

TEXAS WESLEYAN BANNER.

Published Weekly, by R. Alexander, J. W. Whipple, H. S. Thrall, S. A. Williams, John C. Woolam and W. C. Lewis, for the

Methodist Episcopal Church, South;

CHAUNCEY RICHARDSON, Editor

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HOUSTON, TEXAS, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1850.

WHOLE NO. 83.

DEATH OF THE FLOWERS.

The melancholy days are come,
The saddest of the year,
Of wailing winds and naked woods,
And meadows brown and bare,
Heaped in the hollows of the grove,
The withered leaves lie dead,
They rustle to the eddying gust,
And to the rabbit's tread;
The robin and the wren are flown,
And from the shrub the jay,
And from the wood-top calls the crow,
Through all the gloomy day.

Where are the flowers, the fair young flowers,
That lately sprang and stood
In brighter light and softer airs,
A bouquett strewed?
Alas! they all are in their graves,
The gentle race of flowers,
And lying in their lowly bed,
With the fair and good of ours,
The rain is falling where they lie,
The cold November rain
Calls them from out the gloomy earth,
The lovely ones again.

The wild flower and the violet,
They perished long ago,
And the wild rose and the orchis fled
And the summer glow;
But on the hill the golden rod,
And the aster in the wood,
And the young sun-flower, by the brook,
In autumn beauty stood.
Till fell the frost from the clear, cold heaven,
As falls the plague on men,
And the brightness of their smile was gone
From upland, glade and glen.

And now when comes the calm mill day,
As still such days will come,
To call the squirrel and the bee
From out their wintry home;
When the sound of dropping nuts is heard,
Though all the trees are still,
And twinkle in the smoky light,
The waters of the rill;
The south wind searches for the flowers,
Whose fragrance late he bore,
And sighs to find them in the wood
And by the stream no more.

And when I think of one who in
Her youthful beauty died—
That fair meek blossom that grew up
And faded by my side;
In the cold moist earth we laid her,
When the forest cast the leaf,
And we wept, that one so lovely
Should have a life so brief;
Yet not unmet it was that one,
Like that young friend of ours,
So gentle and so beautiful,
Should perish with the flowers.

TOUR THROUGH MIDDLE TEXAS.

Dear Sir,—Having recently returned from an extensive tour through the settled portion of Northern Texas, West of the Trinity River, and traveled about 1,000 miles since leaving this place in July last, I wish to state a few important facts for the information of friends abroad, and also to rectify any false impressions that may have obtained respecting the moral character of these new settlements. My route was from this place via Montgomery, Walker, Leon and Limestone counties, to Dallas, some 300 miles North. From thence via Waco Village, to Austin, 200 miles South, and back to this place, by San Antonio, Lockhart Springs, etc.

A finer country for practical farming purposes can hardly be imagined, than this route has presented. While the soil is everywhere capable of producing cotton in abundance: it is also excellent for wheat, rye, oats, Indian corn, to-lacco, yams, sweet and Irish potatoes, and for fruits, peaches, figs, plums, and grapes may be grown in any quantities; while honey can be had in abundance, with the least care. And horses and mules, domestic cattle, hogs and sheep, may be increased *ad infinitum*, almost without care. In all the North-western portion bright, sparkling running water is found in abundance. My visit was at a time of great drought. In the section indicated I found an abundance of water.

There seems to be but two things wanting to make the whole most desirable to locate upon; i. e., to find any place sufficiently so—the want of timber in some portions, and good water at others.

I found the settlements every where in a new and forming state. Thirty or forty families sometimes embraced the whole population of the county. Most of these families came from the adjoining Southern States. Quite a number of the adults are unable to read or write.— Yet I found in every settlement a well organized school.

A great portion of the people I met, I found to be children on horseback, going to or from school. Great sacrifices are made, and great energy was every where manifested to secure a good education for the children.

I do not believe any other State or country on earth ever, ever made, or attempted to make, such exertions when so new and so resourceless, to give their children knowledge. Again I found also in every settlement a curd school, or some preaching station, and religious organization. In these things the Methodists, Baptists, and Cumberland Presbyterians, are taking the lead.

The Sabbath appointments are well attended. Decorum and good order are usually manifested.

I found no very great destitution of the Holy Scriptures, compared with some other portions of our country; yet a considerable number possess not the Word of Life. All who could read were anxious to obtain it. I heard no profanity, although some are profane sometimes—saw no violence nor intemperance; and never traveled in a country where I felt more safe in every place.

Yours very respectfully,
M. Strong, Bible Agent for W. T. Houston, Nov. 16th, 1850.

TEXAS CORRESPONDENT OF THE RELIGIOUS HERALD.

Dear Brother Sands:—On the 22d of August, I left home as the "General Missionary Agent" of the Board of the Baptist State Convention of Texas.—The duties of my agency are—1. To collect the scattered members of our denomination, and organize them into churches. 2. To aid them in getting pastors, and in arranging for their support. 3. To look out the most important points or fields of labor within the State; and, 4. To collect funds for our missionary associations in Texas.

During my absence it was my privilege to attend the Trinity River and Soda Lake Associations, which lie in the northern and eastern portions of this State. The first on the west side of Trinity River, and the second on the east. These bodies are in a healthy and flourishing condition. There were five new churches added to each of them by letter and delegates, besides six others already organized, and that will join the next session. At the Soda Lake Association I had the pleasure to meet with brother J. Witt, of Marshall. His health, has of late much improved, and his heart seems to be deeply imbued with the spirit of preaching Christ. Bro. W. is exerting an extensive and salutary influence for the Baptist cause in Eastern Texas, which will be felt long after his body shall rest in the grave. I believe and humbly hope. The Baptists in this country have great encouragement to press on. They are rapidly increasing. Within the last twelve months there have been two new associations formed, viz: The Elm Fork, which lies above the Cross Timbers, and the other lies over on the Red River, and is known as the Red River Association. Both favorable to the benevolent objects of the day.

There will be a third Association organized next week, if the Lord will, at Larissa, in Cherokee county, to be known as the United Baptist Association of Texas, as I understand. The churches that will go into this organization, are in part those that formerly belonged to the old Sabine Association.

During my absence from home, I traveled between five and six hundred miles; and raised in subscriptions and cash, between \$450 and \$500, for our State Convention. The brethren in the ministry and among the private membership, received me with great kindness and Christian affection.

The duties of my agency as a general Missionary of the Convention, are (1.) to organize our scattered brethren into churches. 2. To arrange for Pastoral support. 3. To look out the most important fields within the State—and 4., to take up collections for our State Board.

The Convention, also, requested me to continue in the above; the enterprise I commenced as a private matter, last winter, viz: To collect all the material I can in reference to the Rise and Progress of the Baptists in this State, from our first commencement, as a denomination. I have been able to trace back our commencement, to the year 1826, which is much farther than any other denomination. As I collect material I enter it in a manuscript book, so as to preserve it until it is thought best by the brethren to have it published. There are many facts and dates that can be collected now, that cannot be collected five or ten years hence.

J. W. D. CREATH.

AN ANECDOTE.

The following anecdote, which contains an excellent lesson of instruction for the rulers of any nation, will apply to the result of almost any war that has ever been undertaken.

At the close of the American revolution, George III., King of Great Britain, issued a proclamation, appointing a day of thanksgiving for the return of peace. A shrewd country clergyman in Scotland, upon reading the proclamation, immediately proceeded to England, and having arrived at the royal palace solicited a personal audience with the King, being admitted with some difficulty to the royal presence, after making his humble obeisance to the Sovereign, he said: "May it please your majesty, I have received your proclamation, and wish to comply with its requisitions; but I have come all the way from Scotland to ascertain what we are to give thanks for. Is it that your majesty has lost thirteen flourishing provinces?"

The good natured king, perceiving the humor of the man, replied, "No, nunn, not at all."

"Is it, then," said the Scotchman, "that your majesty has sacrificed the lives of a hundred thousand of your loyal subjects?"

The king again replied, "No, nunn, nothing of the kind."

Again the Scotchman inquired, "Is it that your majesty has added a hundred millions to the national debt?"

The king again answered, "No, nunn, for none of these things."

The Scotchman then said, "Will your majesty condescend to inform me explicitly, for what we are to give thanks?"

The king replied, "Why, nunn, manifestly for this, that matters are no worse with us than they are."

The good man returned home entirely satisfied, and preached an excellent thanksgiving sermon on Isa. xxi. 18.

THE DEVIL'S TEN COMMANDMENTS.

From an old work.

1. *Live to thyself.*—Keep close to thine own interests. Discommodate not thyself too much for charity, or duty, or religion. This is the first and great commandment, on which hang all the rest, and to which they tend; and it is the same as, *be thine own God*, thine own idol.

2. *Let thy will be thy law.*—Thou art thine own; thy tongue is thine own; thy time is thine own; thy estate is thine own. Mayest thou not do what thou wilt with thine own?

3. *Make the best of thy time present, and of present things.*—Lose not a certainty for uncertainties; who knows what shall be hereafter? "Eat and drink, for tomorrow thou diest." Be merry while thou mayest; spend while thou hast it; "make hay while the sun

shines;" death comes, and there is an end to all thy mirth.

4. *Stand fast in the liberties of the flesh.*—Come not into bondage; be not a voluntary slave to a strict and restraint life, when thou mayest, if thou wilt, use thine own liberty.

5. *Continue in sin, because grace hath abounded.*—Christ died for sinners; God is merciful; why shouldst thou, then, fear to take thy choice?

6. *Do as others do.*—Go along with the multitude; fashion thyself to the times; be not singular. Why shouldst thou think thyself wiser than others?

7. *Do no more in religion than thou art obliged to.*—Be not righteous over much; be not too forward. A little faith, little repentance will serve thy turn.

8. *Trouble not thyself about small offences.*—Thoughts are free; words are nothing of course! What man is there that lives and sins not? Why shouldst thou keep such add about thy sins? Are they not only little ones?

9. *Do not over-hasty.*—If thou must repent it is time enough yet; torment not thyself before thy time; repentance will be well enough at last. When thou art old, thou wilt have little else to do; be not old when thou art young.

10. *Separate thy soul with God, rather than thy body with man.*—That is, choose iniquity rather than have trouble; venture no further in matters of religion, than thou mayest with safety. Be prudent, be discreet; seek not offences by too much zeal or perseverance for the right. Compromise with sin, to save opposition; and by all means keep on the popular side. Do not trust God farther than thou can see; risk nothing in his service; hazard no worldly advantage for the sake of heaven's blessing.

AN ENLIGHTENED FLOCK.

It is related of a worthy divine, whose field of labors was situated not many hundred miles from Salem, that he preached politics to his congregation for such a length of time, that even the oldest church members forgot all about the Gospel, and fell into a profound ignorance with regard to creeds, forms of worship, and church regulations. After the clergyman's death, the elders of his flock went to consult a celebrated divine about obtaining a successor. "What is your creed?" "Our creed?" "Yes, your principles—what are they?" "Oh, we are all Democrats but two!" "I mean, what is your platform—your church?" "Oh!" exclaimed one, "that is principally oak!"

NEVER DESPAIR.

Major Noah, of the New York Sunday Times remarks:—"Never despair," says the millionaire, buttoning up his coat pockets, and addressing a shivering mendicant. "Never despair," says the prosperous banker through his buttery cheeks, to the ruined, bankrupt merchant. "Never despair," says the flourishing man to his much less fortunate neighbor. "It is a golden battle cry in the struggle with life, but while all appreciate it, very few adopt it. 'I will not despair,' it is a declaration easier made than verified.

We remember one instance of two unfortunate kicking cars and despondency to their progenitor, the evil one, and doing so with success.

Two decayed young men of spirit, who had been chased into a gallop by want, all the way from the Mississippi to the Hudson river, arrived in New York one rainy Sunday morning in December. They were then landing from a boat in which they had been working their passage, and they sat down upon the end of the wharf.

"Well, what shall we do for a lodging?" "I don't know of them."

"Don't know of them?"

"No—let's take a walk."

Shabby and dirty they strolled along Broadway, until they reached a mean looking drinking shop. Here they entered, spent their last shilling in beer, and commenced reading the papers.

"Oh," exclaimed one, as his eyes glanced over the advertisement, "\$25 are offered for the best New Year's address for the carrier of this paper—all competitors are to hand in their essays by to-morrow evening."

"Well," said the other, "I'll try for the prize."

"You?"

"Even I. Landlord, can you lend me a few sheets of paper, pen and ink?"

The articles were furnished, and the scrivener worked in silence four long hours, at the end of which time he shouted—

"It's done."

"Read it," said his companion.

The matter was read and approved. It was carried to the office. The couple walked the street all that night, and a great portion of the next day, until the time of the decision affecting the award of the prize.

The needy man entered the sactum of the great committee, and emerged into the street the possessor of \$25. Twenty were saved, and five were allotted to the payment of a week's common board; the balance was invested in a very humble business—on a slender scale. It is now seven years since the events we have narrated occurred, and now the firm is as well known as can be.

A despairing man is unfit for social intercourse with the world. He cannot overthrow difficulties nor combat dangers, which retreat when boldy they are confronted.

When the reverse engenders despair, and begets the gnawings of despondency, the victim is fit for criminal depredations or suicide. Every one's motto should be—*if constitutional peculiarities will permit*—"Never despair."

ORIGIN OF THE NAMES OF THE STATES.

1. Maine was so called as early as 1638, from Maine in France, of which Henrietta Mar-

ria, Queen of England, was at the time proprietor.

2. New Hampshire was the name given to the territory conveyed by the Plymouth company to Capt. John Mason, by patent, November 20, 1630, with reference to the patentee, who was Governor of Portsmouth in Hampshire, England.

3. Vermont was so called by the inhabitants in their declaration of independence, January 16th, 1777, from the French verb, and most mountain.

4. Massachusetts derived its name from a tribe of Indians in the neighborhood of Boston. The tribe is thought to have derived its name from the blue hills of Milton. "I have learned," says Roger Williams, "that the Massachusetts were so called from the Blue Hills."

5. Rhode Island was so called in 1644, in reference to the island of Rhodes in the Mediterranean.

6. Connecticut was so called from the Indian name of its principal river.

7. New York (originally called New Netherlands) was so called in reference to the Duke of York and Albany, to whom this territory was granted.

8. New Jersey (originally called New Sweden) was so named in 1664, in compliment to Sir George Carteret, one of its original proprietors, who had defended the Island of Jersey, against the Long Parliament, during the civil war of England.

9. Pennsylvania was so called in 1681, after William Penn, the founder of Philadelphia.

10. Delaware was so called in 1703, from Delaware Bay, on which it lies, and received its name from Lord De La War, who died on this Bay.

11. Maryland was so called in honor of Henrietta Maria, Queen of Charles, in his patent to Lord Baltimore, June 20, 1632.

12. Virginia was so called in 1584, after Elizabeth, the Virgin Queen of England.

13 and 14. Carolina (North and South) was so called in 1664, by the French, in honor of Charles IX. of France.

15. Georgia was so called in 1732, in honor of George II.

16. Alabama was so called in 1817, from its principal river.

17. Mississippi was so called in 1790, from its western boundary. Mississippi is said to denote the whole river; that is the river formed by the union of many.

18. Louisiana was so called in honor of Louis XVI. of France.

19. Tennessee was so called in 1796, from its principal river. The word Tennessee is said to signify a curved spoon.

20. Kentucky was so called in 1782, from its principal river.

21. Illinois was so called in 1809, from its principal river. The word is said to signify the river of men.

22. Indiana was so called in 1802, from the American Indians.

23. Ohio was so called in 1802, from its southern boundary.

24. Missouri was so called in 1821 from its principal river.

25. Michigan was so called in 1839, from the lake on which it borders.

26. Arkansas was so called 1819, from its principal river.

27. Florida was so called by Juan Ponce De Leon, 1562, because it was discovered on Easter Sunday; in Spanish, *Pascua Florida*.

28. Texas was so called by the Spaniards in 1690, who that year drove out a colony of French, who had established themselves at Matagorda; and made their first permanent settlement.

29. Wisconsin was so named in 1836, from the river of the same name, when a territorial government was formed.

30. Iowa was so called in 1838, after a tribe of Indians of the same name, and a separate territorial government formed.

U. S. Almanac.

EPISCOPACY IN CALIFORNIA.

The Protestant Episcopal Convention for the Diocese of California after a protracted session, adjourned on the 10th of August. The Rev. Horatio Southgate, D. D., formerly Missionary Bishop to Constantinople, was chosen Bishop.

This selection does not argue well for the Protestantism of "the church" in California, as it will be remembered Bishop Southgate is the man who caused the American Missionaries' so much trouble in Constantinople. A California correspondent of the Presbyterian says:

"Puseyism is the same here as in the States, and the sooner they come out and unite themselves with the Church of Rome the better, for the evangelical portion of the Episcopal denomination. That church has now two separate organizations here, the Rev. Mr. Mines and the Rev. Mr. Vemere; but I am sorry to add, that these brother clergymen are not on even speaking acquaintance.—Independent.

ITALY.—The Pope has just presented a superb mosaic to the Emperor of Austria, and another, together with an album, containing valuable engravings, to the Prince Schwarzenberg.

The Statute of Florence, quotes letters from Rome of the 12th, stating that the two organic decrees published by Cardinal Antonelli, have not been favorably received by the Romans; but, on the contrary, torn and dirtied everywhere. The paper money has fallen three per cent, in consequence of those decrees.

The Pope persists in making common cause with the Archbishop of Turin.

On the 8th, the *fete* of the birth of the Virgin, the Pope went in procession to grand mass at Santa Maria del Popolo. He was received by the people in the most chilling manner; not a sound was uttered, not a voice asked for benediction. The Pope was deeply affected by this reception, which contrasted so unfavorably with his reception in 1846.

IMPORTANT FROM AFRICA.—The N. Y. Commercial Advertiser publishes the following extract from a letter received by a commercial house in that city:

SERRA LEONE, Africa, Aug. 2, 1850.

The British brigantine-of-war, Bonetta, arrived yesterday from the leeward coast, and

will leave for England direct this afternoon, with information that the King of Dahomy has ordered the missionaries and recaptured slaves at "Understown" to leave the country before the 1st of October. If they did not, he says that he will *behead* them all, commencing with the missionaries. Commander Forbes, of the Bonetta, had an interview with the King, and the result was the immediate departure of the vessel for England.

THE AMERICAN BIBLE UNION.

The New Version.—This effort from the American and Foreign Bible Society, held its first anniversary meeting on Thursday afternoon, at the Baptist Tabernacle, in New York, the Rev. Dr. Cone presiding.—The principal subject of discussion was the new version of the Bible, now in progress, under the auspices of the Union. It was upon this question of a revised version of the Scriptures that the old society divided. The report states that the work of revision will be prosecuted with the utmost fidelity and despatch. A correspondence will be opened with eminent scholars in different countries of Europe, and their co-operation invited in this work. No expense will be spared to obtain an accurate English version of the Bible.—Independent.

ANECDOTE.

The Rev. Dr. Beecher, in an article which he furnished for the Young Reeper, tells the following touching story:—

"A few years since, as the Rev. Joseph Davis, an excellent Baptist minister in London, was walking along one of the crowded streets of that city, his attention was arrested by the circumstance that a carriage with several horses, was about to pass over a little girl who was slowly crossing the road. He strongly felt the danger of the child, and forgetting his own, he ran, snatched her up in his arms, and hastened with her to the side path, when the thought struck him,—what would the parents of this dear child have felt, had she been killed! At this moment he looked in the face of the little girl, which had been concealed from his view by her bonnet; and imagine if you can, what his feelings were when he discovered it was his daughter! I saw him about half an hour after the occurrence, and I shall never forget his agitation, as he described to me her danger, or his expressions of thankfulness to the infinitely gracious Being, who thus delivered his beloved child from death."

Religious Liberty in India.—A law has been passed, protecting religious liberty in India. In view of it, the Bengal Recorder says:—"The die is cast; the blow given to the edifice of the faith of the Hindus, is such as neither Mahomed or Gilian, nor any of his successors, nor even Tipoo Sultan, has ever inflicted." This is good testimony to the fact, that Hindooism does without the power to persecute; that the law of liberty is fatal to the system.

The Rev. Jacob Stanley, one of the oldest members of the British Wesleyan Conference, having been more than half century in the ministry, died, early last month, at Stourport, England, in the 73th year of his age. Three years ago he was President of the British Conference. He is known in this country by his "Dialogues on Popery," a popular refutation of the leading errors of Romanism. His last sickness was sudden and brief, being of but nine days' continuance. During this time he enjoyed the most unbroken and settled peace. When asked how he was, he answered, "As regards the body, feebleness extreme; as regards the soul, great peace; but I fear no evil, for He is with me; His rod and staff, they comfort me. I am a sinner saved by grace."—Christian Advocate.

LARGE GOLD COINS.

An important measure to commerce, in connection with the gold of California, has just been brought forward in the Senate by Mr. Gwin, senator from that new State. It proposes virtually, that gold coins of the values of from one hundred to ten thousand dollars each shall be struck at the Mint. They are to be rectangular, suitable for packing, being designed for commercial purposes. They are to be struck of refined gold of uniform fineness, and with appropriate legends and devices, similar to those upon our smaller coins, with their values conspicuously marked, and the inscriptions *Liberty and the United States of America*. Counterfeiting and mutilation are provided against by suitable contrivance and penal enactments.

The decorations of the suite of rooms at the Rovers House, Boston, which Jenny Lind occupied cost *thirteen thousand dollars!* In the parlor are two splendid mirrors and a thousand dollar piano. The toilet chamber attached to the parlor is lined with rose colored French cambric, canopied, and from the centre is suspended a lantern of stained glass. The passage from the parlor to the bed chamber is lined with silk similar in color to that of the dressing room. The bed chamber itself has been furnished anew throughout, and is most magnificent. Even the lock of the doors is of silver, and is ornamented and inscribed with a quotation from scripture: "He that hath pity or the poor lendeth to the Lord, and that which he hath given will he pay him again."

Commerce of the Mississippi.—The estimated value of the commerce of the Mississippi and her tributaries, according to a recent public document, is \$256,333,820, and the value of the vessels engaged in the trade is \$18,661,500. The amount of this trade alone is nearly \$100,000,000 more than all our foreign trade.—Detroit Tribune.

Telegraph under the Mississippi.—It has been determined at St. Louis to carry the telegraph wires, across in gatta percha, under the bed of the Mississippi.

NO. 30.

NOTICE.
The Court of Naturalists having granted to the owners of the estate of all persons holding any property in fee simple, the time prescribed by law for the redemption of the same, and those who do not so redeem, shall be deemed to have accepted of the same, and shall be liable to pay the same without delay.

ED.—Officer Jonathan, having granted to the owners of the estate of all persons holding any property in fee simple, the time prescribed by law for the redemption of the same, and those who do not so redeem, shall be deemed to have accepted of the same, and shall be liable to pay the same without delay.

HARMONY.

THE SOUTHERN HARMONY.—The Southern Harmony, published for the Church, is a weekly paper, and is published by the Southern Harmony Society, of New York. It is a paper of great interest, and is published by the Southern Harmony Society, of New York. It is a paper of great interest, and is published by the Southern Harmony Society, of New York.

REVENUE.

REVENUE.—The Revenue Department, of the United States, has issued a circular, directing the collectors of the duties on foreign goods, to be supplied with every year, with a list of the goods, and the duties thereon, as prescribed by law.

RANGE.

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OFFICE.

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EMBECK, COOK & CO.

EMBECK, COOK & CO.—The Emsbeck, Cook & Co., of New York, have published a new edition of their book, "The Southern Harmony, published for the Church."

Take a Paper.

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CHAUNCEY RICHARDSON, Editor.

HOUSTON:

SATURDAY, NOV. 16, 1850.

LETTER FROM BISHOP ANDREW. Cytharua, Ky., Oct. 8th, 1850.

Dear Bro. Richardson: Your letter has just reached me. The death of Bishop Bacon has thrown all our arrangements into confusion. If Bishop Paine does not visit you, I expect to do so. God willing, and I may possibly have to come through your country to reach East Texas; if so, I must depend on some of you for the means of conveyance to that Conference. Our Conference here is just over. No chance for help here—wish there was. I am fairly run down, so you must take a short letter. My kind regards to sister R. my love to the preachers.

I am, dear brother, yours affectionately, JAMES O. ANDREW.

CHANGE OF HOLDING CONFERENCE. New Orleans, Nov. 4, 1850.

Dear Brother— Please give notice in your paper that the time of holding our Conference is changed by order of Bishop Capers, from Jan. 1st, '51, to Dec. 25th, '50. Yours truly, J. C. KEENER. Ed. of T. W. Banner.

The following documents proposed for the consideration of the Legislature of this State, with the editorial accompanying them, appeared in the 33d number of the first volume of the Banner. Our attention has been recently called to this subject, with the request that we should direct the attention of our readers thereto. The importance of a public system of Education adapted to the wants of the State, is now very generally felt. The School Fund is accumulating, and the children and youth of the State, for whom the State should sollicitly care, and amply provide, and who have the first claim upon the benefits of this fund are being defrauded out of them for the want of a system by which it can be distributed and used. The people are beginning to move in this matter, and are anxious that the Legislature at its called session should act promptly and wisely in the premises. It is confidently hoped that one of the following acts, or one equivalent thereto, will be adopted at this session. We re-publish these documents because we can furnish nothing better on the subject, suited to meet the present emergency. The vital importance of the subject demands line upon line.

EDUCATION.

Some of the members of the Legislature, previous to their departure to Austin, were kind enough to ask of some of the members of the Texas Literary Institute their views of what should be the action of the Legislature, at its present session, concerning the distribution of the School Fund in the establishment of a system of Education throughout the State?

The answer to these gentlemen is furnished below, in the form of two acts, either one of which might be passed by the Legislature of the State.

The first is deemed by us the most desirable for the action of that honorable body, for the following reasons:

First. It can never be advisable for any individual man to set out to accomplish any permanent good, even for himself, without some definite plan as to the mode in which the desired good may be obtained. Much less is it advisable for any body of Legislators to prepare a system of regulation to supply the wants of their constituents, without a definite knowledge of these wants, and the manner in which they may best be met. To attempt to act without sufficient knowledge in the premises, is like fighting an enemy in the dark, and happy would it be under such circumstances, if we should not be worse off than "he who beatech the air."

It is evident that in order for enlightened and prudent action on the part of the Legislature in a matter so important to the welfare of a state, as that of establishing a system of general Education, there should first be a well digested plan of operations, defined and marked out; otherwise there must of necessity be a great waste, both of time and means. It seems moreover, that the most efficient mode of securing such a well digested system, would be to appoint some competent person, with means of examining the various systems of Education, and the powers of associating with him other individuals able to assist in digesting a proper system of Education for the State. When such a system has been thus arranged, let it be spread before the people, and in due time presented for the action of the Legislature.

A large number of the States have systems of Education. Some more and some less exceptional. There are also many schools under the direction of incorporated bodies in various parts of the Union, from which valuable information might be gleaned. Systems of Education have also long been established in some portions of Europe, some of which are very thorough and effective. It is probable that no one of these systems could well be adopted as a whole in our State. But they might be examined into by a competent individual, who should have conferred upon him

the power and means of so doing. And from these various systems portions might be gleaned, which, when brought together and arranged, would enable us to adopt a better system of Education than any now in operation, even in our sister States. No one can fail to see the vast advantage ground had in our being able to examine and compare the various systems of Education, and their practical working.

Were we pioneers in this great work, then surely we could expect but little progress for a long time. But with so much, so long continued, and such varied experience before us, if sought in the proper way, we cannot fail of coming to some definite and useful conclusion.

A second reason why the first act proposed would seem most desirable, is the saving of money for the purposes of education. In a well directed system of education, ten dollars can be made to do more than fifty, where the system is greatly defective. This assertion is shown to be true by the most common system of reasoning about matters of every day life. In all the mechanical arts, the more perfect the working of the machinery, the less the expense and the less liable to get out of order. In the working of any system of education, there is, of necessity, much which must be mechanical. To save expense the machinery of this (if we may be allowed the term) should be as perfect as possible in the outset, otherwise there must be frequent patchings up, and not unfrequently changes, which will hinder the harmonious working of the whole.

In establishing a system of education for the State, we labor, it may be, for coming centuries, and for a long line of generations yet unborn; we should, therefore, see that the foundation be laid broad and deep, otherwise the superstructure reared thereupon can never be beautiful or secure. If for years our means are squandered in a long line of experiments, when we might at once, make use of the knowledge and experience of others, we inflict upon those who come after us an incalculable injury, an injury for which posterity will hold us accountable.

A third reason for the adoption of some act like the first proposed is, it would save time. Already are the children of the State rising up clamorous for intellectual food. The more time and money we squander in experimenting, the longer will it be before we can supply their wants, and make them fit for self government.

The quickest and most efficient way of successful action, is to first bring together, and systemize; and then act. For these and other reasons, the first act is deemed altogether the most desirable, that none of the school fund may be expended until each dollar can be made to tell in the work of education.

If the Legislature choose, however, to have the educational fund distributed at once, the course pointed out by the second act proposed, is thought to be as equitable as any that can be suggested.

An act to provide for the appointment of a School Commissioner of the State of Texas, and to define his duties.

SECTION 1. Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas, that there shall be appointed by the Governor, a School-commissioner, whose duty it shall be to associate with himself, other individuals of his own selection, to form a Committee of not less than three, nor more than five, and which committee, under the direction of the School Commissioner, shall prepare and digest a system of common school education for the State, to be submitted to the next Legislature for its action.

SEC. 2. Be it further enacted, that the School-Fund of the State, remain unappropriated until after the action of the Legislature upon the system reported, except so much as may be necessary to pay the School-Commissioner.

An act to provide for the appointment of school commissioners, and the distribution of the school fund.

SECTION, 1st. Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas, that each Circuit Judge and the Chief Justice of the counties embraced in his District, appoint three county school commissioners for each county, whose duty it shall be to locate schools; examine and employ teachers, and distribute the school funds of the state, in their respective counties.

Be it further enacted, that each county shall receive its proportion of the school fund, according to the number of scholars in attendance upon school nine months out of every twelve in the year, at the school thus established; and that no school shall be entitled to any portion of the fund, which is not taught more than nine months in every year.

Be it further enacted, that no teacher shall receive any portion of the public fund, in payment for teaching, who has not first been examined by the county school commissioners, and received from them a certificate of his or her moral and intellectual qualifications.

CORRESPONDENTS.

A communication has been received from Rev. Dr. W. P. Smith, which was intended to precede the one published in our paper of last week. It came to hand some ten days after the other. It will appear next week.

WHO PREACHED THE FIRST PROTESTANT SERMON IN TEXAS?

This question is assuming high importance and eliciting special attention in certain quarters. One gentleman, a correspondent of the Religious Herald of Richmond, Va., and of the South Western Baptist, has assumed to answer the question in favor of a Baptist preacher, and of course claims that his church has a superior title to Texas, founded on the right of discovery, and pre-emption. His statements involving these claims will be found in his correspondence with the Herald and Baptist. In his letter to the latter, he says:

"I have been able to trace back our commencement to the year 1826, which is further than any other denomination." In his letter to the former, he says:

"The Baptists commenced preaching in Texas as early as 1826, on the western side of the Brazos river. I spent a night, while absent on the above trip, with a Baptist minister by the name of Thomas Hanks, who informed me that he preached on the east side of the same river in 1829, and when he arrived in the country he understood that a bro. Bays, from Missouri, preached as above stated, in 1825, upon Peach Creek, on the west side of the river. This fact I also learned from a private member of the Methodist denomination, who landed at the mouth of the Brazos river in the winter of 1827; and likewise stated that he was personally acquainted with Bro. Bays in Missouri before he left for Texas, and that he was a minister in good standing there.

"This Methodist brother also gave me the name of the first Methodist minister, and the date when he preached. The Rev. Wm. Stevenson, of the Methodist E. Church, was the first, and he came in the latter part of 1831, and held the first camp-meeting that was ever held in Texas, in San Augustine county, in the fall of 1832 or '33."

It would seem, from the above statement, that the writer supposed that the question of priority was settled beyond cavil or dispute. We have no objections to bro. Creath's date of the origin of his own church operations in Texas, and shall not call the truth of that assumption in question. We acknowledge, however, that we can not advance the facility with which he reaches conclusions. If he be as open to conviction on some other subjects, as on this, we think it would not be an Herculean task to overturn his peculiar faith, and supplant it by another.

If he proceeds in collecting materials for a history of the rise and progress of the Baptist church in Texas in the manner that he has commenced, the history would be none other than fabulous. We must enter our solemn protest against his incorporating the history of the Methodist Episcopal church, with his own, if his commencement be a fair index of his future labors as an ecclesiastical historian. For he has not even winked at the truth, so far as Methodism is concerned. His private member of the Methodist denomination came to the country too late to hear the first Methodist sermon preached in it, or to have a personal knowledge of the introduction of Methodism into it.

We can adduce testimony in answer to the question under consideration, which we deem worthy of all confidence. It is the testimony of Mr. John Rabb of Rutersville, Texas, who came to Texas in 1823. We have been personally acquainted with him for more than eleven years, and esteem him as a man of unquestionable veracity. In a communication from his pen, published in the 25th number of the 2d volume of the Banner, entitled "Recollections of other days," he says:

"In 1824 I was driven by the Indians from the Colorado river to the Brazos, and compelled to remain there one year before I returned. During my stay there, in June 1824, the Rev. Henry Stevenson made his first visit to Western Texas. I lived or stayed at that time three miles below San Felipe. He came to see me where I was encamped with my wife and one child. There he preached the first sermon ever preached by a Protestant minister in Texas, to a party of four families. Col. Austin knew nothing of his preaching until after he was gone. Father Stevenson had preached on the west side of Red River as early as 1818, in company with the Rev. William Stevenson, who had charge of the Arkansas mission. They were of the same name, but no relations. That section of country referred to was not considered, or regarded as a part of Texas, as the laws of the U. S. had jurisdiction over it. It was what is now known as Red River country."

If these statements be true, (and who will question their truth?) the first Methodist sermon was preached in Red River country, Texas, in 1818, and west of the Brazos in 1824.

Allowing Bro. Creath full credit for accuracy in fixing the date of the first Baptist sermon preached in Texas, it could not have been the first Protestant sermon preached in Texas; it is not, therefore, true, that he is able to trace his denomination further back than any other can be traced.

We deemed it important to the interests of truth to correct so glaring an error, respecting the planting of the protestant religion in Texas, as the Rev. Mr. Creath was disseminating throughout the length and breadth of the land. His position, as the agent of the Baptist State Convention, gives consequences and currency to his statements. Two of his letters will be found on the first page of this issue. To how many other Baptist papers he has written the same statements we know not, but presume he has written them to the Tennessee Baptist, to which he alludes. In our view such a wide dissemination of such notorious misstatements of facts, is a very serious business. It not only involves his own honor as a man of information and research, but the honor of the church of which he is the accredited agent. Such misstatements are an imposition upon the Christian public, misleading the public mind.

We have copied the letters referred to, that our readers may be kept fully informed of the condition and progress of the Baptist Church in Texas. We rejoice in the evangelization of the State, and shall chronicle every indication of the progress of this great work.

OLD CAPITOL.

By reference to our advertising columns, our readers will learn that the well known Hotel, styled the Old Capitol, of honorable memory, has changed hands. Mr. C. A. Turley now presides over its interests, who will vie with his accomplished lady in giving entire satisfaction to all who may patronize the establishment. They invite the traveling and business public to call and then judge.

ERRATA.

In Mr. Strong's communication upon the first page of this issue, for "erude church," read "rude church."

In Rev. John Haynie's communication, on "Sanctification," published in the 8th number of the Banner, an error occurred in crediting the first quotation from the Scriptures.—It should have been credited to 1 Thessalonians, instead of 1 Kings.

MARCH OF MIND.

The following racy note is from a Post Master. We present it verbatim et literatim et punctuatum, with the exception of the writer's name.

Were this a solitary case of the kind, we should not notice it, but it is nearly a sample of many. Omitting the name of the post office at which the subscribers receive their papers, or of which they themselves are distinguished incumbents, they convey no real information to us—and tax our patience not a little.

Mr. Richman you will stop Dugles paper he has more of from here and hea Dont get them I think that I herd him say that he diden want em more of them november the 4 1850

ADVERTISEMENTS.

We admonish our readers not to overlook our advertising columns. They will find some items of information there greatly to their interest. Read them all, and especially the new advertisements.

SONS OF TEMPERANCE.

A letter has been shown us by Dr. John L. Bryan, W. P. of the Houston Division of the Sons of Temperance, containing some interesting items of the proceedings of the Grand Division of the State at its recent meeting in Henderson, Rusk county. The following are the places for holding the ensuing quarterly sessions of the Grand Division: Houston, 22d January, 1851.

Clarksville, 4th Wednesday in April, 1851. La Grange, 4th Wednesday in July, 1851. Palestine, 4th Wednesday in Oct., 1851. The following is a list of the officers elected by the Grand Division S. of T. of the State, at its recent annual session in the town of Henderson, for the ensuing Temperance year, ending October, 1850.

Henry M. Lawson, of Rusk co., G. W. P. J. D. Sharp, of Douglass, G. W. A. John C. Miller, of Rusk co., G. Scrib. H. B. Dance, " " G. T. B. F. Benton of San Augustine, G. C. Moses M. Bigham, of Douglass, G. S. J. S. Besser, of Walker co., G. Chaplain. Chas. S. Taylor, of Nacogdoches, P. G. W. P.

Messrs. J. R. Armstrong, J. C. King, T. C. Bridwell, W. P. Hill, Chas. S. Taylor, J. D. Sharpe and Henry M. Lawson were elected delegates to the National Division.

EDITOR'S TABLE.

The Logic and Utility of Mathematics, with the best Methods of instruction, explained and illustrated. By Charles Davies, LL. D. A. S. Barnes & Co., New York, and H. W. Derry & Co., Cincinnati, 1850.

This able work comprises an analysis of that system of mathematical instruction which has been uniformly pursued at the Military Academy at West Point, N. Y., over a quarter of a century, and which has given to that institution its unrivalled celebrity as a school of mathematical sciences.

It is well known by every experienced teacher of youth, that Dr. Davies' Mathematical Series, combining as it evidently does, all that is most valuable in the various methods of European instruction, improved and matured by the suggestions of more than thirty years experience, now forms the most complete course of mathematics extant.

Its methods, harmonizing as the works of one mind, carry the student onward by the same analogies and the same laws of association, and are calculated to impart a comprehensive knowledge of the science, combining clearness in the several branches, and unity and proportion in the whole. Being the system so long in use at West Point, through which so many men, eminent for their scientific attainments, have passed, and having

been adopted, as Text Books by most of the Colleges and Academies in the United States, it may be appropriately regarded as our national system of mathematics.

The Logic and Utility of Mathematics is the most interesting work in the series, and should occupy a place in the library of every teacher and student.

Grammar of Arithmetic; or, an Analysis of the Language of Figures and Science of Numbers. By Charles Davies, LL. D. A. S. Barnes & Co., New York. H. W. Derry & Co., Cincinnati, 1850.

This admirable work comprises the results of a very full and careful analysis, both of the Science and Art of Arithmetic, and furnishes many valuable suggestions on the best method of imparting instruction therein.

It is well adapted to contribute largely towards the accomplishment of the two prominent objects of a scientific education, viz:— To establish habits of quick, accurate, and profound thought; and to give skill in the application of principles in all the practical departments and business of life. These two objects Dr. Davies seems to have kept constantly in view in the preparation of his entire series of mathematical works, being fully impressed that it is the power of thought that stretches out the horizon of the mind, and that it is the skill of applying principles which gives practical value to all knowledge.

We have never been better pleased with an elementary treatise on Arithmetic than with this. It is worthy of adoption by every teacher in the State.

Map of Time; A Companion to the Historic Guide. By Emma Willard. A. S. Barnes & Co., New York.

Guide to the Temple of Time; and Universal History, for Schools. By Emma Willard. A. S. Barnes & Co., New York.

These two works are intended by their talented and justly celebrated authoress, as mutual companions, and as such they render a most valuable service to the cause of educational science. They comprise the results of thirty years experience in teaching, as well as of long and mature reflection, on the special subject of educational history. While they are well adapted to awaken a taste for history, they put its grand outline within the power of universal acquisition, in every school, throughout our vast republic.

We deem these attractive works indispensable, both in teaching and studying history. As they greatly facilitate its acquisition, they shorten its process, and thus save much valuable time to the student.

Copies of the several works above noticed have been placed on our table by Mr. B. Mortimer, agent of the publishers, by whom they are offered for sale in this city, together with a general assortment of School and College Text Books.

The Southern Methodist Pulpit, Edited by Rev. Charles F. Deane, A. M., President of Greensboro' Female College, Richmond Christian Advocate Office, Va.

This sterling periodical for October comprises the 7th and 8th numbers, and treats its readers to a sumptuous entertainment, abundant in quantity, most excellent in quality, and quite acceptable in its variety. The first course is a Sermon by Rev. W. Winans, D. D., on the Devil, whose existence, origin, character and conduct towards mankind are considered and developed in the Dr's own peculiar and forcible style. It is a strong sermon equally worthy of the distinguished author and the distinguished Pulpit. It cannot fail to be read with interest and profit.

The second course is a dedication Sermon by Rev. W. H. Watkins, D. D. This is a very fair production, and is peculiarly adapted to the occasion which called it forth. It is the first sermon we have seen from Dr. Watkins' pen, and promises well for his future usefulness in the church.

The third course or dessert comprises a graphic pen and ink sketch of Dr. Winans, several sprightly articles of Editorial miscellany and nineteen pithy literary notices.

We are gratified to see this number embellished with an excellent portrait of Dr. Winans. It is a steel plate engraving, and posts the Doctor up to the life. We should recognize it, were we to see it in China, as the very image of our aged and valued friend.—It affords us a high degree of pleasure to find the Doctor so fairly represented as he is in the Pulpit, by his sermon, the sketch of his life and character and the portrait, a work taken by a host of his friends.

Blackwood's Edinburgh Magazine, for October, 1850.—Leonard Scott & Co., New York.

This number has the following contents: 1. Modern State Trials, Part 1. 2. My Novel; or, Varieties in English Life, Part 2. 3. Military Life in North Africa. 4. The Green Hand—A Short Yarn—A Wind Up. 5. The French Wars of Religion. 6. A Wild Flower Garland; By Delta. 7. The Masqued of Freedom. 8. Dies Boreales. No. VIII.—Christopher under Canvas.—Some of these articles are quite graphic and entertaining. The work is edited with ability.

The Lone Star. This paper, published by Geo. W. Crawford, Esq., at Washington, Texas, comes to us in a new and genteel dress, and makes a very respectable appearance. It displays highly commendable editorial tact and talent. Its terms are \$3 per annum.

CORRESPONDENCE.

FROM CALIFORNIA.

San Francisco, California, Sept. 30, 1850. Rev. C. Richardson,— Dear Sir—Herein you will find \$10, paid by your old friend, Thomas Moore, who lived in Egypt circuit, Texas.

This money is for the Texas Wesleyan Banner, of which you are editor. Send the paper as follows: Thomas Moore, 3 copies, Sacramento City, California. Rev. D. W. Pollock, 1 copy, Sacramento City, California. Rev. Jesse Boring, 1 copy, San Francisco, California.

Send on the paper as early as possible. Allow me to say at the present, I have not time to communitate anything like a report of our interests here, but will when your paper reaches us. We have the most encouraging prospects, and feel satisfied that our friends at home, will be most happily disappointed. Pardon the want of time to say more.

Yours very sincerely, JESSE BORING.

We thank our old friend, Mr. Thomas Moore, for his kind remembrance of us, and wish him much prosperity in his new home. Bros. Boring and Pollock are both most cordially invited to write for the Banner of tea.

EDUCATION.

INQUIRY ANSWERED—SCHOOL FUND: A SYSTEM OF PUBLIC EDUCATION NECESSARY FOR ITS APPROPRIATE APPLICATION.

Dear Sir— An inquiry as to what disposition has been made of the school lands, so liberally set aside by the late Republic, is, I see, going the rounds of the press and credited to your paper. Having seen the inquiry made by you but lately, and then in the Galveston News, with a similar inquiry by the editor of that paper, I have thought that perhaps an answer is desirable, though I must confess that an inquiry so easily answered has caused me no little surprise. By reference to our State Constitution, you will see that no action can be had on the subject of the school lands for a considerable period of time, except the privilege of leasing them; which privilege you will doubtless agree with me in considering as of no value. Lands are so cheap in this country that there is no earthly probability of the lands in question ever being available in this way; and I doubt very much the propriety of offering these lands for sale, even did the Constitution admit of it. It would, in my opinion, be a suicidal act on the part of the State to bring these lands in the market for years to come; and I indulge the hope that your query was not intended as a feeler to bring about an action of this sort.

I believe that it is the policy of the State to adopt a school system, and that to end would suggest the use of the 10 per cent. fund, now in the Treasury, (some \$40,000,) which amount would, if judiciously managed, form a commencement to a more extended and liberal system. Fortunately for the future prosperity of Texas, the State has accepted the "Paree propositions;" and in justice to the people who have risked their all, and in many instances unhusband themselves, I think that a portion of the amount should be laid aside and the interest thereon devoted to educational purposes.

Permit me to invite your attention and that of your readers, as well as the press generally, to a discussion of the proposition I have here presented. There can be no doubt that if a sound, practicable system can be hit upon, based upon the funds spoken of that the people will take the matter in hand and act on it; and as it will be appropriate in you as the editor of a paper devoted to religion and the cause of education to assume the initiative in this matter, I hope to see your views on the subject.

Yours respectfully, CITIZEN.

Revival Intelligence.

For the T. W. Banner. CLARKSVILLE DISTRICT. EAST TEXAS CONFERENCE.

Dear Brother Richardson— If recollect right when I wrote to you before, I had just closed the last Quarterly Meeting on Bonham circuit, and was on my way to Grayson; and in this I give some account of that and other Quarterly Meetings on the last round.

We arrived on the ground on Thursday evening, and found the tenters there, and all things in readiness to commence the service. We had but little ministerial help in the fore part of the meeting. For you are to keep in mind that it is here, pretty much like it is elsewhere, that the ministers and other official members, appear to think they are doing very well to get to a camp-meeting on Saturday evening, and stay the whole day on Sunday; but find themselves in a great hurry to get home on Monday morning, and are frequently taken with a leaving.— However, the Lord was with the people, and the brethren stuck to the ground pretty well, after they got there. The meeting commenced with interest, which continued to increase as it advanced. Conversions were many—clear and powerful.

When I left on Tuesday morning for the next appointment, there had been forty-two conversions to the church; and I have since learned there were thirty before the meeting closed.— This meeting was held on a beautiful lot of land deeded to the church by our friend, Col. Shannon, some twelve or fifteen miles from the place formerly known as Coffee's Trading House, where our people used to come to purchase their children and friends from the Indians; and where but a few years ago the whole country was inhabited by savage beasts and savage men.

According to this time what hath God wrought?

