

Piedmont Sunday School Institute.

Delegates from several schools in the bounds of the Piedmont Association met with the Liberty Church on Friday before the first Sunday in this month, for the purpose of organizing a Sunday School Institute. The introductory sermon was delivered by Rev. D. Weston Hiett; text—Nehemiah 4:6—"So built we the wall; and all the wall was joined together unto the half thereof; for the people had a mind to work." The discourse was practical, interesting and well adapted to the occasion.

In the afternoon the above Institute was organized by electing the following named officers: President, Rev. D. Weston Hiett; Vice President, S. A. Gary; Secretary and Treasurer, L. Mauldin.

On Saturday, at 10 a. m., we had a Sabbath School address from Mr. S. A. Gary, which was delivered in a very forcible and edifying manner, deeply impressing the audience with the great work of advancing the Master's cause in the way of Sunday Schools. By request, Rev. D. Weston Hiett explained the work of the Institute, which was done with good effect. In the afternoon we had a lesson in music, ably conducted by Mr. A. Simmons.

On Sunday morning, at 9 a. m., we held a Sunday School mass meeting. Addresses were made by Rev. W. H. Kay, Mr. S. A. Gary and Rev. D. Weston Hiett. The speeches were good and well worth listening to. We then assembled at the water, where the pastor (D. Weston Hiett) led two young ladies into the water, and they were buried with Christ by baptism. The missionary sermon, which was an excellent discourse, was preached by Rev. F. E. McClanahan. We then adjourned to meet with the Beaverton Church, Anderson County, S. C., Friday before the third Sunday in May next.

D. W. HIAIT, President. L. MAULDIN, Secretary.

Fair Play Lodge, I. O. of G. T.

MR. EDITOR: This Lodge has been numbered with the things of the past, or, in other words, like most similar societies, it has died a natural death. It was organized with eighteen or twenty members, and out of this number, strange to say, there were only two church members; but, however, the Lodge went to work, and fought bravely for eight or ten months, asking the old church members in the neighborhood to join us and thus swell our little band, in order that we might better contend against the great army of intemperance, which has so many men, eye and women, too, in its ranks, which is daily growing larger and larger. Let all this be as it may, I contend that the members of the Lodge ought to have worked the harder. There was no reason why it should die out in the manner it did. But, alas! some of the members became disheartened, and, consequently, became irregular in their attendance, and the rest of the members soon found that they were too weak to accomplish any good, or rather they too soon gave up the good work in which they were engaged. Before they gave up, feeling their weakness, and being desirous of awakening a new interest in a community in behalf of their Lodge, they called on the members of the church, especially those living in and around Fair Play, to join the Lodge, but all in vain. They merely evinced carelessness, or rather indifference, to the cause, when we thought that they should have rendered all the aid they could in behalf of our Lodge. When called on to join, some of them remarked that they had been waiting to see whether the Lodge would continue to hold up or not. This was all the encouragement that we, a few worldly persons, received from them, when we were doing our best to improve the morals of our town and vicinity. Do you suppose that if the people of a neighborhood were to see a fire, driven by a howling wind, approaching their fencing, that they would stand back and say that they will wait to see whether the fire will reach the fencing or not? No! you would see no waiting, but the mind of every one would be bent upon quenching the flames before any damage could be done. There would soon be quite an army of persons arrayed to contend against the flames, and they would fight in earnest, too. Then is it not of much more importance to contend against the great flame of intemperance which is sweeping over our land and destroying so many persons, both morally and socially; that flares that is wrecking the happiness and fortunes of so many of our fellow-beings. It is a plain fact, which does not require double glasses to behold. It requires no deductive or inductive system of reasoning to get at the truth of the matter. We have the evil caused by intemperance daily before our eyes, and why will people not unite in its suppression? Has it taken such a hold upon our people at large, that it is too strong to be overcome? I answer, emphatically, no! All that we need is unity of action and perseverance. We must cast aside our indifference and supply its place with energy. We must determine to win, and we can win. Will we allow our fellow-beings to throw themselves away without a struggle on our part to save them? Will we allow them to give themselves up to the demon, intemperance, that destroys so many, robs so many, blights so many hopes, and wrecks so many brains, making persons totally unfit for society or earth, or to enter the kingdom of Heaven? Let every man stand bravely to his post, and we can prevent these direful effects—if not in whole, we can in part.

THE SIBERIAN MINES.

Why Nihilism is So Widespread in Russia.

Letter from Germany.

If a person of sane mind were to inform you of his or her intention to spend a vacation in Siberia, you would undoubtedly smile audibly, and opine that the party making so audacious an assertion would be a fit subject for the lunatic asylum. Still, I am bound to confess that I have just returned from a trip to that Arctic region, where many quite a stay, in company with my friend, Robert Lemke, the eminent political economist, and a student of political philosophy, than whom there is none more versed in more arduous work. We have been through the land of the Nihilites; and, however earnest we might have been in our desire to discover important information, all our efforts would have been in vain had not an influential American at St. Petersburg, who had promised me to introduce me to the letters of introduction that all portals were opened wide to us, and we saw and heard what.

ONLY A PRIVILEGED FEW

have seen and heard for a good many years. It is easily understood that the circumstances of the present day are very liberal in granting extended privileges to newspaper men; and, had I traveled in that capacity, I might have been denied access to the information which I have now to give you. The few good many things in Russia, and in the cities, however, are not the places for the accumulation of knowledge such as we desire to get; and, after idling a few days at Moscow, St. Petersburg and its villages, we started for the Siberian mines.

FOUL AIR AND DISAGREEABLE SMELLS

assaulted our nostrils, and for some time had to draw our breath hard. With our pocket-handkerchiefs crammed into our noses, we entered the gigantic mouth of a narrow tunnel, the air of which dripped down in large drops, and a little rivulet, which gathered in a pool outside the entrance. Toward the east and north the territory rises as high as 4,000 feet above the sea. A chain of snow-capped mountains, and a glacier gave to the mine the character of an unapproachable fortress. To the left of the entrance an enormous garden-house was built, occupied by a number of men. The establishment was about as filthy as any I have ever seen, but man beings can well be. The furniture consisted of a few rough benches and a large table. In front of its door a double file of benches were stacked, between which a musketeer marched up and down. We showed our letters to the young officer of the day, who regarded us wonderingly, searchingly. He seemed at a loss to understand the granting of a privilege so seldom sought and so rarely granted. A guide was given us, and we passed a long, narrow, and dark corridor, which, judge from the inclination of the floor, led into the depth. The ground was so slippery and so wet that we were in danger of falling more than once.

PESTILENTIAL MIASMA

filled the air; and, in spite of a good fur cloak—the gift of a friend in Moscow—I actually shook with the cold. The darkness was so intense that neither of us could see the other. We perhaps ten minutes when I perceived, far in the distance, a trembling, uncertain glimmer of a light, and I felt sure that we were approaching the mine proper. The ground became softer and more slimy, and cold more perceptible. We sank into the mire, and a small puff of air, as in a charcoal-burner. "We are in front of the mine," said our guide, "and a high iron railing which surrounds the mine—its main shaft, through the crevice of which, hardly a rat might have squeezed itself, being covered with rust. The loaves were fastened with chains of immense thickness and weight. A guard made his appearance, and upon the order of our guide he opened the lock, but only a great deal of strength was he enabled to far to turn the railing upon its hinges that we could pass through into the interior. We stepped into a room which, although it was much narrower, was hardly permitted a full grown man to stand upright, and was lighted only by a poor oil lamp, which left all surrounding things in darkness. "In the dormitory of the prisoners," said our guide, "formerly this was a well-lighted room; now we have made it into a sleeping-room. We heeded this. This subterranean cave, into which neither light nor air could enter, send a ray of light, was called an apartment, and in this terrible grave, the air of which was pregnant with fearful miasma, the unfortunate banished here by the unphilanthropic despots were compelled to rest, after the day's work upon a poor bed of straw! Into the dripping walls of this rock alcove-like cells had been hollowed out, and the entire room gave the impression of an enormous beehive. Every cell was a prison, and during the night; and above each of the cells, a strong iron bar was fastened, to which the unhappy mortals were locked and chained like so many dogs. No door, no window, no chair, no table, no shelving, no cushion, no bench—no utensils of any kind, except a single lamp faintly glimmered, in honor of the Madonna, whose image was fastened above it in an old gilt frame. An insupportable dread overcame me in gazing upon this picture of terrible desolation and misery; and I drew a long breath of relief when we passed out of the "dormitory," and into another cell, dark as the first one, but less slippery. Everything was as quiet as a graveyard until we reached an enormous table and three benches. Several torches, fastened to iron rings in the wall, served to lighten the hall, in the ceiling of which I saw a window almost covered with iron bars, through which a faint ray of daylight endeavored to penetrate, and this, mingled with the torchlight, produced an effect at once dismal and gloomy beyond description. This was the mine proper, and here an infernal noise was heard, caused by the pickaxe and hammer with which the oxles were

WHALES FIGHTING AT SEA.

An Old Whaler Explains Why a Merchant Vessel May Run Into Anything.

To the Editor of the New York Sun:—

On the 11th of the month, a bark Columbia, there is no lookout kept, either from the vessel's deck or mast-head, and if any strange object is seen on the ocean by any of the crew of a merchantman, it is more by accident than design. That is the reason so many things wrecked mariners who survive the disaster have always incidents to relate of vessels passing near them and not coming to their rescue. A merchant vessel takes so few men on board that they are not able to man the port, for the purpose of reducing expenses. There are no extra men provided against cases of sickness or death. If a man is off duty the others of his "watch" are obliged to perform his part of the duty. On the 11th of the month, a bark Columbia, there is no lookout kept, either from the vessel's deck or mast-head, and if any strange object is seen on the ocean by any of the crew of a merchantman, it is more by accident than design. 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