

PACIFIC CHRISTIAN MESSENGER.

"GO YE, THEREFORE, TEACH ALL NATIONS."

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Correspondence.

London Letter.

(REGULAR CORRESPONDENCE.)

LONDON, Aug. 15, 1879.

The importance to the American Farmer of all intelligence concerning the prospects of food supplies in the great English market will, I think, make interesting some observations recently made in an extended tour through the agricultural districts of that country.

I observed that wheats carry themselves well to the eye; but upon walking into them you find the stems far between, and little burdened by broad flag, which, though a danger in tempestuous weather, is a source of nourishment for both straw and ear; are short and light, with defective spikelets at the base. The profusion of annual and other weeds must detract greatly from the possible yields, and probably not a fourth of the fields can produce an average. But as some crops are only now in blossom, and the grain in the forward still in the state of white milk, it is yet too early to prognosticate what the weather may accomplish toward filling the ear with plump berries. Against the prospect of a good yield in proportion to the insufficient plant are these three considerations.—The time for flowering is unseasonably late, usually occupied in furnishing the ear with grains and duly filling and hardening them may be curtailed; the probable effect of a hot time would be to hurry the ripening, seeing that the roots which might otherwise have sustained and prolonged the green and growing condition of the plant, were prevented by the wet spring and summer from going down sufficiently deep into the soil, and lastly, in case of cool and wet weather between this and harvest the ripening would be still more unfavorable—a satisfactory filling of the ear principally depending on high temperature, when the plant is well rooted and able to supply the nutriment which the sun can cause to be assimilated and concentrated in the grain.

Artificial and other manures have been so washed out of the soil that their effects in corn—producing will be little realizable in the present season. I learn, however, that on the farm near Sawbridgeworth which Mr. John Prout has cropped for many years in succession with white corn, selling off the straw, as well as the corn, by auction, each year, the wheats and barleys are again heavy, the greatest crops being those of rye or horned wheat. This successful result is due to deep tillage by the steam plow, in conjunction with plentiful applications of phosphatic and ammoniacal manure.

The same inclement season which

has left all the orchards melancholy with the absence of fruit has refused luxuriant growth to the crops, and at the same time developed every possible form of smothering and devouring weeds. Hoeing and hand-weeding have been of little practical use for months, and farmers declare that weeds cut up in the morning have rooted again before the hoemen were out of the field.

It is a mystery how occupiers of these corn farms, rented at what mixed-husbandry farmer would think moderate figures, can go on under existing conditions. Indeed there are many indications that numbers of tenants will not long be able to pay their rents. What shall they do? Will advisers recommend them to try milk-cans for London—a trade which many dairy farmers already find overdone? Some of the schemes contrived for farmers beaten by seasons and foreign competition are more benevolent than businesslike, more theoretical than available in actual practice. Minor productions of the farm must always remain limited; and it would be as idle, for example, to recommend the Roething farmers to give up corn and raise butter and eggs as to urge that they should turn their attention to cucumbers because a clever man at Broomfield, near Chelmsford, cuts and sends to Covent-garden 3000 per week of the largest, straightest, and most tender-fleshed of these cool, juicy relishes that are sold in London.

More About Palouse.

Since returning from the Palouse country, queries of every sort have been given me to answer, and for the benefit of those who wish what information I can give I hastily pen a few brief and considered statements.

To speak of it in a general way, the surface of the whole country is very undulating, and being viewed from the mountain peaks, presents the appearance of the ocean—considerably chopped up. The soil not of an alkaline nature like the Walla Walla country, is deep—the surface being a black loam, while the subsoil is clay, this making it a large body of as good, if not the best soil for agricultural purposes I ever saw. It is destitute of timber but covered with fine bunch grass and well watered by springs.

Timber, such as pine, cedar, tamarack, fir, &c., is to be found in the mountains, and along the streams which traverse the country at a distance of one to twenty miles.

People of every class such as are found in all countries, have already taken a great portion of the land and are improving it in a manner to make comfortable homes. The cereals and most every variety of fruit and vegetables are being raised to perfection, although frosts sometimes interfere, especially in the flats or low places. The elevation above sea level is from two to three thousand feet. The climate during the summer season is similar to that of this valley with less rain and cooler nights, but during the winter months snow usually falls on the ground several inches deep, and lies there from a few days to several weeks, with dry, cool, clear and calm weather most of the time. Last winter was a winter of snow with the thermometer standing at zero, but still stock procured sustenance from bunch grass of the south hill sides, where snow had drifted off. A few strong winds and an occasional thun-

der shower visits the country, but, judging from my own observations and the experience of others, there is as a general thing no more wind there than we have in the Willamette valley, much less than in the country between Walla Walla and The Dalles.

The Palouse and Great Columbia river basen countries contain the finest of agricultural lands, as well as good stock raising districts, with an area many times that of this valley and with as little if not much less waste land.

There is demand for men of capital and enterprise to open up and develop the natural resources of the country. There is yet plenty of land for the poorer classes besides the 1,200,000 acres of railroad land just vacated and fallen into the hands of the government, ready to be entered as such land, on and after the third day of this month.

Lumber can be had at ten to twelve dollars per M., and rails at one dollar and half per hundred. The market of the country as yet, is principally local. The demand by immigrants for grain for flour and feed will furnish market for most of the surplus for a year or two yet, after then a much larger surplus than this country can produce will be ready for market in case shipment can be made from all parts of the country. At present shipments can be made by the Snake river steamers a great part of the year, but as soon as the Northern Pacific Railroad with its branches are completed furnishing a convenient outlet to every part, and the present high tariff of transportations diminished, the country will be one of prosperity and the great wheat country of the north western coast.

J. M. P.

Monmouth Sept. 2, 1879.

Who are the "We"?

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to his purpose. Rom. viii. 28.

This was the beginning of the Sunday school lesson for July 13, 1879. As far as we have been able to examine the exegesis given in the various lesson leaves does not suggest the thought of the apostle; and many Sunday school teachers and scholars were very much perplexed with the lesson, and confessed they could do nothing with it. We suggest here in brief our method of treating this subject.

1. It is important in this and all other similar production to determine the scope of the plural pronoun "we" and also "us," "our," &c.

(a) They can not include more than the person or persons writing and person written to and similar characters.

(b) They may include only the person writing and those to whom he is writing.

(c) They may include only the persons writing and similar characters, and so not embrace the persons addressed.

An example of the first and second is seen in 1 John v. 2, 3: "By this we know that we love the children of God," &c. An example of the third is found in many places in this and other epistles, and especially in Eph. i. 1-12, where it often occurs and clearly embraces only inspired men. Verse 12 says, "That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ." Verse 13, "In whom ye also trusted, after ye heard the words of truth, the Gospel of your salvation." Again, Eph. iii. 2-5, shows

that the persons toward whom God had abounded in all wisdom and prudence, and "made known the mystery," (as in verses 8 and 9, chap. i.) were such persons as Paul, who received the revelation of God, and they were the persons who had been "chosen;" while the church at Ephesus obtain their salvation by "hearing the words of truth, the Gospel," and of Paul's "knowledge of the mystery" by reading what he wrote.

I ask the reader to note closely in this connection 1 Cor. ii., the apostles only are indicated in the "we" and "us" of verses 6, 7, 12 and 13. In these and many other passages the apostles only are embraced in the scope of these pronouns, and a failure to note this, a ways leaves the reader with an improper understanding of the lesson; and further, unless by a special qualification, the world or alien sinners are never embraced in the use of these pronouns. An example, 1 John ii. 2, says, "And he is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world." But referring the reader again to the numerous examples where inspired men only are embraced by the pronouns "we," "us," and "our." We now come to the lesson.

2. The scope of "we know," &c. And I now insist that inspired men only are referred to or embraced in, because (a) Paul was inspired, and with other inspired men could and did "know that all things worked together for good to them that love God." (b) No one short of an inspired man could "know" this. Therefore the term we only includes in this text the inspired men to whom God "revealed the mystery of his will," &c.

The Sunday school teacher or preacher who teaches that he and his class, or his brethren, and worse still his audience, "know," &c., is assuming too much, is wise above what is written, and not strictly speaking "as the oracles of God." See 1 Peter iv. 11. So what the inspired men knew on this matter, Paul testified to; and all Christians should believe it. What was knowledge with the former is faith with the latter. It was enough for the former to "know all things," and it is enough for the latter to "believe all things." I use knowledge and faith here in their strict sense, and further say that we know only what we experience, and in this sense we by no means know all things. A devout Christian can truly say that he believes what Paul says, "We know," and that his experience corroborates what is here declared, this at best would only render the Christian a secondary or corroborative witness, and that only to the extent of his past experience; of the events now transpiring with their future and varied effects, he can only say, "I believe," while nothing short of inspiration would enable him to say "I know that all things work together for good to them that love God."

3. Thus we began and so taught a class of some eight or ten old brethren, some of whom are noted for their growth in the grace of God, and the knowledge of the truth; they were satisfied, and we feel that it is safe, we always strive to keep our teaching upon safe ground, we care not to press out too far lest we should go astray. We must wait another time, if we ever do tell the reader all we taught on the remainder of the lesson, it may

be sufficient to say

4. That these inspired men who "knew" were "the called according to his purpose." They were the "whom he did foreknow," i. e., that which God made known before it came to pass, as Acts xv. 7. "He also did predestinate," * * * did call "them he also justified, viz., affirmed, and glorified." See Eph. i. 4-12, and also John xvii. 6-22, and the contexts generally; keeping in mind the past tens of the verbiage of the lesson, and you will not be troubled with the stale ideas that the number of the elect is definitely fixed, or rather that these parties are now in this world, or in other words that you are unconditionally elected to heaven or hell—that depends upon the character of your faith, love and obedience on the one hand, a disbelief on the other. Again, remember that no man can be a competent witness beyond what he knows, and the things of God knoweth no man but the spirit of God, (1 Cor. ii. 11, 12). So the apostle claims to have received the spirit of God, by which they might know the things that God gives us, what they saw with their eyes, handled with their hands, and by the revelation of God, and by that spirit was enabled to speak and write, is competent proof of any fact therein specified. So spake John et al, and also Paul, whom the Lord appeared to for this purpose, to make him a minister and a witness. Acts xxvi. 16. So also another, "having had perfect understanding," wrote of "these things." Luke i. 24.

By this the reader may "know the certainty of those things where he has been instructed," "These things are written that you might believe," &c. John xix. 31. Therefore the belief thus gained is increased in this life only as it is confirmed by experience, and that experience never includes "all things."

5. What shall we thus say to these things? If God be for us who can be against us? Verse 32 says, "He that spared not his own son but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?" Thus, qualifying the plural pronoun "us" by the adverb "all" he extends its scope, making Christ a sacrifice "for us all." So the church at Rome and all Christians are included in its scope to the end of the lesson. If the reader is instructed and edified I shall be satisfied.

Fraternally yours,

S. H. HEDRIX.

Fairfield, Iowa, Aug. 30, 1879.

Hard Fare in College.

In Scotland, a college education is highly esteemed, and the number of graduates, in proportion to the population, is larger than in any other country of Europe, or than in the United States. But the majority of students practice a more rigid economy than is known in our country, and many spend less in their entire course than the average expenses of a single year in American colleges. Dr. Guthrie, in his autobiography, tell several touching anecdotes of the hardships cheerfully endured by some of his fellow-students.

A stout country lad came to the University of Edinburgh, bringing with him a large chest. For three months he took no meal at any hotel or restaurant, and asked nothing from his landlady except hot water. It turned out that his chest was filled with oatmeal, brought from his country home, and he himself cooked it with the hot water received from the landlady, adding as a relish a little butter and salt. A student who is willing to submit to such privations, in order to obtain an education is likely to make the most of his opportunities while at college.