

THE LEDGER.

THURSDAY, NOV. 25, 1886.

COMMUNICATED.

NECT.

Almost everything of importance is designated by a name, significant of its character and the word that stands at the head of this, is not untrue to the use that has been made of it. Its original meaning was nect, and it still stands for part. The term Christian sects properly used designates the parts into which the Kingdom of Christ is divided. There is nothing therefore in the word sect to justify the use the poet has made of it.

"Slave to no sect, who takes no private road; But looks through nature up to nature's God."

But did not Christ pray for unity in his followers, and if so, has not that prayer been vain, if the sects are parts of his Kingdom? Let us look into this. Christ's Kingdom differed from those of the world, in that it was an empire of love and not of force. A new commandment I give unto you "That ye love one another." Its peculiarity was not that it should be guided by bishops or assemblies or congregations, or that it should be a close corporation invested with power to perpetuate its officers and existence; but that it should be entrusted to those that loved him and one another. The grand charter of the God-given authority of his Kingdom to bind and loose runs thus at its end, "For whomever thou shalt be gathered together in my name there am I in the midst of them."

Two or three are small numbers but these with Christ are the God-appointed quorum for legislation and execution in all affairs pertaining to his Kingdom. This view of spiritual government is common to the sects. Even the Presbyterians describe a church to be a body of professors voluntarily associated for worship and government, and Wesley declared that the Methodist church was a society of men having the form of godliness, united in order to pray together, to receive the word of exhortation and to watch over one another in love. Many similar references might be made but it is scarcely necessary to introduce them, since God's employment of many varied civil agencies in his temporal government of man fully justifies the conclusion, that his spiritual oversight and guidance of him is through religious associations suited to his changing conditions, and constituting but one Kingdom. Moreover, each sect regards itself as supreme under God over the portion of the Kingdom committed to it. Each adopts its form of governments, declares its ordinances and methods and decides who is to administer and receive them. That a body of Christians should commence a new church is not surprising in view of the foregoing. In taking such a step they are in the direct line of precedent, and are following examples that have been set and sustained. Surely none of the old sects will deny to a new one the rights and privileges; they have been and are still exercising as professing followers of Christ. To do so would undermine their highest, if not their only, authority for separate existence; but at the same time it is astonishing in this age of Christian enlightenment, and in this protestant and sectarian country, that a sect, or if more acceptable, a part of the visible kingdom of Christ, should attempt to justify its arrogating to itself in any way. The exclusive possession of all the spirituality, powers and privilege of that kingdom, on account of the peculiar forms of its doctrines and ceremonies. Such an attempt cannot be successful, because: 1st. It cannot be proven acceptable to the general public that Christ ever contemplated such a monopoly of grace by any part of his people. 2nd. If such a thing could be done, it would go far to confirm the claim to infallibility that has been set up. Since to no perfect body of Christians could such a claim be denied. What it becomes a new sect to do is to bear the fruits of the spirit, which are these, "love, joy, peace, long suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, meekness, temperance, self-control." The Master has appointed this test, "By their fruits ye shall know them." Without such fruits there can be no permanent success; but with them any section of the church, however small, may be certain that it will be universally respected. A sect bearing such fruits needs no other vindication. Without spiritual fruitfulness assertion and argument are vanities. X.

FROM WHAT WE CAN LEARN, we judge that Smith, now in jail for burglarizing Dr. French's house, is not guilty of any intent to do a criminal act. As soon as he is able to travel he should be turned loose. Some advice, a blue ribbon and money enough to get out of town, might be presented to him.

One Hundred and Forty men Perish. LONDON, Nov. 19.—Advices have been received here to the effect that a ship crowded with laborers returning from Queensland had foundered in the Pacific ocean and that 140 lives had been lost.

No particulars are obtainable. Georgia for Cleveland. From the Atlanta Constitution. Mr. Cleveland may make mistakes here and there, but he is a great man, and in him is comprehended Democratic hope and Democratic assurance for 1888.

G. Kabrich & Co. sell calico at 3c, muslins, 6c, ginghams, 6c, cotton flannels, 6c, boots, \$2.50, shoes, \$1.00, dress goods, 2c, fur trimmings, 20c, and other dry goods, boots & shoes in proportion. Cheapest house in town.

THE POLICE GAZETTE will be mailed, securely wrapped, to any address in the United States for three months on receipt of ONE DOLLAR. Liberal discount allowed to postmasters, agents and clerks. Sample copies mailed free. Address all orders to RICHARD E. FOX, Franklin Square, New York City.

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FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS

Regarding the Gas Well West of Town—A Strange Freak of Nature.

We are informed that the gas well west of town has assumed a more interesting shape since last Sunday. At intervals, four or five feet of water will come in the well, which, in a few hours, will again be perfectly dry. The next day, however, for some reason, the water fails to remain in the well. We understand that the well is not pure or clean, having a bluish or indigo tinge, and being very disagreeable to the taste. Mr. Bradley, the owner of the well, has not yet decided what to do in regard to it. At any rate, the well, from what we can ascertain, is quite a mysterious affair, which we would like some one to explain.

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Send model or drawing. We advise as to patentability free of charge; and make no charge unless we obtain patent. We refer, here, to the Postmaster, the Secretary of the Patent Office, and to officials of the U. S. Patent Office.

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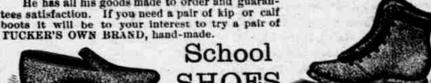
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