











Christian Advocate

ALVESTON, TEXAS, SEPT. 23, '76.

Correspondence.

Giving, not Financiering.

In one of our letters we ventured to express a slight disappointment at the results of lay delegation in the matter of solving the problem of church finances.

Plans, plans, plans! There is no end of plans. There are nearly as many plans as promises. But the money don't come. We are beginning to grow skeptical about plans, particularly about plans for "raising" church money.

Now-a-days, if we appoint an agent for any church enterprise that requires money, we begin to look around for a man who has financial ability. Financial ability is doubtless an excellent thing in an agent; but the great want is a man who can develop, by proclamation of the Word of God, giving ability.

ting more money for its own sake; as long as they believe that "it is more blessed to receive than to give," so long will they do more harm than good with their money, and keep it. The Macedonian grace, rather than financiering skill, is what we need.

What a grand thing it would be to see just one man, somewhere among the 731,361 Southern Methodists, voluntarily, and without begging, endow a college, or a professorship, or even a perpetual productive scholarship—enough to help one poor boy or girl year by year!

ITEMS FROM CHAPPELL HILL DISTRICT.—Having just completed my third round of quarterly meetings, I thought I would furnish you with a few items that might be of interest to some of your readers.

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Dallas District Conference.

This conference convened at Bethel, Collin county, August 17, Bishop Pierce in the chair. Bethel and surroundings is a beautiful country. Methodism is dominant here, and when I say this I do not alone mean its relations to other denominations of Christians, but that it has touched and softened the hearts of all.

At the suggestion of the Bishop, there was one general committee appointed, instead of several, as was customary with us. This we regard as an improvement on our former way.

All the traveling preachers reported their fields of labor, and many were the questions of the Bishop about their Sunday-schools, prayer-meetings, family prayers, devotions, etc.

I notice in overlooking the report of the General Committee that the spiritual state of the church is pronounced good. The committee say: "The spiritual state, in the main, is in a healthy condition."

A good attendance generally to hear the word. Prayer-meetings kept regularly; many hearstones ablaze with family devotions; Sunday-school interest running stronger, and many other things indicative of health.

Our committee report that scarcely more than fifty per cent. of the assessed claims against the district has been paid up to the present. That is the great blot on the record. We ought to have paid at least seventy-five per cent. up to this time.

There is no conference or district school in our limits, yet many of our common schools are taught by Methodist teachers, and many of the schools of higher grade by Methodist preachers.

This resolution relates to our schools of better grade, but most especially the Southwestern University. Bro. John W. De Vilbiss was with us working faithfully as agent.

Resolved, 1. That we regard the Southwestern University a worthy educational enterprise of our church, and that we hereby pledge it our hearty co-operation and financial support.

Resolved, 2. That we fully endorse the appointment of J. W. De Vilbiss and T. H. B. Anderson as agents for the same.

Rev. Wm. Allen and Bros. L. M. Martin, Robt. Brown and Wm. Harris were elected delegates to the ensuing annual conference. Rev. H. Eller and Bros. T. A. Biles, A. W. Nowlin and B. L. Rogers, reserve delegates.

Now, Mr. Editor, let me say we have had a glorious revival. A flame of sacred love has filled all our hearts. Fifty souls have been

converted unto God. Unto Him who has loved us be all the praise. May God's blessings attend the bishop and the brethren who preached to us.

ROCKWALL, Aug. 30.—I write to inform you that the cause of Christianity and of Methodism—Christianity in earnest—is progressing in Van Zandt. Hope the county, cycled sometimes the "Free State of Van Zandt," will soon be "free indeed" in the Bible sense of the term.

I have just closed my third protracted meeting on Canton Circuit. Some fifty or sixty conversions in all, and forty added to the M. E. Church, South.

Van Zandt is also getting free in another sense: The temperance element is beginning to predominate largely in that county, and we shall try to rule King Alcohol out of the county in December.

AUSTIN DISTRICT CONFERENCE. The Austin District Conference was held at Colorado Chapel, Bastrop county. A very interesting camp-meeting was held in connection with it.

BREMONT, Aug. 30.—Since my last communication I assisted Bro. H. H. Sullivan in holding a camp-meeting four miles from Bremont. Our surroundings were very unfavorable.

VELASCO, August 31.—We have just concluded a four days' meeting on Chocolate Bayou. The people are not abundant in this world's goods, but they opened their doors freely for all who came to the meeting.

Here we realize that the Infinite

Saturday Night.

Sitting quietly in the shadows of the gathering twilight, watching the returning footsteps of the many who through the thoroughfares of this busy little Island city, our thoughts soon became aroused and active as the question was forced upon the mind: whitherward?

Yes; six days work is done, and the darkness of light thickens around, inviting each and all to lay aside every business care and seek that repose which will prepare the soul to become receptive to divine truth;

Witkeward, young man, who lately took up the cross that once was borne by the lowly Nazarine, and who so lately promised allegiance to holiness? Are thy footsteps tending homeward to meet a fond mother's smile, and a pure sister's unselfish devotion? Pause and answer.

Young maiden, whose sweet face wears the smile and bloom of beauty, whose graceful form is so expressive of loveliness, does the inward beauty, the beauty of a pure and spiritual life, agree with that beauty without?

Poor woman, faint with hunger and heart bowed down by grief, slowly, slowly you move homeward to meet sad faces and tear-dimmed eyes who have waited and watched your return.

Little children, with the innocence of Eden beaming in each face and whose presence sends a ray of sunshine on all, we hear the constant patterings of your little feet; wither are they going?

Aged man, with form bending earthward, you go with limping gait; your earthly career is nearing its close. The great to-morrow is almost dawning upon you.

Woman of fashion and show, with no place in your heart for pity or love, you pass carelessly on, neither knowing nor caring for the sufferings you meet; on and on you go as if striving to walk out of the reach of humanity, extending no sympathy, giving no love, affording no aid;

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Thus this Saturday night pass the crowd, so different in feeling, so varied in conditions, so unlike in life's purposes, so separated in opinions, so diverse in desires; and yet so nearly related. Called into being by the same creative power, enshroued by the same star-gemmed heavens, and all treading alike the same beautiful earth; yet all seem to be striving by every and all means for that bread that perishes.

Men ignorantly seek this power, this strength, this help, by building temples, altars; and establishing creeds, confessions, pilgrimages, penance in solemn looks and upturned eyes; low moanings, loud wailings, and every external show that is available.

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is a presence; a presence everywhere. Here too we realize in what true worship consists; as that poor woman's sorrowful complainings is wafted to the ear through the stillness and darkness of this Saturday night, and the words of the great Gallilean Teacher rush over our soul; To feed the hungry, clothe the naked; to visit those sick and in prison, and in so doing we would be rewarded, the same as though we had administered to His personal wants.

O, churches of the 19th century, to you have humanity looked for light to guide them in this age of infidelity and doubt; where is thy spirituality, thy practical worth? Thy tall spires indeed point heavenward, while the human temples in our midst are left uncared for.

GRAFBURY HIGH SCHOOL.—The Joint Committee appointed by the Weatherford and Stephenville District conference respectively, to consummate the proposed union of the two districts in their educational interests, met at the camp meeting for the Glen Rose circuit on Saturday, August 17th, 1876.

Dr. Robinson was called to the chair and W. O. Menifee appointed secretary. After a full discussion of the whole subject, the following preamble and resolutions were adopted: Whereas, The Weatherford District Conference having invited the formal co-operation the Stephenville District conference in the joint support of and maintenance of their High School, located at Grafbury, with the legal tender of an equal partnership in their institution, free of cost, therefore.

Resolved, That we, the Joint Committee of the two conferences appointed to act in the premises, do agree to the proposed union, on the conditions that by the proper authority the Stephenville District conference be secured in a joint ownership of the school property, and control of the institution; the said Stephenville District conference binding herself to bear an equal share in all future needful expenses.

On motion it was resolved that Bro. O. M. Addison be requested to furnish the ADVOCATE, and other papers within the District, with a copy of these proceedings.

SHERMAN.—God has graciously visited Sherman with the outpouring of His spirit. We closed a protracted meeting last night of three weeks' length. Results: sixty-five conversions; forty-five accessions to our church; eighteen to the Cumberland Presbyterian, and three to the Baptist.

TYLER, TEXAS, Sept. 6.—Since I wrote you last I have held three meetings: At Myrtle Springs, in connection with a Presbyterian minister, we held a five days' meeting, embracing the first Sunday in August—results: the church greatly blessed; eight or nine conversions; six joined the Methodist Church; two the Presbyterians. Embracing the second Sunday in August, camp-meeting and third quarterly meeting at New York; lasted six days—results: all the churches much revived; about fifty-five conversions; twenty-seven joined the Methodist Church; Presbyterian, two; and sixteen or seventeen the Baptists; others will join our church on other circuits, and some on this circuit.

Don't turn up your nose at light things. Think of bread and taxation. Don't boast of your pedigree. Many a fool has had a wise ancestor.



