

## Call for a Convention.

We the undersigned preachers and members of the Church of Christ in California, believing that the welfare of the cause in the State demands a more united and determined effort, on the part of the preachers and churches for its advancement, and believing that this much desired work can be greatly promoted by a convention of the preachers, church officers and other leading brethren, to give and take counsel as to the best methods of correcting errors and promoting the general good of the cause, earnestly request such a convention to assemble in connection with or immediately following the Sunday School Convention, to meet in Santa Rosa, in May next. And we do hereby earnestly request all the preachers of the State, church officers and other leading brethren, to meet at Santa Rosa on the 25th of May next, for the purpose herein set forth.

Dr. S. E. Pearce, Eld. H. D. Connell, Eld. Frank Aldridge, J. L. Marshall, Prof. A. D. Butler, Dr. C. Kendrick, Eld. B. S. Gardner, Eld. G. O. Burnett, A. Shone, T. B. Hood, James Fulton, O. H. Thompson, Eld. P. K. Dibble, Prof. J. M. Martin, J. C. Gentry, John Lineturner, Eld. W. H. Briggs, Prof. A. G. Burnett, J. M. Martz, Prof. J. C. Keith, Prof. J. Durham, I. N. Cain, E. B. Ware, Prof. Hamson Price.

## General Church News.

At a recent session of the St. Louis Conference it was resolved not to elect anyone to local orders who uses tobacco and will not promise to desist.

Bishop Scott is suffering from neuralgia. This, added to his impaired vision, prevented him from presiding at the East German conference.

Rev. Dr. Joseph Parker, a Congregational clergyman of London, has been announced as a candidate for a seat in Parliament.

The New England Conference has just held its session in Boston. It had not convened in that city since 1861—19 years. As there are 250 preachers in the Conference, money is raised in the charges throughout the conference to pay the expenses of the members during the session—a policy which ought to be adopted elsewhere.

Forty-nine members within a year have been added to a Christian Church in the Chinese village of Shia Chia Tang. A heathen temple in that village was converted into a church about a year ago.

Shepherd Cowley, now a convict in the penitentiary on Blackwell's Island for crimes of which he was convicted, still retains the rank of an Episcopal clergyman!

Bishop Harris spent over two months in Mexico. While there he dedicated a Church which had been built and paid for by native converts.

Rev. L. B. Gurley, D. D., of the Central Ohio Conference, died March 26th, aged 76 years. A well-rounded life terminated by the death of the righteous.

Four denominations are engaged in mission work among the Mormons in Utah. Their statistics are as follows: Congregational, three schools, twenty-three officers and teachers; 230 scholars; three additions to churches. Methodist Episcopal: four schools; thirty-five officers and teachers; 334 scholars; nine additions to churches. Protestant Episcopal: five schools, forty-five officers and teachers; 655 scholars; fifty-four additions to churches. Presbyterian: seventeen schools; sixty-two officers and teachers; 940 scholars; sixteen additions to churches. Union; one school, six officers and teachers; forty scholars. Total: thirty schools; 171 officers and teachers; 2199 scholars; eighty-two additions to churches.

The *Pittsburg Advocate* of April 1st says: "Of one hundred and thirty two delegates elected to the Methodist General Conference, eighty are presiding elders, nineteen are editors, and three are non-iterants, while only thirty-three are pastors. [There are three pastors from California, South-

ern California and Oregon.—*Ed. C. C. Advocate.*]

On the first Wednesday in April the Woman's Board of the Pacific held a quarterly meeting in Dr. Stone's church parlors. Valuable papers were read and the members felt encouraged to stronger efforts. Their requirements of this year include, as usual, the salaries of our three missionaries, with the addition of aid for eight girls, teacher and school fixtures for one school in Broosa.

Miss L. M. Gurthie, who for several years has been engaged in the Japanese educational work under the auspices of the Union Woman's Missionary Society, has accepted the appointment of missionary to Japan by the Board of Foreign Missions of the Protestant Methodist church. She is to sail in May.

## Routine.

"Your wife, sir" said a physician to a friend of ours, who was consulting him about his spouse, "is suffering from routine. There is no disease, but there is a lowering of the whole system simply from the monotony of her life. Take her out of her household cares for a time, to Washington, or anywhere else you like, for a change, and she will improve at once." From routine; we had not thought of it before, and when our friend reported the doctor's words to us, it opened up a quite new train of reflection to us, for it suggested the possibility of spiritual evils from the same cause. Is it not true that a great deal of the lack of vigor in the piety of these days may be due to the routine that is so unvarying in our daily labor? The ceaseless sameness of the work in which we are engaged comes to be at length a grievous affliction, and produces a very injurious effect upon our religious experience. Nobody can read the poems of Frederick William Faber without discovering that he suffered severely from this very cause. Hear how he bemoans and describes the disease in these quivering lines:

Love adds anxiety to toil,  
And sameness doubles cares,  
While one unbroken chain of work  
The flagging temper wears.

Do we not all feel, too, that a skillful practitioner has accurately diagnosed for us a condition into which we have often fallen when he writes thus:

For life has grown a simple weight,  
Each effort seems a fall;  
And all things weary me on earth,  
But good things most of all.

While, again, he has put the burden of monotony very clearly before us in these words:

O Lord! I always live in pain  
My life's sad undersong,  
Pain in itself not hard to bear,  
But hard to bear so long.

But it is, perhaps, more to the purpose to consider how these tendencies are to be resisted. It is easy to say, "Go away for a season of change," but that is not always possible; and, indeed, for the great mass of those who are thus afflicted, it is utterly impossible. Some other remedy, therefore, must be found. Others would say, "Let the man make the matter a subject of prayer, and let him seek out and enjoy the fellowship of Christian brethren." But the evil is that, in his state of mind, he has lost enjoyment in prayer, and that he has so far become depressed that he sympathizes with Faber again when he says,

The holy are so wearisome,  
Their very virtues pall.

And what is to be done in such a case as that? Clearly, nothing that is distinctly spiritual. But a change of occupation in the hours of leisure may be suggested, where a change of scene would be impossible; and there is much virtue in a wholesome "hobby." We believe every man who is required to labor in a monotonous fashion ought to have a hobby. It will be the safety-valve of his soul. It will keep him from "bursting up," which, in this instance, is the same as "breaking down," both mentally and spiritually.

We have heard of a man who, being found inside the grounds of a lunatic asylum, astride of a board on which he was swinging himself up and down, and being asked what he was doing, replied, "I am riding a hobby." But if he had done more in the way of riding a hobby in the intervals of labor, while he was sane, he might probably never have become insane. Many hard mental students have kept themselves in good mental tone by alternating the work of the desk with the labor of the turning-lathe, or some other kind of machine; and a fit of spiritual depression may be warded off by a tune on our favorite instrument, or a hunt after some new treasure for the aquarium, or some rare old volume for the library. We might prescribe, too, some fresh excursion into the streets and lanes of our city, after those who have been lost; or, in a word, any kind of alternative—the sinful sort always excepted—that will break up the routine. There is too much of the gin-horse in all departments of work, now that the division of labor is carried so fully into everything, and one man is kept at his one thing. The effect of this must be narrowing and depressing, and it needs to be counteracted. When Michael Angelo came one day to inspect the drawings of his students, he wrote on one of them the word *amplius*, wider; and so in some way or other we must widen our interests, if, at least, we would keep our minds vigorous, our hearts fresh, and characters full-rounded. Sameness is always dreary, and we must seek in variety the cure for routine.—*Christian at Work.*

## Uses of the Sunflower.

There are forty different species of sunflower scattered from New England to the Gulf and from ocean to ocean. Generally the plant is not esteemed, but it has many valuable uses:

Many of our native aborigines make bread of the seeds. It is cultivated in the south of Europe, sometimes as a field crop; the seeds being used as food for cattle and poultry, and also for making oil, which is little inferior to olive oil, is burned in lamps, and employed in the manufacture of soap. Meal and bread are said to be got from the seeds in Portugal, and these roasted, are often substituted for coffee. The seeds are also used like almonds for making soothing emulsions, and in some parts of the old world are boiled and fed to infants. The leaves are good fodder for cattle, the stems serve for fuel, and contain much potash.—*Etc.*

## Felicia Hemans' Childhood.

At the age of seven years, in bright summer days, it was her delight to climb into an old apple tree with a volume of Shakespeare in her hand, and lose herself in a world of imagination among the Rosalinds, Imogenes, and Beatrices. All that was strange, weird and romantic had an irresistible fascination for her. Gwrych, as every respectable old mansion should, had its specter, and on moonlight nights the child, all trembling yet eager, would creep out into the long, dark avenue, fearing yet hoping to get a sight of the goblin. At other times, when she was supposed to be in bed, she would rise, dress herself and steal out of the house down to the seashore to listen to the moaning of the waves and to indulge in a twilight bath. She was never sent to school; her education was purely desultory; all the world of poetry was thrown open to her; but from systematic studies, beyond French, English grammar and the rudiments of Latin, she was wholly exempted. At seven she began to compose verses, and at fourteen a volume of them was published.

## Enterprise in Oregon.

There is considerable of it shown in Oregon in the way of building mills, railroads, and other needed requirements of the present day, but no enterprise has yet been started that will hold a light to the many cures effected by the use of the celebrated OREGON KIDNEY TEA. Ask for it and use no other medicine. This is an Oregon production, composed of herbs.

## Literary Notices.

THE LIFE OF ELDER ELIJAH GOODWIN just published by John Burns, 717 Olive St., St. Louis, is handsomely bound in cloth and gilt in large type on beautiful paper. The author, J. M. Mathes, tells pleasantly the story of a life consecrated to the spread of the Gospel and to the good of his fellow beings. \$1.50 a copy. All who take a delight in the biographies of our pioneer preachers should send and get it.

DEMOREST'S for May is a magazine gem, and brings delight to the reader from the oil picture "Wild flowers" through the stories, poems, fancy work, fashions, editorium to the last page of the ladies club. Only \$3.00 a year. W. Jennings Demorest, 17 East 14th St., N. Y.

THE BAPTIST REVIEW for April, May and June, is on our table. J. R. Baumes, D. D. Editor. Some of the contents are "A Study of Elijah," by Rev. G. F. Genung, pastor, Baldwinsville, N. Y. "The Fragment of Muratori and the Origin of a Collection of Apostolic Catholic Scriptures," by Adolf Harnack. Translated from the German by Rev. J. F. Morton. "Paul's Doctrine of Sin," by Prof. E. P. Gould, Newton Theological Institution. "Increasing Harmony on Essential Doctrines among Evangelical Christians," by Rev. J. L. Burrows, D. D., pastor, Louisville, Ky. "The Design of the Ordinances," by Rev. T. S. Barbour, pastor, Brockport, N. Y. "The Rock that Followed Them," by Rev. H. A. Sawtelle, D. D., pastor, Chelsea, Mass. Published quarterly by J. R. Baumes, Cincinnati.

We have received a treatise on The Horse and his Diseases, containing an "index of diseases," which gives the symptoms, cause, and the best treatment of each; a table giving all the principal drugs used for the horse, with the ordinary dose, effects, and antidote when a poison; a table with an engraving of the horse's teeth at different ages, with rules for telling the age of the horse; a valuable collection of receipts, and much other valuable information, by Dr. B. J. Kendall & Co., Enosburgh Falls, Vt. Retail price 25 cts.

BALLOU'S MONTHLY MAGAZINE FOR MAY.—Ballou's Monthly Magazine for May is out, with a well-written illustrated article on Siberia, worthy the attention of the reading portion of the public. It recommends that means be taken to open up the trade of the vast country with the Pacific coast. There is a magnificent piece of music in the May number, worth more than the price of the magazine; and, in addition to this, there is the following brilliant table of contents: "Siberia, and the Russians," "Aspirations," "Ruthven's Puzzle-Page," "Editorial Notes," "The Housekeeper," "Curious Matters," "Things Pleasant and Otherwise," "Our Picture Gallery." Published by Thomas & Talbot, 23 Hawley Street, Boston, Mass., at \$1.50 per annum, postpaid, and for sale at all the news depots in the country. Send in your subscription at once to this popular magazine.

GODEY'S LADY'S BOOK for May opens with several pages of Christian Reid's best novel, "Roslyn's Fortune," which is anxiously expected by all subscribers, and well repays the interest it excites. There are also various sketches in prose and poetry, a feast of literary treasures, and the new serial, "Glenarhan," is continued. The steel plate is one of Darley's masterpieces, and there is page after page of attractive fashion matter following the mammoth colored plate. Every department is filled with attractive matter, and ladies will pronounce the "May Godey" one of the pleasantest surprises of the pleasant month. Godey's Lady's Book, 1006 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia.

"THE POPULAR HISTORY OF ENGLAND," by Charles Knight. "Standard Series" edition, in eight volumes. Price, manila cover, 30 cents per Vol.; \$2.40 per set; in cloth, \$2.90 per set. I. K. Funk & Co., New York. This is the cheapest edition ever issued of this great work. The former price was \$18.00 and \$25.00. This edition, we are glad to observe, is not cheapened by printing on second-hand plates and thin wood-paper, as are so many other cheap books, to the destruction of the eyes of readers. The type is large, leaded brevier. This great work of Charles Knight contains nearly as much matter as Hume's and Macaulay's histories combined, covering the whole ground of English history down to 1868. It is called "popular" because it is a history of the people, not of the dynasties alone. Said Lord Brougham of this work: "Nothing has ever appeared superior, if anything has been published equal, to the account of the state of commerce,

government and society at different periods." Dr. Noah Porter speaks enthusiastically: "The best history of England for the general reader is Knight's 'Popular History.' For a single history, which may serve for constant use and reference in the library, or for frequent reading, it is to be preferred to every other." The London *Standard* declares: "This work is the very best history of England that we possess." At these marvellously low prices every family should possess a copy of this great work. Few books are better calculated to deal a deadly blow at pernicious literature. We commend the "Standard Series" edition to all.

THE CALIFORNIAN for May is fuller than usual. We give below the table of contents:—Field Sports in Australia, R. E. Desmond; The First Legislature on this Continent, W. W. Crane Jr.; In Shasta, Charles H. Shinn; Sand, chapter V., J. W. Gally; The President Crisis in San Francisco, C. T. Hopkins; The Philippine Islands—A Holiday in Bosoboso, Arthur T. Marvin; High Jinks, Andrew McF. Davis; Reminiscences of Colonel E. D. Baker, Edward B. Jerome; For the Last Time, May N. Hawley; Almost a Novel, Philip Shirley; A Day at an Old Mission, Mary H. Field; Ruby, chapters III., IV., Julia H. S. Bugaia; The North Wind, E. R. Sill; The First Xerxes Loan Collection, Octave Thant; Fish in season, W. N. Lockington; Indian Dances in Northern California, Lucy Sargent. \$3.00 a year. A. Roman Pub. Co., 202 Sansome Street, San Francisco, Cal.

## How Many Would be Left.

A writer asks the following pungent questions:

When the following classes are taken out of our churches how many would be left?

- All who do not pay their just debts.
- All who are hypocritical.
- All who are deceitful, and talk about others behind their backs.
- All who get in debt without a prospect of paying the same.
- All who are proud and scornful, holding themselves above their fellowmen and shunning those less fortunate than themselves.
- All who worship money more than they do their Creator.
- All who speculate on the ignorance of others.

## Don't Stop that Cough,

Too suddenly by taking some mixture containing Morphine. Better far let nature take its course, gently assisted by that pleasant and reliable remedy, Dr. Young's Yankee Cough Syrup.

AN EXTENDED POPULARITY.—Each year finds "Brown's Bronchial Troches" in new localities, in various parts of the world. For relieving Coughs, Colds, and Throat Diseases, the Troches have been proved reliable.

## 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.

## Vacant Places

In the dental ranks will never occur if you are particular with your teeth, and cleanse them every day with that famous tooth wash, SOZODONT. From youth to old age it will keep the enamel spotless and unimpaired. The teeth of persons who use SOZODONT have a pearl-like whiteness, and the gums a roseate hue, while the breath is purified, and rendered sweet and fragrant. It is composed of rare antiseptic herbs and is entirely free from the objectionable and injurious ingredients of Tooth Pastes, &c.

—The King of Northumberland in 690 gave for a history of the world 800 acres of land, and a Countess of Anjou, date not stated, once gave 200 sheep and a large parcel of furs for a volume of homilies, and 120 crowns for a single book of Livy! In 1720 a Latin Bible was valued at \$150, and this was a time when two arches of London Bridge were built for less than \$150. A laborer in those days had wages so small that the earnings of fifteen years had been necessary to buy the Bible, and the Bible being in Latin he could not have read it after all.