

PACIFIC CHRISTIAN MESSENGER.

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OFFICE EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

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By the Way.

Corvallis—the heart of the valley as the name signifies—is beautifully located in the west bank of the Willamette immediately below or north of the mouth of Mary's river.

The approach of the West Side railroad, which will probably be completed to this point the present season, has aroused the energies of the people, and given an impetus to improvements manufacturing itself in almost every part of the city in fine residences and other evidences of prosperity. A part of the iron for the Yaquina road has been landed, but the low water prevents the boats from bringing the remainder of the iron and the engine up. These railroads, when completed, will give Corvallis a prominent place among the towns of the valley. It is surrounded by a fine agricultural district. A good substantial bridge across Mary's river facilitates travel to the north, but eastward travel is obstructed by the ferry on the Willamette. This ought, by all means, to be obviated by a bridge. No other improvement, after the completion of the railroads, would add so much to the prosperity of the town, bringing in direct communication with a large and fertile area of country east of the river.

The narrow channel and high banks of the river at this point render it comparatively easy to construct a bridge, and the business tact of the people will doubtless soon see the importance of the improvement and push to completion. There are many church buildings in the place, no one of which has, however, a very large congregation. The ministers are, we learn, in several instances, supported in part at least, by missionary funds from the East.

We have no house of worship in the town. The few members of the Church of Christ are as a flock without a shepherd. They attend other churches, and are feeding from the crumbs which fall from other tables. There are nevertheless, a few noble spirits in Corvallis, who are waiting and praying for opportunity to establish and build up the ancient Gospel in its purity in this town.

We are pleased to note the courtesy and acknowledge the obligation we are under to Bro. H. P. Dunning, minister of the Presbyterian church, who came to Bro. E. B. McElroy, and tendered him the use of his church for our meetings on Lord's day, and also for our lectures on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

We had a fair audience at 11 o'clock Sunday, and a full house in the evening.

In the afternoon we attended the Sunday school in the Evangelical church, presided over by the minister, W. C. Kantner, who invited us to make a short address to the school, which we did.

We must not fail to note the courtesy shown us by Prof. Emory, of the Agricultural College, who tendered us the use of his church building or chapel for our lectures, and who invited us to occupy his pulpit at any time.

Altogether our visit in Corvallis, thus far has been a very pleasant one.

We are waiting with some anxiety the result of our first effort at public lecturing this evening. More anon.

The Church in Portland.

We call attention to the address of the Committee of the church in Portland in this paper, suggesting a plan for securing a lot in the city and ultimately erecting a building thereon.

The apostles were careful to occupy the great centres of commerce and learning in their day, and to plant churches in the radiating centres from which the influence of the Gospel might go forth. At Jerusalem, Corinth, Sardis and Rome, they established churches, whence they went forth to less noted points. We may profit by their example, and occupy the great centres of commerce and business whence we may operate to advantage on other points.

A small contribution—say from one to five dollars—from each disciple in the State will secure the desired result. This might be made without distressing any one.

Will every brother and sister act promptly, and contribute to this fund?

We trust the Missionary Board may be able to carry out the plan suggested and put a solicitor in the field at once to raise the means to establish a church in the metropolis. A vigorous effort will, we think, secure the requisite amount by Christmas. We know of no single move which, if accomplished, would establish confidence and give prominence and influence to the ancient Gospel and church of Christ more promptly and fully in the State than to build up a congregation in Portland.

Peace and Plenty.

"Praise ye the Lord, he maketh peace in thy borders, and filleth thee with the finest of the wheat." He is the God of peace! whose spirit fills all the echoes of our hills,

"All the murmurs of our rills," and with his peace he gives us the blessedness of plenty; yet many are unhappy because "they know not how to value peace but through its loss."

While the yellow fever scourge is depopulating the cities of the South, and *Asrael* pours out relentlessly the hot life-blood of the nations upon the Eastern soil, Oregon is now beginning a harvest that promises double the return of any previous year. Yet there are those who stand upon the hillside, looking out upon their own broad acres where the yellow wheat bows to the passing breeze, with a feeling of pride perhaps; yet withal, a murmuring heart, instead of a thankful one, for the peace that has made our land a land of plenty.

At peace with all men, at peace with one another, and if at peace with Christ who gave his peace unto you, your heart need not be troubled, neither need you be afraid, for He

who calmed the raging waves with "peace be still," can only calm the tempest in the murmuring heart and keep that peace in the soul that gives strength and safety.

To have that perfect peace of which God is the author, we must not only be at peace with the world around us, but must have that peace which subdues the senses and "lies like a rich pearl beyond the divers ken deep in our own bosoms."

At peace with ourselves, how hard it is, and yet unless we are, we never can attain to that comparative happiness with which we console ourselves when we begin to understand the real world around us. At peace; we love the word; each dream of heaven has peace for its foundation stone, and from unnumbered thousands goes up the pitiful cry for peace; not only the peace that broods above our western valley, but peace for tortured hearts never purged of their bitterness nor overdone with pain that "bringeth peace as death does heaven."

May each and every reader of these words keep in his heart and mind that peace of God which passeth all understanding, and let all our favored people unite in one grand psalm of thankfulness, "Praise ye the Lord."

Old Fogies.

Probably the most abused class of people in the world is that class known as the old fogies. They are generally considered as a set of stubborn, obnoxious, old grumblers, who stand as immovable as mountains while every endeavor of reason and entreaty is used to induce them to move a step or two onward. Yet, after all, they are only the balance wheels of society, and to be spoken of as an old fogy it is only necessary to have one's mind firmly made up on important questions, refusing to be blown about by every wind of doctrine, and this is surely not quite so bad as that other extreme of being ready to place belief in every wild and erratic theory that the originators are pleased to style "advanced thought."

Indeed, though old fogies are sometimes a little hard to manage, we have them to thank for keeping the world from running mad after every new folly, and compelling us to pause long enough to consider well every onward step, so that we need not rush into every snare and pitfall.

Sometimes we are given to think they pull back too stubbornly on therein that curbs our fiery steed of progress, but the thought that we ourselves will soon be the old fogies ought to soothe our irritation, for as our bones harden with age so do our opinions. We get firmly fixed in our mental seat and refuse to be ousted.

This, at least, is the fate of most men—even of philosophers. Three score and ten years seems a pitiful measure of earthly existence, yet if a few centuries were meted out to us instead, how long it would take to bring about a revolution or a reformation. The race, no doubt, would creep, halting and lame to its high destiny; for there would be such long years for us to be old fogies in; but as it is, the race is perpetually renewing its youth and has just enough of old age and of clinging to the past to insure a safe and steady onward course instead of a breathless, break-neck speed, and we are inclined to think old fogies ought to have a vote of thanks.

Reports from the Field.

BATTLE GROUND, W. T.,

July 29, 1879.

Bro. Campbell:

There was two added by confession and baptism to the Church of Christ in Brush Prairie, on the fourth Lord's day of this month.

Crowded house and good interest.

Yours in hope,

S. C. ESPEY.

The First Christian Church at Portland.

TO THE BROTHERHOOD IN OREGON,—

Greeting: At a regular meeting of the First Christian Church at Portland, held July 13, 1879, the following resolution, among others, was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That we elect and incorporate three trustees, and issue an address to the brotherhood of the State, to be published by the trustees.

Under this resolution the undersigned were duly elected trustees of the church; and articles of incorporation as such have been regularly filed by us according to law.

In discharging the duty assigned us of publishing an address to you, we would state that the specific object of our incorporation is to inaugurate and carry forward a plan for the collection of a fund sufficient to purchase a lot and erect thereon a suitable house of worship in the city of Portland.

In this important, and as we think, too long neglected work, we desire to secure your earnest coöperation and assistance, realizing that it is absolutely essential to our success—and to this end we invite your attention to the following statements and considerations:

The city of Portland is and must continue to be the principal city of the North-west coast, and the acknowledged centre of its trade, commerce and intercourse. As such it is regarded as the index and exponent of the religious sentiment of the people of the State—certainly to an extent that detracts from the influence and moral power of any church that has not "a local habitation and a name" among the many religious denominations represented here.

Realizing this truth and guided by precedent and experience, the advocates of almost every creed, with wise forecast, and by a concentration of means and effort, have succeeded in establishing churches here, whose influence is being felt throughout the State, whilst we, as a people claiming to be the advocates of a pure Gospel, and a restoration of Primitive Christianity, in order to the union of the people of God and the conversion of the world, have no recognized house of worship or preachers of the Gospel in this growing and most populous city in the State.

Under these circumstances the only alternative for those of us who have been living here has been to coöperate as far as we could with other churches, or, at the hazard of our spiritual welfare, to maintain a strict neutrality and isolation. In most cases the former has been adopted as the safer course. To some extent this will prove a source of weakness in our present effort, as quite a number, despairing of our having a church here, have taken membership with different churches, and will be loth to sever these connections, at least until the success of our undertaking is fully assured.

Early in the present year it was ascertained that quite a number of our people from other States and some from this had settled here, and a meeting was held to consider the expediency of organizing a church and making an effort to establish the cause in Portland. Of the result of that meeting you have been informed through the MESSENGER. We now have about 40 enrolled members and meet for worship and Sunday school every Lord's day, in a public hall.

Since our organization we have been visited by Bros. Waller, Adams and Wolverton, who preached edifying discourses, and gave us counsel and encouragement.

We have also received assurances from quite a number, who are friendly to our cause, that they will give substantial aid to our undertaking.

The little church we represent will do her full share in this important

work, but in the weakness of her infancy is utterly unable to accomplish it unaided and alone.

In her behalf, therefore, we submit that the undertaking is one of general and not local interest, appealing directly to the Missionary spirit and Christian liberality of all our churches and presenting a claim for aid from every member of the household of faith.

The rapid growth of this city and consequent advance in the price of real estate makes it important that we at least secure a building lot at an early day. With \$300, or \$400 we can purchase a better location within the next six months than for a much larger sum a year or so hence. A lot purchased and paid for would give assurance of success. And we have every confidence that the citizens of Portland, duly appreciating the public benefits conferred by all religious enterprises, with their proverbial generosity would cheerfully respond to our appeal for aid, and contribute liberally towards building our house of worship.

The plan by which we propose to raise the necessary means, and which was suggested by Bro. Wolverton, is that the State Missionary Board secure the services of an evangelist to preach among the churches and canvass for subscriptions to a fund to be expended by the Trustees in the purchase of a lot and the erection of a house of worship in Portland. The money to be put at interest by the trustees as fast as collected until it is sufficient to pay for a suitable lot, and then to be so invested, and all moneys subsequently received to be applied to the erection of a church building as soon as the trustees may feel justified in commencing that work.

We respectfully submit this proposition to the State Missionary Board, hoping it will meet their approval and be carried into effect with as little delay as possible.

Commending our work to the favorable consideration of the brotherhood of the State, and invoking the blessing of the great head of the church upon our united efforts to advance his cause, we commit its fortunes to him.

J. P. DICKINSON,
A. BLANEY,
E. BARTON, } Trustees.

California State Meeting.

NAPA, July 24, 1879.

Dear Brethren:

We take this method of informing you that our next annual meeting will be held at Yountville, Napa Co., commencing on Friday, Sept. 19th, at 11 o'clock. Ample camping arrangements will be provided, as usual, for all who attend. The table will be under the management of a Committee of brethren, who will furnish eatables at the lowest possible price to cover the actual expense of furnishing. All who desire to come and furnish themselves will find every necessary convenience for doing so. We request all who can to bring a liberal supply of bedding, as we have assurance that there will be a large attendance of brethren and friends from a distance. Please read this to your congregation.

E. B. WARE,
Com. on Correspondence.

Bro. Kendrick says that the church worshipping in the Odd Fellows Hall, corner Eleventh and Franklin streets, Oakland, Cal., where Prof. H. Price preached recently, belongs to the Lord—not to him; that he belongs to it. It is a live and happy church of God, and has a live and interesting Lord's day school, meets every Lord's day for worship, whether Bro. Kendrick is there to preach or not, and will be glad to have such men as Bro. Price call and preach for them at any time, as Paul called on the church at Troas. (Acts xx. 7). They are a live band of workers, and will appreciate such calls at any time.