

PRESBYTERIAN MISSION,

GHILE, S. A.

CHURCH ORGANIZED IN 1862.

Approximate data

- 1 Boarding school 80 pupils
- 1 DAY SCHOOL 200 "
- 5 SABBATH SCHOOLS 175 " average attendance
- 1 SHELTERING HOME 20 inmates
- 1 PERIODICAL 3000 copies fortnightly
- 6 CONGREGATIONS 700 attendants
- COMMUNICANTS 325

Valparaiso, Sept 24 1887

Rev. W. H. Belden

Bridgton N. J.

My Dear Brother:

Yours of July 29th awaits reply now two weeks, until, I am afraid, what I may say will arrive too late to be of any use for your meetings. But the delay was unavoidable. The calls upon our time & attention, especially just at present, are wholly disproportionate to the forces at our disposition.

Let me, however, assure you most heartily of my personal sympathy & interest in the movement you have indicated in your letter. I will gladly join with you & our N. J. brethren in observing ^{one day of} the work mentioned, in some suitable manner.

I am sorry I cannot give you many such incidents & items as you desire. Our work does not abound

with such fruits. It is not so much
the satisfying of a craving, crying, hun-
ger for the Gospel, as it is the awakening
of a desire for the truth; showing the
people their ignorance, & trying to induce
them to accept, believe & live the Gospel.
The most remarkable case that I know
of, is that of Rev. A. J. Vidaurre, now an
ordained minister laboring under the
direction of our mission. He is a young
man, about 30 years of age, of pleasing
address, & considerable ability. By reason
of distinguished services rendered to the
Government by his grandfather, he
has a right to demand of the govern-
ment certain employment. For the
health of his wife, he accepted the
position of Postmaster at a small
seaside resort; and while thus en-
gaged, about three years since
he began to read some of our papers,
tracts &c, which had been sent to various
parts of the country. He became interested

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sought a Bible, read & studied it with avidity, began correspondence with our missionaries, made known his convictions to his friends, reading the Bible to them, and at last gathering a small congregation to whom he preached regularly. Our mission aided him; the Presbytery sent Committee to organize a Church, and license, & finally to ordain Sr. Vidaurre. More than 50 members were received - not all of whom have remained faithful - but yet a good proportion. Sr. V. has not had an easy path in his new life. His mother is exceedingly fanatical, as are most of the women in Chile, and at last refused to have anything more to do with her son, after having tried every means to persuade him to retrace his steps. This act on the part of his mother caused him great sorrow, and was also a severe financial stroke for she has the entire control of all the inheritance.

left to him by his grandfather. She
refuses to give him a single cent. It
is even possible that she may dispose
of the whole in some way to the
priests, so that he will never get any-
thing of it. But he is unbending -
remains firm for the right - although
obliged now to practice the most rigid
economy, - having an invalid wife - and
no income but the small salary paid
by the mission. He is earnest, devoted,
fearless & devout. He is the most
able speaker ^{in Spanish} we have on the field, and
is to be occupied during the coming
year as ~~mission~~ evangelist or minister
at large, for which work he seems
specially adapted.

I hope my dear brother the case thus
cited in brief, may not be without interest,
if not too late in reaching you.

I am most sincerely Yours
James F. Garvin