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VOL. IV.—NO. 29.

GALVESTON, TEXAS, TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 1858.

WHOLE NO. 446.

SHALL THE LAW ON CLASS-MEETINGS BE CHANGED?

Mr. Editor:—I am aware, in assuming the affirmative of this proposition, that I shall lay myself open to the charge of innovation; and possibly, some may even think that an endeavoring to sap the very foundation of our church.

In view of the early assembling of the General Conference, who are the law-making power of our Church, this would seem an appropriate time for presenting the conscientious views which I have long entertained of this class-meeting.

The law gives undue importance to class-meetings in making attendance on them, the test of membership. Why should these meetings be so far exalted above all other meetings of the Church?

Again: the law is unconstitutional. The Bible is the foundation of all ecclesiastical legislation. It is our constitution; and any rule or regulation, not fully and fairly predicted in the word of God, is not binding, and should not be enforced, against the member of the Church.

That this is true, none can doubt; therefore, if we are members of Christ's Church, no power on earth can lawfully exclude us from its privileges for any cause less than the charge of immorality.

Our ministers are under obligations to execute the rules, and not to amend them; while many good men should not be expelled from the Church, simply for not attending class-meetings.

Mr. Wesley in forming societies for the spreading of Scriptural Holiness, had the undoubted right, with all other founders of societies, to make rules to secure the attendance of members; he even had the right to annex expulsion from the society, as the penalty for the infraction of those rules.

But Methodism has ceased simply to be a society, and has become a church organization; whereas laws which were altogether applicable to it in its former, may not be at all admissible in its latter state. The error in the case before us, is that a regulation, which was made for a society, is retained as a law in our church organization.

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ADVERTISING: Each square first insertion, \$1.00; Each subsequent insertion, 50c; A square one year, \$12.00.

TEXAS CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE
GALVESTON, TEXAS.
TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 1858.
THE PRESS AND RACHEL.

Rachel, the great tragedienne, is dead, and the press of Europe and America teems with laudations of her genius, and with pensive tributes to her memory. This is to us, we confess, one of the most marked and alarming indications of the lowering of the tone of our public taste and morals that we recollect to have noticed. Who was Rachel? A French woman, whose character, reputation, and history, were as infamous as a total absence of female virtue and purity could make it. A woman who was the mother of a large family of children without ever having been married. A woman who sold all that is sacred with the sex for gold, or who, from the absence of any thing sacred in her character, gave herself up to a licentiousness which unfits a colored housemaid in the South for a place in a genteel family, and which condemns her to drudgery in the plantation. A woman whose only advantage over the inhabitants of a common brothel was not an advantage of character, but a mere advantage of circumstances. And yet a Boston paragon, speaking of her parentage and history, asks: "Who would change that parentage and that history?" The press of Europe, especially outside of England, should be guilty of this insult to all decency, is bad enough; but for the press of the United States, which, as a general thing, is even offended at too great a laudation of any foreign individual who seeks fortune and fame among us, even though it be the gift of and pampered Jenny Lind, or the noble and chivalrous Kosuth, for our own press to thus outrage all the principles of morality upon which the reputation and peace of our families, and also of our national society, repose, is a manifestation of public moral decay, for which we have not found ourselves prepared.

The greatest outrage of the whole matter is this: there is a class of society in the large cities of the United States which manages to get the newspapers to call it "fashionable society," "select society," "the elite of the city," and the like. This class, for the most part, is composed of the very lowest and most unprincipled and immoral men and women in all the land. Such a character as Rachel is exactly suited to their taste, for many of them lead secretly the life that she has led publicly. It is also their interest as well as their taste to lower the law of social propriety, for fear they might some day be brought to judgment under a rather uncomfortably rigid ruling of it. They, therefore, "run after" Rachel, and cry, "great is Diana of the Ephesians!" The newspapers, which, strange as it may seem, prefer to be the representatives of these illegitimate "pretenders" to the title of the "American public," rather than of "the bone and sinew" of the land, living in both city and country, join in the cry, and impose upon the great masses of the happily initiated, by making them believe that the good people of the United States, generally, are nightly attending Rachel's performances, and joining in the "rapturous applause," when the simple truth is, that not one lady of really high-toned culture, taste, and principle, is to be found in the crowd of the shameless French courtesan's admirers.

But for our consciousness that the above is the true philosophy of the great American triumph which Rachel is reported to have gained, we should never again have the hardihood to speak of the tone of American society as superior to that of France. But our mortification, we frankly confess, has been much increased by witnessing the servility with which many of our leading Southern newspapers, of whose high tone we have heretofore felt proud, have followed in the wake of those for whose principles they express the most profound contempt, in this shameful laudation of an infamous woman, fresh from the corrupt circles of Parisian Society. But such things are the legitimate results of the theatre, and of the influence of a press which ignores the rebuke of the Bible.

THE REV. W. H. MILBURN'S LECTURES ON CHRISTIAN POETRY.

The course of lectures on "Christian Poetry," by the Rev. W. H. Milburn, announced in our columns a few weeks ago, says the *Christian Advocate and Journal*, has just been completed. The first lecture was on "Dante and Milton," with an introductory view of poetry, and especially of religious poetry, in which, with rare felicity of language, and a keen, though genial criticism, Mr. Milburn set forth the functions of the true poet, and the tests and criteria of genuine poetry. The second lecture treated of the early and mediæval hymns, and those of the Reformation era, and showed a thorough acquaintance with the history and literature of the subject. The lecturer recited, in his own peculiarly admirable manner, the best translations of the great hymns of the period recited, especially the *Dies Irae*, Bernard's *Courtesy Jerusalem*, and Luther's *Zin feste Burg ist unser Gott*. From the novelty and attractiveness of the topics, as well as from the manner in which they were handled, this lecture gave great satisfaction. The third lecture treated of "Modern English Hymn writers, especially Watts and Wesley." Here the speaker trod on ground more familiar to most of his auditors; but he had the light of a rare knowledge of the subject, and a just poetic, as well as religious insight to shed upon it, and the lecture was remarkably successful. We hope that this beautiful and instructive course will be repeated in this and other cities. The lecturer, especially in our Churches, would do well to substitute these elegant, instructive, and stirring discourses upon a topic so full of interest, and with so many aspects of attractiveness and beauty, for the unconnected services of a variety of lectures upon heterogeneous subjects.

DYING MOMENTS OF ADOLPHE MONOD.

For many months before the departure of the late excellent Adolphe Monod, he seemed to live in the very atmosphere of heaven. Every Sunday he partook of the Lord's supper with a few pious friends who gathered around his bed. Precious words then fell from his lips, which they caught and garnered up with tender care. It is, however, with a few of his thoughts upon the Bible that we have now to do. As he stands,

"With only one thin door between
This and the other world serene,
Waiting to take that one step more
When opens the celestial door."

We hear him exclaim, "O blessed Word of God! pure, holy, elevated above us, and above the world, thou speakest to us of another world, and from another world!" And, loving it as he had, he still expresses his regret that he had not made himself better acquainted with it. He says: "How differently I ought to have acted with regard to the Word of God! how much more I ought to have studied it! how much better I ought now to be acquainted with it; to be both better able at the same time to put in practice

its precepts, and to communicate it to others!" "I declare," he again says, "as before the tribunal of Jesus Christ, where I expect soon to appear, that all my researches and study of the Scriptures have only served to confirm me in the conviction that when they speak, it is God who speaks; and that when they proclaim his will, what they say is not less certain, than if the heavens opened above our heads, and the voice of God heard, as formerly, on Sinai. There is no limit to the confidence and the submission we owe to the Scriptures; no more limit than to the truth and faithfulness of God; so that when the day comes on which I shall enter the invisible world, I do not expect to find things there different from what the Word of God represented them to me here—the voice will be the same which I now hear on earth, and I shall say, 'This is indeed what God said to me, and how thankful I am that I did not wait in order to believe!'"

CONFERENCE FACILITY.

The Louisiana Conference has rather a new way of carrying out the examinations of undergraduates. We confess that we decidedly prefer it to the old plan, which is, in fact, in its practical workings, an almost total failure. Our examinations, as a general rule, are unworthy of the name. We trust, however, that the whole matter will be revised by the next General Conference. The Editor of the New Orleans *Advocate* thus speaks of the Louisiana plan: "Committees of examination, appointed annually, for the first, second, third and fourth years, are superseded by four standing ones of two each, who distribute the studies, by kind, as do the professors of Colleges, and pursue the examinations through each year. This is also working well, and is considered a fixed fact, with such improvements as may be made. The professors, (as we may call them) having now been in office three years, were sharp and bright in their departments, and made thorough work of it. This is getting to be an understood thing, and those who have neglected their studies find it as well to decline examinations and be continued. If the faculty refuse to pass a candidate, the Conference vote on his case may be safely predicted. Monday and Tuesday were spent in examinations. The course of study ought to be improved and a proper improvement would call for enlargement. To obviate the excuse, 'Could not get the books,' which was in a few cases true, it was suggested but not determined on, that the Conference purchase a set of books for the use of undergraduates.

CONTENTS OF DEAD LETTERS.

The Washington Correspondent of the *Baltimore Sun*, says: The *Sun* has already published the number of dead letters which contained money, amounting to nearly \$41,000, during the past year, and the fact that about nine-tenths of the treasure had been, through the agency of the department, restored to its rightful owners. From the contents of the same office, the following interesting particulars are derived. The number of dead letters containing articles of value other than money, registered and sent out for delivery to the owners during the six months ending 31st December, 1855, was 4,364, the contents of which were as follows: Bills of exchange, drafts and letters of credit, bonds, notes, checks, orders and treasury warrants, certificates of deposit, accounts and receipts, which computed at their nominal value, amounted to \$1,460,685.88. About 307 deeds and land titles, 72 articles of agreement and policies of insurance, 42 certificates of stock, 142 pension papers and land warrants, 512 mixed pension articles and 120 dagger-topies. Nearly all of the above letters, with their contents, have been delivered to their proper owners. A very large proportion of the valuable dead letters reach the dead letter office through the fault of the writers—either on account of misdirection, illegible writing, or neglect to prepay the postage.

THE BIBLE QUESTION.

Our exchanges, says the *Christian Advocate and Journal*, abound in discussions on this question. They can now only do harm, for the issue has been reached, and no man can expect to reverse it; all agitation about it can, therefore, only tend to disturb the harmony and zeal of the friends of the institution. Our readers know that we have defended the "Revision" in its time coming. But as the more for it than this; we deem it its failure a signal disadvantage to Christianity, and as an example of literary vandalism, which cannot fail to challenge the reproach of the literary world. The only relief to our chagrin is the fact, that the revised copy (the best, we soberly believe, in the history of the English Bible) is *extant*—it will be kept in public libraries, at least, and will be always hereafter known in the literary history of the Scriptures; if a better day should ever come, in which conflicting parties can harmonize on a revision of the Bible—this will be the model. Let it take its place, then, in obscurity, till its time comes. But as the great object of the Bible Society is to spread the Bible rather than to preserve it from errors, or to correct even admitted errors, and as this ostensible design could not be successful without harmony among its patrons, unquestionably its only wise policy in a dispute like this, was to fall back on its original purpose. We do, therefore, heartily approve its course, while we deeply regret the necessity of it. All good friends of the cause should, we think, at once abandon the dispute, and go to work promoting the ordinary labors of the society.

While these are our views, we hesitate not to express the opinion that the Board of Managers itself needs some revision, and now that several of its members have resigned, the opportunity for improvement might be used. The late dispute has led us to look a little into the ecclesiastical relations of the thirty-six elected managers. We find them to be as follows: Presbyterians, (O. S.), 15 Presbyterians, (N. S.), 6-21 Prot. Episcopalians, 7 Methodists, 4 Dutch Reformed, 2 Friends, 1 Baptist, 1 We make no comment.

REMARKABLE WORKS OF HUMAN LABOR.

Nineveh was 15 miles long, 8 wide, and 40 miles round, with a wall 100 feet high, and thick enough for three chariots abreast. Babylon was 50 miles within the walls, which were 75 feet thick and 800 feet high, with 100 bastions gates. The temple of Diana, at Ephesus, was 429 feet to the support of the room. It was a hundred years in building. The largest of the pyramids is 481 feet high, and 653 on the sides; its base covers 11 acres. The stones are about 30 feet in length, and the layers are 208. It employed 300,000 men in building. The labyrinth in Egypt contains 800 chambers and 12 halls. Thebes, in Egypt, presents ruins 27 miles round, and Carthage was 28 miles round. Athens was 28 miles round, and contained 359,000 citizens and 400,000 slaves.

LOUISIANA CONFERENCE.

This body convened on the 12th of February, Bishop Peirce presiding. Four preachers were admitted on trial; two re-admitted. The "Alabama Conference resolution" on striking out General Rule on Slavery was unanimously concurred in. The Holston Conference resolution almost unanimously rejected. Conference passed a resolution recommending the General Conference, to "strike out that part of the Discipline on page 48, relating to the city of New Orleans as an exception to the usual itinerant system, viz: the entire lines 14 and 15, as they regard such exception no longer necessary.

Adopted the following resolution, viz: *Resolved*, That this Conference is deeply impressed with the importance of some form of receiving members into the Church in order to secure uniformity in the administration of discipline as well as for other purposes, and that we respectfully request the attention of the ensuing General Conference to this matter.

On the first ballot the following were elected delegates to the General Conference, viz: R. J. Harp, S. J. Davies, H. N. McFeyre; on the second, H. C. Thwait; and on the fourth, J. A. Ivey. Resolutions—R. Randle and L. A. Reed.

It was resolved to request the Bishops to change the time of holding the Conference from the first of February to the first of December.

The following is a list of the total missionary collection for the year, in all the districts, is a remarkably short. Grand total not over 7,000. It is a matter of congratulation that the Macdonaldian call, "Come over and help us," develops, even in these days, a Pauline spirit. This year the field, open and white to the harvest, spread out broader than ever, and the Conference was happily able to put at the disposal of the Bishop a larger number of effective laborers, than at any previous time. Within the last three years over thirty preachers have been received by transfer—nearly one-half of the whole Conference. The introduction of this number of new men into a Conference originally feeble, and their assimilation with the older members, gave rise to the usual symptoms. But soon every one will know his neighbor and the watchman see eye to eye. The spirit of love, of zeal, of self-sacrificing labor for Christ's kingdom is the solvent that will make of all a homogeneous body.

The following are the appointments: NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT.—J. H. Walker, P. E.; Carondelet and Wesley Chapel, R. J. Harp; Felicite Street and Winns Chapel, J. C. Keener; Moreau Street and South Chapel, R. J. Harp; 1st and 4th German Mission, to be supplied; 2nd German Mission, J. Pasley; 3rd German to be supplied; City Mission, J. H. Walker; Algiers, H. N. McFeyre, and Editor of N. O. Christian Advocate; New Orleans Circuit, to be supplied; Baton Rouge, Henry Avery; Plaquemine and Grosse Teche, S. Haves and Jesse Fulton; New River Mission, to be supplied; Tibodieux, M. D. T. Fly; Laourche and Bayou Black Circuit and Colored Mission, N. A. Craven; Atchafalaya, J. Landrum; A. G. Miller, Principal of Preparatory Department of Central College—in connection with Baton Rouge Quarterly Conference.

OPHELUSIA DISTRICT.—A. B. Fly, P. E. Franklin and Pattersonville, J. W. Johnson; Bayou Teche Mission, J. T. Fontaine; New Iberia, S. J. Davies; Vermillion, to be supplied; Opelousas, B. F. White; St. Landry Colored Mission, to be supplied; Washington, A. W. Smith; Ever Green, D. S. Watkins; Ever Green Mission, to be supplied; Alexandria, J. C. Ivey; North Rapides Circuit, Wm. D. Statton; North Rapides Col. Mission, Uriah Whately; Harrisonburg, T. J. Mercer; Columbia, Benj. C. Stegall.

SHREVEPORT DISTRICT.—John Pipes, P. E. Shreveport, J. L. Chapman; Caddo Circuit, S. J. Hawkins, one to be supplied; Mansfield and Pleasant Hill, S. B. Suratt; Grand Cane Circuit, J. F. Scourlock; Natchitoches, R. Parvin, one to be supplied; Sparta Circuit, R. M. Crowson; Red River Circuit, J. C. Reed; Lake Bienville, M. K. Collins; North Bossier, S. Scott; Mansfield College, E. D. Pitts, Prof. H. C. Thwait, President; Agent for Mansfield College, P. M. Goodwin; Agent for Pierce and Paine College, B. F. Alexander.

OUACHITA DIST.—R. R. Alexander, P. E. Miner, A. E. Goodwyn; Homer, C. W. Cousey, sup.; J. L. Wright; Farmerville, D. P. Cullen; Monroe and Trenton, and Colored Mission, T. B. White; Ouachita Circuit, Uriah Rile; Batrop, T. J. Lacey, E. D. Earnheart; Vernon, C. W. Hodge; Duglesmoor, R. O. M. White; Winnfield Mission, S. J. Graves; Sabine Mission, Wm. A. Smyth; Agent for Sabine College, R. Randle.

LAKE PROVIDENCE DIST.—L. A. Reed, P. E. Providence Circuit, T. L. Beard, and W. G. McGaughey; Carroll Mission, one to be supplied, H. W. Segrist; Carroll Circuit, F. T. Rawson and F. W. Finn; Richmond and Madison and Colored Mission, J. H. Waters and J. A. Miller; Trippe and R. A. New; New Carthage Mission, E. W. Griswold; Waterpocket, J. B. Adams; Tenness Colored Mission, J. C. Pitts; Winnborough Circuit, T. H. McClendon and T. J. Up-ton; and P. H. Deffenwelder sup.; Gletty Island Mission, to be supplied; Trinity Circuit, J. P. Richardson and B. T. Taylor; Goncalves Col. Circuit and Mission, to be supplied; Agent for Tract Society, Jovis Sanders.

W. R. Davis transferred to Ouachita Conference. S. D. Aken transferred to Louisville Conference. Thos. Sanford, supernannate. Elam A. Stevenson transferred to Ouachita Conference.

SKETCHES AND SKELETONS OF SERMONS.

The Editor of the *Memphis Christian Advocate* gives a case in which the absurdity of the use of these "sketches and skeletons" is rather strongly and amusingly set forth. He says: "Our first year in the ministry we met with a volume of these sketches, and thought they would be of service to us. At the first quarterly meeting our Presiding Elder, Bro. J. B. Mc, advised us not to use them. We followed his counsel and now thank him for it. The next year a stationed Preacher in an adjacent town, attended our quarterly meeting, in a village in which there was located a college of high standing. At eleven o'clock he occupied the pulpit, and took one of the British sketches for part of his sermon. An old Virginia ex-Presiding Elder told us it was verbatim as the skeleton, first by, secondly, and thirdly, on to the smallest subdivision. When he had finished that, he struck off into one of Phillips' speeches commencing: 'If I err I err with Newton. If I err I err with Bacon,' without giving any one credit. The President of the college (now a Bishop) lung his head up, as he afterward told us, as he was afraid to look up for fear the boys would burst out in laughter. What made the matter worse, some of the smaller boys had committed the same speech, and had spoken it several times, so that every boy in college was familiar with it. The result was obvious. 'This Doctor's influence was ruined on that

mountain. He became a bye-word and a reproach among the students, nor did he ever visit there again during the year, though his station could be seen with a spy-glass from the observatory. For months afterward you could hear the boys say, 'If I err, I err with Newton—If I err, I err with Bacon.' If we had been ever so much inclined to use these sketches, this incident would have caused us to abandon them."

It has always troubled us to understand how a man could feel the preciousness of Christ and the gospel in the forgiveness of his own sins—could feel the love of God shed abroad in his heart, causing him to long for the salvation of the souls for whom Christ died—could feel moved by the Holy Ghost to call sinners to repentance, that they might be saved from the wrath to come—and yet not have one thought or feeling of his own, drawn from experience, or from the word of God, to utter to the people. It staggers us. Just think of it.

PARSONS.

The term *Parson* is much more legitimate than is commonly supposed. "A parson (says Blackstone), *persona ecclesie*, is one that hath full possession of all the rights of a parochial church. He is called *parson* because by his person the church, which is an invisible body, is represented; and he is himself a body corporate of the church (which he personates) by a perpetual succession. He is sometimes called the rector or governor of the church; but the appellation of *parson* (however it may be depreciated by familiar, clownish, and indiscriminate use) is the most legal, most beneficial, and most honorable title that a parson can enjoy." "Though we write *Parson* differently," says Selden, in his "Table Talk," "yet 'tis but *Parson*; that is, the individual person set apart for the service of such a church; and 'tis in Latin *Parsona*, and *Personatus* is a Personage. Indeed, with the canon lawyers *Personatus* is any dignity or preferment in the church."

BISHOP HEBER.

The poetical works of Bishop Heber, author of the "Missionary Hymn," have just been published, in an elegant edition, in Philadelphia. The following incident is related in the volume in reference to the author's poem on "Palestine." "Of 'Palestine' the history is not a little remarkable. It was written in the spring of 1803, while Mr. Heber was a student at Oxford, being then nineteen years of age, and handed in with a view to obtaining a prize extraordinary, which was offered for English verses upon the given subject, 'Palestine.' Perhaps no prize poem has ever met with equal success. The unparalleled applause which its recital elicited, is amply justified by the esteem in which the poem is still held. A contemporary, describing the scene, says: 'None who heard Reginald Heber recite the will do so till that magnificent theatre will ever forget his appearance, so interesting and impressive. It was known that his old father was somewhere sitting among the crowded audience, when his universally admired son ascended the rostrum—and we have heard that the sudden throng of applause which then arose shook his frame, weak and wasted by long illness, that he never recovered from it, and may be said to have died of the joy dearest to a parent's heart.'

PRECIOUS RELICS.

Among the relics of Sir John Franklin, discovered by Dr. Rae, were two leaves of a Bible. Great Mission, to be supplied; Alexandria, J. C. Ivey; North Rapides Circuit, Wm. D. Statton; North Rapides Col. Mission, Uriah Whately; Harrisonburg, T. J. Mercer; Columbia, Benj. C. Stegall. "Several of the Esquimaux can read the Bible with ease, and I am told that when the families are all collected, the children are obliged to attend school daily. How delightful it is to know that the Gospel is spreading far and wide, and will do so till the precious truths are disseminated through the globe! Every ship in these days ought to go forth to strange lands bearing among its officers a missionary spirit; and may God grant such a spirit on board this ship!" We esteem it a beautiful coincidence, that the last words of this noble veteran of the seas was a testimony for the Bible; and that among the few relics of him obtained from the Esquimaux were fragments from that blessed Book which could comfort him when all earthly hope had departed.

DEATH OF COL. LEHMANOSKY.

A few days ago, Col. Lehmanosky, the illustrious Pole who served under Napoleon during the times of the Republic and the empire, died near Hamburg, Clark county, Ind., aged 88 years. He was among the first to rally to the standard of the Little Corporal, and never betrayed his trust or his master from the siege of Toulon to the final overthrow and exile. Many of us have listened to his lectures, and remember the thrilling incidents related by the old man. He was in Italy and in Egypt, and beheld the sanguinary conflict that took place beneath the shadow of the pyramids, cruised the Red Sea, and among the arid wastes of the desert beheld the ravages of the plague cut down the flower of the army. Yet did he cling to the fortunes of the great captain with the peculiar tenacity that marked the followers of the greatest general that ever trod the earth. For his devotedness he suffered imprisonment in the loathsome dungeons of Paris, and, at last, exile from the land of his first adoption to the home of the free. Here he lived an exemplary Christian, and when he was called to fight the last battle he girded on the armor of faith, and full beneath the scythe of death, to be welcomed victorious in eternity.

CALL FOR HELP.

Our friends will please bear with us, and grant us the favor asked, when we tell them that our Agent is sorely pressed for funds, and needs, on the part of our preachers, and of our subscribers who are in arrears, prompt cash remittances to the office. They will be the more inclined to help him when we inform them that the immediate cause of his embarrassment is the maturity, and demanded payment, of liabilities incurred for the old debt existing when he came into the office, and on which he expected long indulgence. Brethren and friends, the *Agent needs immediate help!* Do not fail him in his hour of need, when all his labors are solely for you, and with no possibility of any earthly reward for himself.

THE EVANGELICAL-APOLGIST is, at this moment, dependent, for the continuance of its publication, upon the prompt payment of the pledges of those who subscribed missionary money for it at Waco. The receipts are, at this time, exceedingly small, but \$800 have been realized from the pledges at Waco, the Agent has enough pecuniary burdens with the *Advocate*, and cannot support the *Apolgist*. Those who have pledged will please remit as soon as possible.

A LETTER OF CORRECTIONS.

MR. EDITOR:—Looking over the *Advocate* of February 16th, I saw, and seeing, read an article from San Antonio signed "C. R. T.," and do not feel free to sit and look silently on, at what I conceive to be a public wrong, perpetrated through the columns of our State Church organ. The communication of C. R. T., is well enough written, and romance and fiction aside, quite readable; but knowing that the *Advocate* is looked to by many living in other States for information in regard to this country, and believing that our character as a Church is, in some degree, pledged for the truth of what is stated in its columns, especially when in a measure covered by an editorial, soliciting a continuation of the like character of letters, I feel called upon to say something in relation to said letter.

I have known something of San Antonio and the surrounding country, and am free to say that I do not think there is a hill or any such thing within eight miles of that city, which rises more than two hundred and fifty feet above the level of the water, in the bed of that most beautiful of streams. C. R. T. says, "The eye, too, is frequently arrested in its onward march of admiration, by the splendid plantations, on which are worked from 20 to 200 hands, respectively, looming up here and there." &c. This can mean, nothing else than that the country so spoken of is in a high state of cultivation, and that the proprietors of the plantations are slave owners on a magnificent scale. All I have to say on the subject is, that I have not had the pleasure of meeting the proprietors of these fine possessions, nor have I seen the possessors themselves, though accustomed to seeing pretty far on the prairie. There are some neat plantations scattered over the country, at considerable intervals, and there may be on one or more of these 20 or more hands that labor; but the spirit of the remark above quoted, is notoriously untrue, and calculated to deceive. For, admitting that he could view the whole valley of the Gbobo and that of the Salado, still these lie remote from San Antonio, and in but one direction. Again, "When we remember that both houses line this stream for miles on either side." This is simply untrue. For although there are numerous bath houses in the city, and perhaps an occasional one beyond its confines, still the statement concerning the truth to no one who reads, and its publication through your columns is calculated to make persons at a distance think that the inhabitants of "The Queen of the West" all bathed daily, or at least frequently, and that bathing procured the very remarkable longevity mentioned, which I esteemed but a production of the same "fruitful fiction," which, upon one of its branches, bears imitation of one kind, and on others, of another sort; when the truth is, the people of San Antonio, as a community, do not bathe more frequently than the inhabitants of many other places. In fact, I doubt if a fifth person who is a regular inhabitant bathes in the river at all, except perhaps at chance times, happening at long intervals.

Again, "The new improvements going on, amounting, in the aggregate, to half a million dollars." There are numerous improvements going forward in the city aforesaid, amounting perhaps, counting those buildings being finished with those which are building, and allowing the superstructure of the ground has been expended for a foundation, to one hundred and fifty thousand dollars. But to go to the figures of your correspondent you will have to consider the San Antonio & Mexican Gulf Railroad, as one of the improvements of the city in question. Again, "Our Sabbath schools numbering near five hundred pupils in all." This statement is as true as any which I have called attention to; but does not convey any definite idea of the state of the Sabbath schools of San Antonio. Let us see; there are in attendance on the Presbyterian Sabbath school about one hundred, all told; on the Methodist about fifty or sixty; Baptist mostly Protestant Episcopal; and none of any other Protestant church so far as known. And what may be done in the Catholic convent and elsewhere under their jurisdiction I know not, nor does it make any difference so far as the spirit of the communication aforesaid is concerned. For the writer, referring to the condition as a prosperous one, could not base his calculation upon the Catholic operations of San Antonio, and publish the same to the world through a Protestant journal, without being amenable to a charge of gross misrepresentation. For though the Catholics had a thousand children under training on the Sabbath day, the readers of the *Advocate* could not possibly receive that as evidence of a *prosperous* condition in Sabbath schools. In truth, I do not think that the Sabbath schools of San Antonio are very creditable to the place and especially so to those immediately concerned and engaged in conducting them; and nothing herein stated is intended for any other purpose than to vindicate the truth. If I see the *Advocate* out of this State, and recommend it to the readers as a good source of general and special information, in relation to Texas, her physical, moral and religious condition and resources, and I may be excused for exhibiting some zeal in so small a matter.

SHALL WE SUSTAIN OUR GERMAN PAPER?

MR. EDITOR:—I see from recent issues of the *Texas Christian Advocate* and the *Apolgist*, that the latter paper, printed in the German language, has been deprived of all assistance from the general missionary fund. Published at the low price of \$1 per annum, it cannot be expected to sustain itself, with a limited circulation; and when we consider the failure of the crops in those portions of Texas in which the *Apolgist* circulates among the Germans, it appears obvious that the Church at large must sustain the paper, otherwise it will be discontinued.

I regard the *Apolgist* as an efficient missionary, and in assisting it, I am persuaded that a first rate investment is made of missionary funds. The paper is able, edited, given, in forcible language, the peculiarities of Methodism, and is a welcome visitor to the firesides of the emigrants from the "Waterland." I propose to be one of a hundred to take in the aggregate, 1000 copies of the *Apolgist* the present year. I will take 10 copies, and allow the Editor to send them to any address he may see proper. Those who desire to assist in this cause, can notify the Editor of the New Orleans *Advocate*, who will doubtless receive subscriptions, or they may address D. Ayres, Esq., Galveston, Texas.

MONUMENT OF DR. ADAM CLARKE.

MONUMENT OF DR. ADAM CLARKE.—In the *Colerain Chronicle and North Ireland Advertiser* we find a report of a large soiree in aid of this interesting object, held in Cromore, in the large gallery belonging to John Cromie, Esq., J. P., D. L., which was filled almost to suffocation on the occasion, by a very respectable assembly. Lord R. Montague presided, and made an address eulogizing the Wesleyans for their missionary work, and several eminent ministers and laymen made addresses. Among others Rev. Wm. Reilly, late delegate from Ireland to the United States, made an eloquent speech.

OUR THREE DOLLAR SUBSCRIBERS have had notice of our intention to cut off, on the first of March, all those who owe for one year's subscription. We send the present number of the paper to them, but, unless payment is made before the next issue, we shall discontinue every name which is charged with three dollars. Some of them may have already paid our Agents, who have not had time to remit the money. In all such cases, as soon as we receive the money, we shall promptly re-enter their names. If we have made any mistakes, we will gladly correct them, as soon as we are informed of them.

THE INDEPENDENT (Congregationalist) of New York City has, in combination with nine other religious papers, determined to make a moderate charge for all notices and announcements, of various kinds, for which a charge has always been made by the secular press, and should as properly be made by the religious. And henceforth, therefore, all notices of marriages, deaths, anniversaries, lectures, public meetings, sermons, concerts, festivals, and the like, will be inserted at a common stipulated rate by all the religious newspapers in the city in the combination.

THE STATE UNIVERSITY.

THE NEW ORLEANS *Christian Advocate* makes some very pertinent remarks in support of the position assumed by the *Texas Christian Advocate*, in reference to the State University, in the letter addressed to Major Marshall some time since. The Legislature, since that time, has passed the University Bill. Time, however, will vindicate the truth of the suggestions made in that letter. We now say to the people of

Texas that it will happen to them, as it has happened to the people of other States; the large amount of money which is necessary to establish and keep up a State University, will never be of any practical value to the people. It will be lost just that much valuable capital almost entirely lost to the cause of education in the State.

WAR AND PEACE.

In a late debate in Congress, says the N. O. *Advocate*, on increasing the army, noteworthy facts and figures were brought out. Mr. Benjamin briefly stated the reasons why he could not vote for the bill, in course of his remarks saying that the annual expenses of the army were \$15,000,000, and there were about 15,000 men, which would be 1,000 dollars per man.

The senator from Indiana strengthened the statement, saying that though 15,000 was the number allowed, by various circumstances it seldom rose above 13,000 men, and this would bring the annual expense of each soldier up to \$1400. And this is the cost of men, a few of whom only, on the frontier, see service—and fewer still support families.

A school teacher will live and do good on half of that amount. The gospel heralds of the land, promoting morals and peace on earth, and preaching glad tidings, do not average half of it. Yet their cost is by no means complained of. Perhaps no poet ever wrote four more truthful lines than the following, by Longfellow: Were half the power that fills the mind with terror—Were half the wealth bestowed on camps and courts—Given to redeem the human mind from error, There were no need of arsenals and forts.

THE COURSE OF STUDY.

Below we publish the Course of Study for the under graduates in the travelling ministry, and hope every preacher concerned, or who expects to be concerned hereafter will take the pains to cut it out and paste it in his Bible or some other place where he can easily refer to it. They will have it convenient, and be at no loss as to what the Course is.

COURSE OF STUDY.

For the itinerant probationers and deacons of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, to be uniformly observed in all the Annual Conferences as provided for by the General Conference.

FIRST YEAR. The Bible as to Doctrine, with reference to Wesley's Notes, the Bible Dictionaries and Commentaries of our own publication, Concordance and Gaston's collections of Sacred Scripture; Wesley's Sermons; Fletcher's Appeal and Christian Perfection; English Grammar and Composition.

SECOND YEAR. The Bible as to Ordinances and Sacraments, reference books as the first year; Watson's Life of Wesley; Watson's *Apology*; Fletcher's Christian Perfection, reviewed; Methodist Discipline; Geography; Composition.

THIRD YEAR. The Bible as to History and Chronology; the first and second parts of Watson's Institutes; Gregory's Church History; Rhetoric; Written Essay or Sermon.

FOURTH YEAR. The Bible generally; third and fourth parts of Watson's Institutes; Powell on Apostolic Succession; Old Christianity contrasted with Novelties of Popery; Logic; Written Essay or Sermon.

CHINESE POPULATION IN CALIFORNIA.—Notwithstanding all the persecutions to which the Chinese have been subjected in California, and the large numbers of those emigrants who are constantly returning home, still the emigration is rapidly increasing, and according to present indications, within a few years the Chinese immigration to the Pacific States will be larger than from all Europe. They have probably already passed through the worst persecution to which they will ever be subjected. During the month of July, August, and September last, nearly 1,000 passengers left California for China, of whom 1,039 were males and 29 were females. In the same time there arrived from China 3,552, of whom only 263 were women and 15 children. This shows a net gain in the arrivals over the departures of over five hundred per cent.

PROSPERITY OF GREECE.—A report presented to the King by the Minister of Finance, on the situation of Greece, declares that the number of olive trees had tripled, and the production of silk had sextupled, since the proclamation of independence. The Greek navy had also become nine times stronger. The document is drawn up with much ability, and the assertions are well supported by detailed statistics. The object of the report is to defend the Greeks against the common but very unjust reproach that they have been unable to turn their independence to good account. So far from this being the fact, it may be said that Greece is one of the most progressive countries in the world. It ought never to be forgotten how poor she had been rendered by Mahomedan oppression, and by the ravages of the seven years' war of independence.

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