





TEXAS CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE.

GALVESTON, TEXAS.

TUESDAY, MARCH 20, 1888.

A HOLY MINISTRY.

Self-Knowledge.

Archbishop Usher was a man of distinguished learning, piety, and diligence. A friend of the Archbishop frequently urged him to write his thoughts on Sanctification, which at length he engaged to do; but a considerable time elapsed, the performance of his promise was unfortunately claimed. The Bishop replied to this purpose: "I have not written, and yet I cannot charge myself with a breach of promise, for I began to write; but when I came to treat of the new creature which God formeth by his own Spirit in every regenerate soul, I found so little of it wrought in myself that I could speak of it only as parrots, or by rote, but without the knowledge of what I might have expressed; and, therefore, I durst not presume to proceed any farther upon it."

Upon this, his friend stood amazed to hear such a humble confession from so grave, holy, and eminent a person. The Bishop then added: "I must tell you, we do not well understand what sanctification and the new creature are. It is not that for a man to be brought to an entire renunciation of his own will to the will of God, and to live in the offering up of his soul continually in the flames of love, as a whole burnt offering to Christ; and oh how many who profess Christianity are unacquainted, experimentally, with this work upon their souls!"

This narrative of the good Archbishop is touching, and tends to cause every man, and especially every minister of the gospel, to turn back at the threshold of his own heart, shut the door upon the outward world and thoughts of other men, and to remain long shut up in communion with his own soul. And most necessary is it that this very sad and solemn self-knowledge should be early attained by every ambassador of Christ, and most profitable would its attainment prove. The great crowd of worldly-thinking, worldly-talking, and superficial-feeling preachers, who make up a large part of those who have the sacred ministerial name, must be replaced by a thoughtful, studious, prayerful, humble, consecrated, and heavenly-minded ministry, before any great and powerful baptism of the Spirit can fall upon the world. And no man who has never entered into most scrutinizing acquaintance with the secrets of the deepest depths of his own nature, and become thoroughly penetrated with a sense of the sin and detail of the evils of his heart, the faults of his character, and the dangers of his temper, has any solid, deep, and broad foundation for growth in holiness and ministerial devotion and power. It is one of the most profitable of all mental exercises for a minister of the gospel, to compare himself with the ideal ministerial character, deportment, and labor, which will be furnished him by a constant and prayerful study of the Scriptures, by contemplation of the great work for which Jesus Christ has "chosen him out of the world," and by appreciative meditation upon the lives of the eminently holy and useful men who have adorned and dignified the annals of his sacred calling.

This should be a life-long exercise. The life, language, labors and spirit of St. Paul, if constantly kept before the mind, will lift up a standard that will attract the soul with a noble spiritual emulation. Those of all the devoted ministers of the gospel will have the same influence. A minister of the gospel who does not constantly strive to know himself, and to make himself thoroughly acquainted with the character, grade and progress of his own christian experience, as compared with the scriptural standard, can never attain to much excellence in spirituality, or ministerial power and usefulness. The absence of this spiritual foundation will also induce an over-weening self-consequence, professional pride and vanity, and a general worldly judgment of his profession and labors, which threaten not only the loss of usefulness, but also the loss of his soul. Ministerial self-knowledge of the right kind, consists not merely in knowledge of one's self in the light of his own individual and perhaps selfish judgment of the responsibilities of his calling, nor in the light of the ordinary standard of ministerial character and practice. But it is knowledge of one's self in the light of the law of ministerial responsibility which exists in the mind of God; which is conformable to the love which "gave his Son a ransom for us all"—which is illustrated by the sufferings of Christ and the pleadings of the Holy Spirit—which is emphasized by the misery and danger and constant ruin of souls for whom Christ died—and which is exemplified by the characters, lives, and labors of the prophets, apostles, martyrs and holy men of every age. In the presence of this law, let ministers of the gospel look into themselves, and mark their spirit, and judge of themselves with a severe and jealous scrutiny.

How many men are tripping easily into the pulpit, and talking with flippant tongues, and unabashed eyes, and with a sinful regard to worldly things, who would fall upon their faces were they to see themselves in the light of this law!

DRUG STORES ON THE SABBATH.

The Christian Intelligencer notices a movement in New York towards the proper observance of the Sabbath, which will be appreciated by every conscientious sympathizer in our country. By posting such a placard as is described on the door, not a single sale which is demanded by that law of necessity or mercy which sanctions the opening of drug stores on the Sabbath will be lost;—and it will occur to every one that all further sales than these are manifest transgressions of the spirit not only of the Divine, but of the civil law also. The Intelligencer says:

"We have noticed with pleasure, the announcement, by a card at the door of several drug stores on Broadway, on the Sabbath, that they are closed, but that 'persons wishing prescriptions may ring at the door.' This is a step to Sabbath observance in the right direction. Drug stores can supply all that is needed in cases of necessity, without keeping the establishment open on week days; and by remaining closed exceptly, it goes so far to exert a moral influence in behalf of the Lord's day. It would be a great improvement if all the drug stores would follow the example thus set, and a relief to proprietors and clerks. Try it."

PSALM-SINGINGS.

Any reflective and spiritual mind, upon examination of the second Psalm, will be forcibly and solemnly impressed with the applicableness of the language of David to the public men of the present day, as well as to those of his own day. "Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? The Kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord, and against his Anointed, saying, 'Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us.'"

Do not public men, in these times, as a general rule, ignore the Lord that made and redeems them, and all men, both in their private deportment and conversation, and in state affairs? Do they not feel ashamed to admit any personal considerations regard to the will of God, either in reference to their individual lives, or in connection with their representative relation to their country and people? Do not most of them feel that the regard which policy and interest compel them to pay to the public religious conscience, is an irksome restraint—a "band" which they would "break asunder"—a "cord" which they would "cast away from them"? Look at the public men of the time, into whose hands are committed the destinies of nations, and, by consequence, the christian civilization of the world, for present and future times. Is there such a thing in all the world as a national, a ministerial, a cabinet, a diplomatic policy founded upon a recognition of the law of God—a recognition of faith in Christ, and of the happiness and salvation of the world?

The just doctrine of the separation of Church and State is abused, and hypocritically taken advantage of, by this same practically atheistic spirit, and made to work out a total disregard of the christian responsibilities of public men and of nations. And any just efforts of christian men to wipe away our reproach, and evangelize the administrations of states and nations, is stigmatized as "church interference"—"ecclesiastical bigotry"—"priestly interference."

The same spirit, falsely appropriating the blessed name and prestige of christian charity, cries out against "sectarianism," which applies equally to every effort to build up the christian church by the success of the different denominations of which the christian church is composed. It is simply a disguised opposition to the christian church and cause in general.

This is most eminently illustrated in the prevalent opposition of public men to what they please to term "sectarian schools," which is simply opposition to christian schools and christian education generally. For no school can be a christian school, in the only true sense, that is not in connection with one of the denominations of which the church is composed.

Are christian people aware of this insidious and organized opposition to "the Lord and his Anointed," whose watch-word is, "let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us"? Are they aware that it is being incorporated into political creeds and party platforms, so as to force christian men, by their party allegiances, into the support of party nominees, however unworthy and ungodly, and into the support of measures and institutions and schools, however subversive of the progress of the christian cause, of christian culture, and of christian institutions?

It is a lamentable fact, even in christian nations, that the cause of Christ has to work its way in spite of the actual and constructive disregard and opposition of the men who mould the political destinies of their respective countries. Look at the respective policies of the men who compose the administrations of England and the United States—the two most christian nations in the world. Look at the men who compose the governments of the different States of this Union. And these men, in the main, are chosen by christian constituencies! O shame!

But the cause, thanks to God, will progress and conquer. The Psalm continues: "He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision. They shall be as the noise of the sea, which shall be broken up; and they shall be as the foam of the sea, which shall be broken up; and they shall be as the mire of the streets, which shall be broken up; and they shall be as the chaff of the threshing-floor, which shall be blown away." The Lord said unto me, Thou art my Son; and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession. Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel. Be wise now, therefore, O ye Kings; be instructed ye Judges (public men) of the earth. Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are they that put their trust in him."

J. R. GRAVES AND POLYGAMY.

The already notorious editor of the Tennessee Baptist has recently added to his unenviable fame, by publishing in his paper a couple of articles defending polygamy, from a writer whose ability and good ecclesiastical standing he endorses. At this, we of course, are not at all surprised. We should be surprised at nothing, however reckless and unprincipled, from such a man. A man who cares nothing for the prosperity of the cause of God, only as that prosperity advances the exclusive aggrandizement of his own denomination; and who cares nothing for the prosperity of his own personal prosperity and power with his denomination? A man who has done more harm than a hundred men of similar ability can undo; and which harm has fallen upon the Church to which he belongs, more than upon any other!

But our old friend of the Alabama Southern Baptist is intensely surprised and mortified, and denounces Graves unparleyingly. We had intended to publish some of the fulminations of that paper against him; but they are so voluminous that it is impossible. The whole paper, almost, from week to week, is filled with denunciations; not only one shot now and then, but such a succession of volleys, from platoons of editors and correspondents, as fills the whole field with smoke and flame.

Graves will need but little attention from others after this, we imagine. The Southern Baptist, the Southern Baptist, and some other Baptist papers, have taken him in hand, and may expect an animated time for a considerable season to come. The Baptist church, as such, cannot now help the odium that has been brought upon the christian church by this man; but those individuals who have endorsed him will hereafter be held to a strict account for their course. Some in Texas are even yet recommending the people to send on money to Graves to buy books! When the majority of the Baptist press are denouncing him and his concern!

THE DEPOSITORY IN EAST TEXAS.

Rev. H. B. Hamilton's articles and letter—Reasons of the Editor for declining the former—Unity of the two Conferences.

Our readers will recollect that from various persons in Eastern Texas, laymen and ministers, we have received words of encouragement, and pledges for money to assist in, the Depository enterprise. We noticed in the paper, recently, that Rev. H. B. Hamilton's articles against the Depository had been declined. We regret to learn from a letter just received from him that he thinks we have done him injustice. He says:

"DEAR BROTHER—Your communication came to hand a few days ago. I am of the opinion you had not done justice in refusing to publish my articles against the Depository. My views were asked, and I thought it my duty to give them, inasmuch as I had been engaged in the Book Business for a time. The preachers in East Texas, after a little reflection, occupy very different views on that subject to what they once did. I have seen quite a number of them lately, and I have not found one but what is opposed to it. I think all of our Delegates will oppose it but you."

"I have asked admittance into the columns of the Southern Advocate, which, I presume, will be granted. I think, my brother, I have a right to be heard on this question."

"I am of opinion that if the Depository is located at Galveston, it will sever the two Conferences further apart than they have ever been. I hope it will not be done now; let the subject be thoroughly investigated."

"The preachers of our Conference voted favorably to it, from the fact that it was connected with the power press. I am afraid of the results."

We will now give our reasons for not publishing the articles:

1. The East Texas Annual Conference had unanimously, at its last session, endorsed the Depository enterprise. Their language was as follows: "Resolved, By the East Texas Annual Conference, that we learn with great pleasure, that an enterprise has been initiated, contemplating the erection of an office for the Texas Christian Advocate, and for a Texas Book Depository, in the city of Galveston. While we will not take any action that will make this Conference, as such, pecuniarily responsible, in any amount, yet we hereby sanction the enterprise, and pledge ourselves that we will, in our respective churches, assist in its accomplishment with all our might."

It will be seen by the above, that when Mr. Hamilton says "the preachers of our Conference voted favorably to it from the fact that it was connected with the power press," he is simply and entirely mistaken. The power press is not mentioned in the resolution; and we recollect distinctly that on the Conference floor, the press was not mentioned when the resolution was under discussion. After the Conference had formally "sanctioned the enterprise," and had "pledged" each preacher to "assist in its accomplishment with all his might;" and especially when we had not heard one word of opposition from any body in East Texas except Mr. Hamilton, but when, on the contrary, preachers and laymen were writing and pledging money in its behalf, we did think it improper to publish a series of articles intended to break the enterprise down.

2. But this was not all. The Texas Annual Conference, following suit, and relying upon the past pledge, and future co-operation, of the East Texas Annual Conference, had not only endorsed the enterprise, but had pledged a large amount of money for its accomplishment. At the time these pledges were made, the representatives of the East Texas Conference were on the floor of the Texas Conference, encouraging the work, referring to the action of their own Conference, and pledging it to the heartiest co-operation. Now, after all this, we did think it improper to publish a series of articles intended to break the enterprise down.

3. But this was not the end of our reasoning. Relying upon the action of the two Conferences, upon the hearty encouragement from all quarters, and upon the pledges already made, we were in negotiation for the house before we received Mr. Hamilton's articles. Indeed, the purchase was determined upon before his articles came, and was made a short time afterwards. Now, after the enterprise was entered upon beyond recall, and after the pecuniary obligations had been incurred, by men whose sole reliance was the "pledged" support of the preachers and people of Texas, we did think it improper to publish a series of articles intended to break the enterprise down.

4. Again, the New Orleans Advocate, the Southern Advocate, the Memphis Advocate, and all the Advocates, North and South, which have mentioned it, are crying out, "well done, Texas!" After all this, does Mr. Hamilton wish us to haul down our flag and quit the field?

Mr. Hamilton says his "views were asked," and in any public way, that we know of, and, therefore, their non-appearance was not a public disappointment. He says he "thought it his duty to give his views, inasmuch as he had been in the book business for a time." Would Mr. Hamilton ever have opposed the Depository, had he never become interested in the book business?

"The preachers in East Texas, after a little reflection, occupy very different views to what they did." We should like to know what authority Mr. Hamilton has, in the face of the resolution of last Conference, to make this assertion. His is the only voice of opposition we have heard. He is "alone in his glory," and we sincerely hope no one will be covetous enough to wish to share with him. The East Texas Conference is sound on the Depository question. When it ceases to be so, we imagine we shall find it out as soon as Mr. Hamilton.

"He thinks all our Delegates will oppose it," except the editors. We shall believe that, too, when we see it, and not before. The Texas Delegation will be harmonious in the General Conference; at least, they should be so; and we be to that man who undertakes to create importance for himself by seeking to distract their counsel!

Mr. Hamilton thinks that the Depository enterprise "will sever the two Conferences further apart than they have ever been." Well, now, that informs us of a fact of which we were not aware before. "Farther than ever!" Brethren of the two Conferences, have you been "severed," in the sense above, all this time? Really, you have kept it a profound secret, if you have. Where does Mr. Hamilton get the right to use such language about the two Conferences? The Texas and East Texas Conferences are at peace, and likely to continue so, and each an *estipulum* partisan fitfulness of some, both East and West, to the contrary notwithstanding. Let us hear no more of the East and West being "severed." It is damaging to the prosperity and reputation of the church.

As to hoping the Depository will not be established now, and waiting for the matter to be thoroughly discussed, it is all gammon. The house is bought; it must be paid for; the mon-

ey is being pledged; and before the next session of the Conference, the whole amount necessary will be pledged, and a considerable amount will be subscribed for the purchase of books. This "slow-line," do-nothing policy has cursed the Methodist Church in Texas long enough.—"Afrail of the results," says Mr. Hamilton. What results? We are afraid of nothing so much as *no results*. We have bought the house; we intend to pay for it; the people are going to help us; and we are ready for any kind of results that may "turn up." Let them come.

We intend to have the Depository; and East Texas Conference will be a joint partner in the concern; so we think. It is not, as he will have it, an astonishing work since! What, upon which she stands committed before the world. Why, she initiated the enterprise, and it has progressed in precise accordance with the sanction and intention of both Conferences. If the East should repudiate it, the West would complete it notwithstanding. Will Mr. Hamilton labor to make the East Texas Conference violate her pledged faith? Will he labor to injure individuals who have incurred heavy obligations for the sake of the church? Will he labor to deprive the East Texas Conference of her rightful ownership in this greatest of Methodist enterprises in Texas? We do not think he will.

SOULE UNIVERSITY.

We are happy to be informed by a letter from Rev. Daniel Morse that this institution, upon which all Texas Methodism is concentrated, has now over one hundred students. This is really doing well. The Alabama University, a magnificently endowed and officered institution, has not in many years, gone far beyond this, although supported, as much as State Universities generally, by the wealth, station, and large population of that State. And so it will be in this State. The State means may be invested by our legislators in a grand State University, but the christian schools will do the work of educating the youth of the land. In the mean time, let every member and friend of the Methodist Church, in this whole State, give their aid and patronage to Soule University.—When they send their sons from home at all, let them send them to our own central and cherished institution.

Mr. Morse justly speaks in the highest terms of the Faculty. Of President Halsey he says: "I have been acquainted with him for more than sixteen years; the prime of his life has been devoted to training the youth of the South; few men in a similar capacity understand better how to govern students, and advance them in the various branches of science and literature."

"Filling the Chair," he continues, "of Languages with Rev. Dr. J. M. Follansbee, and that of Mathematics with Rev. W. G. Foote, I think exceedingly fortunate, as they delight in their calling, and give entire satisfaction; one having graduated at Dickinson College in Pennsylvania, and the other, at Randolph-Macon, Virginia, they are to be classed among the ripe scholars of the South."

Of Rev. John N. Kirby, Principal of the Preparatory Department, he says: "His watchful eye detects the least inattention to books, or digression from propriety. I regard him as one of the best disciplinarians I have ever known, and as being the very man to fill the responsible position he occupies."

Of the location he says: "I am now more than ever confirmed in the belief, that in this particular, (health), a most judicious selection was made. Soule University is located in the midst of a healthy, intelligent, and enterprising community, who will take delight in contributing to its permanency and future prosperity." He gives the following account of the recreations of its students: "At 10 o'clock, A. M., the time of the students is employed for a brief period in gymnastic exercises, (according to the system of Ling, the celebrated Swedish professor), in such a manner as to bring every limb and muscle into action. They are formed into regular columns and go through various evolutions with delight to themselves and amusing interest to the spectators. Plato was not wide of the mark, when he called him a cripple, who, cultivating his mind alone, suffered his body to languish through sloth and inactivity."

OUR CAUSE ON THE RIO GRANDE.

Rev. R. P. Thompson writes as follows: "I arrived at Brownsville about the last of January, and entered at once into the Master's vineyard. I found that our little flock, led without a shepherd, had been scattered and almost lost. Our Church was dilapidated and unfit for service, and altogether, the prospect before me was most dreary and unpromising, and you will not wonder that I felt sad and lonely. But I was not discouraged, for I had come to engage in the service of Him who holds the hearts of all men, and who has never suffered me to want for friends. Mr. Patungat, a revivalist, cordially invited me to make his home my home. I accepted his invitation, and a pleasant home I have. By the kindness of the citizens, and the energy and industry of brother George Dye, mayor of the town, who superintended the work, the Church was repaired and made comfortable, and our services began in good earnest."

I collected what few members I could find and have met them regularly in class-meetings. We have also quite an interesting Sunday School. Prospects are brightening, and we think there is reason for encouragement. My own heart is deeply engaged in the work, and I have been led to pray earnestly for a revival, a good old-fashioned Methodist revival in Brownsville. Will not our friends and brethren who read this, unite their petitions at a "Throne of Grace" that the work of the Lord may prosper and grow exceedingly on this frontier?

The climate of this place is delicious. Persons have been known to praise the climate of the Island City as the finest in Texas. But such persons, I am sure, have never been in Brownsville.

We have some good society, some families who would be an honor to any place, however plain and retired. But this class of society is much in the minority. There is a strange hodge-podge of various nations, and hybrids of all classes and colors. These rednecks, and they give the town its unique character and appearance. But society is improving, and the town is improving in other respects. Excepting Houston and Galveston, I suppose there is more business done here than in any town in Texas. After a time I expect to take a journey into the country, and then I will give you a description of the Rio Grande valley."

NEW YORK CORRESPONDENCE.

Bishop Simpson—The Great Revival—Old John Street—1,500,000 Methodists—Wakeley's Lost Chapters.

Our Bishop Simpson has recently arrived from Europe, and is quite indisposed from his sickness abroad. Last summer, he visited England and Ireland, as a Delegate to the Wesleyan Conferences. Then he passed through France, Germany and Norway, strengthening our Missions there. In September, he was presented to the Evangelical Alliance, at Berlin, addressing that celebrated body. During the past winter, the Bishop extended his tour to Turkey, Palestine, Egypt and Greece, where his health became impaired. He is now improving, and is a man of astonishing pulpit powers, and decidedly the most eloquent Bishop of the Northern Methodist Church.

The great Revival is on the advance. In the American churches, never has there been any event like it, not even the celebrated revivals of Pres. Edwards' and Whitefield's days. From forty to fifty thousand in our city, and its vicinity, are estimated, to have recently professed conversion. The daily Prayer Meetings are crowded—usually in the stores are set apart for prayer—on Railroads, on the roads, etc., the voice of supplication and rejoicing are heard. Let the people praise God, for the astonishing outpouring of His Holy Spirit! The Church is arising in all the majesty of her power, and going forth to fight the battles of the Lord. Our own beloved Zion is most abundantly refreshed at this moment.

Daily, from 12 to 1 o'clock, Old John Street Church is crowded up stairs and down, with men of all denominations, praising or seeking the Saviour of sinners. God is again honoring that time-hallowed spot. About a century ago, per full accounts of the proceedings of the General Conference. We shall not merely give accounts of the measures proposed, and of the votes thereupon; but we shall endeavor to give the substance of all the interesting speeches; we shall explain the aspects and bearings of all the questions; and we shall also present as lifelike sketches as possible of all the distinguished men, members of the General Conference and visitors. We shall strive to give all our readers as much of the knowledge and interest of the General Conference as it is possible for them to obtain without being personally present. Let us have a thousand new subscribers as pay for this labor; for the labor will not be light.

NEW COMMITTEE ON VERNIONS.

We give below the names of the gentlemen elected, at the last meeting of the Board of Managers of the American Bible Society, as members of the Committee on Versions, to fill the place left vacant by the late resignations. It is believed that nearly all, if not all, will accept. It will be remembered that the Rev. Dr. Spring, Chairman of the Committee, did not resign.

Samuel H. Turner, D. D., (Episcopal). George W. Bethune, D. D., (Reformed Dutch). Channey A. Goodrich, D. D., (Congregational). John McClintock, D. D., (Methodist). John N. McLeod, D. D., (Ref. Presbyterian). Henry B. Smith, D. D., (N. S. Presbyterian). Why should there be five of the Presbyterian family, and but one from the Methodist side? The Southern Methodist Church, and the Protestant Methodists, have no showing, either in this Committee, or in any other. And it has always been so, in all these societies. A writer in the N. O. Advocate suggests that the Methodists buy the plates of the Revised Edition lately rejected by the dominant element above spoken of.

RELIGION AND THE SECULAR PRESS.

The editor of the above paper, in his reply to some remarks of ours, made a few weeks since, denies that he ever sought to give the Christian religion a "dig," but that he has only "given a dig" to such hypocritical professors of it as were calculated to injure the cause with sensible people." We accept our neighbor's disclaimer, admitting that we may have been mistaken as to the animus and tendency of his occasional religious lectures, only begging to claim the right, meanwhile, to notice his paper more particularly hereafter, that we may be confirmed in the opinion that we have done him injustice. We make the same remarks as to his denial that he advocates spiritualism. As to the question in which the States and the whole South has felt so much interest, we do not say an editor should always go with the majority. But the Victoria Advocate knows too well the attempts which have been made by our political enemies to distract and divide Texas, under cover of the "freedom of the press," to make the argument he does.

We say again, his paper is a good one—one of the very best in the interior of Texas. But the churches have been so often sneered at by papers largely supported by religious people, that the matter is justly awakening public attention, and will not be as tamely submitted to as heretofore. Every man has a right to his own conscientious religious sentiments, and he has the right, also, to utter them. But religious people, and people who entertain evangelical religious sentiments, have the right, also, to withhold their support from those papers whose utterances are calculated, if not intended, to thwart all that the churches are laboring, by prayers, preaching, and pecuniary investments, to accomplish. And our neighbor knows too well that, in addition to the inherent difficulties of their great work, the churches have frequently been pained and mortified by the scoffs of newspapers which ought to have had more respect, to say nothing of respect for the sacred cause of religion.

We have studiously avoided controversy of all kinds, not only with religious papers, but also with secular ones. And our relations with our brethren of the editorial fraternity of Texas have been, we are happy to say, of the most pleasant nature. The secular press of Texas, as a general rule, possesses a high moral tone; but frankness compels us to say that there have been painful exceptions to this rule. And we feel now that we have often remained silent, from love of peace, when stern duty demanded that we should have raised our voice in vindication of the outraged name and cause of Christ.

Our BROTHERS, who complain and make imputations of partiality, because their articles are not published, should remember that we have got no more sense than what we have got, and cannot help it, and are sorry for it, and hope they will bear with and sympathize with us. Let us try it again, after we get a little more sense all round. An out-pouring of "the Spirit of love, of god power, and of a sound mind," would be a great blessing to this country. Let us pray for it.

RELIGIOUS COMMUNICATIONS.

"A Sister in Christ" writes us: "I have been a careful reader of your interesting Advocate for nearly one year. I love to read anything that talks about Jesus and Heaven. And I do earnestly entreat our christian friends to throw in their mites. We know there are those who could contribute to the Advocate, to edification and encouragement. Dear friends, write. Don't plead incompetency. Remember the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. Give us a word from the heart, and aided by God's Holy Spirit, it will reach the heart. Give us a word of encouragement; tell us your prospects for heaven, your trials of faith and triumph through grace. Heaven is a glorious theme! Let us talk about it and write about it and endeavor to hold forth its beauties to all the world. It is the home of the true, the dwelling place of angels and arch-angels. God dwells there. O exulting thought! Worms of the dust, poor sinful, fallen man, will be permitted to live through endless ages, with God in heaven, and many loved friends have already gone before us to the glory land. They are waiting our arrival, perhaps permitted to minister to us while we are passing through this world of sin and sorrow. Oh, stir up, ye soldiers of Christ! gird on your armor, about of your sleep and slumber. Ye children of the Most High God, work while it is day. Let the Texas Christian Advocate preach many heart-searching sermons this year, and God will bless you and crown your labor with success."

A SISTER IN CHRIST.

OUR GENERAL CONFERENCE PAPER.

As we have once before stated, we intend, if not providentially prevented, to give in this paper full accounts of the proceedings of the General Conference. We shall not merely give accounts of the measures proposed, and of the votes thereupon; but we shall endeavor to give the substance of all the interesting speeches; we shall explain the aspects and bearings of all the questions; and we shall also present as lifelike sketches as possible of all the distinguished men, members of the General Conference and visitors. We shall strive to give all our readers as much of the knowledge and interest of the General Conference as it is possible for them to obtain without being personally present. Let us have a thousand new subscribers as pay for this labor; for the labor will not be light.

THE DEPOSITORY ENTERPRISE.

The Depository Enterprise is enlisting the interest of our people from one end of the country to the other. Visiting friends speak of it in the highest terms. We have not met with a single opponent. We have not heard of one, except our dear Bro. Hamilton. He must come in. Come in, Dr. You are the only Dr. in the East Texas Conference, and it will never do to have you in the opposition. If you do not, we shall have to make more more Drs. But pleasant aside, the enthusiasm in favor of the enterprise is encouraging. There is not a particle of doubt about raising the money. Just let us wait long enough to see that we are to have good crops, and the money will all be pledged. Let us have no dependency—no complaints—no prophecies of evil things. We shall succeed!

"SOME ONE," who writes in opposition to changing the time of holding the Conference, does not seem to comprehend all the bearings of the case. He is a member of the East Texas Conference, which generally meets just before the terrible weather and roasts set in. But the Texas Conference is always just in time for its full share. If the Texas Conference could meet before the East Texas Conference, the latter might stand as it now does, or be a little earlier. A change is necessary, however, and will have to be made. The experience of last winter will never be forgotten.

Rev. L. S. JACOB writes, under date of February 24, from Germany: "Praise the Lord! revivals in Germany and revivals in America. The best news there can be in the world. Pray for us, and especially for your poor brother. Sometimes I think my labors are too much; again, when I witness the prosperity of the work, I rejoice, and it do gladdly. I will work as long as it is day, for I fear the night will come soon. My eyes become more and more feeble; but I fear not. If my eyes get dark, and my mouth is still open, I shall praise the Lord and proclaim his wonderful works to me. Praise him with me!"

THE MANAGERS OF THE AMERICAN SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION.

The Managers of the American Sunday School Union have determined upon a total abandonment of the Collecting Agency System, as such, as soon after the 1st of May as may be consistent with their obligations to those now in commission. This action, as we understand, was not prompted by any dissatisfaction with those employed in this service, but in a conviction that there is "a more excellent way" to raise money for benevolent purposes.

TESTIMONIALS to the interest with which our Advocate is sought and read, in Texas and in the States," in the North and in the South, flow in upon us. They are too flattering to publish. We have published an occasional one, and merely make mention of them now, as an encouragement to our friends who are sustaining the paper. Give us circulation; it is all we ask. The Advocate shall speak for itself, wherever it goes, if the Editor and Agent live, and are supported. They are agreed to spare no pains to make it equal to any paper in the country.

THE GREAT REVIVAL CONTINUES TO SPREAD. Not only has it extended all over the East and North, but it is taking hold in the West and South—in Ohio, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, and also in Tennessee and Alabama. The Mobile papers report a revival in that place. It extends even to California.

"A METHODIST," or some one assuming that character, asks us a question through the Christian. Methodists, when addressing a Methodist paper, about Methodist interests, generally write to the editor, over their own names. Our anonymous friend must be a "probationer."

THE LETTER FROM SAN FRANCISCO, on our first page, will reward readers. We hereby, in our own name, and in the name of his Texas brethren, invite Mr. Fisher to correspond frequently for our paper.

REV. P. A. MORNING commences a series of "Travel-Pages" in this issue, translated from the German of his paper, the "Apologist," which will be found full of interest.

CHRISTIANITY IN EARTH, as Exemplified in the Life and Labors of the Rev. Hodgson Casson. By A. Steele. Price 30 cents.

Our Book Agents have brought out another edition of this admirable biography. Mr. Casson was a Methodist preacher of the primitive type, full of faith, and of the Holy Ghost. He had some eccentricities, but even his failings leaned on the right side; as another zealous, eccentric minister has expressed it, he always considered it in order to save a soul. Right heartily did he "pull" men out of the fire, and many did he save by his earnest labors. We hope the present edition will be soon sold, and another be in demand.

VENICE: Past and Present.

The Agents have brought out another edition of these valuable little works—the former being a beautiful and reliable history of the queenly city of the seas, and the latter a concise and judicious history of "the holy wars." Competent judges have pronounced them capital books, and we are glad to see them extensively circulated. They are sold at retail for 30 cents each; but we have placed them with forty-eight others of a kindred character in a library which may be procured for ten dollars. Let every family and every Sunday School that can do so, get them without delay.

CONGREGATIONALISM, the direct opposite of the great Methodist doctrine of *Connexional Itinerancy*, is sure to be the result of any departure from our established ecclesiastical policy. A correspondent of the *New York Independent*, in speaking of the formation of a sort of union church, in Minnesota, says: "This church is on a catholic and evangelical basis, and is composed of Congregationalists, Presbyterians, Baptists, and Methodists. It is the only church in the village, and will long remain the only evangelized church there. We have seen too much, in these frontier towns, of the evils of many small sectarian churches, and Christians of all denominations in such circumstances are showing a disposition to unite on the only basis where such a union can be effected—*Congregational order and polity*."

The italics in the above quotation are ours. Our readers will recollect that a similar doctrine was broached by a contributor to our columns some time since. Methodists work well in their own harness, but generally balk elsewhere.

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OUR HOME WORK.

Rev. AUGUST ENOS, who has for more than a year been assisting in the pastorate of the German Church in this city, and also in the editorship of the Apologist, and who, by consent of the Bishop, after Conference, was changed from the York Town Mission, that he might take charge of the German Church here, and also assist Rev. Mr. Moelling, has been compelled to leave the city in consequence of failing health—his lungs being seriously affected. Mr. Engel is one of our best and most devoted German preachers, and should also be a devoted sympathizer, and assistance of the Church wherever he goes. We earnestly commend him to our brethren of the interior, and pray God that his health may be restored.

The address of Rev. R. P. Thompson is Brownsville, Texas, where all his papers and letters should be sent; and he hopes his friends will not forget him because he is far away on the Rio Grande. He should not assume to speak of the climate of the Rio Grande city, however, unless he had resided here. He should be sure to: he might change his opinion. A friend suggests to us that he is right that the Valley of the Rio Grande is the most delightful country in the world.

TEXAS ITEMS.

THE RIO GRANDE.—The Brownsville flag says: "The Rio Grande is to be 300 ft. wide, a centralist, had been defeated by Gen. Arzaga at Santa Rosa. News was circulated at Monterey that the stage running from Mexico to Queretaro had been attacked by a band of thieves under command of a Spanish named Martinez, who belongs to the forces of Mejia. The passengers defended themselves, repelling the bandit and killing one.

The Monterey Bulletin mentions the intention of the people at all that can for the Constitutionalists. The Governor of Michigan has issued a proclamation to the people of that State appealing to their honor and patriotism to fight for the defense of their constitutional rights.

Srs. Llave, Alatrie and Gen. Negrete with four thousand men on the march for Puebla. Gen. Huerta has ordered five hundred troops from Michoacan ready to attack the enemy. Gen. Irujo, with near three thousand men, is stationed between Mexico and Queretaro, and Gen. Cuernavaca. With these powerful forces making their way towards the Capital, the Government of Zaluga will doubtless be submerged before many months.

Hon. JOHN HENRY BROWN, one of the representatives of Galveston county in the last two legislatures, Mayor of the city, and for more than three years past of the citizens of Galveston, has recently removed to San Saba, San Saba county, where he is going to engage in the practice of the law. We regret his loss from the city, and from the editorial fraternity of the State. He was one of the most popular Texas editors, and an exceedingly industrious and able member of the Legislature. His long residence in Texas, and his thorough knowledge of the geography and laws of the State, will make him a valuable editor and agent. We do not always agree, when brother editors, on moral questions, and had an occasional tilt, but he always won we were right, and our battles caused neither body nor heart to bleed.

JEFFERSON.—The Gazette says: "Our town has been for months past the scene of active commercial transactions. Large quantities of produce have been brought here and shipped, and vast quantities of merchandise, dry goods and groceries carried off. The amount of business done here is astonishing to the uninitiated, who judge of the business by the size of the town. Such is the demand for groceries, that our merchants find it difficult to keep a supply. Several new business houses have already been established, and several more are soon to be opened. We believe that our town is destined to become a very important, and the great commercial mart of Eastern Texas. Several citizens of Jefferson are preparing to get machinery work in their silver claims—this is much needed here.

THE SAN ANTONIO PAPER.—The Independent says that the prairie fires are gradually assuming their beautiful Spring coating, and look grateful to the eye. It has been so long since we saw the hills so generally carpeted with vegetation that it makes the heart glad. We anticipate a pleasant and prolific Spring—On Monday and Tuesday night last, we had a heavy rain. There can be no uncertainty of a very early crop of having a fine wheat crop. This rain, also, not "suffered for," came in good time to ensure the coming up of corn, cotton, "garden stuff," etc.—The Leon and Lampasas rivers are as high, or nearly so, as they have been at any time during the past three months. The rains at the heads and on the tributaries of those streams, were evidently very heavy. The Salado, also, we learn, is in excellent condition.

The San Antonio papers publish the recent Act of the State Council and women's Manufactory in that city.—The Herald gives a table of distances from San Antonio to San Diego, making the whole distance 1,524 miles.—The San Antonio Texas says: "We have already large fields of corn in our county around that is already up, and our planters are busily engaged in planting more. Also, large fields of millet, we are informed, will soon carpet portions of our country. Business in our county is never more lively than now, for this season of the year. We learn that Maj. Bell has arrived in our city with funds for the payment of troops at Forts Inge Clark and Duncan; and that new troops for the War Department in Texas, are daily expected.

GOVERNORS.—The Enquirer says that they recently had another shower—just the thing for growing vegetation. Since then clouds nearly meeting and rain prospects—barring the grasshoppers—seemly flattering.—These insects are doing serious damage to the growing crops of corn and wheat in some portions of the country, which nearly all the gardens have been more or less injured. In many spots, however, where they were numerous a week ago, they have entirely disappeared.—A company of young men had left Conales, to go in search of gold, somewhere.—The price of hauling from Fort Llava and Indianola has fallen \$1.25 per hundred.—The editor favors the planting of the Sugar-Millet.

A bountiful season is generally admitted. At any rate a good stand is already secured; and that is the most important consideration with the farmer.

The Tyler Reporter gives the valuation of negroes in Smith county as \$1,500,000, and of lands, as \$1,070,500. The editor says the value of improved land in that county is from \$3 to \$12, and of unimproved land from \$2 to \$5 per acre.

We have heard nothing the past week of the proposed company on the march for San Luis and Tampico. Preparations continue to be made for active measures in the States of Nuevo-Leon and Tamaulipas.

The Fairfield Pioneer reports the marriage of John Webb, aged 18 years, to Sally Murray, aged 13 years, all of Freestone county.

The citizens of Laredo, Webb county, Texas, have held an indignation meeting, and passed fiery resolutions in consequence of the pressing of American citizens into the Mexican army. A high-handed measure, we should say.

Gen. Benser has been re-commissioned by the Governor, as financial agent of the Penitentiary.

We see it stated that the Blind Asylum has gone into successful operation under the newly appointed Superintendent, Dr. Lightfoot.

ECCLIASTICAL AND RELIGIOUS ITEMS

In the absence of theatres for comedy in Monte al, the "Fias of the Christian Schools" (Roman play) opened one of their own, played the "Wisdom of the East," on Sunday, with "infinite success." Editing excellent!

A Railroad Chaplain has been employed on the Illinois Central Railroad, Rev. J. W. Osborne, who has established schools at all the stations, formed by the Company by rendering the settlements more attractive and the lands more valuable.

A correspondent of the Post writes: John Wickfield, the morning star of the Reformation, born in 1534, was in York, in 1586, died in 1595, and was buried in the church-yard at Lutterworth. In 1425 the Bishop of Lincoln, in obedience to the order of the Council of Constance, directed that his remains should be exhumed, burnt to ashes, and these thrown into the brook Swift, a tributary of the river Avon.

Camming, in "Voices of the Dead," quotes (with-out naming the author) the following quatrain: "The Avon to the Sever runs, And Wickfield's dust shall spread abroad, Wide as the waters of the Sever."

Notarial for themselves. Echeary (Reactionist) had lost over one hundred and fifty men. Gen. Cruz had been defeated by the Liberals. Vidauri (Liberal) was marching on San Luis.

NOTICES OF ADVERTISEMENTS.

J. W. TUCKER, Attorney at Law, St. Louis, Missouri, has his card in this paper, with a list of the very best references—among them, Dr. McAnally, Dr. Parsons, and Dr. Wightman.

JOHN HENRY BROWN, a notice of whom appears under the head of "Texas Items," and which reads a notice here unnecessary, has his law and land-agency card in this paper. His address is San Saba, San Saba county, Texas.

DR. GEO. YOUNG advertises some Brazo lands for sale, in this paper, Read his notice. He also pledges himself to give \$200 to the Depository Building, when his land is sold, and \$100 any how.

THE TEXAS MONUMENT AND MILITARY INSTITUTE, at Rutersville, under the direction of Col. C. G. Forshey, renews its advertisement in this paper. The Superintendent, Col. Forshey, and the President of the Board of Trustees, Capt. C. S. Longcope, emphatically deny the truth of any reports prejudicial to the permanency and proper conduct of the institution.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

Capt. Harrison, who is to command the Leviantan, writes to Boston that he is in hopes to be in Portland with his vessel in the latter part of the month of June, and that he proposes to remain with her seven weeks.

ANTIDOTE OF STRYCHNINE.—The success of camphor as an antidote to strychnine in the two cases reported last week by Dr. Rochester, of Buffalo, prompted its trial in a recent case, reported at length in the Virginia Medical Journal, by Dr. Claiborne, of Petersburg. The strychnine was taken with suicidal intent, in a dose of two grains, and the patient was not seen until tetanic and epileptic spasms of intense violence had supervened, which continued for several hours, until he expired on the 10th of June. He was given 10 to 15 grains every half hour, when they ceased, and the patient recovered.

The State of Ohio has repealed a law governing the conveyance and devise of church property, which has called the Catholic Bishop, Bishop Purcell, in a note of thanks.

During the war of our Revolution, Benjamin West the great American painter was residing in London and on familiar terms with his Majesty George III. Mr. West was in the palace painting the king's portrait, when a messenger came and delivered to him a copy of the American Declaration of Independence. The king read it and then remarked, "Well, if they can be happier under the form of government they have chosen, than under mine, I shall be happy."

The trial of the Mazzinian conspirators of June last, forty-one in number, just terminated at Genoa. Of this number there is included by conspiracy—being absent. Miss White is believed in the list of the accused.

A Parliamentary return gives an estimate of the receipts and disbursements of the Home Treasury of the East India Company, from the 1st January to the 30th April, 1859, and from 1st May, 1858, to the 30th April, 1859. The receipts between the 1st January and the 30th April, in the present year are estimated at £5,166,028, leaving a balance over the disbursement of £289,558. The estimated receipts from the 1st of next May to the 30th April, 1859 amount to £11,186,028—this sum including an estimated deficiency balance of £7,866,068.

We cut from a daily paper of last week the following advertisement, omitting only the name and address of the advertiser: Important to liquor dealers—Pure Oil of Cognac.—The subscriber having retired from the Liquor business, has on hand a quantity of Pure Oil of Cognac, which he will sell in lots to suit customers, and will give full instructions to his agents. Having learned the business in Bordeaux, and being one of the best manufacturers of imitation Brandy in the city, a very rare opportunity is offered to the trade. These counterfeit brands are killing their thousands.

A project is on foot for the union of all the British North American provinces, with the full consent of the English Government into one Confederacy. The Commissioners from Nova Scotia, appointed in June last, had an interview with the Secretary for the colonies in London, and have reported favorably. The government of Nova Scotia have accordingly engaged negotiations with the governments of the other provinces and they have mutually agreed to give the subject due consideration.

The Maine Legislature has instituted the novel and pleasant feature of morning concerts in legislative sessions.

What ever may be the financial embarrassments of the country, these important issues must not be suffered to go down. Our true-hearted friends and patrons will now have an opportunity of giving us a practical demonstration of their unyielding fidelity to the publishing interest of the State. Should prompt and energetic efforts be made to extend the circulation of our paper, we shall confidently expect our subscription lists to be greatly increased, rather than diminished by the tightness of the times. Come brethren, let the work be speedily commenced and vigorously prosecuted; it is your friend to the House for his services, in this department of christian enterprise, and we will cheerfully abide the issue. And let all who intend to subscribe, or renew their subscriptions, do so at the quickest practical moment.

If the importance of our periodical literature were fully and faithfully presented to all our churches and congregations, as we trust it will be, we shall not be at all surprised to find our subscription lists double by the first of April. Who will be first and foremost in his important work?

For the information of all concerned, we subjoin the following schedule of prices, viz: QUARTERLY REVIEW, per annum, \$2 00 HOSE CIRCULAR, " " " 3 00 On the above a discount of 20 per cent. will be allowed to ministers and agents.

Single copies, per annum, 30 cents. From 5 to 25 copies, per annum, 25 " From 25 to 100 and upwards, per annum, 20 " In all the above cases the cash should, as far as practicable, accompany the orders. Where the amount to be remitted does not exceed \$10, care may be readily transmitted to us by mail in gold coin, or by putting in to wrap and seal up separately before being put in the letter for mailing. Where the gold cannot be had, the most current bank notes should be selected. Odd cents can be transmitted to us in post-office stamps, or small silver change.

Quarterly Meetings.

TEXAS CONFERENCE.

NEW BRAUNFELS MISSION DISTRICT.—2d. Round New Braunfels German Mission at New Braunfels, April 2d and 3d; Fredericksburg German Mission May 1st and 2d; Llano German Circuit at Upper Willow creek, May 8th and 9th; Kerrville Circuit, at Sanders, City May 12th and 13th; Madras Circuit at Santa's Upper House, May 25th and 26th; Uvalde Circuit and New Pecos German Mission, at Uvalde, May 29th and 30th; Bastrop German Mission, at Bastrop, June 5th and 6th; Industry and Ladles German Missions, June 10th and 11th; Victoria and Yorktown German Missions, June 18th and 19th.

JOHN W. DEWILLS, P. R.

Agent's Notices.

DAVID AYRES, Agent.

RATES OF ADVERTISING.

Advocate Job Office.

Red Panel Papers.

Letters and Funds received up to March 26.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

THE TEXAS MONUMENT AND MILITARY INSTITUTE.

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Commercial.

ALGIVERTON, March 27th, 1858.

WRIGHT, JARMON & CO.

WHOLESALE AND Retail Dealers in Plantation Goods.

COTTON FACTOR AND COMMISSION MERCHANT.

W. HENRY ELIOT & CO.

WHOLESALE and Retail Druggists, Cotton, Dealers in Drugs, Medicines, Chemicals, etc.

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Houston Advertisements.

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Business Cards.

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NO SABBATH NO MORALITY.

The sanctity of the Sabbath reposes on the authority of the Being by whom it is appointed. That Being is the Paragon of all virtues, and that authority is the source and origin of all morality.

HOW TO PREVENT COLDS.

A bad cold, like measles, or mumps, or any other similar ailment, will run its course of about ten days, in spite of what may be done for it, unless remedial means are employed.

WHEAT FANS AND THRESHERS.

At the recent meeting of the shareholders of the Houston and Texas Navigation Company, the Chairman, alluding to the loss of the Erin, related the following anecdote.

LETTER FROM GATESVILLE.

Mr. Editor—I reached my work about the first of January, and found that the Indians had been very troublesome.

LETTER FROM WESTERN TEXAS.

Mr. Editor—As I live in that portion of Texas, which was most seriously injured by the late year's drought, and as many of our readers live in other States, upon lands nearly exhausted by long cultivation, who intend moving to Texas as very distant day, I presume such feel some interest in knowing how drought has affected the soil.

BIRDS IN JAPAN.

Birds are treated very kindly there. They are never killed for sport, and a little troupe are scooped out in the tomb-stones, which priests fill every morning with fresh water for their drink.

GERMAN NEWSPAPERS.

A correspondent of the Philadelphia Press contradicts the statement that has been made, to the effect that there are ten times as many newspapers printed in the German language in the United States as in Germany.

PIANO EMPORIUM.

Trout street, opposite Briggs & Taylor's Clothing and Tailoring, has been opened by Mr. H. H. Harris, a former president of Columbia College, who is in the habit of criticizing, briefly, the compositions of the senior class.

KEEN REPROOF.

Dr. Harris, a former president of Columbia College, was in the habit of criticizing, briefly, the compositions of the senior class. One day a candidate for the position of rector, who had remarkably beautiful essay, to which his classmates listened with rapt attention.

Obituaries.

Brown & Kirkland. Domestic Hardware, Iron and Steel, Castings, Millstones, Mill Trunks, Grinding Stones, and other machinery.

Miscellaneous Advertisements.

Boardman & Gray's Piano Fortes. The Boardman & Gray Piano Fortes are celebrated for their tone and durability.

Educational.

Andrew Female College. This is under the jurisdiction of the Texas Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Travel and Transportation.

Notice to Travelers in Texas. Important information for those traveling in Texas, including routes and schedules.

Professional Cards.

Law. Thomas H. Brennan, Attorney and Counselor at Law, in and General Land Agent, Hempstead, Austin Co., Texas.

Obituaries.

Obituary notice for a deceased individual, mentioning family details and funeral arrangements.

Miscellaneous Advertisements.

Advertisement for a business or service, providing contact information and details.

Educational.

Advertisement for an educational institution or program, detailing courses and enrollment.

Travel and Transportation.

Advertisement for travel services, including routes and schedules for various destinations.

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