

Letter from Bro. W. H. Briggs.

SANTA ROSA, CAL.,
July 12, 1879.

Dear Bro. Campbell:

Having been repeatedly requested to make a report of my labors in California, I will now do so with pleasure. I would long since have made this account, if I had not been in college most of the time, which has occupied all of my attention, excepting vacations, that were filled up with hard work.

As briefly as possible, I will relate the principal part of my labors, and after this, shall endeavor to report, as the work is performed.

I preached my first sermon at Pleasant Hill, Sonoma county, July 4, 1875. My first practical work began at Fulton Station, five miles distant from Santa Rosa; here I labored, at short intervals, for nearly two years, being occasionally assisted by Bro. Franklin Knox. While preaching there I held one debate with the Advent, J. C. Cary, upon the questions of Soul Sleeping, and the Annihilation of the Wicked; the result was good; my labor was crowned with success. There were twenty additions; eight by confession and baptism, the remainder by letter and reclaimed. I organized a church and a Sunday school at that place.

May 28, 1876, I began a meeting at Lockford, San Joaquin county; during my stay there five confessed the name of their Savior, and were baptized. I also organized a Sunday school. Since that time I have been called back to Lockford, to debate with the Advent, Richard Corbaly; the result of the debate was very favorable to the cause of our Master. After the debate was over, I preached one discourse, at the close of which three obeyed the Gospel.

During the fall of '78, while Eld. Healy, of the Seventh Day Adventists, was holding a protracted meeting at Santa Rosa, I was called upon to review him on three of the questions, at which time there were five added to the church; four by confession, and one by letter.

On Jan. 1, 1879, I began preaching at Pleasant Hill, devoting half my time. I organized a Sunday school, which is doing well at present; there have been six additions; one by confession, and five took membership.

On May 9th, I completed my college course, and am now left free to devote all of my time to the Master's cause.

On May 18th I began a protracted meeting at Forestville, about 10 miles distant from Santa Rosa. The meeting continued for four weeks, resulting in thirty additions; twenty-two by confession, three by letter, two reclaimed, two from the Methodists, and one from the Baptists; two of the number were from the Catholic church.

I must here mention a scene that occurred at the water. It was a beautiful place, near the mouth of Green Valley creek, and about 400 people were assembled on the banks; among those who were buried with their Savior in baptism was an elderly sister, who was very large; she was accompanied into the water by Bro. Fandree on one side and Bro. Oliver on the other; the baptism was performed without a particle of confusion, and was said to be the grandest baptismal scene ever witnessed in Sonoma county. A warm enthusiasm exists among the brethren there.

On June 22nd we organized a church, and the brethren and friends are making preparations to build a house in which to worship. Many things worthy of note occurred during the meeting at Forestville, that time will not permit me to mention, but I wish to say that the singing was excellent. It was conducted by Mr. Nathaniel Herington; he is not a member of the church, but we hope that he will soon choose "that better

part which is needful," and still continue that good work for which he is so well adapted.

Hoping to be able to report more promptly, I will close for the present. Your brother in Christ,
W. H. BRIGGS.

Literary Notices.

WIDE AWAKE for August, 1879. The August *Wide Awake* will prove a rich vacation treat to its hosts of readers, young and old. It opens with a cool looking frontispiece of some bare-foot boys angling over the mill dam, and is followed by the poem which it illustrates, "Willy's Mishap," by Elizabeth W. Dennison. Rose Hawthorn Lathrop tells a story betraying in it a vein of her father's genius. This is followed by "The Flower School at Corlear's Hook," by Mrs. Dickenson, beautifully illustrated with nine engravings by Miss Lathbury. There is a funny Capital installment of the three serials, St. Olave's (an exciting base-ball chapter), "The Dogberry Bunch," and "Don Quixote Jr.;" besides No. VIII. of our "American Artists," relative to T. W. Wood, with portrait and studio drawn by the artist himself.

\$2.00 a year. 20 cents a number. Ella Farman, Editor. D. Lothrop & Co., Publishers, Boston Mass.

FRANK LESLIE'S POPULAR MONTHLY. The August number is even more than usually interesting, it is filled with highly entertaining and instructive matter, and many of the articles are replete with valuable information—as, for instance: "Sights in Southern China," by T. W. Knox; "The Lakes of Italy," by Lady Blanche Murphy; "The metamorphoses of the Sphinx," which are admirably and profusely illustrated. Single copies are only 25 cents, and the annual subscription, \$3, postpaid. Address: Frank Leslie's Publishing House, 53, 55 & 57 Park Place, New York.

THE DOMESTIC MONTHLY.—It would seem that in this sultry weather the fashions would be at a standstill. But that this is not the case it is only necessary to examine the August number of this popular magazine. A number of fine poems, and the usual enjoyable Miscellany, agreeable Small Talk, instructive "Household Department," excellent reviews of new books, Mosaics, etc., the whole forming a very interesting and valuable number.

The *Domestic Monthly* is published by Blake & Company, 849 Broadway New York, at \$1.50 per year, inclusive of pattern premium. Specimen copies, 15 cents.

Practical Reflections.

1. Even Christ came not to be ministered unto, but to minister; so it is our duty to live for service to God, and ministry to our fellow-man.
2. The power of gentleness—Christ's gentleness.
3. The tenderness of Christ towards even the weakest and feeblest aspirations for good.
4. Christ is the only power who can make us free.
5. From our past experiences, we can learn to
"Think Him for all that is past,
And trust Him for all that is to come."

The preachers take vacations, as the school teachers and college professors do. Why not the lawyers and doctors, also—aye, and the farmers, merchants, etc. Not many preachers are harder worked than they. Could not their patrons allow the doctors, at least, to go to the mountains for two months, and yet continue to pay their monthly bills—their salaries? And may not the members take vacations, also—go out, neglect the Lord's house, desecrate the Lord's day, dance, go to theatres, Sunday picnics, etc., for two months in the year? If not, and if churches cannot meet and worship without a preacher, what must they do.

Plea for Tobacco.

Tobacco has been abused terribly, and it must be admitted that it is filthy, nasty, almost beyond expression; and the money church members pay out for it would support all the preachers, educate the orphans, and send the Gospel to the ends of the earth.

I know many, also, who are gradually dying of the use of tobacco. Some of these are a burden to their friends while they live, because of tobacco.

But there is something in its favor; and as I wish to do even handed justice to everybody and everything, I must note its good effects. The best I do know of it is, it is said to have hindered the cannibals from eating a man who fell among them. They had tried it before. The flesh of tobacco chewers cannot be eaten even by cannibals, and they did not kill this new arrival. They put him to another use, and he got away.

Tobacco saved one life, then—one, to thousands destroyed.

And then there is *Scripture* for it, the wife said: "He that is filthy, let him be filthy still."

This is the best speech I can make for tobacco. C. K.

Lines

To the Memory of Sister A. D. Butler, of Napa City, Cal., died June 10, 1879.

We lay thee to rest our sister dear,
And await the judgment morn,
When morning comes thou'lt surely hear
That chorus by angels born.

We miss thy smiles and beaming eye,
And we miss thy tender hand;
Yet, hope to meet thee by and by,
"In that holy happy land."

We miss thy voice in holy song,
Thou sang in the house of praise;
Yet, we know that in "angel land"
A sweeter voice thou wilt raise.

A teacher's absent ever there
From that infant class I meet,
That thou didst gather everywhere
From valley and lane and street.

Thy loving words are bright to-day,
In each little tender heart;
Thou pointed to them the heavenly way,
Where the faithful never part.

A little band they closely drew
Near their teacher's silent grave,
Fragrant flowers to gently strew
Love's tribute they lastly gave.

That manly form and loving heart
With deep grief is bending low;
Thou call'st him to a holy land
Where joys eternally flow.

A little boy and girl are left,
Without a dear mother's care;
They'll not forget, although bereft,
Thou saidst, "We'll meet over there."

Rest thee in that quiet retreat,
In this beautiful sunset land,
Close by where the Bay waters beat
On Pacific's golden sand.

Let us live as thou didst live,
And hold the Savior's hand;
We'll meet the loved that sees give
On the banks of "Angel land."

Bay mists gather and pass away
From the peaks beside thy rest;
By faith we know thou hast a stay
Among the heavenly blest.

Soon this veil of worldly gloom
Will check our earthly stay;
"Then we will know, as we are known,
When the mists have passed away."

Faint not, brother, firmly stand,
Run life's race, 'twill not be long;
Soon thou wilt take her sainted hand
"In the sunny land of song."

Beautiful Pictures For All.

The Great Art Publishing House of George Stinson & Co., of Portland, Maine, moves steadily on the even tenor of its way, apparently not feeling the dull times. During the year 1878 they sold over Four Million pictures of all descriptions. They publish every description of fine pictures, and the prices range from ten cents upwards to twenty dollars per copy. Their correspondence for this large business is immense; they receive, on an average, over one thousand letters per day. Messrs. Stinson & Co. publish only the better class of pictures, and it is well known that anything coming from this reliable house is of standard merit. We have just received copies of four very fine steel engravings, which they have just brought out. The plates are engraved in London, at the expense of four thousand pounds sterling, or twenty thousand dollars, to which great sum must be added the customs duty of twenty-five per cent on account of their being imported into the United States. These engravings are after paintings by great modern masters of art, and the artists who engraved the plates stand in the front rank of the worlds renowned engravers.

It is believed, and generally conceded that these engravings make up the finest and most elegant set of works of high art ever brought out by American publishers. This enterprising firm, though many years in the Art Publishing business, have not grown old and unprogressive, but on the other hand make improvement and progress year by year, giving the people better and better pictures for the same or less money. They may we feel sure, fairly claim to stand at the head of the Art Publishing business in America. We can only understand the colossal proportions their trade has assumed by remembering that this is a great and mighty nation of nearly fifty million of people. We cannot better illustrate the magnitude of their business than to state the amount of money paid by them for postage stamps during the years 1876, 1877, and 1878. We have the figures direct from the firm, or we should think there was some error. In 1876 they paid for postage \$33,104.92. In 1877, they paid for postage \$37,268.76. In 1878 the amount of money that they paid for postage stamps was simply enormous—a little over \$50,000 00. Stinson and Co. stand among the largest and most judicious advertisers in the country, and in a short time since paid a single day \$24,000.00 in cash on a contract for advertising. They employ agents everywhere throughout the United States and Dominion of Canada for the sale of their pictures by subscription; we call attention to their advertisement for agents in another column. Those who need pleasant, profitable work, should correspond with them.

Besides paying the large amounts of postage stated above, their express and freight bills are enormous—only small orders are sent by mail, the larger being sent by express and freight. American homes should be made beautiful by refined works of art, and prices for really meritorious pictures are now so low that there can be no excuse for the walls to remain gloomy, unadorned and cheerless. American homes should be made beautiful, and the tendency of this will make more refined and beautiful the lives of all dwellers therein.

In England is a man who calls himself "Elijah the Prophet." He addresses large crowds of people, and attempts the identification of the British nation with the ten lost tribes of Israel. He said he had received six heavenly visitations, and his holy visitor told him that henceforward he was Elijah the Prophet, and that he was ordained to do this work. He is oddly dressed in sheepskin clothing, with a hat of the same material; his jacket has scarlet cuffs, and he wears a scarf, both of which are in some way emblematical. He also wears top boots. He is a handsome, tall, gentlemanly-looking fellow, and has paid a visit to the towns in Kent.

Weather Report for July, 1879.

During July, 1879, there were 2 days during which rain fell, and an aggregate of .92 in. of water, 18 clear days, and 11 cloudy days.

The mean temperature for the month was 63.63°. Highest daily mean temperature for the month 80°, on the 26th. Lowest daily mean 54°, on the 4th.

Mean temperature for the month at 2 o'clock P. M. 75.64°.

Highest record of thermometer 90°, at 2 o'clock P. M., on the 24th and 25th. Lowest thermometer 52°, at 7 A. M., on the 1st and 4th.

Lightning in the S. E. on the evening of the 8th, which brought no rain at this point.

The prevailing winds for the month were from the North during 22 days, S. W. 3 days, South 6 days.

During July, 1878, there were 3 rainy days, with .55 in. of water, 23 clear days, and 5 cloudy days.

Mean temperature for the month 63.54°. Highest daily, 72°, on the 6th and 31st. Lowest daily, 54°, on the 2nd.

T. PEARCE.

Eola, Aug. 1, 1879.

The Perfectness of God's Works.

Upon examining the edge of the sharpest razor with a microscope, it will appear as broad as the back of a knife—rough uneven, and full of notches and furrows. An exceedingly small needle resembles an iron bar. But the sting of a bee, seen through the same instrument, exhibits everywhere the most beautiful polish, with out a flaw, or blemish, or inequality, and ends in a point too fine to be discerned. The threads of a fine lawn are coarser than yarn with which ropes are made for anchors. But a silkworm's web appears smooth and shining, and everywhere equal. The smallest dot that is made with a pen appears irregular and uneven. But the little specks on the wings or bodies of insects are found to be an accurate circle. How magnificent are the works of God!

Consumption Cured.

An old physician, retired from practice, having had placed in his hands by an East India missionary the formula of a simple vegetable remedy, for the speedy and permanent cure for consumption, bronchitis, catarrh, asthma, and all throat and lung affections, also a positive and radical cure for nervous debility and all nervous complaints, after having tested its wonderful curative powers in thousands of cases, has felt it his duty to make it known to his suffering fellows. Actuated by this motive, and a desire to relieve human suffering, I will send, free of charge, to all who desire it, this recipe, with full directions for preparing and using, in German, French, or English. Sent by mail by addressing with stamp, naming this paper, W. W. Sherar, 149 Power's Block, Rochester, N. Y.

LARGEST BOOK PUBLISHED.—The new edition of Webster's Unabridged Dictionary, just issued, is believed to be, in the quantity of matter it contains, by far the largest volume published. It now contains about 118,000 words defined, and nearly 15,000 words and meanings not found in any other one Dictionary. The Biographical Dictionary, just added, supplies a want long felt by the reader and student, in giving the desired information so briefly. Never was any one volume so complete as an aid in getting an education.

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