

No power could have been selected by the Almighty in this stage of creation to so fitly represent Him as the great vivifying power and at the same time lay the foundation for the great work of all creation. The word light in this decree includes all the forces of light, heat, and electricity, or those powers that drive all the vivifying machinery of creation. This light, then, you see is the great representative power of God in the physical creation. So, this great representative light is the great power used in man's spiritual redemption, the author of which is Christ, for He says, "I am the light of the world." Light, then, in whatever sphere we take it, whether in the physical, the moral or spiritual is the great analogue to Him who is called light.

Let us note how light as the spiritual analogue of God reclames the lost soul, touching it with the life-giving power of eternal life. Oh, what a grand theme to contemplate. We all understand fully the power of light in any organic growth; how, deprived of the vivifying influence of the solar beams, the little plants would suffer and decay, and the animal itself receive an abnormal growth. From the histories of peoples and institutions we can fairly conceive the effect of the light of knowledge when operating against ignorance and superstition; but when we come to the subtle operation of the greater light of life on the minds of men, how silently yet convincingly it steals into our hearts, and we are led to exclaim with the Hebrew prophet, Arise, shine; for thy light is come and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee (Is. vi:2)

We see that Christ is to darkness in the soul of man what light is to darkness in the physical world. Light by its presence dispels darkness; so, Christ by His presence dispels sin or brings life and immortality to light. In no sense can man be said to receive life eternal through Christ but by believing on Him through the hearing of His word. You will at once see from this the consistent relation the hope of salvation bears to the endowments of humanity. All rational beings have the power of believing facts when properly evidenced and proven. It was to the intelligence of men that Christ appealed throughout all His ministry, and it was to this all His ambassadors appealed in all their evangelizing efforts.

All the information we may acquire comes through any or all of five channels. These have sometimes been called, and very appropriately, the five gateways of knowledge, viz.: Taste, touch, smell, hearing and seeing. Man to become conscious of any fact must acknowledge it through any or all of these senses, and if we are to acquire knowledge by oral or written speech it must be through the senses of *hearing* and *seeing*, never by any of the other senses. Christ reveals Himself to man by the gospel. The gospel is the power of God unto salvation, and by it we shall be judged in the last day. II. Romans xvi:2; I. Thes. viii. In apostolic times it was proclaimed wholly by preaching, and was the divine fiat to be used in the work of redemption. See I. Cor. i:17, 18 and 21-23. Any fact preached or proclaimed reach the understanding only through the sense of hearing; and, therefore, the gospel when preached can only reach the understanding through that sense, never by the sense of feeling. Yet, how many are there to-day depending solely for their salvation upon that very sense! In the whole economy of salvation there is nothing so worthy an all-wise God as the relation of the gospel to man.

The gospel, then, must first be preached or made known. Then, as a consequence, it will be heard; then it must be believed, and, lastly, obeyed. Hearing alone is not sufficient, but the gospel must be obeyed, which is to God as well as to man the prime test of faith. We may prop ourselves up by human assumptions and omit acts of obedience which to us may seem trivial though positively com-

manded, but in the final judgment, when the dead, small and great, shall stand before the great white Throne, and the book of life is opened, and that gospel which was preached to us read, then we might well call upon the rocks and the mountains to hide us from the face of Him who sitteth upon the Throne, for terrible is the wrath of an offended God.

Knowing this, then, brethren, let us not offend the Almighty Jehovah, who is slow to anger and of great kindness, and let us remember the fathers in Israel, who, when they had dealt proudly and hardened their necks, and hearkened not to the commandments of Jehovah, were given into the hands of their enemies. N. S.

Home Mission Notes.

A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Elder Marshall, of South Range, thanks the good people in St. John for the chairs they sent to help furnish the church there.

By the death of a good sister in New York there will be another church built there, as she has left \$50,000 in her will for that purpose.

In Turner, Oregon, Bro. Turner has built for the Disciples of Christ a tabernacle that will cost 3,000. These are generous gifts and will go a long way to build up the churches.

Bro. Moffett writes as follows: "The committee on missions said they would like more time to consider your offer. I have little doubt they would give \$500 if they were not already pledged quite up to, if not beyond, the receipts of last year. The man for your field will be quite as hard to find as the money. Sorry I can not write more definitely."

We are somewhat disappointed at this reply, but not discouraged. We will have an evangelist in the field as soon as possible. We feel sure the brethren will respond to our calls for funds to pay a fair salary.

A word to those who have done so well collecting for the fund in the past. Do not relax your efforts, the success of the mission work depend largely on you. We know it is difficult work; but soldiers of Christ are able to perform anything for Him. So far this year more has been collected than last. Let us keep this up and be able to report at the next annual, the largest amount ever collected for home missions.

We congratulate Sister Darst on winning that \$100.00 prize, and for the noble, generous and useful way she is disposing of it. Sister Darst not only writes well about mission work, but she is one of the most untiring and efficient workers among the Disciples of Christ.

The object of these "notes" is to keep the brethren posted in our Home Mission work; to create greater zeal in the Master's cause; to make them realize more fully the power and grandeur of our plea for "union"; to make them feel that success will attend our efforts if we all pull together; and to get them to give more liberally for the Home Mission work. A brother says, "the idea is so solid in the minds of many of our people that nothing can be done in these provinces in the line of success, that success is doubly difficult. I believe we have struck the right key this year. I am anxious beyond description to see success. If you can establish the idea in the minds of our brethren that success is sure to attend our efforts, then half the work is done, and by far the largest." Brethren this is too true of us in these provinces, we do not half realize the power of the Gospel to turn men from sin and sectarianism. Let us rise up then as one man in the Lord; and give our time, our talents and our means to His cause. Marvalli-

ous success attends our brethren in other places which the following from the *Standard* shows:

"There is inspiration for us in a comparison of results. Every encouragement is given for us to spend our money, to give our time, and to persuade our young people into the ministry of the Word. The Presbyterian Church had in the home mission field year before last, two thousand and sixty-two workers. We had three hundred and twelve. They received sixteen thousand eight hundred and eighty-six members; and we added seventeen thousand seven hundred and thirteen. They spent forty-seven dollars and ninety-one cents for each person added; and we ten dollars and forty-three cents. They had eight additions to a missionary, and we fifty seven. With their number of workers and at our own rate of increase we would have gained one hundred and seventeen thousand five hundred and thirty-four persons from the mission fields alone. Compared with the Congregationalists the difference is still more marked in our favour.

Given the spirit of John Smith, Walter Scott and their companions, and we will soon spread over these United States. Let us face difficulties with supreme faith in the Christ we preach. Let us acknowledge no obstacles insurmountable. Let us lift our ministry above all professionalism and questions of place and profit; and let each covet the position of sacrifice and labor as the post of honor. Let us look for the same spirit in home missionaries that we expect in the workers in foreign fields.

Let the report go before us that "these men who have turned the world upside down have come hither also," and the battle is already won."

THEY SAVED THE DIME:—Bishop Bowman, of the M. E. Church, tells the story of two little children, daughters of his washer-woman, who used to come to his house every Monday for the basket of clothes. He noticed them one day tugging the heavy basket between them, and calling his daughter to him he said:

"Give those girls an extra dime whenever they come for the clothes, and let them take the basket home in the street-car."

Months passed, and again he saw the children tugging their basket as before. He asked his daughter why she had not given them the extra dime.

"I do give it, every week," she said: "but they walk home, save their money, and put it into the missionary box."

These children might teach us all a lesson in giving to the Lord. The term "self-denial," is one of which but few of us have an experimental knowledge. We give what we can spare without missing it, we give without narrowing in any way the daily comforts which we regard as a matter of course, but we do not give as did these children. We do not give as did the Macedonian believers, who ministered to their needier brethren and sisters out of their deep poverty and their abundant joy. We do not give as did the poor widow, who of her penury cast into the temple treasury all the living that she had. If we would see the world evangelized and the church growing up in all things unto its perfect head, we must learn to make Christ's work first, and to give even at the cost of personal discomfort and privation.

RECEIPTS.

Cornwallis was credited with \$4.00 last month; it should have Milton \$4.40, which makes amount received,	\$107.28.
Cornwallis—	
Per R. Jackson	16.00
St. John—	
Y. P. Mission Band	1.75
St. Croix, Hants Co.—	
Mrs. C. Sanford50
Westport—	
Per Miss Porter	1.30
South Range Church	8.61
South Range—Per H. A. Devoe	
A. Marshall	1.00
B. Sabean	1.00
J. Shortliff	1.00
J. Ziegler	2.70
Southville—	
Per Elder Steele	2.00
Milton—	
Per Miss Freeman	4.22
Total	147.36

J. S. FLAGLER, Treasurer.