

Christian Advocate.

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GALVESTON, TEXAS, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1873.

[WHOLE No. 1027.

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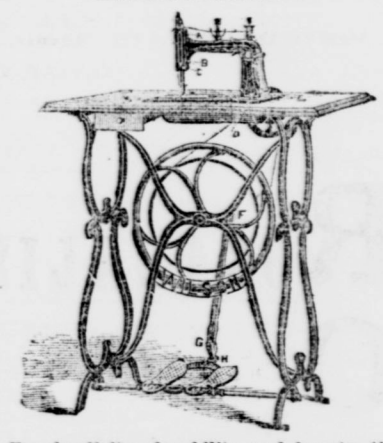
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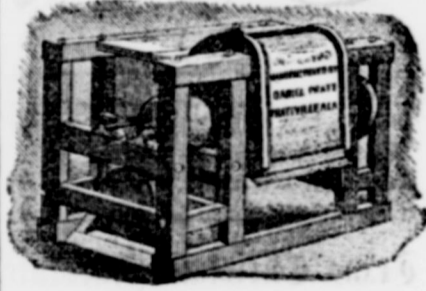
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Christian Advocate.

PUBLISHED FOR THE TEXAS ANNUAL CONFERENCES OF THE M. E. CHURCH, SOUTH—BY THE ADVOCATE PUBLISHING COMPANY.

VOL. XX—No. 39.]

GALVESTON, TEXAS, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1873.

[WHOLE No. 1027.

TREASURE OF AGRICULTURE.

GOTTFRIED AUGUST BURGERL.

A vintner at the point of death,
Spoke to his sons with parting breath:
"A treasure in our vineyard lies.
Dig for it!"—"Say, where is the prize?"
Aloud they to their father cried.
"Dig, dig!" he said, when lo! he died.

Ere in his grave he long had lain,
They searched and dug with might and main.
With spade, and mattock, and with hoe
The vineyard o'er and o'er they throw.
No clod escaped their zealous toil,
E'en through a sieve they passed the soil,
And drew the rakes across, around,
For ev'ry stone upon the ground;
But of the treasure saw no trace;
Each thought 'twas but a wild-goose chase.

But scarce the sun its yearly round
Had made, when they with wonder found
Each vine-tree bore a three-fold prize.
Then grew, at length, the children wise,
And, year on year revolving round,
Dug greater treasures from the ground.

Texas Resources.

Weatherford.

MR. EDITOR—I think I am safe in saying that the town of Weatherford, in Parker county, is as orderly and quiet as any town in the Lone Star State. One is very favorably impressed with the town as soon as he arrives. He sees, and knows, and feels at once—although he is "green from the States"—that he is among a people who love good order and quietude. This speaks well in behalf of the town. The people of the town are kind, clever and frank, and make a new-comer feel at home among them—that he is a "part and parcel" of them, if he is honest, industrious and calculated to be an acquisition to the town. Well, this is as it should be; for honesty should be respected, industry admired and merit recognized everywhere. The business men of the town are wide-awake, shrewd, far-seeing and masters of their situation. Some of the merchants have been in the "blues" in consequence of the non-arrival of their goods, but we noticed yesterday that some goods were arriving, and we trust that the epizooty, which has made such havoc in the business world, is abating, and that our merchants will find a ready sale for their goods when they arrive, although late, and take consolation from the old adage—"Better late than never!"

I had the pleasure of visiting the mechanical shops—P. C. Mills' carding machinery and mattress making of Messrs. Carson & Lewis—a few days since and was very much pleased with their *modus operandi*. This speaks well for the thrift and enterprise of these gentlemen. There is no discount on their work. They have skillful workmen, who, knowing their duty, do it. My friend Lewis is all life and energy, and knows exactly how to "handle the ropes" to advantage. Weatherford compares very favorably with Sherman, and goods can be bought as cheap here as in the former place. The business men of the place are acting very judiciously in relation to the railroad. They are neither too hot nor too cold, but occupy the "golden mean." They want the road, and so does everybody else, but they are not willing to give such a bonus, in order to get the road, as will be an incubus upon their vitals for years to come. This shows wisdom and foresight on the part of these men. Of course

they are willing to give a reasonable bonus to get the road. This is just and proper. We think we will get the road, and then Weatherford will be *rectus in curia*, and will shine as brilliantly as any of her sister towns.

S. E. BURKHEAD.

Fort Worth and Tarrant County.

Fort Worth, the county seat of Tarrant county, is situated at the junction of the West Fork and Clear Fork of the Trinity river. Its elevation above the bed of the river is about 110 feet, and above the waters of the Gulf of Mexico about 1100 feet; consequently the atmosphere here is as salubrious as it is possible for air to be in any latitude. It has been proved to be as healthy as any town of its size in any country. No epidemic has ever visited this place, and the mortality here, thus far, has been remarkably small. As an indication that the town and surrounding country are unusually healthy, the writer would remark that the inhabitants who have resided here for years have a bloom of health not found among those of miasmatic regions. The soil rests upon a limestone foundation, and the prevailing soil is a rich loam, interspersed with gravel; consequently it is never very muddy or dusty within the city limits. Good well water can be obtained anywhere by digging from fourteen to eighteen feet below the surface, and from fourteen to thirty feet anywhere in the county, the average being about twenty feet.

Tarrant county is about one-third timber and two-thirds prairie. It is well watered by living springs and perpetual streams. There are no marshes in the county, but every foot of ground is arable. Lands are valued at from one to twenty-five dollars per acre, according to the location of the same, and the improvements thereon. The county seat, Fort Worth, is situated very near the geographical centre of the county, and it is easy of access from all directions. The population of Tarrant county is about nine thousand, and this is rapidly increasing. The number of voters already registered is eighteen hundred, and only one hundred of these are negroes! As contrasted with all other counties in the State this may with truth be called "the white man's county," and a more orderly and law-abiding people cannot be found anywhere. At a recent term of the court there were but three criminals, two of those being negroes. Churches and schools prevail, and these are in a flourishing condition. Take it all in all, Tarrant county is one of the most desirable ones to locate in that the farmer, mechanic or tradesman can find in the State, and in some respects it possesses advantages over and above those of all others.

Fort Worth has a population of about fifteen hundred, and it is safe to predict that this number will be increased a hundredfold annually for several years to come. The signs of the times indicate this in an unmistakable manner. For several months emigration to this point has been quite heavy, and the increase is daily growing more rapid than ever before.

Many of the buildings here are of a substantial character, the courthouse and jail and many store houses, for

instance, being of rock, quarried near here, and the school houses and some other houses being of brick manufactured in this vicinity. Pine lumber, however, is scarce and dear. At present it is hauled from Wood county and sold at \$5 per hundred. The opening of railway communication to this point will reduce this price fully one-half.

For a frontier town Fort Worth is orderly to an unusual extent. There are but few dram-shops here, and drunkenness, though not unknown, is still quite limited, much more so than in most towns of the same size in the older States.

There will soon be hotel room enough to meet the demands of strangers visiting this town, and already there are several good boarding houses. The price of board and lodging is about \$25 a month. Fine beef sells from three to five cents per pound, corn at fifty cents a bushel, wheat one dollar, flour at \$1 per hundred pounds, eggs at twenty-five cents a dozen, and vegetables are offered at very reasonable rates.

Town lots for business purposes are now selling from \$100 to \$300 each. These are in size 25x100 feet.

The town, which, by-the-by, is not yet incorporated, contains for its size rather more than the usual number of merchants, tradesmen, lawyers, land agents, etc. There is an opening here, however, for two or three more first-class physicians. Good mechanics—particularly masons and builders—can find plenty to do here at remunerative rates.

The Masonic fraternity has a lodge here, numbering one hundred members, and the Odd Fellows have also a flourishing lodge, numbering about forty members. There are two large private schools, one public school, and church facilities; also one banking house, about twenty stores, a planing mill, and in the vicinity one flouring mill and three saw mills. In the country there are several water privileges yet unimproved. These can be made available at least nine months each year.

The Texas Pacific and the Trans-Continental Railways will be opened to Fort Worth. These roads are rapidly advancing in this direction, and preparations are being made for their reception. The depot grounds, donated by three citizens of this town and one of Tyler, contain three hundred and twenty acres. These are located south of the town, less than three-fourths of a mile from the public square. They extend in an oblong shape from Clear Fork to the main Trinity river.

The county also donated bonds to the extent of \$100,000, payable in forty years, the same to draw seven per cent. interest from the date of issuance, and the bonds to be issued as the work upon the depots and work-shops progresses. The county being nearly out of debt, these are about all of its obligations at present.

The Wichita will also be turned so as to intersect with the Texas Pacific and Trans-Continental at this point, or else a tap-road will be constructed from Fort Worth to that road. At least such are the intentions of the citizens of Tarrant county.

Such railroad facilities as Fort Worth will soon possess, together with its natural advantages, place it pre-eminently in advance of all other towns

in Northern Texas as a great commercial and railroad centre. This is conceded by all, with the exception of those interested in the success of rival towns.

Preparations are now being made here for the erection of depots and work-shops on a very extensive scale, and it is safe to predict that ere long not less than one thousand artisans will be employed on these works alone.

There are those now living who will yet see not only our town site, but the entire country which surrounds it for miles, crowded with an enterprising and prosperous people. Those who are now searching for grounds on which to build their residences "out of town," will, if they so improve them, within two or three miles of the public square, in many instances live to see the day when their homes will be surrounded by the busy movements of a prosperous city. The city limits will be extended from time to time to meet its business demands, until its confines will embrace an area many fold greater than our present town limits. All this will occur within a very limited period.

These are not the predictions of an enthusiast, or of a pecuniary interested party alone, but they are the expressed opinions of many of the leading capitalists of the country at large, and particularly of those among their number who have visited this section and seen with their own eyes what we are and what we are bound to become.

SAFELY ARRIVED.—The pioneer steamer of the Liverpool and Texas Steamship Company—"San Jacinto," Capt. A. C. Burrows—arrived off our bar Sunday evening, 2d inst., having made the trip from Liverpool in twenty-eight days. Owing to the heavy fog prevailing, the steamer was compelled to remain at anchor, but her passengers, numbering some 240, were taken off by a steam lighter, and all landed in good health and spirits. We learn the passenger list was increased by three births on board the steamer while *en route*; and we are glad to say that no sickness prevailed. This speaks well for the vessel and its arrangements for ventilation, room and diet, which are said to be unsurpassed by any line coming to this country. We may now look to this route for a steady supply of reliable settlers, similar to those by this first vessel, who are all, we learn, already provided for in the matter of employers; and each succeeding steamer will doubtless come loaded with those seeking homes in our broad State.

WE are under obligations to G. Onderdonk, of Mission Valley, Victoria county, Texas, for a copy of his handbook and descriptive catalogue of fruits, etc., cultivated and for sale at the Mission Valley Nurseries. It furnishes valuable information to those who would improve and beautify their homes with fruit and shade trees. Mr. Onderdonk has devoted years to the culture of fruit, and is able to furnish valuable information respecting the varieties best adapted to our soil.

Our Outlook.

TEXAS METHODISM.

—Rev. S. C. Littlepage, of Bryan station, Texas Conference, reports six accessions to the church since conference, and considers the prospects for good very favorable.

—Rev. H. M. Glass, President of Owensville High School, writes us respecting the institution under his charge:

Owensville High School at last seems to be entering upon a career of success and usefulness. Pupils are coming in every day, and the spring session promises a fine attendance from abroad. Our buildings are quite comfortable for winter or summer, location healthy, community moral, and the school furnishes ample facilities for a solid and practical education. Owensville is easy of access: From Englewood three and a half miles, and Calvert and Bremond, on the "Central," each ten miles.

—Mr. David Ayres informs us that the workmen have promised positively that St. James church will be ready for occupation on the first Sunday in March.

SOUTHERN METHODISM.

—Since Conference we have had one hundred additions to our church in Colorado. At several points there is quite an interest felt in church building. Churches have been organized at Silver Star and Virginia City, in the Deer Lodge district, Montana Territory.

NORTHERN METHODISM.

—The annual meeting of the Sunday-School Union of the Methodist Episcopal Church has just been held at the Mission Board Room in New York. The report of the Treasurer showed receipts at New York during the year, amounting to \$17,152.22, disbursements amounting to \$12,776.18. These figures do not indicate the business done by the branch committees in the West. Bishop Morris was elected President for 1873.

EPISCOPAL.

—The annual Epiphany Offerings for Missions, in Grace church, Brooklyn, last Sunday, reached the unprecedentedly large sum of *twelve thousand dollars*. Such a heaping of "alms and oblations" at one time upon God's altar, is surely a matter for profound gratitude to Almighty God.

—The Episcopal Bishop of Nebraska is now engaged in erecting the thirty-second church in his original missionary jurisdiction, since the commencement of his episcopate, six years ago.

—The Episcopal Society for the increase of the ministry has existed sixteen years and helped to educate nearly 300 men. It has 112 young men under its care.

—The Rev. Charles Voysey, who was silenced in the Church of England, on account of his Unitarianism, has introduced a new rite as a substitute for baptism. It is called the dedication and benediction of children, and is performed without water.

—The Bishop of Manchester has declared pew-renting in the churches of the Establishment illegal; that the pews are the common property of the parish, whose right to accommodation cannot be alienated. If this be so, then the system of Establishment is entitled to one long, bright mark of credit.

SOUTHERN PRESBYTERIAN.

—Five Presbyterian churches have recently been organized in the territory lying between the Wilmington and Weldon and the Atlantic and North Carolina Railroads and the sea coast of North Carolina.

The surviving members of the Board

of Trustees of the Theological Seminary of the United Presbyterian Synod, which, when established, was to have been located at the University of Virginia, have, chiefly through the influence of Rev. T. W. Hooper, turned over \$15,000 to the Hampden Sydney College.

PRESBYTERIAN.

—The Old School Presbyterian Synod of Missouri is made up of 6 Presbyteries, 140 churches, 77 ministers and 7,563 members. During the last year 591 persons were received by examination, and 351 by letter.

—The Trustees of Presbyterian Hospital in Philadelphia have had *private rooms* fitted up in one of their buildings for patients who desire and are able to pay for better accommodations than can be had in the general wards of the hospital. Application may be made to Mr. John A. E. Walk, superintendent at the hospital, corner of Thirty-ninth and Powelton Avenue, Philadelphia.

—The opposition of the Presbyterian Church to secret societies continues as pronounced as ever. The Presbytery of Alleghany lately passed resolutions requiring pastors to preach against such societies; directing church sessions to call upon such members of their churches as may belong to the societies and show them the sin of their course; and ordering that if this admonition is not heeded, the erring brethren must be disciplined.

CONGREGATIONAL.

—A Congregational pastor in New Hampshire has awakened to the necessity of doing something more with new converts than simply admitting them into the church and giving them a manual of its faith, which they may never have seen before. He believes that they should have an intelligent idea and a living sense of the step they are taking, and he would therefore have them thoroughly instructed in creed and covenant before making a public profession. He has tried the plan of a six months' probation and instruction, with encouraging success.

REFORMED CHURCH.

—The Reformed church at Schaghticoke, N. Y., has been an organized congregation for more than 150 years. It was once a large congregation, and the only church within a circuit of twenty miles. This venerable church is now quite restricted in numbers, wealth, and scope of territory. It dedicated a new church in the fall, which will soon be paid for.

BAPTIST.

—Rev. W. W. Everts, D.D., pastor of the First Church of Chicago, reports through the *Standard* the receipt of \$15,304 17 from donors in many parts of the country, for Baptist Churches and pastors who were sufferers by the great fire.

—The correspondents of the *St. Louis Central Baptist* report numerous revivals in their respective charges.

—The Baptist Churches of Illinois have a membership of nearly 60,000. They are divided into 846 churches and forty associations. It is a lamentable fact that the 846 churches have only 474 pastors, while there are in the State 949 ordained ministers, besides 118 licensed preachers.

—Reports from the interior of Russia, state that the Baptist sect are making unprecedented progress in the acquisition of converts. Dozens and scores are rebaptized in the rivers or the sea despite the biting cold.

LUTHERAN.

—The Synod of Maryland last year contributed \$1,819.59 for mission work, an average of 13½ cents from each communicant. The apportionment for next year is 15 cents for the English, and 5 cents for the German churches.

MORAVIAN.

—The *Moravian*, organ of the United Brethren, says that four of their South American missionaries have been called away by death in four months. The church at Paramibo has been enlarged to contain accommodations for 2,500 persons. Often as many as 1,200 communicants are present. Rev. W. Mumford, superintendent of the Mission on the Island of St. Kitts, West Indies, retires from duty on account of ill-health, after 23 years service.

FRIENDS.

—A rupture is impending in the Quaker Church on the subject of singing, conference and prayer meetings, and various methods of church worship peculiar to other denominations. The progressive party are insisting on these changes, while others are tenacious of former usages.

—The missionary enterprise of the Friends in Jubbulpore, India, and in the adjacent districts of Nerbudda Valley, was first undertaken seven years ago by Rachel Metcalf, who now has two girls' schools in successful operation at Jubbulpore.

UNITARIAN.

—The Boston fire has temporarily paralyzed the contributions of the Unitarian churches to mission work at home and abroad, and the committee of the General Association have therefore determined to respond only to the more important appeals, in the hope that the deficit can be made up as the year advances and prospects brighten.

CATHOLIC.

—In Koenigsburg, Prussia, there is a "Free-Evangelical-Catholic" congregation, with a membership of 294. It is governed by a president, a pastor, and a presbytery of five persons. This congregation was founded in 1846 as a free congregation, and in 1859 it was united with the *Christian-Catholic* congregation. Its motto is *radical reform*.

—The Old Catholics in Austria are said to be considerably in advance of their fellow-religionists in Bavaria. A meeting recently held in Vienna accepted the Munich resolutions as a temporary basis for their creed and action; only the primacy of the Pope was emphatically rejected and the cautious conduct of the moderate party censured. It is affirmed that Bishop Strossmayer and two other bishops adhere to the movement.

JEWISH.

—Four costly synagogues have been erected in New York within the past five years, and as some of them have been moved from their former localities many of the poorer worshippers are deprived of their accustomed services. The only missionary enterprises of the Jews in the city are their free schools, and these are not well sustained, notwithstanding the wealth of the denomination. The *Jewish Messenger* takes these facts to heart, and sees "nothing hopeful in setting up masses of stone, brick and mortar, into what are called synagogues, and rushing into the wilderness of mortgages and loans, while the vital spirit, the religious idea, is smothered or crowded into a secondary place."

MISCELLANEOUS.

—The will of the late James Suydam is now undisputed. It gives the American Bible Society \$25,000, the American Tract Society \$25,000, the New York Home of the Friendless \$25,000, Rutgers College \$20,000, the Disabled Ministers' Fund \$30,000, and to the New Brunswick Theological Seminary \$60,000—a total of \$185,000.

—Out of 449 churches in Philadelphia, the Baptists have 50 or one-tenth; the Lutherans 26 or one-seventeenth; the Methodists 88 or one-fifth; the Presbyterians 90 or one-fifth; the Episcopalians 85 or nearly one-fifth; the

Romanists 39 or not quite one-eleventh. The five first named have 358 out of 449 places of worship.

—Among celebrated European divines who are expected to attend the meeting of the International Evangelical Alliance in New York, are Dr. Guthrie, Prof. Rainey, Dr. Payne Smith, Dr. Stoughton, Pere Hyacinthe, Prof. Tischendorf, Dr. Tholuck, and Dr. Hoffinan, Court Chaplain to the Emperor of Germany.

—The Supreme Court of Connecticut has just decided an important case. The Methodist church at Bridgeport, Conn., received by a bequest some property, which was taken possession of by the society. Some years after, a majority of the church organized a Congregational society, and conveyed the property over to the Congregationalists. The minority disputed the right of the majority, and brought suit for the property and \$4,000 damages, which have just been awarded them by the court.

—A debate on the subject of Baptism, between Rev. J. Deitzler, of Kentucky (Methodist,) and Elder W. T. Brents, of Bedford county (Christian Church,) was announced to commence at Flat Creek, Bedford county, on Monday, the 20th of Jan., and continue through the week.

—Two gentlemen in England have offered a prize of two hundred and fifty guineas for the best, and one hundred and fifty guineas for the second best, essay on the temperance reformation—its claims upon the Christian Church.

—Rev. Joshua Leavitt, senior editor of the *Independent*, who died last week from a stroke of paralysis, was seventy-eight years of age. He was connected with the press of New York and Boston for forty years.

—The Evangelical Alliance opens in New York, October 2nd next. Many prominent European divines have made arrangements to be present. Krummacher, Hoffman, Christlieb, Pfeleiderer, Tischendorf, are some of the prominent German divines to whom subjects have been assigned for the occasion.

—In England there is excitement in the Methodist Church regarding the subject of "class-meetings," which are ignored by tens of thousands of communicants. The subject is to be considered and decided upon by the next conference.

—A monument to John Bunyan, near the jail, at Bedford, England, where he dreamed his "Pilgrims Progress," is proposed, but certain persons of the Established Church in the place strongly object to it. Possibly the jail, if standing, is considered his most impressive memorial.

—A hearing apparatus, by which the deaf can hear and enjoy the sermon, has been placed in the First Presbyterian church of Lexington, Ky., at an expense of over forty dollars. The model can be had by any one desirous of constructing such an apparatus, by applying to the Rev. Wm. Dinwiddie, the pastor of the church.

—In one of the Lowell churches on a late Sunday the minister stopped suddenly when about half through his sermon, and taking up the hymn-book gave out a hymn, requesting all the congregation to rise and join in the singing, after which he resumed his sermon, evidently well satisfied with the waking up which had been effected.

—The Universalists of Iowa City have dedicated a \$17,500 church.

—The venerable Dr. Land, founder of the Presbyterian Church in Australia, known in the literary world as a historian of distinction, has just retired from the pastorate of the Scots church at Sidney after a ministerial career of exactly fifty years.

TEXAS ITEMS.

They have three banks at Denison.

The Scandinavians are building a church at Waco.

A first-class academy has been established at Kilgore.

Immigration to Brown county is said to be considerable.

The construction trains of the Central have reached Sherman.

The Indians are still committing depredations on our frontier.

A colony of Virginians are to settle in the northern part of our State.

The *Ranger* reports life, bustle and animation as prevailing at Austin.

Nearly half the Texas papers are now advocating the Ohio liquor law.

A silver mine has been discovered on Beaver creek, in Burnet county.

A mail line is called for from Fort Worth to Stephenville via Granberry.

Immigrants are passing through Clarksville daily, all bound westward.

The *Times* says a great many hogs in Vanzandt county are starving to death.

A great many immigrants are reported as moving into Montague county.

The *Ranchero* reports the cattle thieves again operating on the Rio Grande.

Nine deaths occurred in and around Longview, Texas, from cerebro spinal meningitis.

Small-pox prevails among the railroad hands on the Texas Pacific Railroad west of Marshall.

Farmers in all parts of Kaufman county are making preparations for early and extensive crops.

An entertainment is in contemplation at Austin, on the 14th, in the interest of the Methodist church.

Lampasas has no church building, and the *Dispatch* is stirring up the denizens of that burg on the subject.

Friend Laurie Tatum is said to be doing an active business with the Indians; trading off squaws for captive whites.

The Texas Central road has now completed laying the iron to the Choctaw creek, some six miles south of Sherman.

Judge Andrews, of McKinney, cultivates the grape, and has about 2000 vines in his black land vineyard growing finely.

Bonham has donated \$26,000 to the Texas and Pacific Railway, the depot to be located immediately south of the courthouse.

We learn from the *North Texan* that the town of Pilot Point, Denton county, has an excellent school, numbering 250 pupils.

The *Gonzales Inquirer* says that, as a general thing, the freedmen are reluctant about entering into contracts for the coming year.

The grading on the Trans-Continental is going on in the streets of Sherman. The track will run through the center of the town.

Smith county voted \$250,000 to the H. & G. N. R. R., and Tyler, the county seat, gave \$50,000 more to have the depot located near it.

A train of cars ran into Denison a few days ago from the north, covered with snow, presenting a novel but beautiful sight in the bright sunshine.

A building association is being organized in Fort Worth. Over \$5000 have been subscribed, and the present Legislature will be requested to incorporate it.

The Waco Tap road was sold at trustee's sale, on the 4th inst., for four hundred thousand dollars to W. J. Hutchins, Vice-President of the Central.

The *Leon Lone Star* is the name of a new Democratic paper published at Centreville.

The prisoners in the Erath county jail attempted to burn out a few days ago, but yelled out for help when about to suffocate.

The Masons of Lampasas contemplate the erection of a fine stone edifice for the use of the Order. The sum of \$2700 has already been subscribed.

The *Texas Pacific* wants the people of Bosque and Erath to make an effort to have the Waco and Northwestern railroad extended through their counties.

Gen. Dodge, in behalf of the Southern Pacific Railway Company, has presented the presbyterians of Longview with two town lots for church purposes.

A large number of immigrants from Alabama are soon to arrive, in Fayette county, three hundred having already arrived from that State and settled in the county.

A memorial has been presented to the Legislature of Texas, asking the passage of a law making the seller of liquors responsible for all damages done by the intoxicated person.

The *Index* says the contractors on the Houston and Great Northern Railroad have been, for the past two or three weeks, at work within the corporate limits of the city of Tyler.

The *Denison Journal* favors the meeting together of the Legislatures of Texas, Missouri and Kansas, at Denison, as soon as the Central Railroad and Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railroad shall be connected.

The *Denton Journal* says: Some idea of the amount of business done in the city may be gleaned from the fact that the postoffice in this city stamped over ten thousand letters the first twenty-seven days of last month.

The *Huntsville Item* says: On Monday a freight train on the I. & G. N. R. R. was wrecked to the extent of four cars—two being entirely smashed and the other two dented. Nobody damaged but the company and our city.

Active work on the grading of the Texas and Pacific railway through Sherman as well as on the depot building of the same road, is going on this week. The grade on the Central is almost finished in and through town, except some work on the side tracks.

The *Denison Journal* says: "Mr. Lancaster, of the *St. Louis Commercial Gazette*, has been in Denison during the past week, and counted up the business houses in our city. He reports ninety of them, without counting saloons, livery stables, or the pie and cake and smaller eating houses. He also reports thirteen firms making arrangements to open in the course of a week.

The *Sherman Courier* says: "The Trans-Continental Railway Company is building its freight depot at about 100 yards southeast of the Odd Fellow Hall. The freight depot of the H. & T. C. R. R. will be east of the public square, and we hear that the two companies will put a union passenger depot at the point of crossing. The Central is now completed to Choctaw bayou, five miles from this place, and will be completed to this place within the next ten or fifteen days, so we hear.

Col. Irwin, division engineer of the Texas and Pacific roads, informs the *Bonham News* that when the Texas Central reaches Sherman, his road will have two miles of track laid per day, and that in 120 days thereafter the road will be completed to Jefferson. They have 200 platform cars and six locomotives at Corsicana, and track laying on the eastern division is progressing splendidly.

DOMESTIC ITEMS.

The late fire on Broadway, New York, occasioned a loss of some \$100,000.

The Lake Erie Iron Company's works were burned on the 3d instant. Loss heavy.

One hundred thousand dollars worth of property was destroyed by fire in Jackson, Tenn.

The Western Union Telegraph Company has purchased a controlling interest in the Cuba cable for \$1,500,000.

The Public Library is opened on Sundays in Boston by order of the common council, by a vote of 47 to 10.

The government sells a million and a half in gold each Thursday, and buys a million in bonds each Wednesday of February.

Charles F. Noyes, formerly of Galveston, was garroted and robbed in New Orleans on the 24th inst., and died of injuries received.

The dwelling house of Henry Carns, near Jefferson, Iowa, burned last week. Mr. Carns, two of his children and his brother perished in the flames.

Reports from San Francisco state that there are no prospects of peace with the Medocs; neither party would agree on the spot for conference.

An accident occurred on the Louisville Railroad at Guthrie, Ky. Two were killed and several hurt. No names south of Tennessee reported.

A torpedo, which Andrew Dalrymple, of Tuttsville, Pa., was secretly filling, exploded, killing himself, wife and child, and blowing the house to atoms.

Seven men were killed at the American Iron Works' explosion, Pittsburgh, Pa. The nail feeders were on a strike, otherwise the loss of life would have been greater.

The city council of Philadelphia has appropriated half a million in aid of the centennial cause. A bill for a million more is pending in the Pennsylvania Legislature.

The bill authorizing the Pennsylvania Central Railroad to increase its capital stock to an unlimited extent, passed both Houses of the Pennsylvania Legislature unanimously.

A dispatch received at Virginia City from Pio-Cho says that half the horses in that district are disabled by the epizootic, and eight thousand bars of silver bullion has accumulated there.

The earthquake shocks on Island Samos, which caused so great destruction of property and loss of life, continued four days. It has not yet been ascertained how many persons perished.

The block occupied by the Merchants' Union Express and the Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Companies, Springfield, Mass., is burned. The *Republican* printing building narrowly escaped. Loss about \$75,000.

The comptroller of currency will not hereafter exchange United States bonds deposited as security for the circulating notes of national banks, except upon condition of substituting the new 5 per cents. of the loan of July 14, 1870, and January 20, 1871.

The council in the Stokes case, in the event of failure to obtain an order for a new trial from the new judge, Boardman, will apply for a stay of proceedings, and thereby secure the result of the case by a full bench in the Supreme Court, and on failure there, will go to the Court of Appeals.

Secretary Boutwell has ordered the redemption of one-half million of the three per cent. certificates, leaving about seven-eighths of a million out. The debt statement shows an increase of about half a million. In the treasury—sixty-two and three-eighths million in coin and seven in currency.

FOREIGN ITEMS.

The schooner James Bayley was wrecked on the Anglese coast. Eight lost.

The cholera has broken out in a violent form in several places in Russia and Hungary.

A terrible hurricane visited the port of Aspinwall on the 18th ult., which did much damage.

The Government has closed the medical school at Montpellier, France. No cause assigned.

Rains have ceased, and grinding been resumed at all points throughout the island of Cuba.

The exhibition building in Vienna has been completed. The Sultan is expected to be present at the opening.

The *Gaceta*, (Havana) on Feb. 7, published the text of the proposed loan of \$20,000,000, authorized by the Captain-General, Ceballos.

Railroad travel in Spain is still interrupted by the Carlists. The mail from Madrid is nine days behind time. Spanish trade is disturbed.

The *Courier*, of Bayonne, says no substantial advantage has been gained by the Spanish forces over the insurgents in the northern provinces.

Marquis of Esperanza, and Romaldo Chavari, leaders in the Conservative party at Porto Rico, have arrived in Havana to confer with leaders of the Spanish party.

There have been attempts made to create an insurrection in Hayti for the purpose of preventing the election of President. The demonstration was soon suppressed. The ringleaders were arrested, and five of them executed.

A Matamoros dispatch says: An election for chief justice and magistrates of the supreme court of Mexico will be held on Sunday next. Porfira Diaz, Marescal and Escobedo are among the candidates. The people seem to take very little interest in the election.

The election in Liverpool for member of parliament to fill the vacancy occasioned by the death of Samuel R. Graves is in progress to-day, (Feb. 6.) The Conservative candidate is John Fort, and the Liberal nominee is J. Caine. There are fifty-two thousand voters and twenty-one precincts in the district.

Dispatches from London state that the British Isles were visited on the 1st inst. by one of the most violent storms ever experienced. Snow fell to an extraordinary depth. Travel was almost wholly suspended. The gale raged with great fury all around the English and Irish coasts. Many wrecks are reported and a fearful loss of life.

In the House of Commons, on February 8, notice was given of the introduction of bills providing for the abolition of capital punishment, and looking to the establishment of a protectorate of the Fejee Islands, and providing that all treaties made between Great Britain and foreign powers must receive the ratification of Parliament; legalizing marriage with a deceased wife's sister, and providing for the purchase of the English railways by the Government.

Parliament has re-assembled in London. The Queen's speech says England is at peace with the Great Powers, and will co-operate for the suppression of the slave trade on the eastern coast of Africa. In the friendly negotiations progressing with Russia, Schevenaloff assures Her Majesty of the friendship of the Czar toward England. Thiers will arbitrate between England and Portugal in relation to the possession of the south coast of Africa. It is considered proper to hasten the payment of the Alabama Claims award.

Correspondence.

Weatherford.

The religious status of the town is not all that could be desired. Our people do not attend church as well as they should. "Neglect not the assembling of yourselves together." So the oracles of God declare. This was written for a purpose. We need all the spiritual pabulum we can get, and where is a more suitable place for this than in the sanctuary of our God—than in the courts of the Most High? "I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than to dwell in the tents of Kedar!" This was David's experience. Would that all our people could feel the full import of the expression and carry it out. We must "wait upon the sanctuary" if we would have our "spiritual strength renewed." If we would "walk in the light of God," we must attend the ministry of his Word.

The erection of the Methodist church is progressing, and when it is completed it will be a very comfortable house of worship. The house is 40x60. The basement is designed for school purposes. We should be very much gratified if the house were finished. We feel more at liberty in worshipping under our own vine and fig tree.

We had the pleasure of the presence of Bro. Hines, our presiding elder, a few days since. We were happy to meet him. He is a pleasant, affable and genial man—a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost. God bless him in his arduous labors! May he accomplish that whereunto he is sent. May grace and peace be multiplied unto him through the knowledge of God and of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Bro. J. J. Shirley is on this circuit. He is young in the ministry, but is succeeding quite well. He is pious and much devoted to the cause of his Master. God grant him many souls for his hire this conference year.

The leading denominations of the place are Methodists and Baptists. As to numerical strength they are about equally divided, and so far as I can see, they get along together like "brethren beloved." This is just, proper and right, and is as it should be. Sectarian bigotry is a canker upon the very vitals of Christianity, and therefore a great impediment to the religion of Jesus Christ. It is very presumptuous on the part of any religious denomination to claim a monopoly of Christianity, and that wisdom will die with them, and to be always crying, the "temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord are we, and all heathen besides." To be instrumental in the promotion of the heritage of God upon earth and the salvation of deathless spirits, which are sinking down into the "covers of a sunless sea" and hills dark profound, should be the great absorbing theme of all that love our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Mark ix., 38, 39, is a sound rebuke to all those bigots in religion who *proscribe* every one who does not *subscribe* to their ecclesiastical shibboleth.

S. E. BURKHEAD.

Strange Doctrine.

MR. EDITOR—In your issue of the 8th of January a correspondent—H. S. T.—in his praises of the present free school system of Texas, refers to the able report of the Committee on Education of the Northwest Texas Conference, and in his allusions to her institutions and works, attacks the church in her heaven-appointed mission of educating her youth. I should regret to know that any friend of the church assented to his position. Instead of discouraging our schools, every lover of his race ought to rejoice that the ennobling principles of the Bible and Christian civilization are the basis of education. It is to the Bible that

we owe all real progress of our race. All history teaches this lesson. It sounds strange to a Christian ear, at a time when the benighted heathen are beginning to appreciate Christian education, and are sending their youth to be instructed in the principles of the Bible and its civilization, that any should deery the church in her work of educating her children. Every intelligent observer knows that either the church or the world must *educate*. If the minds of the rising generation are not stored with, and indoctrinated in, the principles of religion, they are almost certain to imbid and fall a prey to the subtle errors of false science. While Tyndall, Huxby, and others of their ilk, are trying to shake the very foundation of Christianity, the church should be more jealous than ever of the sacred trust reposed in her by her Great Head to train her children in the knowledge, nurture and admonition of the Lord; she should be more active and zealous and provide greater facilities for education, and thereby save our youth from the snares of the evil one, so enticingly presented in the specious bait of public free school education.

W. B. M.

CALVERT, TEXAS, Jan. 20, 1873

MR. EDITOR—I have been for the last few years an itinerant missionary, trying to plant the Gospel in new fields. I have been in destitute places; I have seen many families without the Bible, and without books of any sort, almost. There is a law in our State that imposes such a tax upon peddlers of books and colporteurs, that there is no possibility of supplying the people with books unless this law could be removed by legislative action. It is obvious that the objectionable law ought to be repealed, so far as religious and school-books and stationery are concerned. There is great need that the people be furnished with cheap printed truth, especially the Bible.

A few years since, the Bishop at the Trinity Conference appointed a man as Sabbath-school Agent, but, in consequence of this tax, he was unable to do anything effectively. There is great need of Sunday-school books in every county.

Respectfully,

S. G. COTTON.

JEFFERSON, TEXAS, Jan. 24, 73.

The suggestions of Brother Cotton merit serious consideration. The spread of healthful, moral and religious influences among the people are of the first importance to State as well as church. The exemption of religious literature from taxation will be a small matter for our authorities to do, and it will yield important results to the land. We commend the matter to the thoughtful attention of our people. Let this thing be done.

MR. EDITOR—In a late number of the *Advocate* I see a very favorable notice of "Fisher's Christian Sacraments," by Rev. J. W. Fields, for which notice I sincerely thank him; but there is in the notice a mistake in regard to my postoffice, which I wish to correct for the benefit of all who may order the work. He has put me at *Bryan* instead of *Austin*. I have a box of the books at Bryan, in the care of J. D. Thomas, Esq., who will fill any orders sent to him as my agent to the amount of books in his care. I have a box here at Austin, and my son, Sterling Fisher, Esq., has a few books at Burton, Washington county; a few are also at Waxahachie, care of Veal & Marshall. I shall be exceedingly glad if the brethren will exert themselves to put this work into the hands of our people at once, so that I can close my account with the publishers at St. Louis. By the quantity, or wholesale, the price is \$1.50 per copy. Retail price, \$2. O. FISHER.

AUSTIN, TEXAS, Jan. 19, 1873.

More Mail Difficulties.

MR. EDITOR—I have intended writing to you for some time. I tried to get you some new subscribers last year, but money was scarce. Some spoke of subscribing when they sold their cotton, but just as that time came, the mail-horse gave out, so his rider reported to our postmaster. I did not know but he would pass again when he got rested; but near three months have passed, and no word from him or the mail.

This place is on the route from Tyler to McKinney. My expected subscribers have no idea of paying for a paper and not getting it.

On whom does the blame fall—the postmaster at the end of the route or starting point, the contractor, or the horse?

INQUIRER.

TURNERS' POINT, Jan. 25, 1873.

Banana Juice.

It is well-known that the banana plant attains a vigorous growth and high degree of perfection in our Gulf States, the only drawback upon its culture as a fruit plant being the difficulty of carrying it uninjured through the winter frosts. If the juice of the stems, however, is as valuable as we are led to suppose, it might pay handsomely to cultivate the banana and plantain as annual crops, planting the roots or offsets every spring, in very rich ground, and harvesting the juice in the fall, before frost—leaving the fruit entirely out of the calculation. We see it stated in one of our exchange papers that Jamaica is exporting plantain juice. This juice is expressed from the pulpy stems of the plantain and banana trees (or plants,) which, but for late experiments on the valuable quality of the sap, would be thrown away as worthless. The fruit is not used for this purpose at all; that is gathered and enjoyed by itself as formerly; and Humboldt estimates the nutritive yield of an acre in plantains to be more than is given by potatoes or yams. The food product remains the same, and the juice of the stems worth \$100 to \$200 per acre in Jamaica and Santo Domingo, may be called a clear additional profit. This plantain juice so common, yet so long left untried and unknown, is a gummy substance capable of being turned into an article as beautiful and capable of ornamental uses as the best *papier mache*, at much less cost. A French gentleman who had experimented with the sap of the plantain and the fibre of the zamaica (another nearly unknown and nearly untried gift of the tropics,) states that their combination produced a splendid article for book covers. "It would be" he said, "the most exquisitely beautiful and the most durable material that had ever been produced with a reasonable regard to economy."

—Our Home Journal.

Beavers.

A correspondent writing from Idaho says that this Territory is certainly the home of the beavers, and I believe in all the world besides there are not so many beavers as there are in Idaho. Every stream seems to swarm with them, and they may be seen frequently in the waters. The statement, often made, that they never show themselves, is all a mistake. I believe that every stream that empties into Bear River is checked in its course by beaver dams, and those which are found near the Pontneuf River, a tributary of the Snake River, are very remarkable. These dams are in Pontneuf Canon, and are in a petrified state. They are from fifty to sixty feet in length, with a fall of water over two of them, at the centre, of from three to four feet, and over the third of about one foot. They are not fully and firmly petrified, as that would involve the total change of all the woody fibre, to be replaced by earthly

substances, but are incrustated with lime, which has permeated the substance of wood, and given to the whole a permanent and durable form. Nature has thus encased the work of the beaver in a covering which is as singular as it is interesting.

Of late years, the numbers of the beaver have increased wonderfully, owing to the fact that they are not as eagerly sought after as they were in former times. The bark of the cotton-wood tree, particularly the young and tender bark of the new twigs, is one of their favorite articles of food. In summer, they rarely ever gnaw down large trees, but live upon the bark of the smaller ones, willow and raspberry bushes, and upon different kinds of roots, such as the pond-lily, and the roots of the coarse grasses which grow along the margins of the stream. Besides cottonwood, they use the bark of the aspen, yellow birch and poplar. In the winter, when their supply is scarce, they eat wood alone. Some cottonwood trees thirty inches in diameter have been gnawed down by them; and one authority, remarking upon the tree-cuttings on the Yellowstone river, states that the beavers committed great devastation among the trees, "one of which, three feet in diameter, had been gnawed through by them."

Hotel De Horse.

I saw that sign upon a livery-stable. I have no doubt the man who put it up thought he had done a very 'cute thing. I thought so too.

It was a pretty good-looking hotel outside. I glanced within. Mr. Horse's table was set with a dish of oats, another of carrots, and a generous bundle of hay. His bed was all made nicely, and there were washing, and brushing, and combing, and other toilet articles all ready for use.

"Sleeping, eating, and dressing well provided for, I see," said I to one of the waiters, "but what about the drinking? Where's your bar?"

He "took" at once. "There's our bar," he said, with a laugh, pointing to an overflowing trough of pure, bright water in the yard. "Our customers in this hotel are very particular about their drink."

"I don't doubt it. If you should dirty it, as some men dirty their drink, with alcohol, and logwood, and fusil oil, your lordly beasts would turn up their noses at it."

"I guess they would," chimed in the waiter.

"Sensible horses," said I. "You don't see any of them making such fools of themselves; they leave that for their masters."

"Curious, ain't it?"

"Very curious," said I; and I think so still. Not at all curious that the horse's should do as they do, but very curious that the men should not follow their good example, and let bad drinks alone.

TENDENCY TO DRUNKENNESS.—No person can possibly know whether there is in him the tendency to inebriety until it is stimulated into development. No person can possibly even have this development except by the use of alcohol. The man who totally abstains is safe, even though the tendency to inebriety may lurk within him, the fearful legacy of an ancestor. The man who drinks, no matter how cautiously or moderately, may wake up this devil within him, which no human power can control. Health and safety are on the side of abstinence, while danger, disease, and premature death are in the pathway of the habitual drinker.—*Herald of Health*.

Photographs, with translation and text, have been issued by the Chaldean Terra-Cotta account of the deluge, recently discovered by George Smith.

Miscellany.

Fire Burning a Hundred Years.

At Parkgate, near Sheffield, England, a most extraordinary phenomenon can be seen by all interested in colliery wonders. About one hundred years ago several Parkgate gentlemen sunk a shaft known as the Old Bassett Pit. They at once found a rich seam of coal—the Barnsley bed—nine feet in thickness. The coal was worked in a very careful fashion for several years, great blocks and pillars of coal containing many tons being left to support the roof in place of modern wooden props. For several seasons everything proceeded smoothly, but one day the pit caught fire. Nobody can tell how it was ignited, and the ancient miners appear to have been dismayed by the unexpected disaster, as they left the pit to burn at will, instead of closing up the shaft and commencing anew, as they might have done.

Many years afterwards "the burning pit" was again approached by the lord of the manor, Earl of Fitzwilliam, who began to work out the coal in that locality. A shaft was sunk at some distance from the Old Bassett Pit, and the coal in the direction of Rawmarsh was got at, the new workings being kept at what was considered a safe distance from the fiery pit. Everything proceeded satisfactorily till 1868, when a miner named Parkin descended the Bank Pit shaft—the name by which the new shaft was known—and was greatly alarmed to find fire only ten feet from the pit bottom. He at once gave the alarm; the principal officials were upon the spot, and efforts made to extinguish the fire. "Parkin's flames" were soon put out, but it was found that the whole pit was on fire; and as the Earl's collieries extended for miles, it was feared that the fire would spread over the entire workings. The Old Bassett shaft was at once filled up; the Old Bank shaft was also closed. A third shaft, the Top Stubbin Pit, was also filled up. A long and thick wall was built up to separate the Old Bassett workings from the newly opened portions of the pit. Explorations had to be conducted by crawling on hands and knees in the midst of suffocating smoke; but the wall was at length completed at tremendous expense and great labor, it being 1000 yards in length and from one to five feet thick. Cross walls were also built to cut off airways, and so help in choking the fire. Thick iron pipes, with iron plugs, were inserted in the walls at intervals of fifty yards, so that views could be obtained of the interior of the Old Bassett workings by looking through these pipes. The great wall occupied the time of a large body of workmen for a whole year. A new "futtrell"—the entrance to a coal mine—had to be constructed. It had to be brick, arched above and below with strong brick wall. Entering by this place the wall is inspected daily to get information if the old fire has reached it in any way.

The last fire was seen in 1871, and on being examined lately nothing but "black damp" came through the iron orifices; but the most dangerous place—where the workmen labored at a great wall at the peril of their lives—is believed to be the fiery stronghold. Here the flames are still believed to be raging, although surely imprisoned by the work of the underground heroes who built its prison wall. Until a year or two ago, the farmers found that their crops over this pit were materially accelerated in growth by the heat; and the fact that this acceleration is not so apparent now is the strongest proof to professional minds that the burning pit has about spent its strength after a "long fire" of one hundred years.—*Glasgow Herald*.

Early Marrying.

Morally, mentally, physically, premature marriage is a mistake among women; and yet every day we see this mistake sanctioned by the offices of religion, blessed by the consent of friends, and entered into with all the *eclat* which should be reserved for a triumph rather than a trial.

"Morally," it is a mistake, because few women are fit, at an age when they should be "under authority," to rule a household prudently; since no atmosphere is so dangerous for an undeveloped soul as that of the almost absolute power which is generally delegated to the young wife. She may now do whatever is pleasing in her own eyes. She has been freed from parental restraint, and any other has a circumference so undefined that it is narrowed and enlarged according to the will and moral sense of her who draws it. Angels might fear to walk in such a broad freedom as is given by love and sufferance to the majority of our young married women—women by courtesy, children in the regard of both law and wisdom.

"Mentally," it is a mistake, because with marriage all mental growth is suspended in the large majority of women. Education, being regarded as simply a means toward an end, is abandoned as soon as the end is obtained. It may be argued that all education from such a motive is a mistake to begin with. True, but then it is one which keeps the culprit in the society of wisdom, and it is just possible the mind under such influence might arrive at a juster conception of its worth and value.

"Physically," it is a mistake, because at the early age at which many marriages are made the human form has not arrived at perfected strength; and duties and responsibilities are laid upon it for which nature has made no adequate provision. Vitality is destroyed quicker than it is generated, and early and rapid decay of both mind and body are the results. Then the woman is said to die "by the visitation of God," though in nine cases out of ten it is only the simple and inevitable result of laws of nature pitilessly and persistently broken.—*Science of Health*.

Politeness.

One of the English infidels was so struck with the politeness and good feeling manifested in St. Paul's writings, that he affirmed that if St. Paul had said that he himself had ever performed a miracle, he would believe it, because he deemed St. Paul too much of a gentleman to tell an untruth. Whatever we may think of this remark, we can not but be struck with the power which politeness had over the infidel. And as this infidel is not an exception, it may be well to show some few of the advantages of being polite.

It is Scriptural. If St. Paul taught politeness by his example, so did he in his writings. He tells us, "In honor we must prefer one another." Here is the great secret of politeness; namely, forgetfulness of self. In another place he says: "Be courageous;" in other words, be polite.

It makes friends. Nothing so wins upon strangers as true politeness. A little attention, shown in a stage or in the cars, or at a public table, costs us very little. But what an effect it has upon the person to whom the attention is shown! The pleased look, the grateful smile, shows us we have gained a friend.

It increases our usefulness. One reason why some ministers and good Christian people have no more influence is on account of their sour face and forbidding countenance. They look as if they said, "keep away from me." But if they allow the vulgar to come within reach of their majestic

presence, there is a pompous manner or way they have, which prevents the hearts of others going out to them, and thus all influence over such people is lost.

It gives success. Let any man who has goods to sell, or office to attain, be kind and polite; no sham—like that put on by the politicians—and his goods are sold, and office is reached ten times sooner than by the man who looks mad, and cuts you up as he cuts off his calicoes and cloths.

Politeness, of all things earthly, costs the least, but its power is tremendous. The influence of a genuinely polite man in the sphere in which he moves is wonderful.

THE DISCOVERY OF COFFEE.—Toward the middle of the fifteenth century a poor Arab was traveling through Abyssinia, and finding himself weak and weary from fatigue, he stopped near a grove. Then, being in want of fuel to cook his rice, he cut a tree which happened to be covered with dead berries. His meal being cooked and eaten, the traveler discovered that the half-burned berries were fragrant. He collected a number of these, and on crushing them with a stone, he found their aroma increased to a great extent. While wondering at this, he accidentally let fall the substance in a can which contained his scanty supply of water. Lo, what a miracle! The almost putrid liquid was instantly purified. He brought it to his lips; it was fresh and agreeable. In a moment after the traveler had so far recovered strength and energy as to be able to resume his journey. The lucky Arab gathered as many berries as he could, and, having arrived at Ardue, in Arabia, he informed the mufti of his discovery. That worthy divine was an inveterate opium smoker, who had been suffering for years from the influence of that poisonous drug. He tried an infusion of the roasted berries, and was so delighted with the recovery of his own vigor that to the tree he called it *cahuah*, which, in Arabic, signifies force.

CULTURE.—The older you grow, and the riper scholars you become, the more severe will be your tastes and the more austere will be your literary sympathies. You will come to see more and more clearly, that neither music, nor painting, nor sculpture, nor poetry, can properly be made the main instrument of human development; that the human intellect, and heart demand a "manlier diet;" that you must become powerful minds and powerful men, mainly through the culture that comes from Science and Religion. You will never, indeed, lose your relish for the Beautiful, on the contrary, you will have a keener and nicer sense for it, and for all that is based upon it; but you will find a declining interest in its lower forms. Schools of Poetry and of Art that once pleased you, will become insipid, and perhaps offensive, to your severer taste, your more purged eye, your more rational imagination. There will be fewer and fewer works in the aesthetic sphere that will throw a spell and work a charm, while the deep and central truths of Philosophy and Religion will draw, ever draw, your whole being to themselves, as the moon draws the sea.—*W. G. T. Shedd*.

APATHY.—A man will care for everything before he looks to the air he inhales, the water he drinks, or to those evidences of unsanitary condition which are the sure forerunners of ill-health, incapacity for work, and eventual poverty. No force short of a plague can rouse his attention to these matters. Even cholera and small-pox have required the weight of central authority to force upon vestries and other local bodies the unwelcome measures necessary for their prevention.—*Food Journal*.

An interesting experiment was recently tried in connection with Mounts Ebal and Gerizim, for the purpose of meeting the doubts sometime expressed as to whether the blessings and cursings recorded in the twenty-seventh chapter of Deuteronomy could be heard in the valley below. On this point a correspondent of the London *Sunday-School Times*, relates the following incident:

On the 22d day of March last, I stood myself on Gerizim—not on the top, but on a spur, like a platform, on its side, above the valley; and there is a similar platform opposite, on Ebal. A friend stood on Ebal, opposite. There was a congregation of twelve or fifteen below us. My friend first read the curses (see Deut. xxvii,) one by one, and the people below shouted "Amen" after each of them. I followed, reading the blessings in the next chapter, and our friends below responding to the same with their "Amen." Then we read several verses in the first chapter of John, the one and the other reading every alternate sentence. Not only the people in the valley below, but I myself, standing on the side of Gerizim, could hear most distinctly every word that my friend read on the side of Ebal, and *vice versa*. We did not measure the distance, but it was estimated by the party to be nearly a mile.

PERILS ENCOUNTERED IN SEARCHING FOR THE QUININE PLANT.—The cascarilleros, or bark-hunters, are very avaricious and very brave, going out alone, setting up a hut in a probable-looking spot, and diverging from their headquarters in every direction. If by any accident they get lost or their provisions are destroyed, they die of hunger. Dr. Weddell on one occasion in Bolivia landed on the beach of a river well shaded with trees. Here he found the cabin of a cascarillero and near it a man stretched out upon the ground in the agonies of death. He was nearly naked, and covered with myriads of insects, whose stings had hastened his end. On the leaves which formed the roof of the hut were the remains of the unfortunate man's clothes, a straw hat and some rags, with a knife, an earthen pot containing the remains of his last meal, a little maize, and two or three *chunus*. Such is the end to which the hazardous occupation exposes the bark-collectors—death in the midst of the forests, far from home; a death without help and without consolation.—*Lippincott's Magazine*.

AN ATHEIST SILENCED.—Sir Isaac Newton had among his acquaintances a philosopher who was an atheist. It is well known that this illustrious man, who takes the first rank as a mathematician, natural philosopher and astronomer, was at the same time a Christian. He had in his study a celestial globe, on which was an excellent representation of the constellations and the stars which compose them. His atheist friend, having come to visit him one day, was struck with the beauty of this globe. He approached it, examined it, and, admiring the work, he turned to Newton and said to him: "Who made it?" "No one!" replied the celebrated philosopher. The atheist understood, and was silent.

Not a tempest sweeps through the earth that is not needful; not a trouble breaks upon the heart that is not necessary. If so, let us take heart, and rejoice that we are in the road that leads upward to God, that we bear the signature of his children, and if children, then heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ.

There are four kinds of pride of which we should beware: Race pride—pride in our ancestors. Face pride—pride in our beauty. Place pride—pride in our position. Grace pride—pride in our religion.

Texas Christian Advocate.

GALVESTON, TEXAS, FEB. 12, 1873.

LARGEST CIRCULATION IN TEXAS!

THE Grand Lodge I. O. O. F. of Texas met in this city on February 3. The attendance of delegates was larger than ever before in this State.

THE CLARKSVILLE TIMES.—The first number of this journal has reached our table. It is a large and well-printed paper, furnishing evidence of vigor in its editorials, good taste in its selections, and skill in mechanical execution. The name of W. J. Swain appears at the head of the editorial columns.

THE Shah of Persia is visiting European countries. The civilization of Christian nations is shedding its light into the night which has long shrouded the nations of the East. As the Shah notes the evidences of superiority among the powers of Europe, it is to be hoped that he will recognize the source of their strength, and open the way for Christianity in the East.

WE TAKE the following clever notice from the New Orleans *Christian Advocate*:

Brother David Ayers, the veteran church-builder of Galveston, sends us a photograph of the St. James church as it is to be. If completed according to this plan and model, it will be a most beautiful structure, an ornament to Galveston, and a lasting monument to the memory of him who has projected the enterprise.

VERY SPECIAL.—Many preachers whose postoffices have been changed have furnished us no notice of the fact, and in the absence of instructions from any source, we are sending their paper to their former address. Will the presiding elders please attend to this matter, and send us the present address of each preacher in the bounds of their respective districts. By so doing, they will render the office very important service.

THE revenue of Oxford University is upwards of one million of dollars per annum. Such institutions are not the growth of a day, nor the result of a single effort. Oxford, this year, is one thousand years old. What influences have gone out from its halls it is difficult to estimate. The career of great men in church and state is linked with its history. The lessons imparted by its professors, and the doctrines and characters shaped within its walls, have left their impress on the great nation by which it is sustained. Many a page of European history would have presented a different record had Oxford never have been founded. Its beginning was no more promising than many which are now being built up in the midst of embarrassments which fill the hearts of their projectors with discouragement. When the centres of civilization which are steadily swinging westward shall have been developed on this hemisphere, some institutions which are now barely alive will be in the midst of a career which will equal in results the venerable universities of the Eastern World.

VIOLATIONS OF THE SABBATH.

The Fourth Commandment—"Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy; in it thou shalt do no work"—like all other commandments, has been violated by commissions of sin, or omissions of duty. These violations are so numerous and so various that we may not hope to give an exhausted detail of them. Of course all works of charity or necessity are exonerated from the charge and guilt of Sabbath desecrations; but after deducting these, what a frightful sum remains!

In the country the temptation and the habit of Sabbath desecration are not so great as in our larger towns and cities. Few farmers or planters have a habit of regular work, except in sugar-growing regions and sugar-grinding seasons. It is pleaded by some sugar planters that they can not keep the Sabbath as a day of rest without great loss; but we know that other planters, who have made the experiment and rested on the Sabbath, affirm that, so far from sustaining loss, upon the whole, taking into account the condition of the mules, the wear of vehicles, and the health of the "hands," they found at the end of the season that they had gained more than they had lost. Some farmers who attempt to save time and cheat heaven out of a little gain, manage to have a good deal of work done in moving stock from pasture to pasture, in many little jobs and repairs.

In towns and cities there are regular organized systems of labor. Markets, instead of being held on Saturday evening up to 10 o'clock, are held on Sunday. Hundreds of market people get no Sabbath; they have no holiday, no worship; three hundred and sixty-five days these ceaseless toilers must labor on! This is a great wrong to them, their health, happiness and families. Family groceries are kept open half, if not all, of the Sabbath. Not a cent is made by this; not a pound more is sold, or consumed because sold on Sabbath. If these establishments closed at some suitable hour Saturday night, all the necessities of the public would be met. Laborers are paid off early enough on Saturday evening to make all needful purchases. Why will these men let an over-weening cupidity rob them of their rest? Is it replied if one does not keep open another will, and thereby he that closes will lose custom? Let these men unite, all close at or before 12 P. M. Saturday, and the public will govern themselves accordingly. And so with fruit-stands and confectioneries. Why shall the employees in these branches of business be Sabbath slaves any more than other men? Let druggists refuse to do anything in their line, save filling prescriptions and furnishing medicine for the sick. Let bakers distribute their loaves on Saturday evening; why not? They need rest as much as other men.

Some people invite company and make the largest display of hospitality on the holy Sabbath. The servants and mistress of the house are more worked on Sunday than any other day. This is a wrong to these oppressed parties. Some of the best livers whose hospitality we have ever enjoyed did

their marketing (in a Southern latitude, too,) on Saturday, and the meats and cakes and pastries were prepared on Saturday; so that the Sabbath was a day of rest and good cheer—a glad-some time to all.

Some lawyers go to their offices and write briefs, and some merchants go to read over and write business letters on Sunday. Such men are burning the candle of life at both ends, and hurrying through their short journey to the grave. Abundant experience, abundant examples, show that this is all wrong, and in the end a temporal and material loss. Work diligently six days, and you will do as much as you can endure. But attempt seven days' work each week, keep your brain crammed with business cares, your nerves strung to their utmost tension, allow no relaxation, and you will certainly achieve the result of a short and hard-worked life; you will materialize your nature, and utterly unfit yourself for devotion or for heaven.

Many people make a point of beginning their journeys Sunday, or including one in their travels, with the intention of saving a day. All wrong, and all a mistake. You violate the day, and pay public carriers to do the same. There is no excuse for this Sabbath violating and God-defying practice. If our fathers in their slow travels had some pretext, we have none; we can travel two thousand miles between Sabbaths, and this is enough.

MEXICO.

MR. EDITOR.—To-night one week ago we were all at the Louisiana Conference missionary anniversary, where our thoughts and hearts were moved toward Mexico. How easy it was to raise money under that sudden impulse of the Holy Spirit! On Sunday night a good sister handed me \$15 "for Mexico." On Monday the subject was again up before the conference. The next day after a gentleman, Mr. R. M. Walmsley, unsolicited, promised an additional sum of \$325, and also proffered the further assistance of letters of credit toward the establishment of that mission. The same day I went to inquire when a steamer could be had for Vera Cruz, and learned that one sailed direct in four days. Here, it seemed to me, were effectual doors opening at every turn. Now what was I to do? Why clearly to go forward, and expect the same unseen Presence that can both open the hearts of men and turn the rivers of water, to guide, protect and bear me safely and steadily on to the City of the Montezumas. So I did as the prophet before me—engaged and promptly paid my fair, not to escape, but in obedience to the call of the Master. And on Monday next, God willing, I shall be on the deck of the propeller Tabasco, steaming down the river on the highway to Mexico. I have already taken on some Spanish, in the shape of dictionary, grammar and Bible; and the crew, captain, vessel, owners, stokers, everything down to a game chicken covered in among the slack of the halliards, everything on board the Tabasco looked intensely Spanish. Fortunately English is spreading over the world by the commercial enterprise of the Anglo-Saxon race, and yet more by its missionary zeal, so that I can reasonably expect to find all along the route English-speaking men from Vera Cruz to the capital.

This will suggest to those friends who subscribed so promptly at the anniversary how doubly precious their

offerings, if but available at the commencement of the enterprise. I hope they will forward them at their earliest convenience to the care of Rev. R. J. Harp. The purchase of suitable property for church purposes in a large city will require \$10,000 at the least, and from that to \$50,000. As I send back word from point to point of this missionary journey, I hope that the hearts of our people will be stirred to come up to the support of the kingdom of Christ. At the present about \$1,600 have been contributed, but then we have only been a week at it.

I had agreed to dedicate the church at Greenville, Alabama, on the fourth Sabbath of this month, and am sorry that I shall be deprived of that pleasure.

Let me, in conclusion, ask not merely contributions, but the substantial help of sincere prayer for the success of this undertaking, that Southern Methodism may take a new departure in spreading the highest style of Christianity—that the superscription and image of the Master may be recognized upon her by all who see her good works among the nations.

J. C. KEENER.

SATURDAY, January 18, 1873. ✓

We find the above in the New Orleans *Advocate* of the 23d ult. The same paper informs us that the Bishop left that city upon his mission in Mexico on the 20th of January. We rejoice that our church is entering this inviting field with so much vigor. Will not all the Texas preachers respond to the Bishop's appeal? \$10,000 is the least amount required to place our missionary movements in Mexico on a proper basis, where five times that amount can be profitably employed. Within a month each preacher in Texas can raise \$100 for this work. Let the Bishop feel that he has not only an interest in the prayers of the church while on his "missionary journey," but that his brethren are cordially co-operating with him in his labors.

W. A. H., writing from West Texas to the *Southwestern Presbyterian*, gives the following pleasant account of the West Texas Conference, recently held at Victoria:

After the meeting of Presbytery, the great event for some in this section was the meeting at Victoria of the Conference of Western Texas. The members were handsomely entertained. They appeared to be a body of noble, devoted, self-denying men, who found their chief pleasure in the service of Christ. Conference closed about ten o'clock on the night of Sabbath, 22d December, just after the reading of appointments. And before 12 o'clock the next day nearly every preacher was mounted on saddle or buggy-seat, and off for the year's work!

I had the pleasure of being introduced by Bishop Keener and of mingling with the brethren in their meetings and at love-feast and at the communion, and it was for many reasons a pleasant time indeed to me. Among others, I met the "Spanish Missionary, Alejo Hernandez, who has during the past year made further proof of the genuineness of the work so wondrously wrought in him by the Holy Spirit." He seemed to be a lovely, Christian man, intelligent and able. He was originally trained, I was told, for the priesthood. He could not speak English, nor I Spanish; but we managed to converse in Latin, and we could easily understand each other when we spoke of the life, hid with Christ in God, whom our souls mutually loved. Oh! the depth of the riches of God's wisdom, grace and knowledge.

ON THE CARS.

In other days we have felt especially grateful to ferrymen. The men who would patiently wait on the banks of rivers or creeks, which were impassable without boats, and for the trifling consideration of ten cents help every stranger to the opposite bank of fordless streams, were a sort of public benefactors. The delay which the absence of these important functionaries from their posts would occasion, would cause an amount of annoyance and vexation, if not actual loss, to the impatient travelers which it would be hard to estimate. More than once this fact has been impressed upon us when a sudden freshet washed away the boat, and, with other travelers, we had one or more days' travel added to our journey. Ten cents for crossing the river under such circumstances would have been no consideration whatever. We are confident that ferrymen have not been duly appreciated. We are not sure that they are aware of their own importance. They establish ferries to make money, and possibly care no more for the comfort and welfare of travelers than the generality of mankind. If the ferry paid at ten cents per traveler, the public felt no special call for gratitude, and were justified, in their own estimation, for any amount of grumbling in which they might indulge. Folks feel the same way about railroads. It being understood that the stock is among the safest and most profitable investments of the age, their immense value is forgotten, while people complain of delays which are unavoidable, and discomforts which are inevitable in railroad travel. These cogitations passed through our mind as the cars moved over the new bridge across the Brazos, on the Western branch of the Central Railroad, and stopped for several minutes with the car we were in over the centre of the river, affording those who felt inclined an excellent opportunity of inspecting the strength of this important superstructure. More than once we have crossed the old ferry near this point, and spent hours in floundering through the four miles of mud in the rich Brazos bottom. Most sincerely we transfer our gratitude for that old ferryboat to the iron bridge that spanned the river, and the iron horse that bore us over the track. We prefer solid bridges to rickety ferryboats, with their accompaniments of muddy roads and slippery banks, and the comfortable car to saddle or stage. We expect the investment pays. We presume the corporations have made money. That shall not abate our gratitude a tittle. They have added vastly to the convenience of the traveler, and are developing in every direction the resources of the country.

We saw ample evidence of their influence as we entered the town of Brenham. It has enlarged its borders in every direction, while the presence of a number of commodious brick business houses attested the substantial character of the prosperity of this thriving place. We visited the pastor, Rev. H. S. Thrall, in the comfortable parsonage the church at this

point has provided, and could not but wish that all the pastoral charges in the State were furnished with like accommodations. Were this done, one of the chief impediments of the itinerant system would be removed. Our church at Brenham finds its building too small to meet the wants of the congregation. The Sunday-school demands larger space, and measures are being projected to meet this want. The church is endeavoring to keep pace with the growth of town and country.

For some twenty miles from Brenham the road passes over one of the finest regions in our State. The rich, rolling uplands of Labadie prairie have long been regarded among the garden spots of Texas. Passing this section, for many miles beyond the road traverses a belt of post-oak land, which, before the advent of the cars, could have been bought for a nominal price. The fact that an old settler in this range bitterly complained that, while he made no more corn or cotton than in other days, the railroad had raised his taxes to five times the former figure, caused us to suspect that this sandy post-oak region had also felt the influence of railroad enterprise. Passing Elgin, we soon entered the rolling prairies which spread out east and west till they belt the whole State. In a few years houses will crown all these hills, and the farms pour their annual tribute to railroad enterprise through every crowded train.

After an absence of several years we hardly recognized the former capital of the State in the city which is filling up the valley to the banks of the Colorado, and spreading itself over all the surrounding hills. The citizens have availed themselves of the ample supply of building materials, which are quarried from the adjoining hills, and the massive buildings they have raised impart to the city that air of solidity which indicates that the people are confident respecting its future.

Our church at Austin is in a prosperous condition. Though the Sabbath was bleak, we found a large number of children present in the Sunday-school room, and listened to the sweet melody of the children's voices as they sang some of those beautiful songs we have so often heard at St. Johns school in Galveston. The revolution being wrought by the power of song through the agency of Sunday-school hymns, is not the least among the important results which follow the Sunday-school movement.

It was a pleasure to preach to the congregation which met at morning and at night. The faces of many old friends met our glance in the audience, reminding us of the toils and victories of other days; but there was also the presence of an earnest religious spirit, which is always a source of strength to the preacher who fills the pulpit. We found class-meetings preserved among the institutions of Austin Methodism; not as a fossil formation exhibiting the structure and peculiarities of a former period, but as a living, vital power. The general class, which meets Sunday afternoon, is often a "feast of fat things" to the church. Dr. Fisher is doing a good work. His pulpit ministrations discern the vigor of other days, and his labors are blessed in constant accessions to the church.

TWO CENTS A WEEK.

MR. EDITOR—I have been abroad the past year, and have made diligent inquiry as to the condition of our church in the Southern conferences. The result of my observation is that, in some respects, we are advancing pleasantly.

1. The increase in the number of members has been gratifying. This increase has been the fruit of gracious revivals of religion in many portions of our territory. Revivals of religion are cheering, and stimulating us in our work.

2. In church-building there has been a most gratifying advance. Never, perhaps, have so many houses of worship been erected, or repaired, in one year in the Southern Church, as during the year 1872.

3. As a general thing, I think the preachers have been better supported, and Sunday-schools better sustained, than in any year since 1865.

4. In one thing we have made but little advance, and that is in the missionary collections. Our receipts, I fear, will not reach over one hundred thousand dollars, including what has been applied to Domestic Missions in the respective Annual Conferences. This is by far too small a sum for our church to contribute, in one year, for the grand missionary enterprise. We need this day five hundred thousand dollars for missionary purposes for the year 1873.

There is a pressing demand for an increase of laborers in China. We ought this year to send a missionary to Japan. The door is open in Mexico; we need several missionaries there: beside, we need to have the Discipline, Hymn-book, and several tracts, translated into the Spanish language, at once. We need greatly to enlarge the work among the Germans in this country: we need several works in the German language. We need a large supply of ministers in the West: we need money to help to build houses of worship in new territory and in our mission fields abroad: we need to greatly enlarge our Domestic Missions among our own people. All these we need; and I repeat that five hundred thousand dollars could be profitably employed during the year 1873. Could our Board command that sum? Can it be collected?

Let us see. We have now not less than six hundred and fifty thousand Methodists in our church, besides thousands of friends who are always ready to help us. Two cents per week from each member would give to the cause of missions more than six hundred thousand dollars. Where is there a member who cannot give two cents per week to the cause of missions? Or where is there a church in the Southern Connection, or a circuit, or a station, or a mission, that cannot average two cents per week per member, if we would only determine to raise that amount? I verily believe the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, could raise any one year, yea, each and every year, with her present strength, to say nothing of her future growth, two cents per member, if proper pains were taken. Let the preachers address themselves to this work. Let every member of every church give something. Let every Sunday-school scholar give something. Let the devoted and intelligent women of the church go to work. Let the rich give of their abundance; let the poor give of their small living; let every one give as God has prospered him, and the work will be done.

Now that the conferences for 1872 are over, and we are entering upon a new year, let me invoke the brethren everywhere to begin in time, and let us make this the greatest year in our history in missionary zeal and liberality.

Other churches are putting forth

their best efforts, and are keeping their people alive by the spirit of missions that burns in their bosoms. Shall we be content to lag in the rear? O men of God, daughters of Zion, let us rouse ourselves to our duty, and the Head of the church will own our efforts, and bless us in proportion to our zeal and liberality. Mr. Editor, will you call the attention of your readers to this important matter, and add a word to this earnest appeal?

J. B. McFERRIN, Sec'y.

We see the statement, made by good authority, that there are now over one thousand American girls in Germany studying the German language. Why is this? Are institutions of learning on this continent so deficient in their provisions that parents must send their daughters abroad to secure them an education? Or is not this another evidence of the lack of free-thought on the part of those who support foreign institutions at great cost, to the neglect of those at home? We have met many who have graduated at a distance, and were unable to distinguish their superiority when brought in contact with the result of home institutions.

IN THE *Christian Union* of February 5th appears the following:

Two local revivals are in progress, one at Hastings, Minn., and the other at Vineland, N. J., in which Baptist and Presbyterian churches have united. Their members come together and pray together for the outpouring of the Spirit, and many converts have been made, some joining the Baptists and some the Presbyterians. Are these converts, who have been brought to seek a new life by the working of a common spirit and influence within them, now to be denied the joy and privilege of communing together at the same table?

The cold was so intense in Chicago a few Sabbaths ago that, with all the appliances of modern art, in the shape of furnaces and stoves, they were unable to warm the churches so that the congregations could worship. We know of many churches which have become so cold, that even in mid-summer the people are unable to worship God acceptably.

A ROMISH "TICKET" FOR HEAVEN. The *School Board Chronicle* says: One of our German contemporaries gives a minute description of the much discussed "ticket of admission to heaven," as sold by a Papal missionary; it is an elegant little card, on which is printed: "Admit to heaven, obtained through the divine school of patience." Round a cross one reads: "None shall be crowned but he who has fought the good fight. Here I am! O Mary, help us. Price 50 cents."

Bishop Willis, who has recently gone out to Honolulu from England, as the successor to Bishop Staley, writes, under date of July 29th, 1872, to an English journal: "It is too sad to think of the low ebb to which our church has sunk here." He makes an urgent plea for English funds, as necessary to the revival of what he might not improperly term "the lost cause."

If not an item of religious intelligence, the fact that the organist of All Saints' Church, Hertford, England, has held his post for eighty-one years is certainly unparalleled in the history of any congregation. The veteran's name is Bridgeman, and he now retires in the full possession of all his faculties, although nearly a centenarian.—*Christian Union*.

The Sunday-School.

Child Culture.

It seems to me that prayers in the household should be understood to be one of the freest and happiest of exercises. The children are not to sit in long rows around the wall. If one of them prefers to curl up his legs and sit on the floor, let him. If another wants to get up in your lap when you are reading, let him. If others are desirous of making a little bouquet around their mother, let them. Let the family seem like a social group. If the children are old enough to read, and they would like to join in the reading, let them do that. Let it be understood that you are the priest of this little flock, and that whatever is done, the children must be interested. And if you cannot hold them more than ten minutes, do not go more than ten minutes. And if you cannot hold them more than fifteen minutes, do not go more than fifteen minutes. However, if, on a Sunday morning, the children would like to go through this history of that narrative, let not the mother say, "My dear, we must close the exercises so that the servants can clear off the table." Hang the table! Let her not urge the necessity of closing so that the family can get ready for church. If the children want a good time, let them have a good time. As far as in you lies, make the occasion a social and cheerful one.

I know an instance in which, for thirty years or more, at five o'clock every Sunday afternoon, the children, the grandchildren and all the near relations have met at the grandfather's for social religious exercises; and although that custom has been continued thirty of forty years, I do not believe there has been one of those children that would not rather have gone without a meal, and almost anything else, than miss of being present at that family meeting on Sunday afternoon, where there was singing, where a chapter was read and talked about, and where all knelt down to pray. That is the most charmed hour of the week to them; and I think we should strive to make our family devotions sweet and familiar—not solemn; not long; not above the heads of the children. There should be brought in the elements of free conversation. The children should be allowed to talk. We should not whip them if they sneaker out and laugh at prayer-time. I do not think it hurts a prayer to laugh. I wish you would read the Psalms. I wish you would read the Old Testament. I wish you were familiar with the way in which the Jews conducted their religious services. I wish you knew how, in their worship, moments of great solemnity were instantly succeeded by moments of the most uproarious mirth; so that the Jews said, in regard to the feasts of the tabernacle, "He that never saw them, never saw what rejoicing is." In the old church from which we come, joy was sanctified, and was made an expression of religion—not that later joy which comes from the development of the higher moral feelings, but that which comes from the exercise of the social feeling; which comes from familiar intercourse. By the introduction of the social element, religious life may be made so sweet that it shall be pleasant to all the young and to all who are unlettered, as well as to those who are advanced in years and to those who are enlightened. By making it so in the household, you will sanctify that part of religion which is apt to be the least profitable.

A child is born a bundle of nothing, except capacity. He does not know arithmetic by nature. He comes to it by the grace of the slate and a good teacher behind it. But I do not say that his heart is naturally opposed to arith-

metic because he does not take it easy. He has the nature that God gave him; it is emptiness, and it must be filled up. A child is not naturally polite, nor kind, nor generous among his companions. He has to be grained to generosity, and kindness, and politeness. But I do not say that he is naturally opposed to these things. He had to be trained to use his feet, but I do not say that his feet were naturally opposed to motion. A child has to be taught all things. Everything that he has in him has to be educated little by little. A child is not naturally opposed to benevolence, because he is self-willed and selfish, and wants his own way. It is true that we came into the world empty; and the problem of life is, how to fill ourselves up.

I do not believe any child in the world was ever born to grace, nor in grace; but grace may be early developed in a child if you take pains to develop it in him.—*Christian Union.*

Reach Down to Them.

A needed lesson in religious teaching and influence is well stated and illustrated by the Rev. W. M. Taylor in the *Sunday-School Times*:

The other evening a gentleman told me that he went into the room where his son was taking lessons in singing, and found the tutor urging the boy to sound a certain note. Every time the lad made an attempt, however, he fell short, and his teacher kept saying: "Higher! higher!" But it was all to no purpose until, descending to the tone which the boy was sounding, the musician accompanied him with his own voice, and led him gradually up to that which he desired him to sing; and then he sounded it with ease.

We must put ourselves in some respects upon a level with those whom we would elevate, if we would be successful in raising them.

A brother in the ministry, whom I knew and loved in Scotland, told me that one evening when the farmer's son had been sent to drive him home in a gig, a distance of some six or seven miles, he got into conversation with the lad. He talked about the farm, the horses and the dog; then, by some subtle link of association, the subject was changed to that of the school. My friend soon discovered that arithmetic was the favorite study of the lad, so he asked him what he was doing in that.

"Oh!" replied the boy, "I am in Profit and Loss."

"Can you do all the examples in it?"

"Yes; some of them were very hard, but I have done them all. I did the last to-day."

"I think I could give you one in that line that you could not do."

"I doubt it. Let me hear it."

"It is this: 'What shall it profit a man if he should gain the whole world and lose his own soul?' Could you work that out?"

"No," said the boy, as a thoughtful expression came over his countenance. "Nobody could do that one."

His countenance and affection having been thus won, our friend preached to him a little sermon full of love and pathos, which issued in his conversion to the Lord.

THE TEACHERS' MEETING.—A teachers' meeting is one of the things that no Sabbath-school can afford to do without. It gives opportunity for consolation, for mutual help, for consecrated prayer, and if for the careful study of the lesson, so much the better. The Congregationalist suggests that:

Now is the time, when the churches are laying out their winter work, to start a teachers' meeting. We are glad to notice the multiplication in New England, within the last year or two, but there is still room for many more. A Sabbath-school without a teachers' meeting is like a campaign without a council of war.

Training Children.

O this work of training children for God! It is a tremendous work. Some people think it easy. They have never tried it. A child is placed in the arms of the young parent. It is a beautiful plaything. You look into the laughing eyes. You examine the dimples in the feet. You wonder at its exquisite organism. Beautiful plaything! But on some nightfall, as you sit rocking that little one, a voice seems to fall straight from the throne of God, saying, "That child is immortal! The stars shall die, but that is an immortal! Suns shall grow old with age and perish, but that is an immortal!"

Now, I know that with many of you this is the chief anxiety. You earnestly wish your children to grow up rightly, but you find it hard work to make them do as you wish. You check their temper. You correct their waywardness; in the midnight your pillow is wet with weeping. You have wrestled with God in agony for the salvation of your children. You ask me if all that anxiety has been ineffectual. I answer, No. God understands your heart. He understands how hard you have tried to make that daughter do right, though she is so very petulant and reckless; and what pains you have bestowed in teaching that son to walk in the paths of uprightness, though he has such strong proclivities for dissipation. I speak a cheering word. God heard every counsel you ever offered him. God has known all the sleepless nights you have ever passed. God has seen every sinking of your depressed spirit. God remembers your prayers. He keeps eternal record of your anxieties. The grass may be rank upon your grave, and the letters upon your tombstone defaced with the elements before the divine response will come; but He who hath declared, "I will be a God to thee and to thy seed after thee," will not forget; and some day in heaven, while you are ranging the fields of light, the gates of pearl will swing back, and garlanded with glory, that long-wayward one will rush into your outstretched arms of welcome and triumph.—*De Witt Talmage, in Methodist.*

"Twas My Mother."

A company of poor children, who had been gathered out of the alleys and garrets of the city, were preparing for their departure to new and distant homes in the West. Just before the time for the starting of the cars, one of the boys was noticed aside from the others, and apparently very busy with a cast-off garment.

The superintendent stepped up to him and found that he was cutting a small piece out of the patched lining. It proved to be his old jacket, which, having been replaced by a new one, had been thrown away. There was no time to be lost. "Come, John," said the superintendent, "what are you going to do with that old piece of calico?"

"Please, sir," said John, "I am cutting it to take with me. My dear dead mother put the lining into this old jacket for me. This was a piece of her dress, and it is all I shall have to remember her by." And as the poor boy thought of that dear mother's love, and of the sad death-bed scene in the old garret where she died, he covered his face with his hand, and sobbed as if his heart would break.

But the train was about leaving, and John thrust the little bit of calico into his bosom, "to remember his mother by," hurried into a car, and was soon far away from the place where he had seen so much sorrow.

Many an eye has moistened as the story of this orphan boy has been told; and many a heart prayed that the God of the fatherless and motherless would be his friend. He loved

his mother, and we cannot but believe that he obeyed her and was a faithful child.

Will our little readers, whose parents are yet spared to them, always try to show their love by cheerful obedience, knowing this is pleasing to the Lord? Will the boys especially, always be affectionate and kind to their mother?

Will you keep in mind that if you should some day have to look upon the face of a "dear dead mother," no thought would be so bitter as to remember that you had given her pain by your willfulness or disobedience?

THE BLIND BASKET-GIRL.—The following example of love and zeal in a blind girl will interest our readers: A blind girl in England brought to a clergyman thirty shillings for a missionary society. The clergyman, surprised that she should offer him so large a sum, said to her:

"You are a poor blind girl; you cannot afford to give thirty shillings to the society."

"I am indeed, sir," said she, "as you may see, a blind girl, but not so poor, perhaps, as you may suppose me to be, and I can prove to you that I can better afford to give these thirty shillings than those girls who have eyes."

The clergyman was, of course, very much struck with her answer, and said, "I shall be glad to know how you make that out."

"Sir," she answered, "I am a basket-maker, and being blind, I can make baskets as well in the dark as in the light. Now, I am sure, sir, in the last dark winter it must have cost those girls that have eyes more than thirty shillings to buy candles to see to make baskets, and so I think I have proved that I can afford this money, and now I hope that you will take it all for the missionaries."—*Sabbath-School Visitor.*

MAXIMS.—"He that winneth souls is wise."

Keep all your engagements punctually.

The world's great want is the want of religion.

Good watchwords for classes—*silence and attention.*

"Man is an earthly casket with a jewel of immortality."

Unfeigned modesty is a distinguishing ornament of a ripe scholar.

He that loses a good conscience has little left that is worth keeping.

Let no improper word fall from a teacher's lips upon a scholar's ear.

A new motto for Sunday-school scholars—"Once a member always a member."

If any person speak evil of you, let your life be so that none will believe him.

Observe every school regulation and require the children to follow your example.

"Men may judge us by the success of our efforts. God looks at the efforts themselves."

As early as a child can learn to say "Mother," it can be taught of Jesus.

To one sinner that reads the Bible, there are twenty who read professing Christians.

Every teacher makes paths which his class will surely tread. Whither do they tend?

There is no such thing as a small duty. Everything that one ought to do at all, he ought to do well—"with thy might." No one knows who is performing a duty that will lead to the salvation of souls, effect important developments in his own character, or decide his temporal and eternal happiness. There is no safety in the neglect of a single duty, however much we may try to make amends afterward by greater faithfulness.

TEXAS LEGISLATURE.

FEBRUARY 1.—*Senate.*—The Senate met, and, after listening to prayer and roll call, adjourned.

House.—A petition was presented to amend the charter of Calvert; another from the citizens of Brown, Comanche and Hamilton, asking for a new county.....The committee reported adversely to the appointment of a special committee whose decision in land claims will be final in the House.....A resolution by Mr. Ireland that the Speaker appoint a committee of three to report what legal obligations the State is under to the International and Texas Central Railroads, was carried, and Messrs. Ireland, Smith, of Colorado, and Morris, were appointed a committee.....Bills presented: By Mr. Rainey, a bill to abolish the offices of superintendent and supervisors and school board; by Mr. Hoffman, a bill authorizing the county courts to levy a special tax; by Mr. Hollingsworth, to provide for the organization of closed or open pasture districts.....A joint resolution, by Mr. Rainey, that there be no action taken looking to the repudiation of the amounts due school teachers, passed unanimously.....A resolution by Mr. Booty passed that the Governor furnish the information in his possession as to work done, if any, on the Texas Pacific Railroad.

FEBRUARY 3.—*Senate.*—Bills introduced: Senator Dohoney introduced a concurrent resolution, which was adopted, to report on the advisability of constructing two additional insane asylums. He also introduced a resolution requesting the Educational Committee to report a bill for the establishment of a normal school for State teachers. Adopted.....A petition was presented by Senator Sayers of Wm. Carey Crane and others, regarding the public school system.....A bill passed incorporating the Rusk County Masonic Institute.

House.—The bill renewing the charter of Nacogdoches University passed.....The bill authorizing Cameron county to levy a special tax for building a court-house passed. Also, that incorporating the city of Sulphur Springs, Hopkins county.....A bill was presented from the citizens of Bell county, preventing the selling of liquor.....Mr. Paine presented a joint resolution asking the Governor to remove Judge T. C. Boston, of the Sixteenth Judicial District. The causes assigned are certainly numerous and pointed, the principal being incompetency and ungentlemanly conduct. The resolution passed, and, for further action, it was referred to a committee of five, who, with the Senate Committee, will prepare the necessary papers..... Bills introduced: By Mr. Broadus, a bill to amend the charter of the Central Bank; by Mr. Powers, to incorporate the El Paso Irrigating Company.

FEBRUARY 4.—*Senate.*—A message was received from the Governor vetoing the bill repealing the militia law. The documents were referred to the Military Committee, with instructions to report a new bill. The Governor's veto of the bill arises from there being none other to take its place. The repealing of the obnoxious portions of the bill is what he suggests. This will probably be done.....Bills introduced: By Senator Tracy, providing for the payment of unaudited claims of the 12th Legislature; Senator Broughton, to expedite the trial of criminal cases before the Supreme Court; Senator King, to incorporate the El Paso Irrigating Company; Senator Shelley, that the State donate lands in Travis county for the purpose of building thereon a court-house and jail, and authorizing the County Court to issue not exceeding \$100,000 to build the same; by Senator Broughton, authorizing the county courts to appoint prosecuting attorneys to their respective courts.....Senator Sayers presented a reso-

lution, which passed immediately, asking from the Comptroller information upon the indebtedness of the sheriffs of the State, and what amount, if any, State warrants are in the hands of bankers or others in Austin, to the credit of said sheriffs.

House.—The resolution censuring the reporter of the *State Journal* for false reports made passed.....The Governor sent a message telling what has been done with bonds passing through his hands. The document was referred to the Finance Committee.....Also the report of the State Engineer upon work done by the International and Pacific roads.....A bill was passed changing the time of holding courts in the 24th Judicial District.....The Finance Committee reported adversely to making an appropriation to pay the expenses of the commissioners to the Vienna Exposition. The report was adopted. The same committee reported favorably upon the Senate resolution to pay warrants at the State Treasury without regard to date or warrant. The latter report occasioned much discussion, and Mr. Ireland then presented a substitute, which authorizes the State Treasurer to pay warrants in the order of their date, but when a warrant is presented of a junior date, and money in the treasury sufficient to pay all warrants of a senior date, that of a junior date may be paid if it be in the treasury. The House adjourned without reaching final action.

FEBRUARY 5.—*Senate.*—Senators Shelley, Henry, King, Franks and Baker were appointed to act with the Committee of the House, to consider if there be sufficient cause for asking Governor Davis to remove Judge J. C. Borden. The charges against him are serious ones.....The bill amending the Galveston Medical College Hospital passed.

House.—The Speaker announced as a special committee to ask the Governor to remove Judge Borden, Messrs. Payne, Abbott, Kleburg, McDonald and Sayers.....As unfinished business, the treasury warrant resolution was taken up and discussed at great length, occupying about two hours. It was, upon reconsideration of Judge Ireland's amendment, passed yesterday. No new feature was presented by any of the speakers worthy of special mention. Effort was made to postpone to Monday next, but was lost. A vote was then taken on a motion for reconsideration, and resulted in 40 ayes to 38 nays. The previous question was then put on the original resolution, which would cut off Judge Ireland's amendment, was lost by a tie vote. A motion was then made to refer the whole matter to a special committee of three. Here the affair rested.....Mr. Ireland presented a bill to repeal all laws granting State aid, by subsidy, to railroads, without excluding companies from the benefits that should accrue to them for portions of roads already constructed. Referred to a special committee having railroad subsidies under consideration.....The bill amending the charter of the city of Tyler, under a suspension of the rules, passed.....Mr. Winkler presented a petition from the citizens of Hockley, asking if school lands are disposed of that they be allowed to purchase, at a fixed price, the school lands upon which their town is situated.....Judge Morris presented a memorial from the citizens of Rusk county, protesting against the dismemberment of that county.....The bill making valid the recent election in Wilson county was, under suspension of the rules, passed.....Mr. Morris offered a resolution requesting the committee on roads, bridges and ferries to inquire into the advisability of the general laws on roads, bridges and ferries, and that the people's interests may be subserved. Mr. Beally presented a bill to punish theft, no mat-

ter how small the amount stolen..... Mr. Sayers asked that the bill relating to private corporations be taken up out of regular order—granted, and section 31 and 32 repealed, and the bill passed. He said these sections were unconstitutional, and conferred upon district courts legislative powers; it permitted fraud, and he instanced the Gulf Railway to prove it.....The bill amending the charter of the Galveston Medical College Hospital was taken up and referred to a committee, who are to report inside of two days.

FEBRUARY 6.—*Senate.*—A petition was presented by Senator Tracy from the citizens of Montgomery, asking the removal of the county seat to Willis; by Senator Shelley, a memorial asking that taxes be remitted, and for the incorporation of Lampasas..... Senator Hall presented a resolution instructing the committee to proceed in the investigation of DeGress without the House Committee, the House having concluded to hold secret sessions instead of open ones as recommended by the unanimous vote of the Senate. The resolution was referred to the DeGress committee, who were instructed to report as soon as practicable..... Committee reported by substitute a bill to repeal the act permitting parties to suits to testify in their own behalf, in divorce suits especially.....The Governor's message to the Senate states that work on the International and Pacific Railroads is progressing with great rapidity. The message was ordered printed.

House.—The Speaker announced a special committee, consisting of one member from each judicial district. Mr. Joseph was selected from the 18th.....Judge Morris, Chairman of the Finance Committee, reported upon that portion of the Governor's Message relating to the State's indebtedness. Nine hundred and eighty-one thousand dollars have to be provided for by the 1st of July. To meet this, the committee submitted a bill authorizing the selling of \$500,000 of the gold bonds reserved by the act of December 2, 1871, \$350,000 of the frontier bonds, and \$100,000 of the deficiency bonds now deposited with Williams & Guion of New York. The bill then names the debts that are to be paid off with the proceeds of said sales, and also George W. Sampson as State Financial Agent for their sale, who has given security in double the amount of bonds placed in his hands for performing the duty. It gives the agent one per cent. on the sales, and levies a tax of two cents on each one hundred dollars to pay the interest. It also provides for a sinking fund, and repeals the act to meet deficiencies, passed December, 1871. A motion was made to print 100 copies of the report, and members to pay for the same, and made the special order for Tuesday next. Adopted.....Committee reported by substitute a bill providing for the prompt settlement of accounts by sheriffs. The rules were suspended and bill passed. All sheriffs must settle within two months after the passage of the bill; he must make a settlement every three months; and the draft by the State Comptroller or Treasurer on him for the amount due must be immediately paid, otherwise the county attorney shall proceed against him and his sureties; of money collected for other counties than his own statements must be made on the 1st of June and December each year. The bill is very stringent and will bring into the State Treasury hundreds of thousands of dollars.....An amendment was offered to have this law apply to suits against sheriffs having gone or going out of office that are now in our courts, but was not adopted.

FEBRUARY 7.—*Senate.*—Nothing of any material importance transpired in the Senate.

House.—Mr. Mills moved a reconsideration of the vote of yesterday up-

on the report of the Finance Committee upon warrants being received as cash at the State Treasury, and that the reconsideration be laid on the table, which was carried. This settles the matter for the session.....Bill passed incorporating the city of Fort Worth.

FEBRUARY 8.—*Senate.*—Bills passed: A bill authorizing the employment of two additional clerks in the Comptroller's and Treasurer's offices; public printing bill; bill incorporating the city of Fort Worth; bill for the relief of Bertha Staffle; bill incorporating the Palestine fire company; bill authorizing the establishment of a toll bridge over Choctaw bayou; an act to prohibit the sale of liquors near the academy at Red Rock, Bastrop county.....A resolution passed looking to the reinterment of the remains of Texas soldiers who fell in New Mexico.....A message was received from the Governor, with accompanying documents from the Attorney General, who asks for assistance in his office.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS

From Feb. 1, 1873, to Feb. 8, 1873.

- Alford, Miller & Veal, sends Col Jas Moreland's subscription.
- Andrew Cummings, we will have the pleasure of seeing you when in town.
- Inquirer, communication to hand.
- Rev J F W Toland, Valley Mills, 1 subscriber, and cash \$8—postoffice money order.
- S B Jetton, obituary received and inserted.
- Rev W H Willey, cash \$10 gold, per Mr Horn.
- Rev A W Smith, 3 subscribers. Sent back numbers to complete file.
- Rev O A Fisher, answered by mail.
- Rev D Morgan, 1 subscriber from Walker county.
- Rev A L P Green, LeGrange, 3 subscribers.
- Rev J J Davis, 3 subscribers from Kosse.
- Rev L M Martin, check for \$20 for installment on one share stock.
- Postmaster, Seguin, your notice has been attended to.
- Rev F A MeShan, address changed to Brenham.
- Sheffield & Stone, St Louis, advertisement, with check.
- Allen Lewis & Co, cash \$4 for 2 subscribers.
- Wm Headen, Corpus Christi, renews his subscription.
- Rev Dr Walker, city, 2 subscribers, and cash \$5 currency.
- Rev R M Kirby, Moscow, 3 subscribers, and cash \$4 50 currency, by private hand.
- Dr Isaac Donevent, Moulton, renews his own subscription; also that of Mr Willeford; cash \$4 50.
- Rev N Hamilton, Cleburne, 2 subscribers, and cash \$10 currency.
- S H Summers, Burton, renews his subscription; cash \$2 specie.
- S M Pettengill & Co, advertisement received.
- Rev R H H Burnett, T M Allen's paper is mailed regularly. The obituary inserted.
- Rev A M Box, London, 1 subscriber and marriage notice. Wrote in answer to proposition.
- N S Storrs, advise us when you locate.
- Rev W H Willey, San Augustine, 5 subscribers from San Augustine and communication.
- J L Taylor, Columbus, 1 subscriber. Your own subscription has expired.
- Rev J R Wages, Wallisville, 2 subscribers.
- Rev O Fisher, letter, with sundry enclosures, will receive attention.
- Rev A M Box, London, 3 additional subscribers. Arrangement satisfactory.
- Rev E D Pitts, our editor is absent from the city for a few days.
- D M Cummings, Georgetown, 2 subscribers, and cash \$4 50 currency.
- Rev Sam'l Morris, Jacksonville, 2 subscribers from Larissa. The postoffice order duly received and acknowledged. All drafts should be made payable to Advocate Publishing Company.
- M E B Ragsdale, address changed. Your subscription will expire March 5th.
- Rev M G Jenkins, will write you by mail.
- J W Snyder, Round Rock, cash \$2 25 currency to renew his subscription.
- Rev D Morgan, 1 subscriber from Dodge.
- J N Craven, Whitesboro, 4 subscribers. We send the back numbers from January 1st '73.
- Rev J J Shirley, 1 subscriber.
- Miss A L Shirley, with answers to sundry puzzles. All correct, we think.
- Rev S H Brown, 4 subscribers. Hempstead is a postoffice money order station. Thanks for kind offers. We send Mrs Lord a copy of the minutes of conference.
- Rev W C Collins, 6 subscribers. We send you a few back numbers of the paper.
- Rev G W Graves, 2 subscribers. Thanks for items.
- Rev O A Fisher, 2 subscribers. Previous letter, with \$5 currency, received, and ought to have been acknowledged.

