet. Temperance cause still in the fight. Des Moines, Iowa, voted for and against license on May 1st. License carried the day by over four hundred. The ladies held an election, according to the laws of Iowa, regulating the stronger sex, and gave six votes for and 789 against license.

Bro. D. R. Lucas held a discussion upon the license question, with Col. Eikbook, both in the columns of the daily papers, and also before a miscellaneous assembly. According to the State Register, fully 1000 voters failed to go to the polls.

While in Ottumwa, last Monday, we invaded the sanctum of *The Iowa Investigator*, which is a stalwart temperance paper, on a good basis, with Col. Nat. A. Reed, editor. We found the office a neat room, and all hands at work vigorously; and on the table of the editor was a full supply of exchanges, and everything indicated that the *Investigator* comes to Ottumwa to stay and send forth a good report all along the line for \$1 a year.

Bro. John Friend, of Illinois, passed through Fairfield a few days since. He desires to engage with some church who will aid him in obtaining a small home.

The Missouri State Senate failed to pass the prohibition amendment to the constitution by 12 nays to 11 yeas. But the people will continue to work, and this matter will come up another day; in mean time the people are at work petitioning county courts not to grant licenses. There are new

20 counties in Missouri without dram shops. Ralls county, Mo., has no dram shops, nor person in jail. Prohibition does prohibit out of a population of fourteen thousand. McPherson county, Kansas, has only three paupers and not a single person in jail. This county never had a dram shop.

The success of the North Missouri State Normal School is indicated in the fact that among the students of the present term, every county north of the Missouri river is represented but three.

Two more additions at Kirksville, Mo., last Lord's day.

S. H. HEDRIX.

May 14, 1879.

A Trip to the Willamette Valley.

Bro. Campbell:

What would this world be to us without the United States of America; and what would the United States be without Oregon, and even Oregon would lose its brightest charm without the Willamette valley. Whoever wishes to see a rich and beautiful country should visit this Eden of the West.

I have lived in Douglas county, Or., for more than ten years. I have often heard the valley spoken of by different persons, some of whom liked it; others did not. Desiring to see for myself, I made a tour through four valley counties—Lane, Linn, Polk and Benton—leaving home on April 28th, and returning May 9th.

On my outward trip, I crossed the Willamette river at Eugene, passing down on the east side to Albany, where I crossed, and continued on the west side as far as Bro. C. G. Fisher's residence in Polk county, near Dallas.

On my return trip I kept on the west side until I passed Eugene about six miles, when I crossed the Coast Fork, spending one night with Bro. William H. H. McClure, on Pleasant Hill.

On this trip I made the acquaintance of many brethren, and met some old friends whom I had not seen for years. At Eugene I made the acquaintance of Bros. Whitney and Callison; near Harrisburg, Bro. John Harris and his Christian wife; also, his brother and wife, on a visit from California. At Halsey, Bro. and Sister Davidson; at Monmouth, Bro. H. M. Waller and family, and Bro. Kenedy and family; also Bro. T. F. Campbell. A few miles east of Dallas I met with old Bro. C. D. Embree and wife, whom I had not seen for 35 years. I met Bro. J. P. McCorkle and family at Eugene, with whom I was acquainted in California. At Pleasant Hill, Bro. McClure and family, Bro. Stoops and family. On Coast Fork, Bros. J. M. Harris and wife, Turpin, Shortridge, and four of the Whites. All these and many other brethren with whom I met, seemed to possess the spirit of Christ. From what I saw and heard I think the people of the valley have "honest and good hearts."

Before leaving home, I had been thinking of returning with my family to California. I am so well pleased with the valley that I have concluded to make it my home in the future.

Yours truly,
THOMAS J. ADAMS.

Scott's Valley, Douglas Co.,
June 2, 1879.

Literary Notices.

SUNDAY AFTERNOON FOR JUNE.

Sunday Afternoon (Springfield Mass., \$3.00 a year) for June has several seasonable articles; "How Civilization Benefits our Birds," which is one of the papers for which that bird love Ernest Ingersoll is becoming so widely known; a story of the war appropriate to Decoration Day entitled "Was He a Traitor"; a poem by Thomas L. Collier entitled "Decoration Day"; and some timely verses by Sarah O. Jewett author of "Deephaven." There is a story, "The New

Minister at Brayton"; a sketch, "Letter from Cape Cod"; and a somewhat tragic installment of "Calvin the Sinner." Mrs. Helen Campbell gives another chapter from her experiences among the New York tenement houses.

WIDE AWAKE FOR JUNE, 1879.—

Wide Awake for June has a lovely frontispiece, "O Larks, Sing Out To The Thrushes" which illustrates "Little Mary's Secret," a sweet and simple little poem by Mrs. L. C. Whiton. Susan Fenimore Cooper follows with the story of "The Wonderful Cookie," which has three quaint pictures; while next in order comes one of Emma Brown's charming Boston papers, this time about "The Poor Children's Excursions and the Country Week," with eleven graphic illustrations drawn from life by Miss Humphrey.

"The Dogberry Bunch" all get back home again; the young people in "St. Olave's" find their way out of the snow drift, and "Don Quixote, Jr." valiantly protects his father's house from being taken. There are large print stories, puzzles, little folks' letters, and music, all for twenty cents.

Only \$2.00 a year. Ella Farman Editor. D. Lothrop & Co., Publishers Boston, Mass.

We have received the first No. of a *Journal of Education*, edited by A. A. Bynon, Portland, Oregon. Price \$1.50 a year, to be published semi-monthly. We wish the new enterprise the success it so deservedly merits.

Sherman & Hyde's Musical Review for April, besides containing the usual story and musical news has a beautiful song "My Mother's Gentle Voice," a Schottische, and song "I'm Nothing if I have not You." Terms \$1.00 a year. Sherman Hyde & Co. San Francisco.

The *Vidette* comes to us this month filled, if anything, with better stories than usual, and other reading matter fully up to its former standard of excellence. Only 50 cts. a year. E. O. Norton, editor, Salem, Or.

Frank Leslie's *Popular Monthly* for June contains, as usual, an abundance of good things, literary and artistic. The articles are beautifully and liberally illustrated, and they are timely and highly interesting and instructive. The opening article "The British Empire in South Africa," is especially so, for the Cape and Natal colonies are attracting universal attention at this time. There are eighteen admirable illustrations. "The City of the Dodge," "Some Indian Hill tribes" "Naval Architecture of the Present" (with eighteen illustrations), "The Rhine Delta," by Lady Blanch Murphy, will well repay perusal. The departments of fiction and poetry are of a very attractive character the contributions being by some of our most popular writers. There is more than a usually copious miscellany, embracing an immense variety of subjects replete with interest, instruction and entertainment. The number contains 128 quarto, and nearly 100 engravings, and inasmuch as a single copy can be had for 25 cents, and the subscription is only \$3 a year, postpaid, the publication may certainly claim to be one of, if not the cheapest of the kind in existence. Address, Frank Leslie's Publishing House, 53, 55, and 57 Park Place, New York.

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MISCELLANEOUS.

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We, all of us, in a great measure, create our own happiness, which is not half so much dependent upon scenes and circumstances as most people are apt to imagine, and so it is with beauty.

Nature does little more than furnish us with the materials of both, leaving us to work them out for ourselves.

Stars and flowers and hills and woods and streams are letters and words and voices and vehicles and missionaries, but they need to be interpreted in the right spirit, we must read and listen for them, and endeavor to understand and profit by them. And when we look around us upon earth we must not forget to look upward to heaven.

Those who can see God in everything, writes a popular author, are sure to see good in everything. We may add with truth that they are also sure to see beauty in everything and everywhere.

When we are at peace with ourselves and the world, it is as though we gazed upon outward things through golden tinted glass and saw a glory rest; upon them all. We know that it cannot be long before sin and sorrow and blinding tears dim the mirror of our inmost thoughts; but we must pray and look again, and by and by the cloud will pass away. There is beauty everywhere, but it requires to be sought, and the seeker after it is sure to find it. It may be in some out of the way place where no one else would think of looking.

Beauty is a fairy, sometimes she hides herself in a flower-cup or under a leaf or creeps into the old ivy and plays hide and seek with the sunbeams, or haunts some ruined spot, or laughs out of a bright young face. Sometimes she takes the form of a bright cloud and goes dancing over the green fields or the deep sea where her misty foam marked out in momentary darkness, looks like the passing shadow of an angels wing. Beauty is a coquette and weaves herself a robe of varied hues, according to the season, and it is hard to say which is the most becoming.

M. E. WORK.

The National Complaint.

Dyspepsia is the national complaint. Almost every other man or woman you meet has it, and the result is that the number of pseudo-remedies for it is as numerous as Pharaoh's host. They are for the most part worthless. There is, however, a searching eradicant of this distressing and obdurate malady, one whose genuine merits long since raised it to a foremost place among the staple medicines of America. Hostetter's Stomach Bitters exterminates dyspepsia with greater certainty and promptitude than any known remedy, and is a most genial invigorant, appetizer and aid to secretion. These are not empty assertions, as thousands of our countrymen and women, who have experienced its effects, are aware, but are backed up by irrefragable proofs repeatedly laid before the public. The Bitters also promote a regular habit of body and give a healthful stimulus to the urinary organs.

I think that the first virtue is to restrain the tongue, he approaches nearest to the gods who knows how to be silent, even though he is in the right.—Cato.

A tulip tree near Augusta, Ga., is supposed to be the largest tree in the South. It is 155 feet high and 9 feet in diameter, and its lowest branches are 55 feet from the ground.

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The Deacon Attacks an Old Saying.

I like Deacon Green. He goes straight to the heart of things, and is not led away by moonshine. The other day, when a very positive and loud-voiced lady was talking with the little schoolmistress and himself about a certain troublesome child, the loud-voiced lady exclaimed:

"Pooh! good influence isn't what she needs. A bird that can sing and won't sing must be made to sing; that's my doctrine."

With these words the lady glared at the schoolmistress, who made no reply, and then with an air of conscious-victory, she turned to the Deacon, repeating:

"Yes, sir, that's my doctrine."
"A capital doctrine," said the Deacon, with a bow, "but there's a flaw in your illustration, ma'am."

"But!" almost screamed the lady, "there's no doubt about it. I tell you there's no other way. A bird that can sing and won't sing must be made to sing. You'll admit that, I hope? It is true as Solomon."

"Granted," said the Deacon, with a voice as soft as the swish of a water-lily, "most certainly, a bird that can sing and won't sing must be made to sing; but how are we going to do it?"

"The fact is, my dear madam," continued the Deacon, "some of these old sayings sound very well, but there's nothing in them. I'd like to see the person who can take a bird that won't sing and make him sing. Now your bird that can't sing and will sing, is easily dealt with. You can at least quiet him. But, for my part, I'd rather undertake the management of all the brass bands in the country than to force music out of the tinest canary when he chose to be silent."
St. Nicholas.

A Sudden Death.

There is something terrible in the thought of having our friends stricken down at our side, without a parsing word of endearment or consolation—one moment at our side in the flush of vigorous life, cheering our hearts with their loving sympathy; the next at our feet, pale with death, deaf to our cries and heedless of our tears. Every excessively fat person is in instant danger of such a death. Sevenths of the victims of obesity die of heart disease or apoplexy. Allan's Anti-Fat, the only remedy for obesity, reduces the weight by regulating the digestion and assimilation of the food. It is perfectly harmless, and its use will insure, in every instance, a reduction of weight from two to five pounds a week.

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