

# THE STUMBLING-STONE.

"BEHOLD I LAY IN SON A STUMBLING STONE AND ROCK OF OFFENCE."

VOL. 5,

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This paper is printed monthly, or as often as the Lord provides means.

It is sent free to all whose names we have, who want it, or who we think ought to have it, so far as we have means.

To save expense, we send to all names in any community in care of one or two responsible friends of this truth, who will see that they get them.

Contributions cheerfully given for this work will be accepted as from the Lord. Send to LYMAN H. JOHNSON, No. 838, ERIE ST., TOLEDO, OHIO. Note the change.

No issue since January last for want of means, but we are in the battle for life, and full of hope in God!

## TOUR EAST.

Camp-meeting on West bank of the Delaware River opposite Kingwood, Hunterdon Co. New Jersey, Aug. 1. For particulars inquire of John W. Johnson, Kingwood, N. J. Aug. 7, York Co. Pa.; 15, Brooklyn N. Y.; 27, North Adams Mass.; Sept. 3, Windsor township, Broome co. N. Y. Sept. 9, in the region of Ithaca; and Sep. 16 in Ogden N. Y. Monroe co. Camp or grove meeting in every place.

## REGULAR CITY APPOINTMENTS.

Preaching every Sabbath 2 1/2 P. M. at 838 Erie St., and 8 P. M. Gospel Hall North Toledo, over printing office, also Wednesday evenings. Open air preaching, if weather admits, at 6 P. M., Sabbath, in Court House square, except June 1, and after June 15, subject to changes published in future, and notified in City papers.

Sidney McCreery's book "History of Free Methodism" can be had now by sending stamps; postage is one cent.

Reader, Mark this, we condemn nothing which the Bible upholds, and which is not an addition to, or violation of its law.

"Hewing Agags," can be had for postage, one cent stamp.

## A View of Religion In This City.

### Sodom Outdone By Toledo!

### PLAY-HOUSES MISTAKEN FOR CHURCHES!

### CHRIST'S BRIDE SELLS HER VIRTUE

For money, and goes into the Business Unblushingly!

Soul markets, and sham reforms!

#### NORTH TOLEDO.

As Zion's watchman I have to publish my view of the situation, for the safety of the church. And the account of one locality is applicable everywhere, and of equal interest wherever the church exists, and souls are in peril.

I will begin with North Toledo nearest our home. God has a church here and up-town, like the New Testament kind, without steeple or earthly sanctuary; a spiritual house, 1 Peter 2: 5, which consists of those only who have given up all for Christ, who love not the world nor things of the world, pilgrims and strangers on earth, concerned about nothing except God's kingdom and righteousness. By this description all the members of God's church may be known, and where it is in this city.

But we will take a view of what the people call churches and religion in this land of Bibles! Six months ago there were two such institutions here; the one, an M. E. Brick house, and the other one, in which the religious interest chiefly centered, built for a free house, but held by a sect, which divided again, and had so much religious zeal that it broke out into law suits, and desperate quarrels for the house, which was finally burned, and with it all its religion. Since then there has been a reaction from the fighting religion, to the clever and jolly religion. From tragedy the play is changed to a farce. They are all a good natured, easy, jolly sort of people at the M. E. Brick, without religion enough to get up a quarrel over. They don't believe in contending for any particular faith. They don't require their members to conform to any standard of morals, or religion. They would not like to have people get drunk or swear or commit adultery, yet they will not contend about such things, and hence give large liberty in this direction, as facts notoriously go to show. There is one thing they positively oppose, and that is any conscience which contends for righteousness against sin practiced there. They would contend against all contention, for they love peace and harmony with sin. They have not the kind of religion that makes hypocrites, for they do not profess more than they possess, nearly opposite to the old Pharisees who prayed at street corners, and professed a Bible faith which they failed to practice. They are innocent of any such false pretensions. Indeed one of their leaders, so I learned, reproached me with being a follower of John Wesley, or in other words, a Bible Methodist. I was surprised at such a charge from such a source. I did not expect to be taunted with being a Methodist by a Methodist Class Leader! But so it was. So much for a name that is out of date. I do not feel hurt by such a charge. But from this we see that such a church cannot be accused of hypocrisy for that means inconsistency of profession and

practice. Well, it is a state of things peculiar to the times in which we are living. They meet together for literary religious performances, pulpit declamations, musical entertainments, and general pleasure seeking, with an occasional performance on the knees called prayer just enough to keep their legal title to the house good as a place of worship. But God is not worshiped, for they do not pretend to his word as their standard. The chief interest in their meetings besides the above named attractions, is the opportunity afforded for men and boys to visit and wait upon the opposite sex.

Since they had their Christmas tree, they held a series of meetings for the purpose of adding to their numbers, and to get more religion into their worldly concern that it might pass for a church, and not be set down altogether for a sporting club. But it was a failure. They did not wait long enough after their Christmas frolic to sober down to the serious work of conversion. And after trying hard for two or three weeks the serious business, they could stand the strain no longer, and broke out again into their natural merriment.

March 2, Sunday night, they had a show which surpassed all the up-town theatres, from which they differed in this, the theatres, I believe, usually suspend Sunday night, and do not break the Sabbath by playing for money; and secondly, no respectable theatre, nor disreputable so far as I know, ever perform religious pieces, and thus make a mock of sacred things for money, as this M. E. house did. I never heard of star-actors, little or big, who made a play of Bible texts on a stage as a show for money. The first performance of the kind I ever knew was got up at Wheeler's Opera, Jan. 26, to raise money for the city missionary work. They had little children play a prayer to Almighty God on the stage, and win the grandest applause that ever greeted a theatrical performance. It makes my head-reel and heart sick to see how swiftly the church, so called, has fallen from the ancient faith.

This March 2, Sabbath, instead of the usual free religious entertainment, they charged ten cents at the door, then gathered what money they could inside, which I have never known theatres to do. The performance was in part, artistic music, to gratify this lust for pleasure, to tickle the auricular nerve, and to display man's skill and agility with the voice, precisely as at circuses and theatres they display agility of muscle, sleight of hand, magical wonders etc. I find no such shows for money recorded in the New Testament, except such as by the daughter of Herodias whose dancing cost the head of John the Baptist, and Simon the sorcerer, and the bewitched damsel that followed Paul which brought her masters much gain by similar charms to those employed at this ten cent exhibition. Beside's music sorcerers, and vocal athletes, the chief show was of children who are training for the stage. To give greater appearance of sanctity they had religious pieces and Bible texts spoken by the children, interspersed with comic and other theatricals, for a show to win applause and money. Since that entertainment I learn that they have concluded to go into the business of shows and suppers generally, for money, since it pays better than the more dull regular religious performance. I see that it will soon be necessary to altar the plan of their house a little. They will need to build a stage across the end where the pulpit is, with side apartments for dressing, and painted scenery, curtains, foot lights etc., just like their sister institutions up town. They will also need a small kitchen added on back for culinary purposes, after the style of modern churches, since feeding the body has taken the place of soul nurture. I do not think they will need separate rooms for prayer meeting and dancing at the same time, as the Congregational church of Elmira, N. Y. have, because there are so very few praying members that they need not altogether occupy over ten minutes, and there would be plenty of time for the dance after the prayers in the same room. Thus they could save the expense of extra rooms. I make these suggestions for I do not see how they can in any other way keep up the interest of their society and pay expenses, for they have not religion to excite any permanent interest, and will be likely to run out entirely, unless they get up some thing to attract a pleasure seeking world. I have thus far exhibited the ridiculous facts concerning the ideas of religion which prevail here and every where in-

creasingly. If there is any such thing as laughter in hell, it is over the consummate folly of the so called christians and churches of our times! Our Saviour, who wept over Jerusalem, would not weep over any such absurdity as I have described in North Toledo more than he would weep over Dan. Rice's Circus; for one has no more connection with his church or kingdom than the other. I feel no unkindness toward the members of that society. They have treated me well personally, and I admit that they and the people of North Toledo are as kind and virtuous as any worldly community of my acquaintance, but I cannot withhold the infinitely important truth which I see and know, and which all unprejudiced minds know, that such religion is not of the Bible, and bears no resemblance to it, but is a mockery and burlesque on Bible christianity. If they made no pretense to the Bible, and would leave off religion altogether, and have every service occupied by dances and theatricals without the mockery of prayer or praise, there would be far less wickedness and injury to mankind.

It is astonishing that any body of common sense and any knowledge of the Bible should hope for heaven while connected with such a playhouse of idolatry under the christian name! They all know better, but like all the wicked and criminal of earth, they are bent on having their own ways at the risk of eternal damnation!

#### A VIEW IN TOLEDO.

Up in the heart of the city I find a worse state of things than in the North Suburbs. In all the old orthodox churches they have some religion, enough of it such as it is. There is plenty of praying, and some sincere and devoted worshippers mixed up with every thing else. But Oh, what a conglomeration!

I ask you to look at facts which are not only in Toledo, but all over christendom. St. Paul's M. E. House with its grand steeple and gorgeous architecture and richness of adorning, into which Paul if alive today, could no more enter to preach, than he could the temple of Diana at Ephesus, recently had a show, George Washington's reception, in which church members dressed up as Washington and wife and other personages in the old style fashions and manners, and performed the show just like the theatres for money! This is one of many similar exhibitions, and entertainments for money they have had at that grand temple professedly dedicated to the Christ and God of the Bible, and named after his holy apostle. To night of this writing, they have an avowed infidel deliver a display oration, the same sin which caused the impious Herod to be eaten of worms. And yet in that pulpit no true and faithful minister of God could gain admittance to preach, as John Wesley preached, effectually against pride, covetousness, sectarianism, love and friendship of the world, and all carnality. But mountebanks, who tickle the ears, and feed the people with rhetoric and vanity for their praise or their money, have free access to that pulpit. The old hymns of praise, sung by hearts on fire with burning truth, have no place there, but hymns and tunes flat with sickly love, dead as the artificials on their bonnets, clammy with affectation, false in every note and sentiment, is mouthed, parrot like, by an artistic choir, until every struggling devotion of honest hearts is killed or converted to like mockery by the contagion. The horrid organ, as grim as Baal, sits on its throne to squeak or thunder its carnal idolatrous inspiration into every soul where any spirituality is left.

And then the eye, as it wanders over the richness of architecture above and around, the grand and dashing fashions which glitter and glare from the mocking assembly, so unlike what Paul and Peter describe as "becoming women professing godliness," the beds of diamonds and jewelry and the flower garden and show case of milinery on exhibition over the living mass of humanity pretending to worship him whose church is not of this world, the eye as well as ear is filled with all that earth and hell can concentrate of lust to drown any remnant of true devotion! And this is called a house of worship, and was built to prepare souls for the worship of heaven! O, what a mistake! Durst that pulpit read Paul and Peter on woman's not being adorned with jewelry and costly array, or its own church discipline by Wesley, enjoining plain clothing and plain houses of worship, and then honestly apply that law, which the discipline says the Spirit writes

on every awakened heart? (No.) That pulpit durst not enjoin either the Bible or Methodism, but teaches progress which has left in the distant past all that was ever meant by the name Methodist, and thereby makes that house and all that pertains to it a standing lie, and thus makes lies the means of grace it offers a dying world.

What sort of Christianity is that which has its house of worship used for a show, has its members dress up theatrically to entertain a worldly audience for money? What concord with Jesus, or Paul, or with the Pentecost church? How would Paul look on the stage for a show, dressed in Continentals, just to make the multitude grin and stare for their money, and then next night weep and plead for their souls? How is this for mockery? Think you Jesus, who drove out the buyers and sellers, is pleased? Think you Simon, Judas and Ananias whom God cursed for their carnality, were so impious and vile as this?

Jude says "There shall be mockers in the last days walking after their own ungodly lusts." Who is meant but these worshippers of St. Paul's Toledo? We find nothing in the Bible, in all the apostasy of ancient Israel, or false ones of the New Testament, nor even in the darkest days of Papal Rome when the sale of indulgences awoke the conscience of Luther, we find nothing to equal the boldness and impudence of mockery blasphemy and sacrilege which turns the house of worship into a comic show house, a literal theatre, with all the tricks and devices imaginable to excite carnal passions of the multitude for their money!

Necktie parties, where the basest lusts are appealed to for money to replenish the church treasures; Calico shows, Lawn Fetes, gambling devices of every kind, music charms, oratory charms, female charms, and stomach charms, are all employed by these reputed churches of Christ to draw in money to build up the sect establishment, and sustain the ministry who pretend to be God's ministry and the guides of souls heavenward! Not a night passes but the daily papers emblazon some church performance of the kind, right beside notices of theatrical shows of the world!

The revival efforts of the winter have now given place in all the churches, or soon will without exception, to these damnable social frolics and treats for money: What wonder that infidels and a sin loving world exult and defy the power of truth since the church is humbled and her light gone out?

But says the apologist there are some good christians in these churches! So much the worse, I answer! If there were no christians there, no honest souls entrapped in these cages of unclean birds, I would not have the cause I now have to cry aloud against them. It is the sheep in the wolf pens, and which are in danger of getting in there, that make me concerned! I would not care for hopeless sinks of iniquity if it were not for the good who are drawn into them. I do not say much about grog shops, worldly theatres, or secret societies, because God's children are in no danger of being found in such places. All know better than to take these open roads to hell. But churches, so called, mammon traps for souls, have some truth and religion for a bait, and all God's children in them are coy-ducks to entice others in, and in this way these carnal religious play houses of mockery and lust are built up. It is by the good souls they have trapped that they decoy others in. Christians in a house of infamy! So much the worse! Not so much the better, for such a house, as some plead! I cannot tell how many christians may be in St. Paul's, but so much the worse, if any; and far worse a house of spiritual whoredom, than any house of literal ill-fame, for the world itself condemns that, but the wholesale whoredom of Christ's spiritual bride is reputable with the world, and far more dangerous. Christians in them! Would to God there were none! Then Babylon would loose its power for evil. It would quickly run out. I have more hope for North Toledo, because there is not true piety enough in that church to deceive any body, nor to keep up the institution. It will soon run out for want of live christians and converts to feed it, and I am glad of it. Would to God all the virtue was taken out of every one of these sect moneyed traps of the devil, they would quickly die, or be exposed so that they could not entice any more honest souls into them. God's command is "Come out of her, and from among them, that ye be not partakers of her sins and that ye receive not of her plagues."

But says the apologist for these mammon corporations, The Baptist, or Methodist church and so on, was the means of my conversion. What is that you say? Were you converted by a different institution from that which converted Paul, or the dying thief, or the three thousand at Pentecost? Was it not God's word through your faith and the Holy Ghost that converted you? precisely the

same that converted all who will ever enter heaven? Were you converted by something else? Was it a sect church not a hundred years old, a modern organization by man that converted you, or helped Jesus convert you? You know it is not so. Look at the facts. Not one of all the sinners ever converted were converted by joining any sect. You know that. Every one was converted outside. To ask a seeker to join a church would hinder his getting saved. He must look to Jesus alone until converted. Nothing would spoil the work of saving souls so quick as to point them to a church man has made to help save them. They must be stripped of all such props before they can find Jesus. All the true converts on earth were converted and saved outside of human organizations and then gathered in after that. Now I want to know if it dont require the same means to keep saved, that it does to convert? Certainly it does. Then what a lie that any sect church ever converted or helped to keep any soul! It is precisely the same as ancient Israel said at the golden calf Aaron made: "These be thy gods, that brought thee out of Egypt." It is a lie and damnable idolatry to say that any church organization man has made ever brought you or any soul out of the Egypt of sin. It is Jesus only, and his word of truth that saves every one. And because the mammon theatrical corporations full of lust and idolatry, have some truth and some saints entrapped in them, to convert sinners with, to make merchandise of them, is no excuse for the abominable lie and blasphemy of crediting these institutions of the devil, these man-made idols, with the salvation of any body. They gather in converts which Christ has converted by his word outside of and in spite of these organisms, only to swallow them up and devour them. O these moneyed corporations of theatrical shows do not convert nor save any body, but do damn millions of souls. No other name under heaven but Jesus, saves.

#### ADAMS ST. MISSION.

I come now to the purest and best, and yet the strangest and saddest mixture of all. In a little house on Adams St., opposite the Court House, is held a city mission, undenominational, yet supported by all the sects, particularly St. Paul's society above described, and hence tributary or bound to all the sect organizations. It is at present the freest place for Bible truth in the city, under sect control. It is the place where the publicans and sinners are specially invited, and hence where Jesus is most likely to be present, and the truest and best christians would most naturally go. My heart has been drawn out in love and fellowship for some of the leaders of this mission, as sincere and faithful souls according to the light they have. I do not express my judgment of them nor can I think unfavorably of any persons until they squarely and openly oppose the truth of God. This test has not yet been fully applied there. But whether they be angels from heaven or not, does not alter my obligation as God's minister to preach and publish the facts for the safety of souls.

I first remark concerning the meetings there that if that devil's music box was out of the way, and all artificial singing, and nothing but honest spiritual worship, it would make a wonderful difference with those meetings. But the main thing there is the liberty of God's word, which is not free in the most vital and essential truth of our times, that touching the real corruptions and apostasy of the modern church.

But one thing I must mention, the greatest abomination I have known in Toledo was the grand show of this mission in the Opera House, March, 26. The most beautiful theatre perhaps in the west, with its splendid stage scenery of forest trees, and other appendages of these vile worldly centers of lust and idolatry, was the place where the Adams St. Mission Sunday school children and congregation, over 200 were gathered behind the curtain until the performance began. Fifty cents admittance was charged at the door, and it was Sunday evening!

When the curtain arose, the show began, with prayer, singing and music. The children sang solos duets etc, and were repeatedly cheered and encored by the crowd precisely as all theatrical performances, thus puffing the children's vanity and training them for the stage.

But the chief performance I have related above, by a little girl dressed purposely in rags, carrying a basket of chips, and kneeling with a little boy in prayer, saying a pretty piece to God, until the flow-ers were thrown around her from the applauding assembly: and she came again dressed in rich attire, and was greeted again with rapturous applause, and carried off the prizes of her theatrical success. This looks very innocent from the world's standpoint, but O what a false idea of the religion of Jesus this

vanity show! Then followed the grandest displays of oratory, Herod like, which kept up the thundering applause until a late hour. All this stage show of music talent, oratory, gospel, fun, prayer, praise, and sentimental acting etc was on Sunday night, and to raise money for this Adams St. Mission, and in a regular theatre where such performances daily occur, except Sundays, and except the religious show. This goes beyond my wildest fancies for mockery and abomination before God. I never saw the equal. And what most confounds me is that it should be in such a mission, and by the purest and best gospel workers in Toledo, under the sect supervision!

Has God's house of prayer indeed been opened for merchandise, or worse, for illegitimate theatrical catch penny shows? Worse yet, a show of religion, of sacred prayer and praise, and that for money, unblushingly and openly for money, with a price put upon it, Fifty cents a head? O God, what are we coming to? Is there no conscience for sin? The guilt of Simon Magus and Judas Iscariot was innocence, compared with this. Jesus denounces fierce woes on those who pray to be seen of men, but those hypocrites Jesus denounced, never, never made a theatrical show of prayer for money at fifty cents a head. Those Jewish hypocrites would have been horrified at such iniquity as this. They could sell sheep oxen and doves in the temple courts, but never could they turn the temple into a theatre, much less a religious show for money.

Do not understand me as condemning the leaders of that mission. I believe they are sincere. I only describe certain facts as I see them, which are a horrible sacrilege and sin by the Bible test.

But this I say, in love for those dear brethren, that they are not their own in an important sense, but are the blinded slaves of sect Babylon. Whether willing or unwilling, they are the tools of St. Paul's and other sect establishments of the city, and are carried along by the same money power which rules every sect organism, the anti-christ of these last days. Every sect is a Mammon corporation in the name of Christ, a Judas society, of which Jesus is the stock in trade; and prayers and praise and music and oratory are showed for money and applause every sabbath. In their simplicity the city missionaries thought it no sin to carry out in regular theatricals the more sanctimonious shows for money of every sabbath in all the sect organisms. Every member of them is under the intoxicating power, and I am not surprised that God's children intoxicated by this Harlot Babylon, fail to see the sin of these shows. But I know that if they are honest, as I believe they are, the city missionaries will see the sin, as all saints do, when the awful spell which they are under is broken. For this I earnestly hope and pray.

There is not one of the sect gatherings but is a show gallery of art and fashion. The pews show millinery, dress goods and gold: the pulpit and orchestra with still greater abomination, show Jesus Christ in artistic oratory and artificial music for the peoples money! No such wickedness besides, ever sees the light of the sun. O the vast system of moneyed corporations which divide Christ's precious body into sects contrary to the chief law of the New Testament; and convert God's temple into a house of merchandise, in all this city, and in all the country has exerted its corrupting power till all conscience for sin is obliterated, and the people do not know what sin is, and they will not bear the truth of God, and will not allow any of his faithful ministry in any pulpit or society meeting. Even in Adams St. Mission the freest place there is under sect control, our tongues are tied, and we cannot touch the most horrible iniquity this world has ever seen. In all meetings of the sects every-where converts is all they want; converts to swell their numbers, whether saved from sin or damned, they care not, if only saved to their societies. Charity! Charity! the wolf love, which suppresses saving truth and wins souls for selfish ends, society gains, polluting them with the reigning idolatry, is the charity cried every where.

A charity that imputeth no evil, but gives every soul that has reputable sin upon it, the benefit of the doubt, that for its friendship and gain to our society, it may be damned in eternity. This is the wolf love that is devouring souls wholesale in all these mammon corporations called churches.

If I think souls are in danger of hell, I am met every where by fierce advocates of this love, "You must not judge," perhaps they are pure. Dont alarm them. God is their judge. And if they wail in hell, never mind that, only have charity to let them be lost, for the sake of their friendship and membership here! O what a charity! It is the very seum of the filth of the pit, and yet it is the kind of love which constitutes the life and power of all sect

religion, for all partizan or sect love is essentially selfish and vile.

ROBERT INGERSOLL.

Just now this living Tom Paine and Voltaire lectures in the crowded Opera House against the Bible, and his vile blasphemies and ridicule of the Book and its God receives the rapturous applause of the multitudes. If the Bible was truthfully represented by the church which professes faith in its teachings, Ingersoll would have no such power in Toledo. Infidelity would hide its head for shame. But while the vast establishments of the world called churches, mock God, and take the lead in displays of pride and pursuits of pleasure and money, and there is no visible representation of Christ's true Church, it is no wonder that scoffing, infidelity triumphs, and faith and truth and virtue are almost extinct.

THE SIAM REFORMS.

And in the midst of this universal unbelief; infidel reform clubs get up a diversion of mock virtue, and hand in hand with infidel ministers, mix gospel, and temperance clap-trap, to heal slightly the hurt of sin; make worse hypocrites of better sinners, and so at White's Hall and elsewhere the revival tide is set in motion, a revival we do not find in Scripture except by those who made clean the outside of the cup and platter; and together with prayers, and funny stories; faith in Jesus, and faith in infidel orators; faith in the fountain of living waters, and faith in broken cisterns; faith in the power of pledges, and faith in divine grace; a glorification of God, and a glorification of man; amid clapping of hands, stamping of feet, general hurrahs, fun, and hilarity, this kind of revival goes on sweeping through the city.

O my God what a picture the temperance reform of Toledo presents to a mind that is not dead drunk with the intoxication of the wine of Babylon and all carnality! I never saw a more revolting sight than the temperance meeting one Sunday night at White's Hall. What fools are men to think of reforming and saving sinners by such silly means as such a meeting and its frivolous appliances, its mixture of Christ and Belial, the gospel and skunk stories, and vulgar witticisms. God's plan to save cannot be mixed with any human improvements without making the whole a lie and a mockery!

TO THE PILGRIMS.

Beloved in Christ, who fear God, and not man, though you are few in number, be not discouraged. If God be for us who can be against us? If we are for God, he is surely for us and much more. Victory is ours if we are faithful, and walk in the truth, and not in a lie. But never before as at this time was the cry from God so imperative "Come out of her my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins and that ye receive not of her plagues." Your only hope now with the light God has given you, is to keep clear of all the abominations I have described. You can occupy no position which seems to indorse those moneyed corporations which divide Christ's body and corrupt every thing which comes into them or under their influence. You are obliged to lift up your voice against these abominations. Your silence will give consent and make you equally guilty. You have got to clear yourselves before God from all these abominations just as old Israel had to cut down the altars and the groves of Baal; and purge away the sin before God would clear them. So you have got to clear yourselves from all contamination of Babylon, or the institutions man has made to trust in besides Christ alone. We must live as pilgrims on earth, indeed and in truth, and not merely in pretense, having no home here, if we would please God, and find at last that he is not ashamed to be called our God. Heb. 11: 16.

## Names Of Blasphemy.

"Full of the names of Blasphemy." Rev. 17: 4.

I shall call your attention to notorious facts which no honest reader can mistake as meant by the prophecy of Harlot Babylon, the Beast and names of blasphemy. The figure of a harlot often used in Scripture always means a false church; and in Rev. 13 to 18 inclusive, together with the Beast and Babylon so fully described no one can fail to see the wonderful striking picture of both Papal and Protestant money corporations called churches, which are now noted as "cages of unclean birds and holds of every foul spirit,—enriching the merchants,—linked with civil rulers,—full of carnal luxuries,—harpers, trumpeters, organ players,—full of the blood of martyrs," etc.

The word Babylon means confusion, from the tower of Babel, a manifest type of the tower of the Roman Hierarchy at which a like confounding of language and division into sects occurred. Also Babylon as opposed to Jerusalem stands for a false or

carnal church, in which God's Israel are now in captivity. And then in Rev. 22 we have the Lamb's chaste bride and Jerusalem adorned from above, the true church which stands by faith.

So far we cannot mistake the meaning. Now we ask with fearful interest, what are these names of blasphemy in the Harlot and the Beast or false church, since the fiercest wrath of Jehovah is to be poured out on those who have the mark of these names in their foreheads? Rev. 14: 10, 11.

What names are there in the false church? Denomination means a name. See the denominations or names? Is it so in Christ's church? Of what denomination was the church at Ephesus, or Corinth, or Jerusalem, or any other Bible church? Was there any denomination but saints, or Christ's followers simply and only?

In Rev. 13: 1; it is said upon the heads of the Beast are the names of blasphemy. And, ver. 16, this Beast, one of whose heads was healed of its deadly wound, causes all its worshipers to receive the mark of its name in their foreheads, and that none might buy nor sell who have not the mark. It is a striking fact, becoming more and more so as poverty spreads over the world, that the sect churches care only for their own members, and God's children opposed to sect names, can get no employment or business patronage where this sect power extends. And the number of the name of the Beast is 666, the number of a man, or of Man's body or man's church instead of God's; and the actual count of sects is not far from six hundred.

Over against those who have the name of the Beast we have the opposite character, in whose foreheads is the name of the Father, Rev. 14: 1, and of Jesus, 22: 4. This agrees with all Scripture which requires all things to be done in His name only; that is, we must be christians simply, and stand or act in no other capacity or name. The prominence given in Scripture to the name of God and Jesus as the mark of all true saints, makes this subject clear as sunlight. God is jealous of his name as the mark of his people! The Bible is full of it. His people shall be called by His name and no other. To call them his children must entirely describe them or they cannot enter heaven. If another name is necessary to mark them religiously they are idolaters! The Bible terms, the Righteous, Saints, Believers, etc, mean the same thing as Child of God. But no sect name means that, or would be understood as marking God's children simply.

Again, 15th "Standing on the sea of glass, having harps in their hands,—are those who have gotten the victory over the Beast, his mark and the number of his name," showing that it requires a great struggle to get clear of the power of the Beast, and his names, which is strikingly true of Harlot sect Babylon.

Now then, in the light of this wonderful chain of prophecy, and, (14: 8—11,) the wrath and fury of God to be poured out on those who have the mark of the names of blasphemy in their foreheads WHAT ARE

### THESE NAMES OF BLASPHEMY?

That we may understand them we must know what the church is without them, in its original Bible purity and simplicity before it was spoiled by human improvements and inventions.

What do we find in the New Testament? In the beginning Jesus called his disciples, they forsook all and followed him, and by the truth and Holy Spirit were perfected in his body the church. And by this means only, the truth preached and believed, by the Holy Spirit's power, the church in every city was gathered out of the world into Christ the Door and Head and Vine. "As many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God who were born not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.—The Lord added to the church." God only was the builder of his church. Man's agency was only preaching and believing the truth with all the heart. God did the rest. "He set the members in the body as pleased him." Read the New Testament through and you will find nothing else in the constitution of any part of Christ's church. To be in Christ was to be in his church every where. For Christ and the visible church his body were one. To join one was to join the other; to join the vine was to join all the branches; to enter the door was to be in the fold; to join the Bridegroom was to become the Bride. Nothing else was known. A saint of one city, had the same church relation as in any other city for it was a part of the same body of Jesus. The church of Jerusalem, Corinth, Rome, and the seven churches of Asia were not so many different sects or denominations, but the same church of Christ in so many different cities. O, how little is known now of this unity in Christ! When men were converted to Christ they were not asked to join something else, or to enter another

door. On the contrary Paul said: "As ye have re-

ceived Christ so walk ye in him." They were gathered to nothing else after being gathered into him. They had no church to build of which he was not the door. There was no after thought, or vile double motive in their holy work: Neither Jesus nor apostles ever appointed a meeting of those already in Christ, to organize them into another society bond, or moneyed corporation of earth. The body of Jesus was enough then, therefore his name was enough. It is only where they have different bodies that they require different names. It would be absurd to call the same body Methodist, Baptist, Presbyterian all at once. One body can have but one name, and one door. A separate body must and will have a separate name. A separate body makes the necessity of another name. So when the church was simply Christ's body then the Bible name of christian, righteous, saints, people of God etc described it every where. It needed no other name. So long as Christ is the door to a church, and to be in him makes a full membership, then it is Christ's church and cannot have any sect name. Any other name would be a lie. But when men get up a society, make rules and obligations for men to adopt, it is something besides Christ's body and requires another name. Being in Christ does not constitute you a member of any man made church or society on earth. It is something else, hence must have another name besides Christ. To be called a saint, christian, righteous or believer, in the Bible sense, cannot truthfully mark you as a member of any man made society. There must be another name for it is another body besides Christ, He is not the door, head nor foundation. It seems a small thing in this world's view. But no mind can conceive the awful wickedness of every such organism of man's which professes to be Christ's church, yet must have a different name because it is a different body, having another door besides Christ.

It is not so great a lie and absurdity to call a church Baptist and Methodist both at once, as it is to call the same church Baptist and Church of Christ at the same time. It is a lie and a blasphemy! And yet every sect does it. These damning lies of blasphemy are what make all the divisions of Christ's body. You cannot belong to Baptist and Methodist at once. It would rouse the jealousy of both. You cannot have but one name. One or the other must be a lie. So infinitely more you cannot take Christ's name on you and the name of any other church body at the same time without making one or the other a lie, and blaspheming the great name of Jesus you bear, and provoking his infinite jealousy. Think you a true husband will not care for his wife's name whether it be his, or some other man's? Much more jealous is the Great Bridegroom of the name we bear. I often hear, "A name is nothing. Jesus won't care what name I take." It is a tremendous lie! All scripture is full of the importance of having nothing but the name of Jesus! Every saint is baptized into the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Ghost. The Bible saints and churches knew no other name because they had no church organism but that which they joined by joining Christ. But O, to day, behold the horrid list of the names of blasphemy! Men have incorporated the body of Christ into political partizan rings of earth, money mutual soul insurance companies, a monstrosity fit for neither heaven nor earth, yet called churches of Christ, and he not the door nor head to one of them! They are leeches on Christ's body sucking its life blood! Scabs and ulcers breeding death and damnation! They all spring from the same lust for money and power which makes corporations monopolize the coal mines, gold diggings, oil wells, and all the marts of trade to enrich the corporations, and not mankind. It is the greedy lust for money and power that organizes and controls all sect organisms, which squat on every block of the city or square mile of the country, and lift their steeples to signal the world that their soul market is open; and they solicit souls with more desperate zeal than grain and pork monopolies solicit the farmer's products on the streets of the cities.

This is why all the denominational names exist in the religious world. If it was not for money and the trade of souls every sect would run out and cease to exist. Christ's Church is not of this world. It is not a society got up by men, but is simply the body whose existence depends only on the union of its members with Christ by faith and the Holy Spirit. To be converted to Jesus, is to enter the door and to become complete in every thing as members of his Church. To be alienated from Christ is to become an outsider, and to lose his name from our foreheads. O, if the original New Testament faith existed to day, every church assembly called christian, just like that at antioch; would be the same to every believer on earth, he would belong to it with equal rights, simply by virtue of his being in Christ, and nothing further would be thought of. And no other business but to gather souls to Jesus would be known by any gospel workers.

## BEHOLD THE NAMES OF BLASPHEMY.

I will begin with the most highly esteemed by the present corrupt generation. A name cherished and revered for its fond associations and mighty works of a century's growth, the "METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF CHRIST." I touch the very eye of sensitive prejudice in touching this institution of man. But I bring you face to face with God Almighty and leave you to settle your controversy with him. Who made this Church? If God made it, I touch it at my eternal peril! If man made it, then to defend it involves the same peril of God's wrath! For if we add to his word which is Christ, the plagues of his word will be added to us. So also if we teach for doctrines the commandments of men. This settles the question and determines the blasphemy of the name of that body, which pretends to Christ and yet requires another name, because made by man.

The word Methodist was meant for those, a century ago, under the sainted Wesley, who lived by the Bible Method. Bible Methodists then is a word which means all who will ever enter heaven, and no others. That is the sect the word means. I ask if that is the meaning of the name as now used and applied? Suppose a child of God should say now in a public meeting that he was a Methodist, how would all understand him? Would he be understood to mean that he was living by the Bible method? If you should hear one say that such a church is Methodist, would you understand simply that it was a people living by Bible Method, or in other words true saints? Is it the same to say one is a Methodist as to say one is a Christian, a saint, a member of Christ? Is this what is understood by the word? No. Every child knows better than that. Then the word is a lie. It does not mean what it was made to mean. It is neither Methodist, nor Church of Christ, nor is it Episcopal, for that word means one having the care of Christ's flock, and the sect which bears the name has no care for Christ's flock except to beguile all they can for sectarian gain.

You say, O a name is nothing! It matters not what you call a church! But I ask why not have names that express the truth? Why is it that names mean the opposite of what they say in all sect churches, while in the ungodly world they are the truth? If I see a sign: "Brewery, or Shoe shop, Board of trade, Post Office, Hardware, Dry goods etc, I never fail to find the same inside. Men of the world tell the truth in the business names they put upon their houses. It is only sect churches that lie in every name they bear. "St. Paul's church, St. Peter's, St. John's, Evangelical, Lutheran, Wesleyan, Christian, United Brethren, Methodist, All Saints, Christ's church," etc, etc, not one of the persons or religious faiths these names describe, would be allowed inside of any church building which bears these names! Look at the horrible state of things, "the abomination of desolation in the holy place spoken of by Daniel!"

The name Methodist means by the definition of its original discipline by Wesley, the religion of Jesus Christ. And that His kingdom (or church) is not of this world, His disciples are chosen out of this world, hated by this world, reject the fashions of the world, build plain houses, wear plain clothes, live as pilgrims and strangers here, sober, constant in prayer, peculiar and separate from the world in all their tastes, affections and purposes of life. Such is Methodism as the word means. But see the grand and gaudy temples on which the name Methodist is carved, the vain and giddy crowds within, the jesting sycophant foppish preachers and officials; and members jewelled and decked with gaudy pride, and the feasting, theatrical shows and greed for money, grinding the Lord's poor to keep up the vain show and indulge their sensuality, more worldly than the world outside. What of this name? Is it true to either Wesley or Jesus? What is blasphemy if this is not?

"FREE METHODISM" is another pretentious name, of a sect which claims to be the original Methodist, the purest sect of Earth. The word free means freedom from human yokes, and especially from the M. E. church whence they came out to be free. Well, last summer myself and another brother in Christ at a camp-meeting of this sect, when we attempted to hold up Jesus alone, and quoted the Bible against divisions were forbid to speak and threatened with imprisonment. At another place I was locked out of a Free Methodist house and had to preach to a congregation on the steps, and that same evening the Methodist Episcopal sect near by invited me to preach freely in their pulpit, which I did with their indorsement. These are facts of this boasted free Methodist church. The word of God is not free in any of their pulpits, and they are more jealous of their sect, and idolize it more than I have known any other denomination to do, although it was made by man, and God calls it idolatry to rejoice in what man has made, Acts 7: 41; and says: "Cursed be he that trusteth in man or maketh flesh his arm," I know of no sect that presses poor pilgrims for mon-

ey more than this one, or that is more rapidly dying out to all spirituality and purity.

So much for this Free Methodist sect which in fact is neither Free nor Methodist, and which is only another addition to the long list of Methodist names which mean in every respect the opposite of the truth and thus blaspheme the precious body and name of Jesus.

"BAPTIST CHURCH OF CHRIST." Well, what now? Why did not Peter or Paul think of this modern institution for the accommodation of a Baptist conscience in the cities of Bible times? It is called Baptist, on the ground of Christ's command to baptize all nations "into the name of the Father and the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." Have they done it? Have they complied with these words of Christ's command to baptize into his name? For that is the Greek word, into the name. What name have they got? Baptist. What, have they been a hundred years or more endeavoring to baptize their church into the name of the Father, and the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, and have not yet as a church got the divine name at all, but the name of a sect which does not mean Christ's body nor the Father's, nor of the Holy Ghost? What a strange way of keeping Christ's command! You cannot truthfully call them Christ's Church, nor the Father's, nor a Holy Ghost church. To say a church is Christ's, or God's, or a temple of the Holy Ghost, does not mean Baptist church at all. No body would understand me to mean a Baptist church, if I should say of any church on earth that it is Christ's or God's church. To call a Baptist church by any Bible name no body would understand me to mean a Baptist church. It would not be the truth. Suppose I say, body of saints, the righteous, household of faith; or any other Bible term, it would not mean Baptist church at all in the sense of that word now. O God, they have only the water baptism! That is what makes the lie. If they had Christ's baptism of sanctifying truth they would get baptized into his name, and the word Baptist would drop off, and the Bible mark of the name of the true God would be in their foreheads; instead of the mark of the Beast, the name of blasphemy which they now bear.

"PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHRIST." from the word presbyter, which means elder, a name which marks a church governed like the New Testament churches by elders. Bible elders were men older in gospel experience, qualified and appointed by the Holy Ghost to watch over the flock of Christ in the city or region where they lived, and labor for the unity and purity of the whole body of Christ. Such elders in every city were recognized by the church, ordained, as Paul and Barnabas, by laying on of hands and prayer. Their authority was not from the church, but from God, whose independent ministers they were, watching the whole flock of Christ, his body in the region around them, and feeding them with the saving truth. Where are the Elders of Toledo today, or any other city, after the New Testament pattern, caring for the souls of Christ, and his undivided body? Where are they? Is it the annually elected tools and servants of these moneyed corporations which rear their grand steeples, called the Presbyterian Church? Is it that system of republican political machinery borrowed from earthly governments, run by money and for money, with Jesus for stock in trade and souls for merchandise, called Presbyterian, because its man made officials are called elders, to give the appearance of apostolic order to their moneyed concern? Does this sect establishment resemble the elders of Ephesus or other apostolic churches? Not one of the Bible elders but would be kicked out or shot if he should exercise Bible authority in any of these so called Presbyterian pulpits. This then is another of that unmistakable list of names which God brands in the bosom of foul Babylon the Harlot.

"EVANGELICAL CHURCH OF CHRIST." Glorious name! This word is Gospel. No more scriptural name than this. But pause. Do I belong to it? Certainly, for I am in Christ. If Christ is not in his own gospel, then surely there is a tremendous mistake some where. But no, this evangelical church of Christ was made by one Albright perhaps fifty years ago! Paul himself was not Evangelical as this name now means, nor the mass of all who to-day are in Christ! Millions in Christ and yet outside of this evangelical, or gospel church! How is it? What is that church or gospel of which Jesus is not the door, head nor foundation, and which therefore is not his body, yet named Evangelical? If this is not a lie, then some lexicographer will have to tell us what the word LIE means! O how modern Babylon defies all definitions of religious names and ideas, making everything mean its opposite, putting light for darkness and darkness for light!

"LUTHERAN CHURCH OF CHRIST." Hear Luther speak: he says: "Call yourselves not Lutherans. Was Luther crucified for you? Who is Luther but a miserable bag of dust and ashes? Call yourselves Christians." These are the words of the faithful preacher whose name this sect bears. A contradiction of Luther, besides the contradiction between the names of Luther and Christ as heads of the body, for no body can have two heads, it is a monstrosity and absurdity in nature no more than in religion. The central idea of Luther's preaching and of all Protestantism was justification by faith in Jesus, with no priesthood nor power of man between Christ and the least of his disciples. This was the whole difference between Protestantism and the Papacy. But the vast moneyed corporation rivalling Rome in wealth and

power, bears Luther's name while it interposes between Christ and believers, and as effectually crushes out the liberty of souls as Rome. And while Luther preached against indulgences, the church which bears his name will pass all straight to heaven at death (without even a purgatory,) however guilty if they only pay money enough into its treasures. Behold then the Lutheran church of Christ as a name on the head of the beast that was wounded and did live again.

"REFORMED LUTHERAN." Indeed, and reformed from what? And reformed to what? Not one of them is reformed from sectism to gospel unity, nor from sin to holiness, nor from a man made craft to the body of Christ. Another hitch therefore in the Lutheran list of the names of blasphemy.

"UNITED BRETHREN IN CHRIST." Ah, indeed, now then surely we have it. This certainly leaves no brethren outside who are in Christ. Union is its idea, and union in Christ. Surely this includes all true believers, and can be nothing else but the real body of our Lord. What, am I not a member of it? I have the witness that I am in Jesus. And am I outside of all United Brethren in Christ? My head is confused with this confusion of Babylon. *Mystery of Iniquity!* rightly named! Yes I am outside! Every thing in this Babylon of man made bodies of Christ is named the opposite of what it is.

Over in a certain Methodist house the United Brethren are holding a protracted meeting. The United Brethren in Christ are active in the meeting, and the Methodist brethren in Christ sit one side and look on, because it is not their meeting. So it is in every School-house where United Brethren in Christ hold meetings. All other sect brethren in Christ sit one side and look on. It is not their meeting. So it is with every sect professing Christ. O for shame on the hideous lies of Babylon! United Brethren in Christ means divided brethren out of Christ. Names are said to be of no importance in religious matters. So all sectarians say. Names are nothing. But I should judge they were something if only taken by opposite senses. They are important as expressing just the opposite of the truth. They are to be taken always by way of contrast with the truth when used by man made churches.

"CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF CHRIST." means church government by majorities in the congregations. It is democratic politics in Christ's Church; borrowed from this world's democratic governments, or governments by the people. It is the substitution of democracy for monarchy, or majority votes instead of one pope. A majority pope instead of one pope instead of Christ. It is a shift and a dodge of the papal anti-christ. What difference is there between the sin of surrendering your conscience to one pope or board of bishops, or to majority votes? What is the difference between having one pope for our head instead of Christ, and having a majority vote for our head instead of Christ? One is vile anti-christ, just as much as the other. It is neither pope nor majorities who can take God's place, and decide matters of conscience and faith for any child of his. O what deception in the ideas of carnal liberty of earthly democracies when confounded with Christ's spiritual kingdom. It is only another and more plausible lie of the names of blasphemy pretending to the body, or kingdom of Christ which is not of this world.

"CHURCH OF GOD" is the name of another boasting sect made by Winebrener of Pennsylvania, within the last half century. If a name had power to make a man-made church the real church of Christ; this name would do it: for it is the most expressive Bible name. But alas! this gold-wash is too thin to hide the pewter metal. There was never a gold-wash in any of our state penitentiaries; that was more bogus than this man made church of God counterfeit of God's church of God.

"CHRISTIAN CHURCH" is the name of still another institution of Christ's body by the infamous gang of gospel counterfeiters which infest our world, more vile than ever saw the inside of prison walls. Thousands of honest souls have been bewildered and caged in these nets of soul-merchandise by these high sounding names, soul traps they all are, with the name of the blessed body of Jesus for a bait.

"SEVENTH DAY, OR ADVENT CHURCH OF CHRIST" of which there are several absurd divisions, all claiming to be Christ's body, yet requiring another name to mark them! No Bible name describes them. To say Christians, or saints, does not mean any Advent sect. It is not the name of a day, but of Jesus in the foreheads of believers which marks them. If no one was in Christ but Sabbatharians, so called, then the Bible term saint or believer would mean that sect and no others. But it is a lie of blasphemy, for Jesus has made no such test of discipleship, nor is it possible to tell which is the Jewish Seventh day for China or America except by the authority of man's reckoning and custom. All who are in Christ are in a perpetual Sabbath, and no others have power to keep any day holy. Such are the names of blasphemy.

## ANTI-MASONRY AND OTHER REFORMS.

It has been intimated that we are not sufficiently outspoken on this and other reforms; I will say that gospel work is not to trim off the ugly fruit, but to lay the axe at the root of the tree of sin. If I could join any religious sect, I could join the Masonic order, for the principle is the same. A bond that is selfish and partial, and does not love as God loves, but is a respecter of persons, and gives a clique or party of men unjust advantage over all others, is of the devil every time. This constitutes the sin of Masonry and all secret or other sect organizations, an abomination of which no child of God can be guilty. But Masonry does not claim to be the church of God or Christ's body, but merely a worldly institution, hence is far less wicked and blasphemous than every sect church organization!

The church of God is the world's only hope. Hence all moral reform outside the church is a lie and a sham. The Bible nowhere deals with reforms outside God's church.

## CAMP-MEETINGS IN CHRIST'S NAME ONLY.

### PROVIDENCE PERMITTING.

#### NORTH TOLEDO CAMP-MEETING.

Will commence Wednesday, May 28, at 2, P. M. to continue one week. In a Grove near the North end of the Erie St. Horse car Rail Road, which is the best conveyance from the main R. R. depots, costing only five cents. Bring tents and provisions if possible but come and hear the truth. The usual accommodations for man or beast reasonable charges, or free to the poor. All whom we recognize as Christians will have equal liberty with us in all exercises aside from certain messages of truth we have to deliver for which the meeting was appointed. Salvation from sin is our only object.

#### HILLSDALE GO. CAMP-MEETING, MICH.

Will commence Wednesday June 18, to continue one week, in a grove of John Fuller's seven miles South West of Hudson, the nearest Depot on L. S. & M. S. R. R. from which a conveyance on Wednesday, or other days if requested in season. Conditions same as for the above camp-meeting. For particulars address John Fuller, Likeley's Corners, which is two miles west of the ground.

#### WAYNE CO. CAMP-MEETING, MICH.

Commencing July 23. Place not now fixed upon. Inquire of Horatio Cawood New Boston, Wayne co.