







Texas Christian Advocate

A. G. JOHN, D. D., Editor. Associate Editors. By action of the Joint Board of Publication...

GALVESTON DISTRICT CONFERENCE.—We call the attention of the members of the Galveston District Conference to the announcement made in another column by the presiding elder.

A NOTE from Rev. M. H. Neely confirms the intelligence of the death of Rev. W. H. Scales, President of Dallas Female College.

We learn that the vacancy occasioned by the death of Rev. W. H. Scales in the Presidency of Dallas Female College has been filled by the election of Rev. M. H. Neely for the unexpired term.

BRAZOS PRESBYTERY.—This body closed its meeting in our city this week, Rev. Mr. Burr, of the Seaman's Work, moderator.

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH.—The modern history of the Roman Catholic church in Texas commences with the arrival of Rev. J. M. Odin, who was sent here by Bishop Timon, of Missouri, in 1840.

SUGGESTIVE.—A correspondent for whose judgment we have great respect, after congratulating us on the new dress of the ADVOCATE, adds: "I see the good the ADVOCATE is doing in the country."

"LOCAL OPTION."

"An address to the voters of Cherokee county and a plea for liberty, justice and equality toward all classes of men."—By John R. Reagan and others.

We have received a copy of this document and have read it carefully. Its plea is by no means satisfactory. We give a specimen of its logic: OBJECTION TO LOCAL OPTION.

OUR COMMENTS.

Although laws which limit or prohibit the sale of intoxicating liquors may be considered sumptuary in one sense, as their practical operation does limit to some degree the expenses of those who indulge in their use, yet this is only an incidental result.

Each man certainly has the right to choose his own "bill of fare," if he is able to pay for it; but if the butcher offers for sale the flesh of beeves which died of murrain, or sheep which died of rot, or offers to sell meat in a partially putrid condition, the law, from considerations of public health, prohibits the sale and punishes the offender.

money at such terrible cost to others. A law which would dictate the cut or quality of dress would be a bald absurdity; but the law does interfere in this private affair so far as to compel every one to appear in public clad in a decent covering.

"Natural and inherent rights" in every relation of life are thus required to respect the "natural and inherent rights" of others, and that government is the wisest which secures the best adjustment of these conflicting claims with the smallest surrender of individual rights.

The question as to the prohibition of the sale of liquor then resolves itself into the simple issue: Does it interfere with the health, the safety, the lives of individuals, and the peace and good order of communities?

Does it make its victim often an offense to decency, rendering him liable by indecent exposure and foul language to outrage the natural rights of others in this respect to such an extent that society pronounces drinking saloons of all grades unfit places for the presence of women or children on account of the foul language or scenes which they might encounter?

make quiet citizens madmen, embroil friends in foolish and often fatal affrays, reduce men of wealth to poverty, wreck happy homes, make children worse than beggars, turn quiet towns into temporary pandemoniums, crowd our court-houses with offenders, our jails with criminals?

As to the allusions made by the author of this plea to the friends of "local option" as "religious enthusiasts who are always trying to thrust their doctrines down unwilling throats," and to "hell-fire-and-brimstone preachers whose sermons smell more of the fumes of hell than they do of the peace-loving gospel of Christ," we have no comment to make; we presume such is the estimate in which Christian ministers and other advocates of peace and good order are held by the owners of all the saloons in the land, and we shall not stop just now to controvert their opinions.

MARTIN RUTER, D. D.

The name of Ruter is held in grateful remembrance by the Methodists of Texas. When the popular president of a prosperous college, he resigned a position so congenial to his taste, and one for which he was so eminently qualified, to become a missionary in the young republic.

He was the first agent of the Western Book Concern, commenced at Cincinnati in 1820, and was re-elected in 1824; but before his second term expired he accepted the presidency of Augusta College, Kentucky.

Returning to the Brazos he held a quarterly meeting at the house of Mrs. Jackson, near where the village of Sempronius now stands. Mr. Alexander had returned and was at this meeting. Dr. Wm. P. Smith changed his membership from the Protestant to the Methodist Episcopal Church.

quod" is as good a motto for a paper as for a university.

In 1834 the New York Book Concern brought out Ruter's abridgment of Gregory's Church History, and in 1836 it was placed in the course of study. The book met a felt want at the time of its appearance, and is still regarded as a standard work.

At the spring meeting of the Mission Board, in New York, in 1837, Martin Ruter was appointed Superintendent of the Texas Mission. His colleagues were Littleton Fowler and Robert Alexander.

After attending the Pittsburgh Conference, at Steubenville, Ohio, Dr. Ruter and his family descended the river to Marietta in a skiff. At New Albany he met both Bishops Roberts and Soule, then attending the Indiana Conference.

Returning to the Brazos he held a quarterly meeting at the house of Mrs. Jackson, near where the village of Sempronius now stands. Mr. Alexander had returned and was at this meeting. Dr. Wm. P. Smith changed his membership from the Protestant to the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Dr. Ruter had now made himself thoroughly acquainted with the work in the west; and after a similar exploration of East Texas, he proposed attending the meeting of the Mission Board in New York, where he hoped to obtain a number of additional laborers.

feeling unwell he returned to Washington, for medical treatment. This he received, but continued to decline, and died May 16, 1838.

In five months he had performed an immense amount of hard traveling and faithful preaching. He had taken upon his memorandum book the names of some three hundred persons who had been church members before coming to Texas.

The letters written by Dr. Ruter while in Texas, and published in the New York Advocate and Journal, determined this present writer to make Texas the field of his ministerial labors; but before the writer reached the Republic, Dr. Ruter was dead.

"Dr. Ruter was no ordinary man. Naturally he was, perhaps, little more than many others. His early advantages were no more than a common school education, and the period that young men generally take their college degrees, he spent in passing through the grades of an itinerant minister.

AUSTIN, April 17, 1877.—To the Brethren of the Texas Conference: Messrs. Shaw & Blaylock having exonerated me from all blame about the delay in the publication of the minutes of our late session, it is needless for me to say anything on that subject. There are a few inaccuracies which I have noted, but none that are of sufficient gravity to justify complaint have been observed by me.



Texas Christian Advocate

JOINT BOARD OF PUBLICATION

THE ADVOCATE having been returned to the direct control of the Five Annual Conferences, is now published under the direction of the following Joint Board of Publication: WEST TEXAS CONFERENCE.—John W. DeVill...

THE AMEN OF THE STONES.

TRANSLATED FROM THE GERMAN, BY J. A. G. BARR

Though blind with age, the venerable Bede continued still to preach the glad, new tidings. Led by his trusty guide, the good old man wandered from place to place throughout the land.

The Origins of the Races, Red, White and Black, Demonstrated.

CHAPTER IV.

Having clearly and fully established the origin of the red race, not by evidence liable to doubt, but by incontrovertible facts, we shall now direct our attention to the establishing of that of the white, not by plausible theories nor by philosophical suggestions, but by the reliable voice of inspiration and that of history.

The Lord said unto her, (his wife) two nations are in thy womb, and two manner of people shall be separated from thy bowels. Verse 24: "And when her days to be delivered were fulfilled, behold, there were twins in her womb."

Mouri, Arkansas, Louisiana and Texas. In company with him is Mr. Stephen Paxson, of St. Louis, who is agent for the publications of the above publishing house.

The Belton ice factory is now in full operation. The treasurer of the city of Corpus Christi has on hand a balance of \$17 38. The hens in the vicinity of Austin are very accommodating; they lay eggs at the low price of ten cents a dozen.

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