

I may say that in all the Western States, truth is onwards its march of triumph. Sectarianism, on the part of those without, and covetousness on the part of those who have a name with us, are the two great obstacles we meet with here. Both are being shorn of their power.

I have been laboring in and about Paris the past year. We have doubled our numbers, and have organized two other congregations near here. Pray for us, that the word of God may have free course, and that we may finish the work committed to our hands in the spirit of our Master."

NEWS FROM MICHIGAN.—The zealous brother Rose, writing from Buchanan, March 21st, says:

"On last Lord's day at Paw Paw, I had the pleasure of baptizing one person into Christ. Within the last three or four months my heart has been gladdened by the return of some fourscore souls to their Redeemer the king of Kings and lord of Lords. I have been laboring mostly in conjunction with Elder William Anderson, a faithful and beloved brother in the Lord. May the Lord preserve us all unto his heavenly kingdom."

SMART PREACHING.

There is a style of discourse coming into use in some quarters, which for the honor of the pulpit and the cause of pure religion as well as sound sense, we would fain hope might sink into that contempt which it deserves. We have denominated it "flash preaching," for it is evidently of that kind that only takes powder enough for a flash to attract an audience, and concerns itself little about shot, bullet or correct aim. Its tribute is an admiring stare, rather than a wounded conscience. Its aim is popularity instead of usefulness, and its results are lamentable.

The roots of the evil undoubtedly are found in a lack of vital piety, false taste, and an ambition to attract notice and produce "a sensation." Candidates for vacant pulpits must vie with one another in claims to popularity. They feel that they must say something vivid, striking or odd, that will remind their hearers of some great man. They would imperfections, and envy Cromwell the wart on his nose as an indication of genius. In some cases this "flash preaching," has a kind of merit. It would read well among the sentimentalism of a magazine. It would not be altogether out of place in the first chapter of a religious novel. But when it is graced with those witticisms which set an audience in a titter, we must pass it over with contempt. In any case, it is a dishonor to the majesty of divine truth and a perversion of the true aim of preaching.