

Address to the Christian People Bellefonte Patriot.

BELLEFONTE, CENTRE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, PRINTED BY W. BRINDLE.

Vol. I.

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CONDITIONS.

The price of this paper is two dollars and fifty cents per annum—but if paid half yearly in advance, two dollars only will be charged.

Advertisements, making no more in length than breadth, will be inserted three times for one dollar; and for every subsequent continuance twenty-five cents.—Those of greater length in proportion.—Rule or figure work double those rates.

No subscription will be received for less than one year; nor any paper discontinued until all arrearages are paid.

If the subscriber does not request a discontinuance of his paper, at the end of the year, it will be considered as a new engagement; and the paper forwarded accordingly.

Subscribers who have their papers carried by the mail, must be liable for the postage.

Letters addressed to the editor must be post paid.

FOR SALE.

THE subscriber offers for sale a valuable tract of

LAND,

situate in Patton township, Centre county, Pa. adjoining lands of Isaac Lamborn, Gen Philip Benner, and others, containing

400

acres. On this tract is erected a square log

House & Barn,

about 40 acres are cleared, six of which are

MEADOW.

The whole of the tract is well watered.—For further particulars enquire of the subscriber, living on the premises.

James Dillen.

Nov. 18.

To the Christian People of Centre county, of all denominations.

The Subscribers, being appointed by the Auxiliary Bible Society of this county, to present to your view the great object of the institution, beg leave, with great submission, to present for your consideration the following

ADDRESS.

Fathers, brethren, friends and fellow-citizens,

THE Bible is emphatically called the WORD of salvation and the WORD of life, and with great propriety it is so called; for by it life and immortality is brought to light; but without it all is obscurity and thick darkness—even darkness that may be felt. Many are the ways and devices which those who have been deprived of this light, have invented as a substitute, but all have utterly failed of success. Even those nations who have boasted of the greatest attainments in the arts and sciences, and the greatest refinements in civil life, have nevertheless discovered as much ignorance of the true God, and the acceptable manner of worshipping Him as the most ferocious savage of the wilderness. They had gods many and lords many; but all their inventions only demonstrated the impossibility of human reason, or the mere light of nature, even with the aids of tradition, discovering the nature and perfections of the LORD JEHOVAH, and the way to happiness and glory. Alas! the world by wisdom knew not God. Professing to be wise they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds and four-footed beasts and creeping things. They changed the truth of God into a lie, and served the creature more than the Creator. They ascribed the vilest passions and propensities to their imaginary deities, and the kind of worship they tendered them consisted of the most abominable atrocities. Even their most profound philosophers and wisest sages, were as much bewildered when they attempted to scan this mysterious subject, as the most vulgar peasants. Nor are the present inhabitants of the earth, to whom the word of this salvation hath not been sent, in any better condition. Many nations and countries and people, have lately been discovered, of whom the ancients knew nothing; but all have been alike ignorant of the true God, and the way of salvation. All have discovered an eager desire to obtain a happiness which sublunary enjoyments cannot give, but how to attain this happiness, they have shewn, by their gross ignorance, is far beyond the reach of human reason; and of this they appear themselves to be conscious.

But whenever and wherever the Bible penetrated, then and there the darkness was dispelled. The Sun of righteousness arose with healing under his wings, and that which before was hid under an impenetrable veil, now became so visible, that he who runs might read.

When it pleased God to disseminate the knowledge of his will to the gentile world, by the ministry of his Apostles, and their successors, Pagan darkness fled before it, notwithstanding the most rigorous efforts of human power to support this darkness; but when the professed teachers of christianity became so degenerated and corrupted, by worldly grandeur and prosperity, as to lock up the scriptures of truth from the people at large; then did what was called Christendom relapse again into worse than Pagan ignorance and barbarity; and that period of time which passed over the world, from the end of the sixth to the beginning of the sixteenth century, has, with great truth, been called the 'Dark ages.'

Towards the beginning of the sixteenth century, the two witnesses, who were supposed, by their enemies, to have been slain, having been resuscitated, began to prophesy again. The light of divine revelation, which had been nearly extinguished, began to break forth in one of the streets of the great city which is spiritually called 'Sodom or Egypt'—or mystical Babylon; and wherever this glorious light darted its benign influence, darkness disappeared. Many were astonished at beholding this glorious illumination—and when they contemplated the sublime and heavenly truths which had been so long concealed from their views by those who professed to be their spiritual guides, they glorified the God of Heaven, and a great reformation succeeded, notwithstanding the rage, the malice, and the powers of hell and earth were exerted to suppress it. Satan then came down having great wrath, because he knew his time was short; he endeavored by force and violence to extinguish the light of truth, and drive the woman again into the wilderness, but finding all his efforts in this way ineffectual, he attempted, about the middle of the last century, to transform himself into an Angel of light. He raised up an host of opposers to the true light, composed of persons who called themselves philosophers. They entered into a conspiracy to drive the light of the gospel out of the world by cunningly devised sophistry, and perverted metaphysics. Many of them even attempted to extirpate the knowledge of the true God; and towards the close of the century, they vainly fancied that their success was certain. But woe to man that striveth with his Maker. We all know their end was terrible. Like Jonah's gourd, they came in a night and they perished in a night. So far were they from shutting out the light, that they were the occasion of making it shine more luminously, and of diffusing its rays more extensively.—Their attempts brought into the field a phalanx of brave gospel champions, who, armed with the sword of the spirit, completely exterminated this ephemeral excrescence.* The divinity of the

*The Rev. Dr. Andrew Fuller, one of the most renowned of those gospel champions, in 1799, the time when infidelity seemed most triumphant, and had apparently reached the zenith of its success, speaks of it in the following language, which at the present day has the appearance of prophecy.

"Let not the heart of any man fail him, on account of the high tone and scornful airs assumed by infidels. The reign of infidelity may be extensive, but it must be short. It carries in it the seeds of its own dissolution. Its immoralities are such, that the world cannot long sustain them. Scripture prophecy has clearly foretold all the great governments of the world, from the time of the Jewish captivity to this day: the Babylonian, Persian, Macedonian, and Roman; together with the ten kingdoms into which the last of these empires has been divided, and the government which sprang up from amongst them; but it makes no explicit mention of this. It has no individual subsistence given it in the system of prophecy. It is not a beast; but a mere putrid excrescence of one of the beasts; an ex-

sacred book was so completely illustrated and its supreme excellency so clearly demonstrated, that infidelity, as ashamed, was obliged to hide its head. And although it is certainly too true that many who live under the light of the gospel, still continue practical infidels; yet, at this present time, none dare risk their reputation in the world by becoming its avowed advocates.

The consequence of this glorious victory began to be displayed about the beginning of the present century. To diffuse the light more copiously, Sabbath day schools, Missionary societies, Tract societies, and Bible societies, were formed and organized in many parts of the christian world; by whose unwearied exertions, under the guidance and protection of the Lord of light, the BIBLE has been disseminated, to a certain extent, among some of all people, nations, kindreds, tongues and languages. Many people who sat in darkness have, by this means, seen a great light, and to those who sat in the regions of death, light hath arisen. But much yet remains to be done. There is a vast field to occupy!—Many millions of the human race are yet shut up in utter darkness, having nothing to direct their course but the feeble, treacherous star light of degenerate nature. And even among ourselves, in our own nation, our own state, our own county, where the light shines without any thing to intercept its transparent beams, we are afraid, nay we are certain, there are many still destitute of it; and still more, shut their eyes against it. Of many of us, we are fearful it may be truly said, that 'the light shineth in darkness, and the darkness comprehendeth it not.' There is reason to fear that there are many individuals among us, and some families, who are destitute of the word of life: some perhaps from inability to procure it—others from want of inclination, and many who have it, to whom, nevertheless, it is a sealed book.

The contemplation of these things must, surely, move with compassion the hearts of all those who have tasted that the Lord is gracious. To co-operate with those societies which have been formed to remove this great evil, and, as far as practicable, to enable all men to acquire a knowledge of the truth, is that to which we are now called by the good providence of God; and for our encouragement to go on, we have the promise and oath of Jehovah himself, that ultimately, the work shall be successful.—GOD hath spoken it in his holiness; therefore let every sincere bible believer rejoice. HE hath pledged himself to his eternal Son, to give him the heathen for his inheritance and the uttermost ends of the earth for a possession. 'The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together; for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.' There is not an old testament prophet, nor prophecy, which hath pointed out and foretold the incarnation of our Saviour, and the great work which he has to perform, but hath also predicted that, ultimately, his dominion shall extend, and his gospel be published over the whole earth; and the new testament hath illustrated, amplified and fully corroborated all those great and precious promises.

The great tribulation that the church was to suffer during the 1260 prophetic days, hath been foretold and described under a great variety of figures and images. The reign of ignorance and superstition; the triumph of Satan; the success of his instruments; the four great beasts, with all their various changes and modifications, together with the banishment of the women clothed with the Sun into the wilderness, & the prophesying of the evangelical witnesses in sackcloth; have all been pointed out and declared by the sure word of prophecy; and we find every thing has been accomplished as it was foretold: and knowing this, can we doubt that those glorious things which are spoken concerning the city of our GOD, shall also be accomplished? Indeed the signs of our times seem to indicate that this time is not very far distant.—We have witnessed strange things in our day—astonishing revolutions have passed over the world in rapid and unexpected succession. We have seen the symbolical earth shaken to its centre, by unexampled storms, thunders, lightnings and earthquakes, (according to the language of prophecy)—and although, at present, there seems to be a temporary calm, yet we dare not flatter ourselves that it will be permanent. But what affords the greatest ground of consolation and encouragement that the time is fast approaching when the seventh angel shall begin to sound, and the mystery of GOD be finished as was declared by his servants, the prophets, is, the great zeal every where displayed, in diffusing the light of divine revelation over the world; and this is one of the principal means by which Christ is to triumph over his enemies: for we are assured that the man of sin shall be consumed by the spirit of the Lord's mouth, and destroyed by the brightness of his

presence which, tho' it may diffuse death through every vein of the body on which it grew, yet shall die along with it. The beast, and all which pertains to him, goeth into perdition. There is no space of time allowed for this government: no sooner it is said, Babylon is fallen, than voices are heard in heaven declaring that the marriage of the Lamb is come. No sooner does the judgment sit, to take away the dominion of the little horn, to consume and to destroy it unto the end, than it follows, And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High."

The following enumeration of Bible Societies, taken from the Reports, will shew the extent to which the friends of the Bible have gone in their labor of holy charity:

In the British dominions, the number of Societies is about	600
On the continent of Europe, besides a great many Auxiliaries not reported,	100
In Asia,	6
In Africa,	4
In the British provinces in America,	20
In the United States about	200
Total	930

These Societies have printed, for gratuitous distribution, or to be sold at very reduced prices, 181,000 Bibles, and 256,000 Testaments.—Numerous societies are formed every month, on the continent of Europe; particularly in Russia, Sweden, Poland, Prussia, Germany and Denmark, and warmly patronized by the most distinguished men in these respective governments; in the United States the number of Auxiliaries to the American Bible Society is rapidly increasing. We think we may safely calculate that, at the present time, there are at least one thousand Bible Societies organized in various parts of the world.—Of the number of Missionary, Sunday school and Tract Societies, we have not data to enable us even to conjecture; but we know there are a great many established.—Yet these are only the first fruits—the full harvest is not yet come, but it appears to be fast approaching.

Any person wishing to purchase the said plantation may have it on good terms. If not sold the subscriber would wish to give a lease of it to some honest, industrious, sober farmer, with a family. And if he should have no team, a team and farming utensils will be furnished him. Possession will be given any time between this and the middle of March next.

Samuel Coleman.

Grampian Hills, Oct. 17, 1818.

BLANKS

FOR SALE AT THIS OFFICE.