

PACIFIC CHRISTIAN MESSENGER.

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OFFICE EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

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Will Subscribers please notice the date following their names on the paper? It tells the time when your subscription expires; thus, if the date reads 1881, your subscription will expire Jan. 1, 1881. If the date after your name is a time past, you are in arrears. Please remit a little before your time is out, if possible.

Bro. Payne's article too late for this issue. Will appear next week.

The Bible in School.

Notwithstanding the intense opposition to the Bible in our common schools, it is gaining ground and increasing in influence.

The false issues assumed by its opponents are losing their power to deceive, and the true basis of the controversy is giving to the friends of light, liberty and morality vantage ground from which their adversaries can not drive them.

The school system must be sustained. To yield to the Catholics on the conscience argument would be the destruction of the system; for the same argument, can be made, and with equally good grace, by the infidel or atheist, who repudiates all Bibles and all religions, and objects to have his child taught what he deems worse than non-sense.

The Methodist too would by the same rule of justice be entitled to his *pro rata* of public funds. The Baptists, the Presbyterians and the Mormons would claim their distributive share; and the result would be the defeat of the system; and education would be given into the hands of wrangling and discordant sects, whose strife and dissensions would prevent the possibility of having a school, except in a community where one sect had greatly the ascendancy over all others; and then it would control the school and teach, not the Bible, but more probably some catechism or creed which would be a reasonable and justifiable excuse for other denominations not to patronize the school; and thus, if it was in the hands of the Methodists, the Baptist would not send, and though he help to pay the tax his children would go without an education; or if the Presbyterians controlled the school, Catholic children would be as effectually excluded as they claim they now are and with far more reason in the objection.

If it be true that intelligence and virtue form the basis of our republican institutions, then every member of the republic ought to contribute his due proportion to the spread of knowledge and the establishing of morality. Universal education can be secured only through the free school. These must not be divided, part Methodist, part Baptist, part Catholic and part Mormon. If it be injustice to refuse a *pro rata* of the public money to one party on the score of conscience, it would be far greater injustice, having granted it to one, to withhold it from others who would claim their share for the same reason. Every friend to republican institutions should be firm and earnest in opposition to any division of the school fund.

But the infidel plea is that the friends of the Bible wish to force it into the schools by legal enactment and keep it there by law.

Many Christians misled by this unwarranted assumption and utterly false issue, join in with Catholics and infidels in their opposition to free schools and secular education or consent that the Bible ought to be excluded by law.

We repeat, what we have said before on these pages, that we would

use tongue and pen to oppose any legislation fastening the Bible on the schools as promptly and as heartily as we oppose legislation to exclude it from the schools.

The Bible neither needs nor asks favors of congress or of legislatures; its only demand is to be let alone. It will find its own way into the schools in every community where the virtue and intelligence of the people have made sufficient progress to appreciate its influence and power.

Where this is not the case, there is ample work for the missionary before the Bible could be made profitable in school.

It is pleasant to learn that this important question is receiving attention in other countries.

England is taking decided and strong position in favor of reading the New Testament in school.

The following most interesting item on this point from Athens, Greece, we clip from the *Christian Statesman*, of January 15th:

"An order from the Department of Education, issued in September last, requires that in all the upper classes in the primary schools the New Testament in the original shall be used as a reading book. This is a new and very interesting phase of things, and it has caused a demand which is likely to be permanent. Dr. Kalopothakes has already sold all his stock, and has orders for a thousand, which he cannot at once fill, though he has sent to Constantinople for a new supply. There are in the Kingdom 1,300 schools of this grade, with about 90,000 scholars." Thus school boys in Athens are reading Paul's sermon on Mars' Hill, and his letters to the little church of Corinth are now read by a far larger company, and under the authority of the State. Let the good news encourage every teacher whose office it is to expound and apply the everlasting Gospel, and every one who has helped to spread abroad through the world the Book of Life. We commend Greece as a new field of labor to those who have been laboring to expel the Bible from American and English schools.

Reports from the Field.

SHERIDAN, YAMHILL CO., OR.,
Feb. 2, 1880.

Editor Messenger:

Our meeting at this place will close soon. We have had a good meeting; there has been several additions.

Bro. S. M. Hubbard has done all of the preaching; he is a good preacher and a good worker. He leaves us soon to join the brethren at Eugene in a meeting there. I think that he will do a good work there.

The chances are now that there will be a debate between Elder Hubbard and Mr. M. Doan, of the M. E. church, either right away or early next June.

I will report at the close of the meeting.

Yours in Christ,
E. W. BARNES.

MOUND RANCH, JACKSON CO., OR.,
Jan. 27, 1880.

Editor Messenger:

I am preaching every 2nd and 4th Lord's days at Eagle point, with increasing interest. The 1st Lord's day at home, and the 3rd at Eagle Point.

The weather is extremely disagreeable and the roads very bad, so there are not a great number attending meeting.

I made a hurried visit to Ashland on business yesterday, and on my way called on Bro. Gilbert, of Phenix. He informs me that he has arranged to preach in Phenix the 1st and 3rd Lord's days; and at the Baptist meeting house, three miles above there, the 2nd; and at Heber Grove school house, three miles east of Jacksonville, the 4th.

I am satisfied that could the brethren and sisters of this valley arouse from their lethargy and move forward with full determination to work for the best of all causes, we would see a better day here.

I hope to be able to give more of my time for the upbuilding of the cause ere long. I would be pleased to see an onward movement all along the line of the Lord's army this year.

I am confident that if we would acquit

ourselves properly, victory is ours. Sectarianism is losing its charms. Truth is mighty and will prevail if its friends will push it forward. Onward and upward then, brethren and sisters.

Yours in hope of a better and more glorious day,

MARTIN PETERSON.

SHERIDAN, YAMHILL CO., OR.,
Feb. 5, 1880.

Bro. Campbell:

The revival meeting is closed here for the present. Two more made the good confession at the close, making in all eighteen persons who have united with the Christian church since we came here. Two more will go to the M. E. church, which makes twenty persons as the result of the work. But the end is not yet, for the meeting closed with an increased interest, but I must, and have closed my work here for the present, to go to Eugene City and help the brethren there. Mrs. Hubbard will go with me there. We have had a glorious victory here; but almost all the work has devolved on me. I am tired and weary, but a day or two will soon rest me, and I shall go there ready for all work which may be before me. I expect a victory there, and hope that all the brethren will pray for me, that God will give me physical strength for all duty there.

The foundation of a strong church is laid here, and if Bro. Barnes is wise and faithful, he will gain many more.

I hope to see you soon when I can talk of interests, which I cannot write about now.

There ought to be seven more persons brought into the Christian church here soon, as the result of this meeting, but I cannot stay here longer now, but will return as soon as possible. Pray for us.

Ever yours in haste,
S. MONROE HUBBARD.

CENTERVILLE, UMATILLA CO., OR.,
Feb. 3, 1880.

Bro. Campbell:

Since my last report to the P. C. MESSENGER I have preached in Waitsburg and Spring Valley, of W. T. and Centerville, or Or., one sermon at each place.

I was present and heard Bro. Neal Cheatham preach two excellent discourses in Waitsburg.

The brethren of Waitsburg talk of building a church house this year. Good news.

Enjoyed myself well at a church social held by the brethren of Walla Walla, for the good of the cause generally, and especially for the purpose of talking up church building. The sisters are not idle in Walla Walla. Christian Sunday school in W. W. Bro. Cheatham regular preacher in W. W.

Centerville is now experiencing a revival meeting held by our Methodist brethren of the M. E. C. North. Not a few have joined. Good is being done here, but much more might be done, if instead of praying God to forgive (or bless as they call it) those who have not obeyed his commandments in full, they would tell them in plain Scriptural language, what God has commanded and promised, and pray that they would obey the commands of the Lord and receive his promises, which are sure to follow obedience. God cannot be therefore if he has promised to forgive sinners on certain conditions, which he has, he will do it; and no man dare to deny that such is true. Though by their actions, it seems that some doubt that he will, or else they have faith to believe the Lord will do what he has not promised. Will some good Methodist brother please explain?

In my awkward manner I addressed the good people of this place last Lord's day. Brethren of different denominations were present; the house was full to running over. Good feeling among all, and as good atten-

tion as the crowded state would admit. Four, two sisters and two brothers, came forward and claimed their relation in Christ to us. We gladly acknowledged the relation, and in token thereof gave them the hand of fellowship. One much respected young lady, being fully persuaded to be a Christian, came boldly to the front and made the noblest and best confession man or woman can make. And as the Scripture teaches was baptized, or immersed, immediately, for the remission of sins. Now she feels sure that God has forgiven her sins, because he promised to do so, if she would obey, which she did. Now if she lives according to the teaching of the apostles, found in the New Testament she is sure of a home in heaven; no guesswork about it.

We will commence a protracted meeting here on the fifth Sunday of this month, to continue over the first Sunday of next month. O how we need some one to work for us awhile, here in our little village, who can tell the sinner what to do in order to be saved. Who will come?

Our church house will be built as soon as the season will admit. Call and see us, brethren as you pass by.

Sunday school and social meetings, and some good preaching by Elder Gerking at the Gerking school house, three miles distant.

Your brother in Christ,
C. M. ELY.

General Church News.

(From Sunday Chronicle.)

—There are fifty-five churches in Richmond, Va., with 30,333 communicants.

—Presbyterian Scotland is surrendering its opposition to the celebration of Christmas.

—The Methodist Missionary Society has received \$10,013,265 in the last twenty years.

—The Society for Irish Church Missions to Roman Catholics in Ireland has raised £645,609 in the last twenty-six years.

—The mission schools in India receive considerable help from the Government, which pays for certain results in secular education.

—The clergymen connected with St. Patrick's Cathedral (Episcopal), Dublin, complain of the lack of liberality of the congregation.

—A new Russian Church temple is to be dedicated at Moscow in August next. It was begun in 1833, and will cost over \$13,000,000.

—Many Armenians are desirous of giving up the superstitions of their own church and connecting themselves with the Church of England.

—There is a revolt in some of the communes of Belgium, the secular authorities refusing to vote to usual supplementary grants to the stipends of the priests.

—The Baptists were the pioneer missionaries in Liberia, Africa, being in the field eleven years before the Methodists. They organized their first church in 1821.

—The Greek Government, is ordering that the Bible in Greek should be read in the public schools, specified that the original and not the modern Greek should be used.

—There has been a little flurry of excitement in Philadelphia over the reordination by a Baptist Council of the Rev. Henry Lasch, a Presbyterian minister, who recently became a Baptist.

—Rev. Daniel Edward, writing from Breslau on the subject of religious intolerance in Austria, tells how the gendarmes appeared on a recent Sunday in a Presbyterian meeting house at Nedwes, and took down forty-one names, which means that hearers and minister would alike be heavily fined.

—The number of Congregational churches in Minnesota is now 125, with a membership of 6,617, being a net gain of 479 for the year.

—There are 1,179 Sisters of Charity in the United States, in charge of 106 establishments.

—Modern scientific thought leads to the conclusion that Sodom was destroyed by a grand meteoric shower.

It is reported that at the next Roman Consistory the Pope will make a formal protest against the spoliation of temporal power.

—There is of late considerable opposition in the Established Church of England to reading of the Athanasian creed, which is required thirteen times each year.

—The place known as the "Tombs of the Kings," a short distance to the north of Jerusalem, has recently been purchased by a French lady, and by her orders, excavations have been undertaken there. Capitals and other architectural remains have been found.

—Agents of the Vermont Bible Society, in a recent visit to ninety-nine towns in that State, found that in every town except four there was at least one family which did not possess a copy of any portion of the Bible. Visits were made in 25,364 families of which number 2,323 were without the Scriptures, 524 of them being American families.

—The zeal of the St. Louis people has greatly abated in regard to the evangelical services of Moody and Sankey. The throngs are great, but the inquirers comparatively few. Moody does not know what to make of it, the condition of things is so entirely different from his experience in the last few years.

—Of the 3,300 Protestant Episcopal clergymen in the United States, only 2,000 are rectors of churches, and 525 are without any ministerial employment, except as they are invited to preach here and there as opportunity offers. This is not a pleasant showing for young men about to enter the ministry.

In some of the English churches the discussion still rages as to the use of the bag or plate in taking collections. The Prayer-book lays down no rule on the subject, and the whole matter is one of practice or preference. The bag used for collections is an ugly thing made of black goods, and fixed at the end of a pole six or eight feet long. Objection is made to it by people who are hit in the face by the ether end of it as it goes on its charitable rounds among the pews. The clergy generally favor the use of plates, while the laity are loud in their adherence to the bag.

—The sultan of Morocco is one of the most devout of Mohammedans, and is sick from the effects of poison which some unprincipled person administered to him. He has sent a trusted dervish to Mecca to try to borrow the broom with which the sacred Kaaba is swept, and to purchase a few bits of the cloth which covers the holy stone. Should the dervish return with these things, the sultan will hang the broom over his bed and wear the bits of cloth as amulets. This course of proceedings will, according to his understanding of it, make him well. The dervish is liberally furnished with gold coin for his journey.

The Famine in Ireland.

Much distress and great want have already been felt in Ireland. Several deaths from actual starvation have been reported; and it is feared that great distress will ensue before another crop can be harvested. Appeals have been made to the christian nations for aid, and means have been and are being sent to relieve suffering. The English government is projecting public works on an extensive scale to furnish labor to the unemployed.

The efforts of C. S. Parnell, now in the United States soliciting sympathy and aid, are meeting with hearty responses in the Eastern States.