

TEXAS CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE.

GALVESTON, TEXAS.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27, 1857.

GRATITUDE AND CHEERFULNESS.

The sunshine of life is cheerfulness, and the unfeeling source of cheerfulness is gratitude to God. If we only keep our eyes and ears, and minds and hearts, open to discover and enjoy the firmament of the Divine Goodness which over-shadows us, bedudged as it is with the particular mercies that have arisen upon our lives, we shall have abundant cause for both the one and the other. We embitter our own hearts, darken our own lives, and poison every cup of joy presented to our souls by heavenly beneficence, by our blind and unbelieving ingratitude. Thus it is that we are cheated out of the true enjoyment of the greatest part of this precious probationary life, the like of which we shall never possess again, and which is so soon gone. We thus incontinently choose to walk through the valley of tears, when we might be bounding over the mountains of joy; to spend our lives in the twilight of sadness, when we might be reveling under the smiling noon of peace; to have the earthly home of our souls upon the confines of everlasting sorrow, when we might pitch them upon the frontier of heaven.

It is true we have suffered and sorrowed, and sighed and wept, as have all our human brothers and sisters. But there have been greater sufferings than ours; we should be thankful that we have had to endure no more; and the consciousness that our souls are redeemed, and that heaven and its happiness are within our reach, should be a sufficient balm for all our wounds. When we yield to despondency or despair in consequence of earthly ills, we are either unbelievers in heaven, or unworthy of its joys. "Why should a living man complain," so long as the eternal beatitude of the heavenly kingdom dawns upon the darkness of this life?

Numberless and intangible mercies make up the unappreciated comfort of every day we live. Who can estimate the number and graveness of the dangers, misfortunes, griefs and calamities, to which he is daily exposed, and from which he is daily preserved? Death's myriad shapes, like ambushed foes, have lurked around our unobscured pathway, from early infancy to the present day. Persons younger than we and more expectant of long life—those whose bonds of hope were just beginning to bloom—whose investments in life's stock were just beginning to yield the dividends of prosperity—those who had more to lose by dying than we—those who were more innocent than we—those who were more prepared to die than we—those who were more afraid to die than we—thousands such as these have heard the untimely call, and yet we live. We may be poor; but none are so poor but that they have food and raiment and shelter. We may be obscure; but none are so obscure as not to have their doors darkened by the familiar forms of friends, who would shed the tear of affection over their graves were they called to die. If we have not fallen into error and merited disgrace; if we can look our fellow-men in the face, and feel that we too are men; above all, if we have not lost the hope of heaven—if, in the darkest hour of our lives, the Good Spirit still whispers, "there is a good time coming," we should "thank God and take courage."

And how many and precious have been the joys of those to whom we consider our lives most unblest of all? They have come like stray singing-birds, or traveling angels, and fixed their lot, for a time at least, in the chambers of our souls; and when they have gone, their mellow memories have sweetened the cup of many an after affliction. In the dawn of our existence, when our unfolding being first began to spread its tender leaves in the sunshine of appreciated life, our whole consciousness, with every thing that ministered to it, was singing with joy; preparing us in disposition, little as we understood it, even before reason was ripe enough for the exercise, for the love and worship of God. The holy influences of home, however humble; the unfeeling peace and unforgetting joy of the blessed family circle in which our infant days and youthful years were spent; the tender, untranslatable, unadorned affection of father and mother, brothers, and sisters, and kindred; the joy we had in their society, and the memories we still have of those of them who are gone to the grave; all these, little as our dull souls perceive it, were, and are, merciful "drawings of the Father," toward himself, and toward our heavenly home.

Son or daughter of man, and offspring of God, what innumerable gems of joy cluster in the crown of your life! Have you ever rejoiced in the possession of a sincere friendship, or been grateful for sympathy and counsel, or ever once truly loved, and been truly loved in return? Have you ever been blest with the smiles of wife or husband, and the innocent prattle of children? Have you ever been gladdened by the blessed sunshine, the singing of birds, the beauty and fragrance of flowers, or the light of the cheerful day? Have you ever taken delight in the rosy dawn and the rising sun, or the solemn night and the quiet star? If you have ever been won by radiant beauty, or melted by glorious music, or charmed by the witchery of poetry; if you have ever felt the sentiment of the sublime, on the ocean-shore, on the mountain top, in the storm of wind and rain and thunder, or when wandering in "the grand old woods;" if you have ever trembled under the power of thought, or been awed into reverence by the divinity of truth, or aspired to follow in the footsteps of greatness and goodness, or panted to lift up your souls upon the wings of genius; if you have ever felt the majesty of God, the love of Christ, the power of faith, the forgiveness of sins, the inspiration of the Holy Ghost, or tasted of the inexpressible joys of a home in heaven; if you have ever felt and enjoyed all or any of these, your life has been blest, and your heart should overflow with gratitude and cheerfulness.

The blessing of a grateful, cheerful heart is as inestimable as the blessing of the sun-light of heaven. It is, to the earth and to the home, what the sunshine is to the soil; while an ungrateful, complaining, despondent, despairing spirit, is the cloud and storm, and mildew and poison of life. Better be linked to one upon whose vitals consumption is preying, than to one impregnated with this dire disease of the soul. We have no right to make complaints; we have neither time nor strength to waste upon our own ills; it is absolute moral trespass, of the most cruel and dishonest kind, to burden others with them; and cheerful gratitude glids with a new glory our greatest prosperity, and draws the honey of blessing from the bitterest herb of sorrow.

THE ADVOCATE CORNERED.

It is known that our office is situated on the Strand, in the commercial center of the city.—An old Texian Methodist, who, we suppose, and to his praise be it said, keeps up the good old Methodist custom of leaving stated hours each day for retirement for private devotion, visited us the other day for the first time. Spending most of the day in the office, he looked around, when his hour arrived, for some place of seclusion; but, alas! no such place could be found in our vicinity. Within doors, nothing but busy men met him in every room, seemingly in rivalry of the rapid-going footmen and crowding drays outside. "Have you no place for secret prayer?" Rather "brought up all standing," we were compelled to answer in the negative. "How do you manage then," said he, "about your regular hours for private prayer? You surely do not neglect them altogether?" We were "cornered." A suggestion of mental devotion would not let us off. Now, it is plain we must do better, both for our own spiritual benefit, and for the accommodation of our visiting brethren. It will never do for us to set such an example of neglect of one of the most important injunctions of Christianity and Methodism, nor will it do for brethren to visit us, and be compelled thereby to suffer spiritual injury. But how can we do better, unless we succeed in raising means to build a new office, in which such accommodations may be provided for?

Let no one smile at, or treat lightly the punctiliousness of this good brother, either on its own account, or on account of the rather novel and humorous association in which it is claimed to appear. The "reveler" of our fathers has hidden in this very nut-shell. Our inferiority to what is to be traced to the neglect of this very matter. While we are blest with many things they had not, to our shame be it said, they exceeded us in spiritual power and success. How many Methodist preachers and people keep up, without intermission, under all circumstances, this daily stated communion with God, which was the "secret of the Lord" with the early Methodists, and which, among other similar instances of systematic and persistent piety, caused them to receive the name, "Methodists?" O for a return to this good old custom, and O for the money to enable this office to set the example!

RELIGIOUS STATESMEN.

The public mind in this country is becoming more and more awake to the importance of the moral character and private life of our statesmen. How many thousands of unphilosophical and ingenuous young men have been shocked, and perhaps morally injured for life, by finding out, on some unucky day, that most of the statesmen, past and present, whom they have been taught to regard as models of American manhood, were among the worst of men, as it regards their personal morals. These great men were found by them to have violated and trodden under foot every sacred obligation taught them by their mothers, and enshrined in their tenderest memories. They were gamblers, blasphemers, drunkards, adulterers, duellists; in short, among the worst men in the country. They were guilty of those things which, they had been taught, would utterly degrade human character, and unfit a man for any thing great or noble. But, to their bewilderment, they find such men among the most honored of the land! How many young men lose their moral rectitude, and cast away the conscientious scruples of their early days, in consequence of such discoveries! Among those who are not injured, respect for our great men sinks to an exceedingly low figure. With these qualifications, we are glad to condescend ourselves with the truth of the following from the editor of the Herald, of this city:

It is certain that a large majority of those statesmen whose genius and learning have adorned the history of the Republic, have been influenced by the teachings of Revelation, and that amid all the strife, and turmoil, and contumacious of political life, they have preserved something unspotted from the world, their early years, and in consequence of such discoveries! Among those who are not injured, respect for our great men sinks to an exceedingly low figure. With these qualifications, we are glad to condescend ourselves with the truth of the following from the editor of the Herald, of this city:

BEECHER AND THE INDEPENDENT.

We recorded, some time since, the failure of Putnam's Monthly, the principal cause of which was its abolition partisanship. Of the Independent, at New York, the organ of Beecher, Cheever, Thompson, and others of the abolition Congressional School of divines, and which, though commanding high talent, large means, and strong influence in certain quarters, is the most reckless and fanciful abolition paper in the United States, we have frequently spoken. We are glad to inform our readers that it, too, is waning in influence. Dr. Cheever has already entangled himself in difficulties with his congregation on account of his abolition sermons. Dr. Kingsley, of the Western Christian Advocate, gives Mr. Beecher the cold shoulder; and the Puritan Recorder has a statistical and thorough-going article to prove that the arrest or decline of Congregationalism in New York has been coincident in point of time with the establishment of the New York Independent. This decline it attributes to the spirit and course of that newspaper, and says:

"The Independent is now passing its ninth year, so that its period essentially synchronizes with this decay; and, till the contrary can be shown, the public will be justified in assuming that there is a close connection between the radical character of the ministry and Churches, which has its exponent in the Independent, and the disastrous result which we deplore."

The Puritan Recorder is a free-soil, or at least, an anti-slavery paper, but not so "radical" as the Independent. The New York Observer (which is still more conservative) adds the following to the above:

"The same disastrous results, the Recorder thinks, have been wrought elsewhere, where the influence of the paper might be supposed to be the greatest. In this opinion the Recorder will be sustained by all sound men. Unless we have altogether mistaken the spirit of the Gospel of the blessed Saviour, it finds no expression in the general tone and bearing of that spirit. The genial graces of the Holy Spirit, essential to the growth and prosperity of the Church, cannot live where the spirit of that paper reigns. No wonder that the Recorder is ready to cry, 'Save me from my friends!'"

TEHUANTEPEC ROUTE.

Recent accounts from Mexico, represent public sentiment there as much attached to the prospect of having an American company open the route across the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, with ocean steamers to New York, New Orleans and California. It is believed a treaty will soon be formed granting the right of way, in perpetuity, to the United States for a consideration. On the Gulf side of the Coatzacoalcos river is the harbor. It has a good bar with 14 feet water, is half a mile wide and very deep for 24 miles to Minatitlan; thence navigable for small steamers to Suchil, 100 miles. On the Pacific side a splendid harbor is found at Venosta, at the mouth of the Tehuantepec river, the bay of Venosta is deep and safe. Thirteen miles up the river is the town of Tehuantepec, containing a Mexican population of 10,000.

The land travel between navigable points on either side, is about 90 miles, over which a line of American stages is to be established this fall, while the railroad will be energetically prosecuted to completion. The great advantages of this, over any other Isthmian route, says the Citizen, are a saving of two thousand miles sea travel; and high and healthy country from ocean to ocean; and its adaptation, in consequence, to an American or European population; and the ample guarantees of protection to life and property under the joint assurance of Mexico and the United States. This route, too, and its development, is a Southern enterprise, having its headquarters in New Orleans. We regard its successful development as of the highest importance to Galveston, which will be benefited, by having a direct railway connection with the Mississippi river, and thereby secure a line of steamers and an immense passenger and freight communication direct from Galveston to Minatitlan, a distance of 700 miles.

AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY.

The stated meeting of the managers, says the Christian Advocate and Journal, was held at the Bible House, Astor Place, on Thursday, the 6th inst., at half past four p. m.—Dr. Thomas Cook presiding, assisted by Francis Hall, Esq. Seven new auxiliaries were recognized, of which two are in South Carolina, two in Missouri, in Iowa and Connecticut one each, and one in Washington Territory.

Communications were received from agents and others, showing a general state of prosperity in the home work, and stating an encouraging report of the work of resupply; a letter from Mr. Van Emman, the Society's agent in Utah, stating that he was about returning home; from Mr. Nesbit, the Society's agent at Para, with encouraging report of the prospect of circulating the Scriptures in that region; from Rev. C. F. Osterley, Rotterdam, asking books to be sent to the United States, from Rev. Messrs. Goodale and Hall, Constantinople, in regard to the death of Mr. Righter, the translator of the Bible into Armeno-Turkish, and the increased demand for it in the East; from Rev. H. A. Wilder, Natal, saying the South African Bible Society are making an effort to get out a complete edition of the Bible in the Kafir language; from the Librarian of the Imperial Library at St. Petersburg, Russia, asking specimen copies of certain Bibles published by this Society.

Grants were made to the Tract Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South; to the American Seaman's Friend Society of books for Havre; to the Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, Bible and Testament for their Scandinavian missions; books for Holland; to several feeble or new auxiliaries, to aid the work of resupply, especially in Kansas, Texas, Tennessee and Missouri; and for the region of Lake Superior; for distribution in Canada West, with many of smaller amount; and fourteen volumes in raised letters for the blind.

SIGNS OF THE TIMES.

The New Orleans Christian Advocate, in an article on the "advancement of religion," notices some encouraging peculiarities of the work of God at the present time, as manifested in the revival intelligence. The Quarterly Meetings are more than heretofore occasions of interest and seasons of grace. People and preachers look forward to them, and when they are past the record is on high. There has been an improvement in the Presiding Elders, or the people are reviving their love for these quarterly visitations and organic meetings. We hope the love feasts are kept up. Extra and protracted services are conducted mainly by the pastors, aided by local preachers and laymen, more than we remember to have noticed before. It is an evil to gather too many ministers at one point. The work is over-run at that point and neglected at others; the general plan of labor disorganized; reliance upon the regular means of grace weakened; and a man-dependent spirit cultivated.

Numerous and neat churches are being built and dedicated; and to pay them out of debt promptly, is the general sentiment. This is just and right, and argues well morally as well as financially. Parsonages are looked after; ever and anon one is fixed. A local habituation greatly promotes an itinerant ministry. Reception into full membership is attended to, and the number taken into the church on probation is about equal to the number professing conversion. When the lost sheep are found, they should be gathered within the fold at once. This sign has very wholesome significations. Holiness of heart, sanctification—these are themes of pulpit discussion and matters of personal experience and profession. The work has depth as well as surface.

SOUTHERN PERIODICALS.

The Charleston Mercury, in a review of "the periodicals," says: "Positively in spite of all that is said depreciatingly of our Southern periodicals, they are the best in this country, and have as good a chance for long life as any. De Bow's Review, industrial, agricultural, commercial and political, is very far superior to Hunt's; and De Bow himself has ten times the ability of Master Hux himself in his best days. The Southern Literary Messenger, in matter, manner, address, resource, variety and learning, ranks above any of its Yankee contemporaries, which are only superior in flippancy and froth, in cant and impudence. Russell's Magazine steadily improves, continuing to assert the good taste, thought, fancy and general grace and variety, with which it began, in each successive issue."

The same paper, and we believe, the other Charleston papers, have spoken in like manner of the Home Circle. And we would add that this latter periodical now deserves, and is bidding fair to obtain, a magnificent circulation. The people are not as yet fully awake to its value.—A little more promptitude in its issue, a little more editorial discussion of the great facts, thoughts, and sentiments of the multitudinous people, who seek in their editors "prophets and teachers," and a little more effort on the part of the appreciative friends of literature to bring it to favorable notice, and the Home Circle will wield a tremendous influence for the advancement of Christian literary culture.

RELIGION IN TEXAS.

The Christian Advocate and Journal publishes our denial of the assertion of a correspondent of the New York Observer, in reference to religion in Texas, which it had copied. There are some men in Texas claiming to be Christians, if not Christian ministers, who are not worthy of citizenship within its bounds. They care nothing for the State, and seek importance abroad by misrepresenting it. Some of them depend for aid in their plans upon a humbug association called the "Southern Aid Society," the very name and existence of which is an insult to every southerner, and which is supported more by the salaries it pays to the effete and unclaimed clergymen who compose its official directory, than by any good it does. The proof that it does no good is the fact that those receiving aid from it, do so secretly, knowing well that, otherwise, they would not be tolerated. We have our eyes open for some of them, and may report progress after awhile. A sneaking clergyman is the meanest human being the world can afford.—There never has been a State of this Union which, at the same age, and with the same population to the square mile, afforded such encouraging prospects for the cause of Christ. And the progress of that cause is more than commensurate with the progress of the State in other respects.

A BRITISH HORROR.

Nothing on the other side of the water that we have noticed, so nearly equals in horror the Cunningham-Burdell case, as the denouement of the trial of the "Talbot Divorce Case," in the English House of Lords, which created much sensation two or three years ago. Mr. Talbot was the mother of children, a lady of refinement, of unassuming manners and domestic habits. It was alleged that she was unfaithful to her husband in a most shameful manner. Two or three servants testified to knowledge of her guilt, but the principal witness against her was the family clergyman, Rev. Mr. Sargent. He testified, we believe, to having caught her in the act of adultery. The woman was insane at the time of the trial, and the clergyman expressed the belief that when she committed the act she was in the incipient stages of insanity. Much sympathy was felt for the unfortunate husband, and though many believed the lady to be a victim of conspiracy, the high character of the clergyman carried through the bill for divorce. Recently he has delivered himself up to the authorities, acknowledging that he perjured himself. In the meantime the victim of the conspiracy has deceased. We are not perfectly assured of what became of her husband, a "sprig of nobility," but believe that he married soon after obtaining the divorce.

FREE NEGROISM.

Gerrit Smith, in a recently published letter, says that his expectations, in regard to his gifts of land to colored men, have not been fully realized. He says: "Of the three thousand colored men to whom I gave land, probably less than fifty have taken and continue to hold possession of their grants. What is worse, half the three thousand, as I judge, have either sold their land, or been so careless as to allow it to be sold for taxes." Free negroism is one of the grandest humbugs now out. So it is proving in our Northern States, and so it is in Liberia. The facts allowed to come to the light. And yet good and learned men, who can have no motive whatever to bear false testimony, who have brought to bear on the subject long years of experience, observation and prayerful study, who have always practically befriended the negro, and who are convinced of the scripturalness and practical benevolence of African slavery, are hosted at by ignorant fanatics, whose ancestors were slave-traders, and sold out to become abolitionists, and who treat the free negroes of their own streets with a contempt never shown by a Southerner to his servants.

EVANGELICAL CHURCH IN PARIS.

The Rev. Frederic Monod, under whose ministry, together with that of his colleague, the Rev. Armand Delille, the Evangelical Reformed Church was established in 1849, is now in England endeavoring to raise a fund for a new missionary church and schools. At a recent meeting of friends of the object, held in the rooms of the Evangelical Alliance, Adams-street, Adelphi, Mr. Monod stated the reasons which induced him on the liberal support of the Christian public in England. As soon as the sum required for the site is raised, it is Mr. Monod's intention, notwithstanding he has entered his sixty-fourth year, to cross the Atlantic, and to solicit from Christians in the United States funds for the building of a church and two schools. The amount already secured is £4,950. Mr. Monod looks for about £10,000 from British Christians, while for another £5,000 he will go to the United States.—Among the donors, whose contributions are included in the £4,950 already collected, are the names of Mr. John Henderson, of Park, £1,000, and Mr. James Lennox, of New York, £1,000.

CONFERENCE SEASONS.

These are rapidly approaching, says the Nashville Advocate, and many of our brethren are already being called to their plans, in view of the proximity of their annual meetings. Permit us to suggest, especially to our younger brethren, the importance of having everything done according to rule, and with the greatest exactness. Be sure to have your Church registers and class books all perfect, so that your successors may find no difficulty in understanding the state of their pastoral charge when they enter upon their new fields. Be very particular to have your statistics carefully made out, so that your returns may be exactly correct: Numbers in society, probationers and those in full membership separate; Sunday Schools, Missionary and Conference collections, etc., all in regular order. This will save much time at the sessions of the Conference, prevent any confusion with the Secretaries, Treasurers and Committees, and will give more satisfaction to all concerned. Brethren will pardon these suggestions. They are not officiously made; but are hints thrown out which will be duly appreciated by those who have followed pastors who have neglected these little but very important matters.

SOUTHERN COMMERCIAL CONVENTION.

The Southern Commercial Convention, it appears, adopted the resolution, expressing an opinion that the treaty stipulation with Great Britain for maintaining a joint naval force on the coast of Africa, ought to be abrogated. Years 64, 65, 66, (viz: Tennessee, North Carolina, and Maryland.) A resolution, declaring that "it is inexpedient and contrary to the settled policy of the country, to repeal the law, prohibiting the African slave trade," was rejected by a vote by States: yeas, 40, (Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina, and Tennessee;) nays, 52, (Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina, and Virginia.)

THE ATLANTIC TELEGRAPH.

An important alteration in the arrangements for laying the cable had been determined upon, and the plan now is, instead of commencing in mid-ocean, to submerge the whole cable in a continuous line from Valentia Bay, in Ireland, to Newfoundland. The Niagara will lay the first half from Ireland to the middle of the Atlantic; the end will then be joined to the other half on board the Agamemnon, which takes it on to the coast of Newfoundland. During the whole process the four vessels will remain together, and give whatever assistance is required. Constant communication is to be kept up with the coast of Ireland during the progress of the work, and the wires are to be at once carried from Killarney to Valentia Bay, so as to connect with the British and Irish lines.

GALVESTON AND CHICAGO.

The bridge to connect Galveston with the mainland is to be built forthwith. The railroad between Galveston and Houston will be finished this fall. From Houston the G. H. & H. road points to Fulton, Arkansas, and is to be pushed forward with all possible dispatch. Beginning at the other end, Chicago, the road is already running to Cairo, leaving the Cairo and Fulton road to connect Galveston and Chicago. And the Springfield (Ill.) Journal says that "Mr. Brynair, President of the Cairo and Fulton Railroad Company of Missouri, has perfected negotiations for three thousand tons of iron, which will be sufficient to lay thirty miles of track. Twenty miles opposite Cairo are to be completed ready for the iron this fall, and by that time the iron will be there. Four fifths of the payment for this iron is to be made in the bonds of the company, the remainder in cash.

Capt. James S. Williams, chief engineer of the Arkansas division, will be in Arkansas this month to commence the permanent location of the road preparatory to the letting out of contracts."

PRESENT ERUPTION OF VESUVIUS.

A letter from Naples of the 26th July says: "For some time past the subterranean noises heard by the guides of Vesuvius indicated an approaching eruption, and the inhabitants in the neighborhood of the mountain were under considerable alarm. During the last fortnight the smoke thrown up from the crater has become much thicker than usual, and the evening before last a long train of liquid fire was seen descending on the side of Ottajano, at a place called Fosso del Farone, an immense ravine opposite the sea, and out of reach of any danger to the inhabitants of Portici, Resina and Torre del Greco. At Naples an immense crowd assembled to witness the spectacle, and at night a number of foreigners proceeded to the mountain, the torches of the guides being visible in every direction. The lava has already run a distance of about half a mile." Wonder if our American travellers and correspondents, Dr. and Mrs. Cross, witnessed it? What an opportunity!

A WESLEYAN ITEM.

The London Watchman says, that the Wesleyans of Waterloo have completed a very edifying Gothic chapel, which was recently dedicated by the Rev. F. A. West, chairman of the Liverpool District. Among the several ministers who officiated was the Rev. T. Haffes, D.D., LL.D., who preached a sermon on the occasion. A correspondent of the Watchman, writing from Toronto, in relation of the late session of the Canada Wesleyan Methodist Conference, says: "Besides the British representative, who had respected official messengers from the Wesleyan Conference of Eastern British America, whom President Bichey and his brethren did well to send; and three from the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States; and we had, as well as these, several friendly ministerial visitors, whose presence went to make us feel that, should legitimate Methodist Conferences go on multiplying in the world, we shall need a platform solid for our representatives, and new prizes for God, who gloriously extends his kingdom."

PRAYER AT THE BIBLE SOCIETY.

At the last meeting of the Committee of the British and Foreign Bible Society, the following resolution was adopted: "That this committee do open their meetings with prayer." There was a very full attendance of the committee, including Earl Shaftesbury in the chair, the Marquis of Blandford, the Bishop of Ripon, Lord Henry Cholmondeley, etc., and the matter was for a long time very seriously and earnestly discussed. The New York Observer says: "We are rejoiced to read and record this decision, and we hope that all who are interested in the American Bible Society will see their way clear to adopt the resolution. So long as there are any willing to co-operate with the society, at the monthly meetings of the Board of Managers, who are conscientiously opposed to public prayer, we would dispense with it, but we believe that all would now cheerfully acquiesce in the decision of the British and Foreign Bible Society has come."

THE SCIENTIFIC MEETING AT MONTREAL.

The American Association for the Advancement of Science, is holding its meeting this year at Montreal, where great preparations were made for their reception. After the session shall have concluded, the Association will proceed at once, on the Atlantic and St. Lawrence Railroad, to the Glen House, at the foot of Mount Washington. Thence, according to the New York Evening Post, they will ascend the mountain by the carriage road which ascends from that point, with a view of deciding upon the feasibility of the proposed National Observatory on the summit. On their return the Association will hold a meeting, and if the project meets their approval, will memorialize Congress for the establishment of Mount Washington for a meteorological observatory, on a plan similar to that of Professor Murray's at the Federal capital. Those present we notice the names of Professor Henry of the Smithsonian Institute, and Professor Forsyth of Texas.

NAPOLEON'S BIRTH-DAY.

The 15th of the present month was the great day in France for celebrating the birth-day of the great Napoleon. It is a day for fire-works and jubiliations, and, among the soldiers, the one day in the year of relaxation and almost license. Nevertheless it has been affirmed, and seems to have lately been proved, that the French celebrate the wrong day for the birth of Napoleon. It was always given out by himself and his family that he was born on the 15th day of August, 1769. The original registers of his baptism have been recently found and examined, and they describe him as having been born on the 14th of February, 1767. The motive of the suppression of the true date is said to have been to make him out a Frenchman by birth. Corsica was not annexed to France until after Napoleon's birth. The date was altered to make him a Frenchman.

DEFENCE OF ARMAGEDDON.

Have you read, says the Nashville Advocate, this little volume, by Rev. F. E. Pitts? If not, procure and read it carefully. We do not endorse the Armageddon theory. It may be true—it may not be correct. Let each read for himself, and determine in his own mind. But as a literary production, Rev. F. E. Pitts' Defence is worth reading very carefully. We need not say that Mr. Pitts is an eloquent preacher and a chaste and elegant writer; and his friends say that the Defence of Armageddon, which embraces two lectures before the American Congress, is, for literary merit, among his best productions. Price fifty cents. Send your orders to Stevenson and Owen, Nashville, Tenn.

THE PRESS AND OFFICE.

We commenced by simply proposing to raise money to purchase a power press and job office. This we shall be able to accomplish. We can even now see through to that point. But our friends urge that we ought not to purchase a lot and erect suitable buildings for a printing office, counting room, editor's office and book depository. We have deliberately and definitely determined upon this enterprise, and God willing, we shall carry it through. The same thing is being done at New Orleans and Vicksburg, and Texas needs it more than either. If our moral and landed friends will only smile on us, we shall be able to smile on them, and their children after them, and upon the great country around us, after a while.

UNITED STATES SENATORS.—The Legislators

of Tennessee, Virginia, Texas, Kentucky and Alabama are to elect United States Senators at their next sessions. Tennessee has to select two, and Texas will probably do so likewise, though Gen. Houston has still two winters to serve. Of the fifty-nine members of the Senate during the last Congress, no less than five died since the adjournment, viz: Messrs. Clayton of Delaware; Bell, of New Hampshire; Adams, of Mississippi; Butler, of South Carolina; and Rusk, of Texas.

DISCOVERIES IN KANSAS.—A valuable spring

of petroleum, or rock oil, has been found near Pauli, where several gallons per day can be collected. An extensive lead mine is reported in the same vicinity. Superior marble is discovered in Lykins county. Three large mineral springs have been found fourteen miles from Topeka, and the settlement around them has taken the name of Saratoga City, from the supposed resemblance of the waters to those of that famous watering place.

EXPULSION OF MATTESON.—The Washington

correspondent of the New York Times writes: "By the way, I understand from good authority, that Col. Kelt, of South Carolina, declares his determination to move the expulsion of O. B. Matteson, Member of Congress from New York, from the House of Representatives next winter, if he resumes his seat without re-election. This will bring up the whole question of Congressional corruption again."

WORTHY OF NOTE.—Daniel Finkshaw, an old

and much esteemed New York printer, recently presented the Typographical Society of this city with two volumes of Pitt's English Atlas, printed in London in 1683—one hundred and seventy-four years ago—with a statement to the effect that the original cost price of the same, and interest added to the present time, would amount to more than thirty millions of dollars!

THE GARDEN PURCHASE.—The Norfolk Her-

ald says: "We are pleased to learn that Major Edward Fitzgerald has been appointed Military Governor of the Garden Purchase, on the river Gila. Major Fitzgerald is a native of this city, a gallant and chivalrous officer of the United States Army, and every way worthy of the trust confided to him."

THE CROSS OF THE MIDDLE AND WESTERN STATES

were perhaps never so abundant as they are at the present season. It seems also from the last accounts, that there are magnificent harvests in England, France and Spain, together with a better vintage in France than there has been for years. Breadstuffs will undoubtedly be cheap and abundant.

SABINE RIVER.—The State Engineer has ad-

vised for proposals to improve the navigation of the Sabine River from the neighborhood of Madison to Bacon's Bluff in Rock county, a distance a little over 200 miles by water. The amount appropriated for that stream is something over \$25,000. Bids will be received till the 5th of October.

The Wesleyan Conference, including Nova

Scotia, New-Brunswick, Newfoundland, etc., reported at its late session about 13,600 members, including probationers, and about one hundred preachers. It has a Book Concern owning about \$75,000. Missionary income for the year, \$14,000.

EPISCOPAL METHODISTS IN CANADA.—The

Annual Minutes of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Canada for 1857, report the total membership at 6,791, of whom 86 are traveling preachers; increase for the year, 212; total Church property, \$137,318.

A YOUNG MAN, in making his first entrance

into society, is so ignorant as to imagine that he is the object of universal attention, and that every thing he does is "subject to the most rigid criticism. He courses under such a supposition, he is shy and embarrassed—he regains his ease as he becomes aware of his insignificance.

TO GIVE brilliancy to the eyes, shut them early

at night, and open them early in the morning; let the mind be constantly intent on the acquisition of human knowledge, or the exercise of benevolent feelings. This will scarcely ever fail to impart to the eyes an intelligent and amiable expression.

DEATH OF THE REV. JESSE CUNNINGHAM.—

We learn that Rev. Jesse Cunningham, a superannuated member of the Holston Conference, died in great peace on the 10th ult., at his residence at Midway, Tennessee. He was an excellent man and faithful minister. He was the father of our Brother Cunningham, of the China Mission.

TWO VALUABLE BOOKS.—Appleton's Cyclo-

pædia of Biography, and Biographical History of Philosophy. These we regard as standard works of great merit, says the Advocate and Journal, which are indispensable to the student and literary gentleman.

THE CANAL BOARD in this city last Tuesday

met and adopted preliminary measures for improving the Canal, as suggested by the State Engineer, in order to justify the expenditure of public money on the intermediate lays.

THE RAILROAD BRIDGE to connect this city

with the Galveston, Houston, and Henderson railroad, commencing on the mainland, is to be put immediately under contract, according to the action of the City Council a few days since.

REV. D. MOSES has written us to change the

time for the San Bernard Campmeeting from the fourth Sabbath in September to the fourth Sabbath in October, commencing Thursday evening before.

Mrs. Eva Copenhagen, who died recently in

Smyth county, Va., aged 88 years, leaves one hundred and five grand children, one hundred and thirty great-grand children, and one great-great-grand child.

The Southern Intelligencer, Austin, Texas,

has closed its first volume. As a political paper, it is able and moderate, and pays considerable attention to literature.

DECLINES.—Rev. Dr. Charles Taylor has de-

clined the Presidency of the Spartans (S. C.) College, to which he has been elected, viz: J. W. Tucker, Esq

