

THE TEXAS CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE.

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The Texas Christian Advocate.

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For the Texas Christian Advocate. COMPLIMENTARY. Ma. Pro Tem.—A friend writing from Missouri, and giving a free expression of his feelings and judgment, in reference to Texas, the Texas Christian Advocate, and its editor, which we will take the liberty to send you for publication. We could send many such statements, but this like self-praise, we are almost at Nashville. Mr. Gillespie, who is absent at Nashville. He says: "I esteem the Texas Christian Advocate above all others. I am taking the St. Louis Christian Advocate, a paper I feel in duty bound to patronize; notwithstanding, were I to take only one, I would take the Texas Christian Advocate. It is larger, and printed on better paper, and the matter contained therein just suits me. You have a great State, and great men (and when I say great, I mean all that belongs to true greatness). The editor of the Texas Christian Advocate is an honor to the world of editors. May he live long to do good."

This is but the echo of the general sentiment that prevails at home. The religious feature is one of importance in a proselyting religious paper, and a veteran of the cross said yesterday, in love-feast, "I have scarcely any religious associates, hardly any proselyting person to talk to, but when I get the Texas Christian Advocate, I take it and go to my room, and read, and cry, and shout, and praise God for the comfort it is to me."

The very design of the paper is to awaken the wicked, correct the erring, and comfort the righteous. We are all fond of reading a religious newspaper that breathes a liberal, healthy, true and lively spirit of vital godliness, even while earnestly contending for the faith once delivered to the saints."

Let it disseminate truth in all the majesty of the Gospel's divine sanction, and meekness and love, the bold characteristics of all concerned, editor, agent, contributors, and subscribers work together in the same spirit, and for the same end, and then the attractive influences of the Advocate will draw friends by the thousands, at home and abroad. May you, Mr. Pro Tem., enjoy much comfort in carrying on the perplexing financial department of this great work.

A TEXAS SUBSCRIBER.

THE REVIVAL. We request all to read the following with attention, which we copy from the Northern Christian Advocate:

It is not without a cause. We have been jealous with a giddy jealousy over this point. Many persons, many newspapers, have given currency to the impression that the present great revival has no antecedents of human instrumentality, adequate to account for it; that it is, to a great extent, unaccountable; that the inference seems to be, that the connection between the faithfulness of the Christians, and the prosperity and extension of religion. Now, we are not called upon necessarily to point out the obvious and visible antecedent instrumentality by which this work has been brought about. But we wish to warn the Churches on the point, that all revivals have a cause, efficient and secondary; just as much as all phenomena in nature. God is the efficient cause of evangelized revivals, and his word and ordinances, his Church and the influence of Christians, are the secondary or instrumental cause. This order is established, these connections fixed. We do not now argue this point, we only warn the Church not to forget it, or to look for a revival in the air, in a fact, in every place where the Spirit of the Lord has been poured out, there have been special prayers and exhortations and sermons offered, special humiliation and self-examination and consecration to God practiced. These special means have preceded the special outpouring.

Again consider, that prayers offered up in months and years gone by, by the faithful of the Church, may receive a sudden, public, and glorious answer. Cornelius prayed long before the full answer came, and when it came, it was public and glorious, and proportioned to the habit of faithfulness that had characterized him in years past. His "prayers and his alms" were come as a memorial before God. They were come as a memorial of his faithful life, his sincere zeal, but the fact that they were memorials, showed them to have been of long standing, the full reward had been long delayed. At last, however, it came suddenly and with power. Now, the suddenness and glory of a revival may be very disproportionate to the immediately preceding means used, but not disproportionate to the promise of God, or to the instrumentality of long preceding years. How often "one sowing and another reaping." How often the sowing of one year is gathered in during the succeeding year. How often the minister who is honored in helping souls into the kingdom, is only "reaping that which he has sown (compunctively) no labor," while the real instruments of the revival are traceable through a line of pious and devout membership, and the fidelity of some weeping prophet who might have left his charge crying, "Lord who hath believed our report, and to whom hath the arm of the Lord been revealed?" Prayer may not be answered, yet it is heard. The promise may not be fulfilled, yet it is true and sure. This glorious revival has its real antecedents, and stand verily connected with visible causes, but still more with those secret and faithful prayers of years past, which God has heard and treasured up, and kept "memorial" before him, but now in part has graciously answered. Let the Church, then, maintain her faith in the appointed means. "Will not God avenge his own, who cry day and night upon him though he bear long with them?" I tell you that he will avenge them speedily.

This work has called out the talents and gifts of the laity. This is a positive feature of the revival, and it is a most happy omen. The power of the Church is not concentrated in her ministers. Ministers, indeed, should not cultivate less their pulpit power, but less reliance should be placed in pulpit gifts by the Church, and more in the gifts of the membership. Preaching talent is not the only attractive and edifying gift. God hath distributed gifts among the various members, for the edifying of the whole body. This revival recalls attention to the power and responsibility of the laity. Let not this providential hint be lost or forgotten by the Churches.

3. Look to the children. Many Sunday school children have been gathered to the Church. In many places it began with the children. Have you read the chapter in Discipline on the relation of children to the Church? Read and ponder it. Do your duty to the children.—"Take heed that you despise not one of these little ones that believe in Christ." Feed the lambs and turn your care more assiduously to the Sunday school.

4. Don't lay off the armor. Keep your soul alive to God, and you will always delight in his work and see the property of Zion. Young converts must work for God, or they will backslide. Heaven save the Church from the curse of 50,000 backsliders next year. But go on, "add to your faith virtue and knowledge," and all fruits of holiness. Let every convert and every disciple try to bring one more to Christ. Hundreds of young men have been brought in by this revival, whose talents, well improved, would quickly gain "other five," and who might be "strong, and overcome the wicked one, and the world of God abide in them." The world needs their help. This work has been greatly promoted by Young Men's Christian Associations. What a lovely thought! O may the youth of our land arise and be valiant for God.

For the Texas Christian Advocate. THEATRES AND BACKSLIDERS. Mr. ENTON.—As much has lately been said in your columns, in reference to theatres and their pernicious influences, I wish to record a few facts which have fallen under my own observation. A theatrical company from a neighboring city, visited the town in which I lived at the time, and commenced their performances. Many religious persons, being attracted by the novelty of the affair, and not having time for proper reflection, perhaps, attended. The greater part of the Methodists who fell into this snare, gave heed to the admonitions of their pastor, and refrained from further participation. Others had partaken too much of the excitement, and returned to give up the Church rather than the pleasures of the theatre.

Of those who yielded to pastoral entreaties, it is doubtful whether any escaped without great spiritual injury. Some still held to the theatre in their affections, as afterwards appeared from their actions. Deeper and deeper did they plunge into the pleasures of the world, until out loose from the Church. One good brother, (for I believe he was a good man and sincere in his profession,) went to the theatre, and ran fast down the road to ruin—now a happy Christian, now a tempted follower, now an open reviler out loose from all restraint. This I mention in particular, as a prominent example of the course and end of such folly. Oh, how his fall grieved me! He had been a faithful attendant at all the meetings of the Church, and how fervently he prayed for the prosperity of Zion, and the conversion of poor backsliders and hard-hearted sinners. Often did I feel reprieved for want of zeal by his soul-irrigating petitions to the throne of grace. His singing, too, was characterized by a holy ardor and energy not our surplus melted together in love, as we joined with him in one of his favorites:

"Jesus, great shepherd of the sheep. To thee for help we fly; Thy little flock in safety keep! For O, the wolf is nigh!" He comes of hellish malice full, To scatter, tear and slay; He seizes every straggling soul As his own lawful prey. Us into protection take, And gather with thy arm; Unless the wolf we first forsake, The wolf can never harm. We laugh to scorn his cruel power, While by our shepherd's aid; The sheep he never can devour, Unless he first divide. O do not suffer him to part, The souls that here agree; But make us of one mind and heart, And keep us as one in thee! Together let us sweetly live, Together let us die; And each a stony cross receive, And reign along the sky.

I never can sing this song without thinking of that poor "straggling soul." The wolf came nigh in "sheep's clothing;" "he whispered social, be merry, and "offered the cup of enchantment." He entered the fold, divided the flock, and one, yea more, left "our Shepherd's side," and was seized "as his own lawful prey!" And will he indeed devour at last! "Show mercy, Lord, O Lord forgive!" O the multifariousness of temptation! O the subtlety of the tempter! "He comes in the mask of friendship," he flatters the gay and giddy—quotes the moral and religious—encourages the poor and needy to hope for help—speaks kindly and affectionately to widows and orphans—offers consolation to the bereaved, by affecting a peculiar tender regard for the dead. But alas, "at last he lieth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder!" Behold his work: "Bread turned to poison, home laid waste, and every sacred thing dishonored!" Our straggling brother stepped from the theatre into a "drinking saloon," (for that is always the next door from the playhouse,) and began dealing out "liquid fire," which he had solemnly pledged himself to oppose "to the end of life." Thus descending at one leap to the deepest depths of degradation, dragging others with him. He said he engaged in this business from necessity, to make a support for his family. Poor deluded man! Others had tried this experiment before him, in the same town. The history of some of them I recollect. Five died in the business, from drunkenness; of which four left widows and orphan families, at least, were left in a destitute condition, on the charities of the people, except what little they could make by hard labor. The other two were, perhaps, in living circumstances. Three quit the business, one dying soon

after, leaving an impoverished family, another continuing gambling for a livelihood, and the third becoming a warm advocate of the temperance cause, making a comfortable living.—Another continues the business in a certain locality, but his life has been despaired of more than once, I believe, on account of intemperance. Here, then, is the history of nine "dealers." Others I may have forgotten, but none within my knowledge, increased in wealth or respectability while in "the traffic," or gained for themselves length of days. Surely the hope of gain hangs on a strong cord, when such a weight of testimony and experience as the foregoing will not break it.

Our brother (O that I might still call him thus, as in bright days past) was an official member, and truly may I say "we took sweet counsel together." "Alas, my brother!" as fall the dissolution prophet, so hast thou fallen—a prey to the lion, thou to the wolf of temptation; but thou mayest arise again. "Let the wicked forsake his ways, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon." Are there yet Christians who patronize and encourage theatres? Let them read the above, and let them note carefully its effects upon themselves. Can one say that he has been spiritually improved, or even that he has maintained his religious standing and enjoyment? Many have acknowledged their religious declension with regret, and have been enabled to sing with the understanding, "Where is the blessedness I knew?" Let us all be more devoted to Christ, and avoid "every appearance of evil," and then will sinful pleasures cease to trouble the Church. Haverhill, May 1, 1858.

NEW YORK CORRESPONDENCE.

Mr. ENTON.—Poor Flora McFlimsey who has been complaining of "nothing to wear," ever since the financial crisis, made her appearance the other day, at one of our large antique rooms. It was a sale of rich, rare, camel's hair cashmere shawls, some bringing from one hundred and fifty to one hundred and seventy dollars each, and Flora purchased the most costly, the dry goods merchants taking the others. If you have Texas Floras, they can be supplied at Stewart & Co.

If Flora is becoming extravagant again, our importing merchants are not disposed to run in debt abroad, especially to please and accommodate her notions. This is a good sign in hard times. Our importations in dry goods of late have fallen off immensely. Imports at New York for week ending May the first, 1857, \$1,665,652. Imports at New York for week ending May the first, 1858, \$1,958,250. Decrease this year, \$1,467,100!!! In general merchandise, week ending May 1st, 1857, \$3,123,124, week ending May 1st, 1858, \$1,302,997. Decrease in one week \$822,927!!! Let us extend the figures a little. Total importation from June to May 1857, \$81,529,064. Total importation from June to May 1858, \$39,720,278. Decrease in four months, \$41,808,786!!! At this rate of declension, and with your cotton crops, from the South going to Europe, Brother Jonathan will soon be out of debt, and easy.

Our May Religious Anniversaries have commenced. Dr. Dabney of Virginia, preached the twenty-first annual sermon before the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions. Receipts of the year \$207,951 51, with some \$18,000 reserved to repair losses in India. Thirty missionaries have been sent out the past year, and ten others are waiting an opportunity to embark for their fields of christian labor. Connected with the Society are one hundred and seventy laborers, fifty-four "helpers," twenty-three churches, and nearly five thousand native youths under Christian training. The year has been one of unmingled sorrow and gratitude. At Pittsburgh eight beloved and useful missionaries with two children were slaughtered by bloody Sepoy violence, five others died in the holy work; still God has been merciful in preserving the health and lives of the great body of the missionaries and families in India, and to the peculiar trials and dangers, to which they were exposed. What an argument for our holy faith and religion is the noble testimony which these martyred brethren bore for Christ, when in the immediate moment of a cruel and violent death, which their Christian converts exhibited, when sorely persecuted even in the bosom of their health and lives of the great body of the missionaries and families in India, and to the peculiar trials and dangers, to which they were exposed. What an argument for our holy faith and religion is the noble testimony which these martyred brethren bore for Christ, when in the immediate moment of a cruel and violent death, which their Christian converts exhibited, when sorely persecuted even in the bosom of their health and lives of the great body of the missionaries and families in India, and to the peculiar trials and dangers, to which they were exposed. 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G. W. Carter—I suppose the object is to secure an authoritative construction of the law. I think that, as the General Conference have given so many more and fuller decisions than the College of Bishops, we shall gain our object more completely by publishing the Conference decisions since the year 1812, and those of the Bishops since 1854.

H. N. McTyeire—I think Brother Carter will agree with the mover and the amender of the resolution, and with me, that this proposition is not intended merely to secure a compilation of authoritative decisions, but to secure uniformity of decisions and administrations. For example, I happened to be in General Conference when this state of things came out.

N. H. Lee—I do not wish to consume time, but as I was the original mover of the resolution, it is proper that I should say a few words. My proposition was to make public, in which I considered the proper way, the decisions of law made by our Bishops.

J. P. Green—I think, sir, that there is more in this than we see at the first blush. Suppose the resolution of Brother Wilson should prevail. Suppose it were to pass, and the book be printed as therein indicated, and pass into the hands of the preachers.

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W. A. Smith—I have no objection, and will withdraw the substitute, if it can be allowed to make an explanation. I did not, in offering the resolution, propose to discuss the wisdom of the present law. Without attempting to decide or settle any thing, I sought to accord the resolution with the law, as I understood it.

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TEXAS CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE

GALVESTON, TEXAS.

TUESDAY, JUNE 1, 1858.

TO OUR PATRONS.

All who are acquainted with us are aware that we are proud to be numbered as a controversialist. It is not the editor of the Advocate, nor do we ever aspire to be. We are in that capacity at present from necessity, and not from choice; and we regret that any of our contemporaries should have taken the trouble to attack our paper, during the absence of the regular editor.

Our readers are well aware that we have no press on which to print our paper. We are entirely dependent on the *News* or *Civilian* for that favor. We have had it printed at the latter office, but found it more to our interest to have it done at the former. They have four large papers to print besides ours, and a large amount of job work, so that we are compelled to suit their convenience, and not our own.

When our Publishing Committee met last February, this subject was brought up, also the great difficulty we labored under in not getting our paper printed on such a day as we wished, and we suggested the importance of immediately ordering a Power Press, and calling on our patrons for funds to pay for it.

Our printing arrangements will soon be in the most complete order, and we will be able to give our readers the latest news, as soon as any weekly newspaper in Galveston. This will be a great benefit to our friends in the country, for by the present arrangement they are frequently a week behind the other city papers.

Under these circumstances, we were induced to adopt the most prompt and energetic measures, in carrying forward the primary object of our Agency. Prompted by an anxious desire to meet the wants and wishes of the Church, as well as to provide for the heavy current expenses that had been devolved upon us, there was no alternative—we must make progress at all hazards.

Our success has greatly exceeded our expectations. The House has been in operation for only about three years, during which time we have stereotyped, manufactured, and now have on sale, 322 different books of our own catalogue, varying in size and style from the little 72mo Sunday School book of 96 pages, up to Watson's Dictionary of 1114 pages royal octavo.

Mr. Editor: The answer you give to numerous inquiries, respecting why these Minutes have not been published, is not satisfactory. It is well known that yourself were Secretary or assistant, and now after a lapse of about five months, you tell us it is for want of the "manuscript."

Under these circumstances, we were induced to adopt the most prompt and energetic measures, in carrying forward the primary object of our Agency. Prompted by an anxious desire to meet the wants and wishes of the Church, as well as to provide for the heavy current expenses that had been devolved upon us, there was no alternative—we must make progress at all hazards.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE AGENTS OF THE PUBLISHING HOUSE.

To the Bishops and Members of the General Conference, in Conference Assembled:—Rev. AND DEAR BRETHREN:—In rendering up the very important and responsible trust committed to our hands, we would respectfully append to our Financial Exhibit a few additional facts and reflections, touching the interests involved. We owe it as well to ourselves as to your venerable body, to furnish every necessary and desired information, respecting the past history and present condition of the Publishing House, that you may be better prepared to judge and determine, in relation to its future policy and administration.

You will certainly expect to be advised of all the means and assets, of every description, that have come into our hands as capital stock since the commencement of our Agency. From the accompanying paper, marked (A), it will be seen that while the exhibit of our worthy predecessor, of March 29, 1854, showed a nominal balance of \$118,777 in his favor, including \$70,000 received of Messrs. Carlton & Phillips; yet, when divided of all entries, involving no available assets to us, however right and proper their appearance in that Exhibit may have been, the Methodist book stock on hand, reduced from wholesale to cost prices, and a reasonable discount allowed for probable losses on outstanding notes and accounts, the net balance was brought down to \$85,437 60, consisting, as it will be recollected, of stereotype plates, book and sheet stock, notes, accounts, cash, and bills receivable.

To the balance should, however, be added \$17,051 05 received from the Trustees of the Chartered Fund, together with \$121,000 in unmatured bonds on Messrs. Carlton & Phillips, bringing up the actual amount transferred to us by our predecessor—minus the old New York claims, which no account has ever been taken, except as these funds have been realized—to \$223,488 65.

Under the Cincinnati adjustment we received, from Messrs. Swinmsted & Poe, during the spring of 1855, in cash, \$15,000; in five successive annual instalments, \$45,000; and in book stock, as our wants might require, \$20,000; to all of which should be added \$10,572 32, received at sundry times, on Nashville subscriptions, together with \$11,885 48, received on old New York and Cincinnati claims, with \$4700 from the Vanhouten legacy, per R. Abney; making the total amount of our receipts, of every description and from all sources, \$336,945 46.

It should, however, be recollected, that within thirty days from the adjournment of the General Conference of 1854, we paid out in actual cash, as per order of that body, and on drafts of Southern Commissioners, in favor of counsel in Church suits, \$9539 87. See paper marked (B).

After meeting this heavy cash liability, and the constantly maturing debts of the former Agency, together with the current expenses of the new organization and its dependencies, the actual amount of cash left at our disposal was so far reduced, as to render it a matter of some doubt, whether we were in circumstances to attempt the main object of our Agency, viz: the establishment of a Publishing House proper. But it was evidently our duty to go forward, and we accordingly did so, with the advice and approval of the General Book Committee.

The absolute necessity of getting the whole enterprise under way, at the earliest possible moment, and of being prepared to do as large a business as our capital and credit would admit, will be sufficiently obvious, when it is recollected that the current expenses of the new organization—whether we did little or much—amounted to \$27,465 per annum. See paper marked (C).

This large cash liability had to be promptly met, and if not realized on the profits of the business, had to be paid out of the capital stock. Besides this, the demand for "progress" was incessant, imperative, and at times afflicting in the extreme. By private letters we were advised and admonished—through the columns of some of our weekly issues, we were censured and condemned for want of energy and dispatch—while the demand for books, tracts, &c., was said to be urgent, wide-spread, and rapidly increasing.

Under these circumstances, we were induced to adopt the most prompt and energetic measures, in carrying forward the primary object of our Agency. Prompted by an anxious desire to meet the wants and wishes of the Church, as well as to provide for the heavy current expenses that had been devolved upon us, there was no alternative—we must make progress at all hazards. Hence we were compelled to invest largely in real estate, fixtures, stereotype plates, material, etc. Our Northern claims had to be cashed as best they could, while our credit, or rather yours, had to be taxed to the utmost extent. This was deeply regretted, but there was no way of escape. We must either abandon the enterprise *in toto*, or adopt this policy.

And should our brethren and friends of that city and section of our work, succeed in procuring a suitable house for the transaction of its business, and for other important Church purposes, as it is to be hoped they may, a well-conducted Depository in New Orleans can hardly fail to accomplish a great work, in the distribution of our books, tracts, &c., throughout all that vast range of country, which, in a commercial point of view, is intimately connected.

The Louisville Depository was discontinued at an early period after our appointment to the Agency, exclusively on the ground of our inability to sustain it, under the circumstances in which we were then placed. Since that time we have been in no condition to establish Depositories at any of the points designated by the last General Conference, except at Charleston and the little commencement that has been made at New Orleans; in both cases the inducements having been such as to forbid our acting otherwise than we did.

Our brief report, in relation to the periodicals issued from the Publishing House, will no doubt be expected. The Nashville *Advocate* has thus far met its current expenses; and, at the close of our fiscal year, on the 28th of August, next according to our estimate, will have a balance of \$2356 95 in its favor. (See Paper Number 1.)

The Home Circle had a balance of \$378 08 in its favor on the first of April last. But by the close of our financial year, if our estimates be correct, the balance against it will amount to \$2956 41. (See Paper Number 2.)

The Quarterly Review is greatly in arrears. On the first of April it was owing the House \$2529 07, which will be considerably increased by the close of the current volume. (See Paper Number 3.)

The Sunday School Visitor has also failed to meet the cost of its publication. After receiving from the Society \$1445 72, it is still involved in a debt to the House of \$2145 72, which will probably be somewhat diminished by the first of August. (See Paper Number 4.)

A few observations respecting the operations of the Tract and Sunday School Societies, in so far as they are connected with our publishing interests, will close this part of our communication. The Tract Society has evidently accomplished a great and good work, in the circulation of Southern Methodist literature throughout the Southern States generally; still, in a financial point of view, it has not met the expectation of its friends. It was understood, at the time of its organization, that its transactions with the Publishing House would be mainly confined to the cash principle; but in this we have been disappointed, as will be seen in our Financial Exhibit. The balance against the Society, on the 1st of April, was at Nashville, \$29,122 99; and at Charleston, about \$2500. This is too large a debt to be borne by the House, and especially so, coming as it does from a society that looks to the benevolence and patriotism of the Church for its support. This claim should be liquidated at an early day—the financial condition of the House imperatively demands it.

We regret that the Sunday School Society has attempted but little—hence, but little has been accomplished. In fact, this great enterprise has not as yet been submitted to the Methodist public. It is time, high time, that some measures were adopted by which the Society might not only be relieved of its present embarrassments, but fully prepared for the accomplishment of great achievements in the future.

Besides the large indebtedness of the Visitor, it should be known that we have stereotyped a number of books, almost exclusively designed for the use of Sunday Schools, and for which we had fully expected to be remunerated by the Society; but up to this hour the first dollar has not been received on that account. That your Publishing House should be thus burdened for the benefit of a cause that has such undoubted claims on the liberality of the public, is wholly out of the question. The design of the Sunday School organization, was not only to raise funds for the gratuitous supply of destitute Sabbath Schools, but to aid and assist the publishers in keeping down the price of such stock to the lowest possible rates.

Measures should, therefore, be promptly adopted to awaken in the Church a deep and lively interest in behalf of this noble enterprise. There is no movement in Christendom that has superior claims to public favor and patronage, to those of the Sunday School cause. The poor and destitute of our country should everywhere be supplied with our Sunday School publications, if not gratuitously, at very reduced prices. There is liberality enough in the Church, and among her numerous friends, to accomplish wonders in this department of Christian enterprise. Only let the doors be effectually opened—the cause fully and faithfully represented—and we will cheerfully follow for the result. Some plan should certainly be adopted by which the Publishing House may not only be indemnified for past expenditures, but fully prepared, without the hazard of loss, to do more abundantly in the future.

Real Estate... Bills... [Vertical text on the right margin]

