

The Messenger Fund.

Editor Messenger:

I see by a recent editorial that you feel somewhat disappointed in the matter of the promised help to the MESSENGER from California; well I am not surprised that you are, for I must confess that I am disappointed myself, not that the money was not all raised by the first of January, for I did not look for that, but I expected more would be done than has been. Up to the present writing I have received only two reports in reference to it, from the agents appointed; these are encouraging, one says count on him for his proportion of the \$1000, the other thinks he will make his \$25.

Now, if every one goes to work, or would go to work in this way, the money would soon be raised. What say you, agents, will you still make an effort? If you haven't done anything yet, will you go to work now and do something? And, brethren, we ought to take the paper. We owe to ourselves and to the cause on the this coast to do all in our power to build it up.

There is not a denomination on the coast that doesn't support a denominational paper; even the Seventh Day Adventists have a weekly paper, which they are sending into every nook and corner of the country. Shall we, with all our boasted love of the truth, with all our professed devotion to primitive Christianity, be found lagging along behind, when we have the ability, financially and otherwise, to accomplish this good and much needed work. Brethren of California, what say you?

E. B. WARE.

From Bro. T. M. Morgan.

PLEASANT HILL, OR.

Jan. 7, 1880.

On Wednesday before New Year, I returned to Springfield to assist again in the meeting still in progress, with growing interest; notwithstanding the storm.

We had two more confessions at night, and met on Thursday and attended to the ordinance of baptism. At night we had another interesting meeting, also on Friday we had a happy prayer meeting in which our cups were filled to overflowing. And at night we had a fine meeting resulting in three additions, one by confession, the other two having been members before. We met again at eleven A. M. on Saturday, had another discourse, at the close of which, three more came forward and took membership that had been members, after which we repaired to the water and again attended to the solemn ordinance of baptism. And allow me here to state that while marching to the water to bury those penitent believers in the liquid grave, every feature assimilated that of a funeral occasion. Solemnity evidently rested upon the features of all present. Although we baptized on Christmas and New Year's day in the presence of a large concourse of people, many of whom were non-professors, yet there was not the semblance of mirth or levity manifest among them. Said a pious lady to her mother, (it being the first immersion she had witnessed), "It is the prettiest sight I ever beheld. I believe our Savior was baptized that way." Our meeting closed at the water and I hastened to the station and took the train for Cottage Grove to engage in a meeting; reflecting on the glorious meeting just closed, being one of the happiest of my life, where many hearts were made glad, and many eyes wept for joy. May the Lord ever be with those happy people, and may their hearts continually glow with the love of God, is my prayer. They have a bright future before them, numbering at present more than thirty contiguous to the preaching brethren at Eugene, and visited by Bro. Mulky, of Pleasant

Hill, whose fervent labors are well appreciated. Bro Cook, of Eugene, has agreed to bestow much labor there whose heart is all aglow with the importance of the good work. The Lord helping I shall return on the third Lord's day and spend another week with those good brethren.

I should have gone to Cottage Grove on Friday and commenced a meeting at night, but being "water bound" it was impossible to get there. So taking the train I arrived there on Saturday evening and found things in a bad condition for meeting. The bridges out of repair, the waters in the way and the brethren mostly living out in the settlement. But fully determined to try, I hunted up Bro. Shelly, (who ever spares no pains and is willing to do any necessary sacrifice, being fully conscious of the deplorable condition of the cause at that place), who gave out word and we succeeded in getting together a respectable number of citizens and had a rather pleasant meeting. On Lord's day we had a fair attendance but none from the settlements. At night we had a good audience considering the severity of the storm, and the attention was profound, and the congregation seemed to some extent to appreciate the importance of the work. Wishing to know the sentiment of the congregation, I took a vote as to whether we should continue the meeting if the weather would admit of it, the majority voting for the meeting. On that night it stormed fearfully; on Monday the rain continued until the branches and sloughs were so swollen and the bridges submerged even so much so that some feared the bottom would all be inundated, consequently we were compelled to discontinue our meeting, expecting if the weather permit to return and commence on Friday night before the 1st Lord's day in February, to continue as long as the interest will demand.

I am in high hopes of the work at Cottage Grove being a success. But the scattered "sheep" must be first hunted up and got together. Although they have been without a shepherd for sometime and perhaps some have strayed into the mountains I think they would yet recognize the Master's voice, and would be willing to return to the shepherd and bishop of their souls.

It will devolve on the evangelist to make a visit to every member and make their case personal matter. The Great Shepherd "loves his sheep," and certainly it is the duty of the evangelist to look after those scattered brethren. Brethren think not strange when your evangelist looks after you, you can make heaven rejoice by returning to the fold.

T. M. MORGAN.

SAN BUENA VENTURA, CAL.

December 28, 1879.

Dear Messenger:

At last I can send you a subscriber for the MESSENGER.

All admit that the MESSENGER is a good paper and worth the price, but the few brethren here are from the East, and those who feel able to take a religious paper prefer to take one from the part of the country from which they came.

As for getting anything subscribed toward the \$1000 to help the MESSENGER it is impossible in this part of the State.

Our little church is dead; the brethren and sisters are scattered, all of them poor in this world's goods, very few of them have homes and some have lost everything on account of hard times.

Business is so uncertain in California, and people so constantly moving from place to place, that little dependence can be placed in any enterprise.

I hope and pray that the MESSENGER will be supported; but I very much fear the brethren of Oregon will have to furnish most of the aid necessary, for California is but a broken

reed.

We are all in good health except mother who has not been well for the past year. I have been teaching for a year, but have vacation now.

My love to all the Oregon friends.

MRS. O. BRADSHAW.

PETALUMA, CAL.

Jan. 5, 1880.

Bro. Campbell:

I wish Bro. S. C. Adam's lecture on Seventh Day Adventism, might be published in a tract or pamphlet form, so that it could be circulated all over this coast, yes, in fact, far and near.

We need such an exposition and comment here in Petaluma. Would take pleasure and interest in circulating such a work; and I believe it would do a wonderful sight of good. I noticed the power of his quotations in the word of God too plain to be misunderstood.

I suggest the idea. It would be well, I think, if our Christian sisters as well as brothers, would take hold of this plan of converting our near and dear far-off friends. I have no money that I would spend more freely for the spread of the Gospel than in this pleasant way.

B. F. YOUNG.

Skepticism.

BY PROF. SANFORD.

Among the most important influences that have been brought to bear upon the different religious and philosophical systems of the world, may be mentioned the tendency to skepticism. By skepticism we mean the habit of mistrusting evidence, though the term is more commonly employed as relating to certain kinds of evidence, and especially to evidence of a religious nature.

It is not strange that among the conflicting theories of philosophy and morals, such a tendency should rise. The history of philosophy is in the main, but the history of two great systems, the sensational and the ideal. From them have sprung all the minor schools of philosophy, and, in one form or the other, they have shown themselves in the religious belief of every people.

In tracing the progress of these opposing systems, we find that in every age men have run to extremes in one of these two directions. Hardly does the philosopher become absorbed in investigating the facts of sensation, when the number, variety and magnitude of the phenomena seem to overwhelm him, and he makes sensation the basis of every mental state, while he disparages the value of other faculties. On the other hand, let the metaphysician become wrapped in the contemplation of the powers of reason, and he begins at once to detract from the value of the senses, and to look with contempt upon all experimental knowledge.

As these tendencies are followed up to their legitimate results, we find the first leading to egotism in morals, atheism in religion, and materialism in philosophy; while in the latter case they have given rise to religious rationalism, to fatalism, and ultimately to complete pantheism. When, therefore, either of these systems has been carried to such an extent that it could no longer impose upon the credulity of mankind, skepticism has sprung up, or, in other words, the common sense of mankind has rebelled against the current philosophy of the age.

Had skepticism been content to keep within its proper limits, and to confine itself to the task of exposing the errors in the different systems of philosophy, it would have been the means of accomplishing much good in the world; but like the philosophies which it was endeavoring to expose, it, too, ran to an extreme, and culminated in the assertion that no possible system of philosophy can develop any whatever with absolute certainty.

This spirit of skepticism has shown

itself in three principal forms, called absolute skepticism, authoritative skepticism and the skepticism of ignorance. Absolute skepticism consists in that disposition of mind which denies the certainty of any kind of knowledge. It is rarely found, and when it does appear it is only among the more thinking classes of mankind.

It has its best representative in the person of David Hume, who having gone, as he thought, to the very bottom of the foundations of the conflicting schools sensationalism, and rationalism, reached the conclusion that neither our sensations nor our reasoning faculties can be relied upon, and that the requirement of positive knowledge of any kind is an impossibility. This branch of skepticism has not, to our knowledge, any distinguished representative at the present time.

The next branch that we shall notice, the skepticism of ignorance, is confined to an entirely different class of men. It is peculiar to the less educated and more unthinking portion of mankind. It is this kind of skepticism that has marked the great periods of unbelief that have existed at different times in the world's history. Current systems of belief will from various causes become shaken to their very centers, and the people, sympathizing in the work of destruction, will carry it on till every vestige of their former faith is swept away. The next generation will grow up uneducated in any belief, and a skepticism will follow, not resulting from any designed rejection of the spiritual faith of mankind, but from ignorance of what there is to believe in. It is to this cause that much of the religious skepticism and infidelity of the present day may be referred.—Ez.

Literary Notices.

NOW IS THE TIME TO SUBSCRIBE TO FRANK LESLIE'S POPULAR MONTHLY.

The January Number—commencing a new volume—of this very excellent magazine is an unusually attractive one in its literary and artistic departments.

The department of fiction is very attractive. The stories are by some of the most popular writers, and one by N. Robinson, telling "How Mr. Nobbles took his Bride and Mother-in-Law to the Niagara Falls," with its comic illustrations, everybody who can appreciate genuine humor will enjoy. There are poems by Nellie C. Hastings, Rev. M. G. Watkins, A. A. Watts, etc., some admirable sketches, and an abundant miscellany embracing a variety of subjects. Notes of Travel, Fun, Science, etc., etc. There are 128 quarto pages, with about 100 illustrations, together with a beautiful colored frontispiece, entitled "Maternal Solitude." Those of our readers who desire pleasant and instructive reading should subscribe to Frank Leslie's Popular Monthly for the new year. The annual subscription is \$3, single copies, 25 cents, postpaid. Address, Frank Leslie's Publishing House, 53, 55 & 57 Park Place, N. Y.

A NEW VOLUME.

Littell's Living Age enters upon its one hundred and forty-fourth volume in January. It has just begun the publication, from advance sheets, of a new serial story by an author who does not often come before the public, but has done some of the best literary work of the day. Those who have read "Dorothy Fox," and "Hero Carthage," by Mrs. Parr, published some years ago, do not need to be told that they may expect in her new story, "Adam and Eve," one of the freshest and most charming serials of the present time. Another new serial, by Mrs. Oliphant, also recently begun in the Living Age, promises to be one of the author's best productions. In this department of the magazine, through the year, the best foreign authors are represented, and the choicest short stories are included.

The publishers present to new subscribers for 1880 the six numbers of 1879 which contain the opening chapters of the two new serials above mentioned. The present is therefore a favorable time for beginning a subscription. For fifty-two numbers (besides the free numbers) of sixty-four large pages each (or over 3,300 pages a year), the subscription price (\$8.) is low; while for \$10.50 the publishers offer to send any one of the American \$4 monthlies or weeklies with the Living Age for a year (including the extra numbers of the latter) both postpaid. Littell & Co., Boston, are the publishers.

Every person engaged in growing FRUITS or FLOWERS should take a paper exclusively devoted to these subjects, as is PURDY'S FRUIT RECORDER AND COTTAGE GARDENER—a monthly of 16 pages, at only \$1.00 per year, published in that great Flower City and fruit section, Rochester, N. Y., but owned and edited by A. M. Purdy, of Palmyra, N. Y., a life-long fruit grower and florist, and now having over one hundred acres in fruits, flowers, &c., and editing his paper from a practical daily experience, and years of close observation and study. Send to him at Palmyra, N. Y., for a specimen copy. It will speak for itself. Or by sending on the subscription price now (\$1.00) you get the full volume for 1880 and either of the following premiums, postpaid, now or next spring, as you may choose: The three last numbers for 1879, or Purdy's Small Fruit work of 64 pages, or either his beautiful Fruit or Flower piece, 13x16 inches, or four assorted pot-grown roses, or four assorted geraniums, or ten papers assorted choice flower seed, or one strong root of the most beautiful, hardy and fragrant Honeysuckle grown—the Heleena, or 25 assorted strawberry plants of the best sorts grown for this latitude, or 6 assorted hardy raspberry plants, or 6 best hardy gooseberries.

THE PHRENOLOGICAL JOURNAL for January, 1880, comes early into the field of American literature for the new year. Its topics are selected with particular reference to the season, and each one has an important practical bearing. It is rare to find a serial publication which from month to month covers a broad field, and yet so effectively instructs and interests its readers. To be sure its work relates to human nature specially, but one would think it difficult to provide fresh matter month after month, in such a field. The Journal, however, is a demonstration of the extent of the resources at the command of the earnest student.

Taken altogether, as we hinted at the beginning of this notice, the number is an excellent introduction to the new year, and will please the large circle of the Journal's subscribers. The price of this Journal is now only \$2.00 a year; single numbers 20 cents. To each yearly subscriber is given a Phrenologist bust, or a book premium. Address the publishers, S. R. Wells & Co., 737 Broadway New York.

A Revelation Burst.

Upon the public press and medical profession, when over twenty-five years ago, that grand result of medical research and synthetic skill, Hostetter's Stomach Bitters, was given to the world. Soon after it had been started on its curative mission it was discovered that the botanic properties far surpassed those of the approved mineral remedies of the day. Not the least among the good consequences of its general use has been to disabuse men's minds of many absurd medical fallacies, and to demonstrate the superiority of vegetable remedies. It conquers and prevents malarial fevers, dyspepsia, chronic constipation, a tendency to kidney and bladder ailments and rheumatism, and is of the greatest value in cases of bodily trouble arising from weakness. Old people are greatly aided by it, and it is highly serviceable to convalescents and ladies in delicate health. It is moreover, a useful medicine to take with one on long journeys, and counteracts the effects of mental exhaustion.

Andrew's Bazar and its New Year's Gift.

We presume there are but very few of our lady readers who are unacquainted with the great Fashion Journal, Andrew's Bazar. The career of this sparkling paper has been but little short of the marvelous. It begins its seventh volume with a subscription list of 75,000. Business energy and fair dealing, promises kept and a constant succession of good things, have deservedly given ANDREW'S BAZAR the high position it occupies in public esteem. After a perusal of any single number of it every reader must wonder how a journal which offers so many attractions can be furnished at its marvelously low price, only \$1.00 per year; when, in addition to this, we ascertain that every subscriber receives 50c. worth of patterns free, our perplexity increases; and when we find that every one who subscribes before February 1st, 1880, is promised a beautiful gift consisting of a grand supplement sheet of Fancy Designs worth \$1.00 we have to give it up as an unmovable conundrum. But the fact remains that the proprietor promises all this to the subscribers for 1880. That he keeps his word his vast army of subscribers is unmistakable proof. We would advise our lady readers to send \$1.00 for this model journal, beginning with the January number, which secures the New Year's Gift, or, at least, send 10c. for a sample copy to

W. R. ANDREWS, Publisher, Tribune Building, New York.