

FREE METHODISTS

WHO ARE THEY?

The Free Methodists are a body of christians who profess to be in earnest to get to heaven by conforming to all the will of God as made known in His word. They do not believe that either God or the Bible has changed to accomodate the tendencies of the age. The conditions of salvation, as they teach, are the same now as e'ghteen hundred years ago.

THEY TEACH

Early Methodist doctrines which to every real Methodist means Bible doctrines. Repentance, the new Birth, and entire Sanctification are earnestly taught and strongly urged upon all as fundamentals in all true religion. All their ministers believe in and teach entire Sanctification to be a definite state of grace to be received instantaneously by faith subsequent to justification. They insist on plain dress, plain churches with free seats and congregational singing. In short they teach and are trying to revive early Methodism. They have 29 conferences, one college and six seminaries of learning. They publish a sixteen page weekly paper, a monthly magazine, and smaller weeklys and semi-monthlies.

AN EXPLANATION.

In justice to the cause of God and myself I feel called upon to explain why we are in the city, since it has been commonly reported that our object here is to take advantage of my labors in the West Belleville Church last fall. The report that I had this tent meeting in view while laboring in West Belleville revival is absolutely false.

Thus it may appear to some but the facts are as follows. Last fall I was called from my conference appointment (Woodstock, Illinois) to Belleville to attend my brother in his sickness.

The West Belleville meeting was in progress when I arrived and I was invited by the pastor to assist in said meeting

which I did with as pure motives as ever I labored in any meeting. At that time I fully intended to return to my circuit. My brother lingered until Feb. 17 and I was then conducting a series of meetings on Rev. Mr. Brown's circuit, at Bethel church which continued for two months, and I did not resign my work in Illinois until nearly the close of the Bethel revival. Friends, does this look as though I labored in West Belleville with a view of this tent meeting?

During my labors in the City Mission I met with Elder Craig as he was passing through the city on his way eastward to hold a quarterly meeting. He told me that for two years he had been intending to hold a series of tent meetings in this city and said he would send for Rev. Norrington and wife if I would agree to assist them in tent work this summer but I did not give him any definite answer. While attending Elder Craig's June camp meeting, North of Toronto I met Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Norrington and agreed to labor with them this summer.

I told Elder Craig that I felt led to Toronto and I even went to the city to select a lot on which to pitch our tent, but he requested me to come here and we are here by request of the Presiding Elder and not through any evil design. We sought a lot on the east hill but could not get what we thought a favorable location.

We could not pitch our tent in the flats as the rock is too near the surface to stake the tent so we were driven to pitch the tent on the hill. We would much rather be in a location more convenient to all than where we are. Friends don't judge us wrongfully. The above is written with kindest feelings to all. We solicit the prayers and co-operation of all lovers of Jesus. Yours in the bonds of love

ELDER B. P. CLARK.

Services every night at eight o'clock in the tent on Octavia street, West Belleville. All are invited.