



Texas Christian Advocate

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

What though a worm be left alone? What though his kindred all disown? What though he's spurned by all mankind?...

As Dr. Kavanaugh has abandoned the discussion of the issues between us to engage in an unseemly and unamiable personal wrangle...

I thank you, Mr. Editor, for the uniform courtesy with which you have been pleased to treat me...

Having never, as yet, during the year furnished anything for publication in the columns of the "Advocate"...

Transferring to Texas last fall, my connection with this work and with the Texas Conference, has only been during the present year.

We have of late been visited with a most gracious revival of religion in the town of Independence. We have just closed a series of services, which continued for sixteen days...

Investigations by Mr. Marklyn and Mr. Cooper would seem to place rye before wheat in the scale of nutrition. They pronounce it one-third richer than wheat.

Make your orchards hog tight, and if in grass, as soon as you have removed the crop, turn in your pigs. If you have none, buy some—they will pay you better than any other investment you could make.

At Independence we have also a Sabbath-school growing in interest, and a weekly prayer-meeting, all of which promise success.

Waste Basket.

"Boots Blacked Inside" is a sign on a Fourth Avenue window. A horse enjoys his food most when he hasn't a bit in his mouth.

The president of the Keokuk board of health is Dr. G. N. Seidlitz. The propriety of holding the office is quite apertinent.

The best temperance lecturer is a good salt mackerel. If the man that eats one don't take water, then he is a hopeless case.

"Thought I'd leave my measure on your floor," said a man who fell down in a bar-room. "No necessity for that," said the bar-keeper; "we know exactly how much you hold."

"Excuse me, madam; but I should like to ask why you look at me so savagely," said a gentleman to a lady at a party. "Oh! I beg pardon, sir; I took you for my husband."

A contemporary says: "The clergyman, to make an impression, should always fire at the heart." And yet the heads of most people are a good deal softer than their hearts.

The Rev. DeWitt Talmage says it would take five hundred soft-headed and soft-headed city boys stewed down to make a teaspoonful of calf's foot jelly.

A Frenchman brought two mugs to the milkman in place of one, as usual, and being asked the meaning of it, replied: "Dis for te milk, dis for te water, and I will mix dem so as to suit myself."

A gushing, but ungrammatical editor, says: "We have received a basket of fine grapes from our friend —, for which he will please accept our compliments, some of which are nearly an inch in diameter."

House and Farm.

The following is said to be a sure remedy for the yellows in peach trees: One part of saltpeter to two of salt, placed close to the body of a tree before a rain. It seems not only to destroy any fungus growth of vermin which may be infesting the roots, but to act as an excellent fertilizer.

MOLASSES POUND CAKE.—One cupfull of molasses, one of sugar, one of butter, half a cup of sweet milk, one teaspoonful of saleratus, one cup of stoned raisins, and spices to taste. Bake in a deep pan.

CALIFORNIA BOILED ICING.—To one pound of sugar add half a pint of water. Boil it slowly till near the candy point. Beat the whites of four eggs to a froth that will stand. Pour the hot sugar into the eggs, and beat the whole fifteen or twenty minutes. Use it as you do other icing.

WHITE MOUNTAIN CAKE.—Half a cup of butter, three spoonfuls of baking powder, two cupfulls of sugar, three and a quarter cupfulls of sifted flour, five eggs, well beaten with the butter and sugar to a cream, one cupfull of milk. Bake it in layers. Take the whites of four eggs, beaten to a stiff froth, with one pound of fine sugar; flavor it with vanilla or almonds, and put the icing between the layers of the cake and on the top.

Investigations by Mr. Marklyn and Mr. Cooper would seem to place rye before wheat in the scale of nutrition. They pronounce it one-third richer than wheat. Rye is especially rich in gluten. This corresponds with the generally received idea of farmers. In Pennsylvania rye has long been considered one of the most valuable of cereals as food for horses, and in Europe it is held in high estimation for bread. It winters easily, and thrives on a comparatively poor soil.

Make your orchards hog tight, and if in grass, as soon as you have removed the crop, turn in your pigs. If you have none, buy some—they will pay you better than any other investment you could make. An ordinary apple orchard of a few hundred trees will support and keep in prime condition a sufficient number of hogs to supply a large family, and a little corn towards the end of the season, to harden the flesh, will be the only feed outside of the ore and they require. Every fallen apple is diseased, the egg or larva of some destructive insect is imbedded in it, and if left to rot upon the ground the result is an increased number of insects with each ensuing year. A few pigs will destroy more insects at less cost than it can be done in any other way. You will be told that hogs will not fatten on sour apples. All bosh! We have made a hog pen of our ten-acre apple orchard for the past five years, with the very best results, and at the end of October have seen our Berkshire waddling about in the shade in as fine condition as if they had been fed upon sugar corn boiled to a turn.

Omnibus.

It is common to esteem most that is most unknown.

Only that day dawns to which we are awake.

Great natural gifts bring duties to their possessor rather than privileges.

The strength of a nation is the well ordered and intelligent homes of its people.

May you learn the wisdom of age long before you are depressed with its infirmities.

Things which are held the most cheaply, are in general the most secure from danger.

Knowledge and timber should not be too much used until they are seasoned.

Energy will do anything that can be done in this world; and no talents, no circumstances, no opportunities will bring any degree of success without it.

Often in life, in the course of a few minutes, some thought is conceived, some deed committed, which tinges the remainder of an existence.

Alienation from the love of God leads to the alienation from the love of men; hence fallen men are described as "hateful, and hating one another."

There is too much of the legal and too little of the filial spirit among believers. Many act more as hired servants than as adopted children.

Don't waste life in doubts and fears; spend yourself on the work before you, well assured that the right performance of this hour's duties will be the best preparation for the hours or ages that follow.

Dress has a moral effect upon the conduct of mankind. Let any gentleman find himself with dirty boots, old sturttout, soiled neck-cloth, and a general negligence of dress, he will, in all probability, find a corresponding disposition by negligence of address.

Scientific and Useful.

To prevent the skin from discoloring after a bruise, take a little dry starch or arrowroot, merely moisten it with cold water, and place it on the injured part. This is best done immediately, so as to prevent the action of the air upon the skin. Invaluable for black eyes.

Professor Rudolph says that he has found out that the sun is a white, hot mass of 856,000 miles in diameter, having a surrounding ocean of burning gas 50,000 miles deep, with tongues of flames darting upward 50,000 miles, and volcanic forces that hurl luminous matter to the height of 160,000 miles.

A cement for covering the joints of ovens that has been found excellent in practice and does not crack, but becomes very hard, may be made by mixing equal quantities of finely-sifted wood ashes and crushed and sifted clay, and adding some salt and sufficient water to form it into a dough, with which the cracks are coated when the oven is cold. If this cement is employed instead of clay in setting new ovens they will be almost indestructible.

LAMP AND OIL.—1st. Always fill your lamp in the morning, for then you have daylight to work by and the lamps and oil are cold. 2d. Never pour oil from a can that has recently been agitated. 3d. Never allow your lamps or can to stand near a stove or in any warm place. 4th. Always keep the tube of a lamp clear, and trim the wick every morning. 5th. Never blow down a chimney to put your right out, but blow up from the bottom or turn the wick down. 6th. Buy none but the best oil. 7th. Never pour oil on a fire, for one-half of the lives lost by oil have been lost in this way.

Subterranean Forests.—The discovery of a subterranean forest, below the surface of the Thames, is attracting a good deal of attention in England. The oak, the alder and the willow are the principal trees found. These retain their vegetable character, but other signs show that the forest belongs to the period of the elk and red deers in the south of England. We also have such a subterranean forest in the New Jersey flats. It consists chiefly of cedar trees, which have become very hard, and in some instances have paid the cost of extraction. The time of their burial has not yet been determined, but the cause is undoubtedly due to the slow subsidence of the State of New Jersey, which sinks now at the rate of about 16 inches in a century. If this sinking has been uniform, 3,000 years would have caused a sinking of 40 feet, and thus the forest may, 3,000 years ago, have been 30 feet above tide water, while now it is 10 feet below, and buried under the deposits carried on top of it by every flood.—Manufacturer and Builder.

Ye're on Our Side.

Some contend that they are more efficacious for the promotion of temperance by a moderate drinking practice than they would be by total abstinence. Moderate drinking is, in their estimation, the golden medium. So thinks the drunkard, too. Did any ever eulogize intemperance? Only let a minister holding such an opinion, advocate it, and who will applaud more heartily than the intemperate? The late Prof. Miller, in his work entitled "Nephalism," gives a case in point: "At a public meeting in the west of Scotland," he says, "an endeavor was made to establish a temperance society by the people. Several had spoken earnestly in favor of the movement. The parish minister was present, but remained silent till near the close. He was a good man, an advocate of 'temperance,' especially so called, and could not see any necessity for teetotalism. After all had spoken, he said a little in favor of temperance in general, denouncing drunkenness as a great sin, but adding that he saw no need of any pledge or any association; that each one, for himself or herself, should be able to use the good gifts of God without abusing them."

"He had no sooner sat down than a drunken weaver staggered to his feet in the body of the hall, exclaiming: 'That's right, sir—that's right! Ye're on our side!'"

"The minister rose on the instant, pale and under deep emotion, saying in tones of great solemnity: 'If I am on your side, sir, I am wrong! That was the turning-point with him on that question. His 'temperance' theory was sent to the winds before the demonstrative power of stern experience; and the practical result was that the association was formed, and the minister's name headed the list of its members.'"—Dr. Reid.

History of a Picture.—Two of the most celebrated artists that the world has ever known dwelt in the same city. One delighted in delineating beauty in all its graces of tint, form and motion. His portraits were instinct with the charm of physical vigor. The graceful, half-voluptuous outline of form and feature harmonized with delicately blended tints. On his canvass, the homeliest faces had an almost irresistible charm. The other found pleasure only in depicting weird and gloomy subjects. Above all, did he excel in painting the portraits of the dying. The agonizing death-throe, the ghastly face and form, were all depicted with marvellous fidelity. There existed between these artists the most intense dislike. At length this dislike culminated. The beauty-loving artist had been engaged in painting the portrait of a beautiful woman. Connoisseurs pronounced it the most wonderful piece of art that had ever been produced. His brother artist was jealous of his fame and sought revenge. By bringing the keeper of the studio he gained access to the picture each night. At first he was content to only deaden the brilliancy of the complexion and eyes, and efface the bloom from cheek and lip and paint a shadow on either cheek. Later, his strokes grew bolder and freer, and one morning the artist awoke to find the entire outline of the portrait changed. He could scarcely recognize in the emaciated form and haggard countenance the glowing conception he had embodied. The pallid face and expressionless eyes he had attributed to a lack of genuineness in his materials; but when the outlines were changed he suspected the cause and indignantly dismissed the keeper. What the revengeful artist marveled by a few rapid strokes of his skillful brush was only restored by years of patient industry. Reader, need we name the artists.—Health, who paints the flowers and "grassy carpet" no less than the human form divine.—Disease, the dreaded artist who reveals among the ruins both of nature and humanity,—and Carelessness, the keeper to whom Health often entrusts his portraits. And is it not the beauty of woman, the most admired of all the works which adorn the studio of Health, that Disease oftenest seeks to mar? The slightest stroke of his brush upon the delicate organization leaves an imprint that requires much skill and patience to efface. Restoration must be prompt. Carelessness need be dismissed. Let sufferers heed the warning ere Disease has marred their chief beauty.—Health—beyond reparation. Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription has been used by thousands of these sufferers, and they are unanimous in their praise of its excellence. If you would be transformed from the pallid, nervous invalid into a happy, vigorous woman, try it.

Juvenile soliloquy: "I wonder what makes ma say she's not at home when Billy Doone's mother calls, and then send me to bed without any supper when I tell a lie?"

Facts for the People.

It is an undeniable fact that no article was ever placed before the public with so much undisputed evidence of its great medicinal value, as the

VEGETINE.

For every complaint for which VEGETINE is recommended, many testimonials of what it has done for the public at large, and no one should fail to observe that nearly all of the testimonials are from people right at home, where the medicine was prepared, and the streets and numbers are given, there can be no possible doubt about the matter.

Boston, Dec. 17, 1872.

H. R. Stevens, Esq.: Dear Sir—May I ask the favor of you to make my case public? I have been in the army in the army. I was taken with a flu which lasted all night. I was taken into camp and dosed with whisky and quinine. After this I felt ever so much better, but the attending physicians, I grew worse and was sent home. Remained in poor health for four years, getting with many physicians and trying many remedies. Finally Scrofula made its appearance on different parts of my body, and my head was so diseased as to be frightfully hot and painful beyond endurance. After trying the most eminent physicians, without improvement, a change of climate was advised.

I have been in the Hot Springs in Arkansas twice, each time giving my treatment a thorough trial. Finally came back to Boston, discomfited with the result. I was in a hurry to get home in my situation. My disease, and the effect of so much powerful medicine, had so damaged my system that the action of my stomach was apparently destroyed, and my head was covered with ulcers which had in places oozed into the skull bone.

The best physicians said my blood was so full of poison they could do no more for me. About this time a friend, who had been invalid, told me Vegetine had restored him to perfect health, and through his persuasion I commenced taking Vegetine. At this time I was having fits almost every day. I noticed the first good effects of Vegetine in my digestive organs. My food sat better and my stomach grew stronger. I began to feel encouraged for I could see my health slowly and gradually improving. With renewed hope I continued taking the Vegetine, until it had completely driven disease out of my body. It cured the fits, gave me good, pure blood, and brought me to my perfect health, which I have enjoyed before for ten years. Hundreds of people in the city of Boston can vouch for the above facts.

Vegetine has saved my life, and you are at liberty to make such use of this statement as pleases you best, and I beg of you to make it known that other sufferers may find relief with less trouble and expense than I did.

It will afford me great pleasure to show the marks of my disease or give any further information in my power to any one who desires it. I am, sir, very gratefully, JOHN PIERCE, No. 127 Sawyer Street, Boston, Mass.

Twenty-Seven Years Ago. H. R. Stevens, Esq.: Dear Sir—This is to certify that my daughter was taken sick when she was only two years old, so low that we were obliged to keep her on a pillow without moving, to keep the little thing together. She was attended by several physicians—the regular attendance being Dr. John Stevens. They all pronounced her case incurable. She had been sick about a year, when hearing of the great benefits of VEGETINE, I commenced giving that, and it continued to bring her back to her health, and she was about seven years old when she was pronounced perfectly cured. During her sickness three children of mine were taken from her right arm above the elbow, one of them being very long. Several small pieces were also taken from her left arm, and she has never since been troubled with any other kind of disease. Her arm is a little shorter than the other, and she is not in the best of health. Her case was Scrofula, in the form of a blood disease, and I would recommend all those having Scrofula humor or any other blood disease, to use VEGETINE, the reliable blood remedy, which does the work of the system like many other preparations recommended, but, on the contrary, it is nourishing and strengthening. My daughter's case will fully testify to this. I never saw or heard of a worse form of Scrofula. HILDA SMITH, 12 Monument St., Charlestown, Mass. Miss SARAH M. JOHNS, 60 Sullivan St., Charlestown, Mass. April 10, 1870.

The above statement shows a perfect cure of Scrofula in its worst form, when pronounced incurable, of a child four years of age, twenty-seven years ago. The lady, now twenty-seven years old, enjoys perfect health.

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For Dyspepsia, Constipation, Jaundice, Biliary attacks, Sick Headache, Colic, Depression of Spirits, Sour Stomach, Heart Burn, etc., etc. It cleanses the system, restores the appetite, and gives health, cheerfulness and good spirits; they will tell you by taking SIMMONS' LIVER REGULATOR.

The Cheapest, Purest and Best Family Medicine in the World!

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PURELY VEGETABLE. IT HAS NO EQUAL.

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AUSTIN, TEXAS.

The Tenth Annual Session begins WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 1877, and continues forty weeks.

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Texas Christian Advocate

Table with 4 columns: Rate, Length, Price, and Notes. Includes 'ADVERTISING RATES' and 'Rates on Standing Advertisements'.

ADVERTISING RATES: One-half inch one insertion, 50 cents; Each consecutive insertion, 25 cents; One inch one insertion, 1.00; Each consecutive insertion, 50 cents.

The Children's Corner. WE want some of the children to write to Cousin Joe, Hidalgo, Texas, and tell him where the following quotation is to be found, and if it is correctly given here:

"God tempers the wind to the shorn lamb." (Communicated.) Letters to the Children--No. 10. My Dear Little Cousins: Before I came out here among the Mexicans, I had but little idea of what they were, and I am aware that many other children have as vague and indefinite ideas about them as I had.

Yes, I learn that some think they are but little better, and scarcely more intelligent, than brutes. They have, probably, seen a few straggling Mexicans of the lower class, and judge all others by them. This is as unjust as it would be for the most degraded man you can think of to go to England or France and be taken as a fair specimen of the best class of its Americans.

For the better and more intelligent class in Mexico no more resemble these rancheros (name applied to hoosiers as well as to owners of ranches) than the most refined and polite gentleman in your acquaintance resembles the most ignorant and uncouth "cow-boy" you ever saw.

Heretofore I have told you about the little, poor and ignorant children living in ranches, but have said but little or nothing about the other children. You will probably be surprised to hear that some of the most beautiful, polite and intelligent children that I ever saw were of this class of the natives of Mexico. They have black hair and beautiful keen black eyes, and moderately fair skin--much fairer than that of many Americans after they remain a few years in this Southern climate.

When a stranger or any one else enters a schoolroom the students arise and bow with as much dignity as a dancing class would; and when one of them is addressed, either by his teacher or a visitor, he invariably rises to his feet and stands erect until the speaker has finished. If the speaker arises to address the whole school, they arise, bow, resume their seats, and sit quietly until he has finished. I was surprised to learn on visiting a school of sixty-five boys in Reynosa (Ray-e-no-sah--Mex.) that all of them could read and a large majority of them read well; and that many of them, who were not more than ten and twelve years old, were well advanced in arithmetic, grammar, geography, history, etc. I sometimes entertain myself ever so long by sitting in my door and watching the boys as they pass across the public square, from all parts of the city--some from school, some from store-houses and some from their homes--going to the female schools to meet their sisters. The girls are so sure that their brothers will come that they wait for them, and it is really entertaining to see them, of all sizes, from 4 to 15 years, tripping back across the square and through the streets hand in hand or arm in arm. Would my little cousins not do well to follow this example of attentiveness to sisters? But oh! how sad! how

distressing! and how heart-rending! There are thousands of these children, and their parents, too, who know nothing of Jesus as their Saviour, and are entirely ignorant of what the Bible teaches. Yea, even worse, they are taught many things as coming from the Word of God which are contrary to its teachings, forbidden by its laws and directly opposed to morality. "What!" say you. "Have they no preachers--no religious teachers?" No, my little cousins, they have none except a few missionaries that are scattered here and there. They have a host of men who call themselves priests; but who are--a large number of them at least, perhaps a considerable majority--as corrupt as human beings ever get. These men have had perfect sway in this country so long, and dress and act in such a way that the people really believe that they are God's priests, and consequently believe every word they tell them. "Well," do you inquire, "what do they teach them?"

As I have not space to answer this question as I desire, I will defer answering until my next, in which I will tell you more about both the children and their parents. The last mail brought me another interesting little letter which I shall let you all read:

SAN MARCOS, TEXAS, June 11, 1877. Dear Cousin Joe: I have just finished reading the children's letters to you, in the Advocate of the 9th. I was so pleased with them and with your reply that I will write you a little letter. I am a little girl, ten years old. I have often thought that I would write to you, but I thought that my letter would not be interesting to any of your little friends. I go to Sunday school every Sunday, and am very fond of reading the Bible and of my Sunday-school lessons. I belong to the M. E. Church, South. I have two Bible questions to ask your little cousins: Who built the first city mentioned in the Bible, and what was its name? Who built the last city mentioned in the Bible, and what is its name? Well, I must close, as my letter is too long already. Hoping to hear from you soon, I remain, Your little cousin, FERTH FISHER.

I am glad, Cousin Judith, that you responded so promptly to Cousin Carrie's suggestion to ask each other Bible questions, to be answered in your little letters to me, and think you have asked two good ones to begin with. Now, little cousins, Cousin Judith says she is very fond of reading the Bible and of her Sunday-school lessons, and she has proven it by being the first to ask a question. But I hope there are others who love the Bible almost, if not quite as much, as she does, and who will prove it by answering these questions and asking more immediately. As ever, yours affectionately, COUSIN JOE.

How Bessie was Saved. It was such a nice place to play--that old boat hauled up behind the barn and resting upon beams in such a way that it could be easily rocked to and fro--a motion which delighted the little ones, to say nothing of the big ones of twelve and fourteen. For in that we took many an imaginary sail upon the lake or river. And, being near the ocean, we often had a make-believe voyage upon it. And sometimes we were a little shipwrecked party, with our signals of distress, consisting of a pole hoisted up to its top, and an old brass kettle which we called our drum. That boat could also be converted into a church, school-house, or stage coach, whichever we chose to make it. This was many years ago, before we had seen a railroad; so that a stage coach was our highest idea of traveling equipage.

But I have not told you who "we" were. Well, we were a group of sisters and one brother. Colin, at the time of which I speak, was about fourteen--and a wonderful brother we thought him--the leader in our sports, and our helper in every way. Next in age was Carrie, about twelve; then the twins, Emma and Anna; and last, our darling four-year old, Bessie. How Colin loved the dear little pet! Once, when she was very sick, he said that if God would let her die he hoped he would take him, too; but he afterwards felt this was wrong, and asked God to forgive him.

We did not always play in the boat, but often played in the orchard and in a grove just by. One day, Colin, having gone to town, we were playing in the orchard, when all at once we missed little Bessie; and then it occurred to us that we had not seen her for some time. So we ran to search for her--one to the house, another to the barn, while another looked in every hiding place out of doors. She was not to be found; and then we flew towards the beach, full of apprehension. Close by the water we found one of her little shoes. Then we all began to cry and wish for Colin; for mother, also, was away. In a few moments we heard his voice. It did not take him long to reach us; for he missed his darling Bessie, and, seeing us crying, supposed she had fallen into the water in attempting to cross a narrow sand bar that reached to the opposite

shore of the little cove, for this could have been done an hour ago; but now the water covered the narrow ridge. The little one had often crossed it with us, and never seemed afraid of the water. We ought to have watched her more carefully, and we felt it now with bitter sorrow.

Colin did not waste a moment in questioning us. In a few seconds he learned our fears, and saw at once the only thing to be done. To swim was not the thing, for he might not be able to return with his little burden. He looked for the small boat. It was gone. "Oh!" exclaimed Colin, "I will have to take the large one. God help me!"

The large one was a clumsy thing, not so easily managed, and it would require more time to cross the cove in it. But the brave boy unfastened it, stepped in, and pushed off without another word, but he prayed silently to God. He looked down into the water as he went along, almost expecting to see the form of our darling. But we were spared from this sorrow, although he did just save her, the water having risen to her shoulders when he reached her, and she seemed exhausted from fear and exposure. On his return he lifted the little dripping form from the boat, and bent his face close down over the darling. Our mother had joined us, and he put the child in her arms without a word; for he could not speak. Then he turned away, and we saw the tears fall fast.

After this he went by the appellation of "Captain" among his neighbors, a title which became his in reality in after life; and as an officer in the navy he won much honor and esteem. Mother always said that she believed that it was in answer to prayer that God spared Bessie; for, while Colin was going for her, she drew us to her side, and asked God to enable him to reach his little sister before the tide should cover her. And you may be sure she did not forget to thank God for sparing the child, while we all knelt with her by Bessie's body after her rescue.--Well Spring.

Sunday School. In Western Turkey connected with missions of the American Board are 78 Sabbath Schools, with an average attendance of 4,851. Illinois is the banner State as to Sabbath School statistics. It reports for 1877, 6241 schools (an increase of 269 over the year 1876), with 63,364 teachers and officers, and 464,531 scholars. Here is a great army of a half-million Bible students.

The Shorter Catechism, which some men suppose to be an institution of by-gone days, still lives and multiplies. The latest note of its progress comes from Madagascar. An English missionary has translated it into Malagasy, and is printing it, with the Scripture proofs in full, for use in the schools.

The London Sunday School Chronicle thinks ministers might take a hint from Dean Stanley's example: "Dean Stanley has recently preached to children a little sermon of five minutes' length, in Westminster Abbey, which is a perfect model of a simple, pleasant, evangelical, and really attractive chat with the little folks. The greatness of his great mind and heart are in nothing more plain than in his sympathy with children and beautiful adaptations of the truth to them."

A little girl saw hanging in her Sunday school room this text on an illuminated card: "Let us not be weary in well doing; for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." She caught the idea of its teaching, and in attempting to repeat it at her home, she gave a somewhat free rendering, in this form: "Don't you get tired in doing good; for if you don't faint away, by and by you'll get your pay." The truth, as she put it, is worth bearing in mind.

Regular to the moment, a Sabbath school teacher should be at the head of his class, or if prevented, then by a substitute. This army cannot march and do battle unless every lieutenant and colonel is at his post, as well as the commander. A punctual teacher makes a punctual class. With infinite promptness and regularity of the world moves. Hundreds of years before the day comes, you can tell just the minute the sun will rise, and just the minute it will set. The return of the queerest comet is calculated. At just the right time the buds burst, and the leaf unfolds, and the wave breaks, and yet, strange to say, there are those in schools and churches who, with unflinching persistence, are always behind. Their punctual appearance would be a phenomenon. You would consider it as ominous. You would have to look again and again, lest you be mistaken, and would not to the very last feel certain that it was not an optical delusion.

WEATHERFORD DISTRICT--FOURTH ROUND Springtown, at Springtown, 4th Sabbath in Aug. Fort Griffin, at Breckenridge, 2d Sabbath in Sept. Weatherford circuit, 4th Sabbath in Oct. Graham, at Monk's Chapel, 1st Sabbath in Oct. Colorado, at Westbrook's Springs, 3d Sabbath in Oct. Cartersville, 1st Sabbath in Nov. Weatherford station, 2d Sabbath in Nov. Black Springs, 3d Sabbath in Nov. Jacksboro, 4th Sabbath in Nov.

Brethren, don't fail to bring up every collection ordered by the church. I insist that the Friday preceding each quarterly meeting be observed by fasting and prayer, and that services be held suitable to the occasion. Oh! for a glorious revival all over the district. We must double the membership before Conference. T. W. HINES, P. E.

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## Texas Christian Advocate

**I. G. JOHN, D. D.**.....Editor.  
**Associate Editors.**  
 By action of the Joint Board of Publication the following able corps of Associate Editors were elected. Each will write over the last initial of his name. The suggestion distinguishes the articles to which it is appended from those of either the Editor or his Associates:  
**H. S. Finley**.....East Texas Conference  
**H. S. Thrall**.....West Texas Conference  
**W. G. Connor, D. D.**.....N.W. Texas Conference  
**W. C. Haislip**.....North Texas Conference  
**H. T. Nabors**.....Texas Conference

Did you ever notice the butterfly, the honey bee, the humming bird, whose wings flash in the sunlight, as they swarm from flower to flower, each selecting its own cup from which to draw its sweets? We have seen a bee enter a flower in which another was at work, but it promptly retired when it discovered a prior claimant, and hastened with cheerful buzz to another rose. This is very pretty; but it is hardly a real picture of human life.

Did you ever see the carrion worms at work on a carcass festering in the hot sunlight? It is not an attractive sight; but as we see the wriggling mass rioting in the festering rotteness, we behold a picture of human greed; crowding, pushing, squirming in the eager struggle for wealth. Each for himself, regardless of other rights or welfare. Is the screw-worm, or the bee or butterfly the symbol of our lives?

PERCY preserves the fact that when Sir Philip Sydney, whose valor was unequalled in his day, was stretched, bleeding from his death-wound, on the battle-field of Zutphen, parched by thirst, he called for a drink of water. It was brought to his side, but as it was raised to his lips his eye caught the eager glance of a poor soldier, mangled by a terrible wound, which was eagerly fixed on the cool water. As tender in his Christian spirit as he was brave in battle, the dying General passed the bottle to his comrade with the words: "Thy necessity is greater than mine." The humanity which prompted such a deed was born of that love which led Christ to Calvary. What a world this would be if the words of the dying knight were the rule of every life: "Thy necessity is greater than mine!" How it would open the hand of the rich man and fill the lives of the men and women with deeds of loving kindness.

THE religious papers do not all take very kindly to some remarks of Dr. McCosh before the General Presbyterian Council. Here is what he says:

"There is a New England style of preaching, which consists in beginning on Monday morning, meditating two or three days, then writing a beautiful thing, and when Saturday comes looking for the text, and having got a text, preaching it to be admired by a great many ladies and gentlemen as a rich thought, beautifully expressed. That style of preaching prevailed for a time; but now people have become thoroughly sick of it. This is the true cause why there is a desire to have old country preachers, who preach the word in simplicity and power, dividing their sermons into heads, and introducing old phrases, mingling thought with Scripture. In New York and all over America that is the style of preaching that is taking; and their American brethren are learning to preach in that way, so that they will soon beat the Scotch preachers and turn them out."

The bluntness of the Princeton Professor originated in his ignorance of the real American style of preaching. He assumed that the purely sensational style was the New England style, and that the New England style was the American style. He judged the whole land by Boston and New York, and concluded that every preacher from Cape Cod to the Golden Gate of California was aping certain clerical celebrities who are much more notorious for their eccentricities than their evangelical zeal. New York is only a little part of America, and even if Boston were the hub, it is not felloe, spoke and tire also of American thought. Its utterances find but small echo beyond its barren hills. And if it be true that the American preachers no longer make the stilted formalities of the Scotch pulpit their model, it may be possible they are wisely adjusting the style of their message to the mental aptitudes of the multitudes they address. We do not question that there are imperfections in each separate style of preaching, but the assumption that one style is the only true style—which seems to be the notion of the Princeton sage—savors more of human egotism than Christian humility.

## SPENDTHRIFTS.

When Pericles lay dying, his friends, to cheer him in that trying hour, spoke in glowing terms of the glory of his life. They mentioned his virtues, his riches, his eloquence, and the triumphs in art and in battle, Athens had achieved under his leadership. He reminded them that they had overlooked the crowning glory of his history: "None of my fellow-citizens have ever put on mourning through my means."

When Jennie Deans was pleading with the Queen for the life of her erring sister, she reminded the royal lady that in that day which must come to all, both great and small, "it will not be what we have done for ourselves, but what we have done for others, that will give us joy."

Men and women are full of lamentations that so little of this world's wealth is allotted to them. Their hearts are full of fretfulness that other lives are crowded with luxuries, and that the homes of other men and women are free from anxiety, while their own hands are horny with toil and their hearts crushed with care. They forget that every human life is grandly endowed with elements of true riches; that they may gather and hoard wealth which will never molder under the touch of time, or vanish at the approach of death. Deeds of mercy make an estate which time nor the tomb cannot destroy. The man whose riches are vested in houses, lands, bonds or stocks, bids them an eternal farewell at the grave. The man who has made human hearts happy may bear his treasure into the eternal world. The one looks back on wealth from which he is parting with bitter regret; the other remembers his past deeds with joy.

Only a few achieve success in the pursuit of earthly wealth, while all—both high or low—can "lay up treasures in heaven." The world is full of riches of this order, which the humblest may accumulate. There are hungry mouths to be filled with bread, shivering nakedness to be clothed; there are sick to be nursed, broken hearts to be healed, wasted lives to be restored, penitent souls to be cheered with words of precious promise, and dying immortals to be pointed to that Savior who is ever pitiful to the earnest pleader. There are rich mines of moral wealth within the walls of the humblest homes, and a wealth of golden opportunity crowding every path of life. Human hearts are bending under heavy burdens, and we may help; sickness, sorrow and sin are thronging all the thoroughfares of life, and we may speak a word or perform an act each day which may help some weary soul in its struggle, or guard some careless footstep along the slippery pathway of temptation.

What a conscious waste of life must press on the soul of the dying man who feels that his gold is the coarsest dross when compared with the merchandise of heaven, while he can not point to any act of mercy which gladdened the life of a fellow-being on earth as a token that his life was not an utter failure. Men called him a prudent, thrifty man on earth; but in the eternal world he will be rated the most reckless spendthrift who ever wasted a whole life-time of priceless opportunities.

## FRAUDULENT LAND CLAIMS.

In view of the recent extraordinary operations in fraudulent land certificates, in the city of Galveston, it may not be uninteresting to review some similar transactions in the earlier periods of our history:

The first attempt at swindling on a grand scale was by the Galveston Bay Company: a company that became possessed of the Empresario grants to Burnet and Zavalla. That company, according to Kennedy, about the year 1830, issued fraudulent land certificates to the amount of 6,210,390 acres; pretty respectable grab for that early period.

The next swindle worth mentioning was in 1835, when the mem-

bers of the Legislature at Saltillo, sold, principally to themselves, over 1,500,000 acres, at a merely nominal price.

The next attempt to gobble up the entire public domain of Texas was in the charter of an omnibus bill by the first Congress, called the "Texas Rail Road, Navigation and Banking Company." Ex-President Anson Jones says that if this company could have commanded capital enough to start with, it would have absorbed all the valuable land of the Republic. Fortunately it could never organize.

The next was the sale of Galveston Island. President Burnet had advised the reservation of that, and all other islands, for the Republic, as under Mexican law they had been reserved from location. Dr. Jones characterizes the sale of Galveston and the location of the seat of government at Houston as pretty respectable speculations for members of a legislature.

After annexation, a commission appointed by the Legislature discovered that over 100,000 acres of fraudulent land certificates had been issued in Peters' colony. At that time this was thought to be a considerable "steal."

President Jones in his review of the history of our land laws, says: "I defy any man now, after twelve years' experience of the law with its resulting evils, to draw up a bill which Anglo-Saxon land stealers cannot take advantage of. Every body of ordinary sagacity knew there would be frauds committed the moment a land office was opened in Texas. It took no prophet to tell us that; it would have taken all the prophets, and the apostles to boot, to have told us how frauds were to be prevented in Texas land matters."

Commenting upon the same subject, Ex-President Burnet says: "The acquisition of land has ever constituted a too prominent feature in Anglo-American settlement of Texas. Iniquitous frauds have been resorted to in gratification of this inordinate passion. It is difficult by legislation to circumscribe the chicanery of land speculators. Their ingenious avidity will find means to circumvent the most stringent enactments."

The late transaction in Galveston in which 1053 fraudulent certificates for a section of land each, is not quite as large as some of the others mentioned as to quantity of land, but was by far the most remunerative of any previous attempt: the firm, one which heretofore stood very high in Texas, realized, depositing these certificates as collaterals, the sum of \$85,000.

Our fathers, at an early period in our history, dedicated our public domain to educational purposes. They thought this immense domain would furnish our children in all future generations means for at least a common school education, but under the laws granting landsubsidies so lavishly—of which we have an illustration in the grants for cleaning out Cane and Bernard rivers—this domain is melting away like a mountain of snow in a summer sun. So long as the counties have school lands, or the State has school, or university, or asylum lands, or any other unappropriated public domain, we may expect land sharks will be scheming to get possession of it. Is there no way by which these valuable lands can be preserved, and utilized for educational purposes?

## CAUSE OF THE HARD TIMES.

Many deal with the business distress prevalent in much too flippant a style. They are apt to look at everything through their own special blue or green glasses, and are intolerant of any opinion not coincident with their own. But in goodsooth, this is a serious and general question which demands the sober reflection of all classes and of every individual concerned. The principles involved are to be determined, not by any individual wish or local opinion, but by the average sentiment of the community. We are aware that in saying so much we lay ourselves open to refutation from his-

torical sources as to the worthlessness of popular verdicts in very many cases. We grant this; but accepting it as a caution to restrain our judgment, we shall maintain that in so practical a matter as this, involving the means and fact of existence, the people, as represented by the various classes, can alone give by their declaration a true reply to the question now so frequently and almost despairingly asked, "Why is this stringency in money affairs? Why is this general and wide-spread distress?"

A hundred solutions have been offered: among these the following seem to be the most specious:

First—The difficulty is a formal or technical one. The volume of currency is not sufficient to meet the demands of exchange and commerce generally. The attempt to realize a silver basis is already cropping out in retrenchment, forced economy, reduced wages, strikes and general misery. All because there is not a sufficiency of the equivalents of value dispersed throughout the community.

Of the truth of this allegation we are ourselves convinced, but it does not by any means satisfy the question. It enters in as one factor and to a certain extent affects the matter in hand.

Second—It is affirmed that the troubles that have fallen upon the people cannot be ascribed to the outside commodities, as greenbacks or coin, which affect the exterior of life; but that the cause lies deeper, even within the heart and personal experience of the people. These thinkers assert that during the war and since the American people have been tempted to do evil in a thousand extravagant ways, and that they have fallen, now (say they) the people are reaping the bitter fruits of falsehood, uncleanness, corruption, inflation and a general spirit of extravagance which led finally to the establishment of the order of things on an unsubstantial and false basis. This bubble, say they, in the course of time has been pricked, and is now rapidly collapsing.

Under this view, the severe lessons administered by the frequent bankruptcies of trusted companies and individuals; the discontent and strikes of the laboring classes; the painful shrinkage of values in real estate; the clog that has been placed upon the wheel of business; is nothing but the logical punishment for a broken law. And as the reaction must be proportionate to the blow, we cannot in reason expect a relief from the evils that afflict us until the atonement has been made for the folly, and the people's hearts have become enlightened and changed for the better on economical and moral principles.

This opinion we endorse. We do not say that it will fully satisfy the question, but we think that it will come nearer doing so than any solitary one can. Combined with the first opinion, it very nearly gives the requisite answer. Extravagance in private, social and public life, venality and corruption throughout society, have brought upon the land that curse which is now intensified by the withdrawal from circulation of the accustomed and insufficient means of exchange to which the people had become wedded and habituated, as it were.

Add to these the very obvious fact that the American of the day declines, if he can, hard labor in favor of lighter and more intellectual work, and the question will, we think, be satisfied.

When men become more honest, dutiful and humble; when the government will see that a free and sufficient system of exchange shall be enjoyed by the people at large; when the hordes of white-handed clerks, lawyers, doctors, gamblers, and miscellaneous middle-men in super-abundance, who swarm in our cities, towns and villages, shall show a grain of sense and manhood by going into the country and by taking hold of the plough, increase the productive capital of the country, then and not till then will our people be relieved of their distress and an era of plenty and content dawn on our land.

## EUROPEAN REVIEW.

No change of consequence has taken place since our last issue in European affairs.

The Turco-Russian war is unaccountably slow-paced. Either Germans or Americans would have "whipped" or been whipped ere this. It would appear that the popular idea of the tremendous power of Russia as a military State has been proved a fallacy. The events so far show, as the Advocate has before held, that the discrepancy between the force of the belligerents is not so great as was imagined, and that in the beginning of the contest the Turks would have the advantage. The lack of a sagacious and energetic commander is severely felt by the Russians. Had they a Suwarow, or even a Potemkin, Plevna would never have become a term of reproach, and Russia would never have lost the substantial fruits of Gourko's magnificent escalation of the Balkans. As it is, the Russian army seems to be cursed by the rule of "red tape" and bare respectability of talent. Krudener clearly proved before Plevna his incompetency to command an independent corps; and Gorowski, by his crazy charge, only demonstrated his personal gallantry at the expense of his generalship.

The rainy season will soon set in, and unless an inspiration shall possess the Czar, it is not probable that any great battle will be fought before spring. Should the "young Russian" idea, however, prevail, and "revenge for Plevna" be the watchword, we may expect to hear of a pitched battle being fought about Tirnova, and if victory remain with the Russians, it is surmised that the Czar will readily listen to propositions of peace. Should they be beaten, the outlook will be gloomy for the peace of Europe; for it is not to be supposed that so haughty a power will accept defeat at the hands of a hated and inferior enemy, even upon the dictation of the great powers.

All ideas of carrying the position of Plevna by assault have been abandoned. The place is invested and as Osman Pasha is but slenderly victualled, he must either be relieved, or else accept the alternative of a sortie or a surrender.

Gourko, before falling back, gained a brilliant victory at Yeni Saghra, July 30th, over a superior force, but was compelled by the massing on his front and flank to save his gallant little army by making good his retreat through the hard-won pass.

To sum up the items of the relative position, as per last cable: affairs in Asia are unchanged. Kars is beleaguered—an indecisive skirmish has been fought before it and nothing further is known.

In Europe, it seems to be a matter to be decided by time and opportunity whether the critical battle threatened so long will take place in a short period or will be postponed till next spring.

Germany has sent a squadron to Salonica to enforce the re-arrest of the officials imprisoned for the outrage on the Christian community, and who have been recently liberated.

England sends an iron-clad laden with entrenching tools to Malta. Egypt promises the Sultan to double her contingent. Spain with a singular fatuity is preparing to send 50,000 troops to Cuba. Probably each gallant fellow will be given a homestead six feet by two! Austria and Italy are quiet. In France the caldron is boiling very prettily and the shadows of fate like prophetic bubbles are rising to the top. "Republican or Cossack?" said Napoleon. Which shall it be? †

A GENTLEMAN, while looking through the grates of a prison cell on the scowling faces of certain criminals, asked the warden if any of them claimed to be Christians. He was surprised at the inquiry, and replied: "Such men invariably declare that Christianity is mere priestcraft, Christians hypocrites, and the doctrines of grace fit only to amuse women and children." It is a significant statement. Bad men hate the religion

of Christ, and try to disbelieve its revelations. The creed of the criminal holds good in all the haunts of sin. In the gilded saloon, the low doggery, the gambling hell, and the shameless dance house, there is a unity of unbelief. In these temples of vice the religion of Christ meets one reception. Its precepts would be a restraint on each sinful indulgence, and with willing hands all seek to break down its authority. This combination of vice against Christianity is no mean proof of its purity.

A THIEF is caught and convicted, and nobody makes a fuss over the fact that he is an avowed infidel. A man has been convicted of fraud in which thousands have been robbed of their hard earnings, and while the papers condemn his rascality, they never make any note of the fact that he is an avowed disbeliever in the religion of Jesus Christ. The purity of a home has been polluted, and public opinion denounces the villain who has robbed a home and many lives of peace and happiness to sate his unhallowed passion, but they do not add: "This man has never taught in the Sunday-school, though well known on the race-track." A brutal murder shocks with its atrocious surroundings a whole community; but the reporter never thinks it worth his while to remind his readers that the shedder of blood never prayed in public, though often seen in the drinking saloon.

But let a preacher prove himself a fraud; let a well-known member of the church be guilty of theft; let a Sunday-school teacher violate the law of purity, or let a class-leader or deacon be guilty of bloody or dastardly deeds, and how promptly and emphatically is the Christianity of the individual proclaimed. Unconsciously man honors the religion of Christ, and instinctively recognizes the fact that crime is foreign to its teachings and profession.

A SPRING rich in life-giving water was discovered years ago in our State. Men of science tested its qualities and reported the minerals it held in solution. Sick men drank its waters and were healed. Since then, every year, men and women have been found dipping their cups in its limpid waves and quaffing eagerly its health-giving waters. Men of business lay aside their toil for wealth; mothers leave their children to the care of others, and seek the fountain; and parents bear their sickly offspring to the healing spring, hoping that by its help a few more years will be added to their earthly pilgrimage. A fountain has been opened, and the sin-sick are invited to its waters. Its merits are heralded in a thousand pulpits; its virtues have been tried by millions who, in life and death, testified its power to save. It is open to all, and all are sick; and yet of the multitude who need, how few are bending to-day over the fountain and drinking with joy waters which flow from the well of salvation?

PROF. LEONIDAS POYNTZ, of the Virginia Female Institute, Staunton, Va., now on a brief, rapid tour through Texas, announces that pupils for this school will assemble at Dallas, and leave with him for Staunton, September 11. He will be found at LeGrand Hotel, Dallas, two or three days prior to said date. Letters may be addressed him as follows: Houston until the 25th; Austin until the 30th; Waco until Sept. 5th; Dallas until the 11th. Prof. P. and wife have taught in Staunton a number of years, and he is recommended to parents as a careful and reliable escort.

IN South Australia, religious accommodation is provided for eighty-eight per cent. of the population. How much better off are the people of Texas in the way of religious accommodation? We doubt if there is a city in the State which will furnish sittings for fifty per cent. of its population.

The Dispatch reports that fourteen loads of onions, estimated at 20,000 pounds, have been raised on an acre in Lampasas county.

Texas Christian Advocate

ADVERTISING RATES: One-half inch one insertion \$1.00, Each consecutive insertion 75c, One inch one insertion \$2.00, Each consecutive insertion 1.50, Two inches one insertion \$3.00, Each consecutive insertion 2.25, Three inches one insertion \$4.00, Each consecutive insertion 3.00, Four inches one insertion \$5.00, Each consecutive insertion 3.75, Six inches one insertion \$6.00, Each consecutive insertion 4.50, One-half column one insertion \$10.00, Each consecutive insertion 7.50, One column one insertion \$12.00, Each consecutive insertion 9.00.

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Southern Ballads.

(For the ADVOCATE.) THE OLDEST TIME. BY SEBASTIAN. The sun shines now as it shone then, On earth and sky, on field and men; The wind blows softly from the South, And morn breathes kisses with her mouth; Men come and go, and children run With shouts and laughter-making fun; The church-bell rings its blessed toll, And wheels revolve and seasons roll; All—the same as in that time— Before our hands were dipped in crime— Before the Rite stepped to the bell, And prayers were down'd by shaft and shell; When fence-ward wide her wings divine, O'er field and home, o'er corn and vine! All nature seems the same to be, But all is not the same to me! The brave and beautiful are laid To rest beneath the cypress shade— The home is burnt—the hearth is char'd; The fields are passed to other lord; The Christmas cheer, the hounds glad bay Have pass'd as childhood dreams away; The merry song of harvest home, From sable hands, as in they come, With sack on head, and kerchief gay, In time and step to roundelay; The organ peals—the holy green— The joyful words of sacred peace between— Th' adoring throng of masters—slaves Before one common Lord who saves Us all by His incarnate Son— The broken bread—the cup, anon; The yule-log's blaze on dancing throng, The merry jest—the hearty song— While through each ample window's pane A black face peers and grins amain, And improvise, on piazza floor, The dance goes round, as in the door! A merry din—when hearts beat high With kindness, love and amity! 'Tis gone! 'tis past—oh, Time of Old! When hearts were warm, though days were cold; The dream is dreamt—the song is sung; The drama played—the knell is rung; Across the wall of grave and flame I hear but echo and a name! The echo of a happy, happy life— The name of father, mother, wife! There sighs the soul of past delight; Here roars the fury of the present fight; There Honor waked, a knightly guest, And Peace the cot and manor blessed— Now lies breathe in each passing gale, And Thetis rides high with bellying sail; Hosannas, now, the ear provoke, O'er broken chains and unbent yoke, While Liberty sends forth a crew To draw a picture slav'ry never drew! The sun and earth the same may be— But, ah! they're not the same to me!

Weatherford District Conference.

The District Conference for the Weatherford District convened at Graham, the county seat of Young county, Texas, July 18, 1877. Young county was unorganized three years ago, being beyond the frontier of organized counties, having a few daring families scattered over its territory, who were constantly subject to raids from various tribes of Indians. Now, perfectly free from all apprehensions from this source, having a tier of organized counties lying west, her territory is rapidly filling up by an enterprising population, of at least an average for intelligence and morality. Graham, named for the enterprising founder of the city, from Meade county, Kentucky, was, four years ago, the dwelling of one family. Eighteen months ago, it contained eleven houses. In one year this number has been multiplied by seven. There are now no less than one hundred, while some where between twenty and thirty are to be erected so soon as the material may be gotten on the ground. Among the buildings are a Masonic hall (the lower story to be used as a school), a courthouse, a hotel, some fine stone dwellings, etc. The Presbyterian Church is building a house of worship of brick. The Methodists expect soon to commence building. A very liberal offer was made to the district conference for the establishment of a college at that place. The citizens of this place are above the average of the towns of Kentucky and Tennessee for intelligence and morality. An excellent Sunday-school (Methodist) flourishes the year round. Quite a number of the citizens were formerly among the enterprising business men of Louisville, Ky. The conference was presided over by the Presiding Elder, the Rev. T. W. Hines, a man of energy, and one who knows how to throw life into his conferences.

This is evinced by the fact that this large frontier district had no appointments so distant or inaccessible as to fail of a lay representation, while every itinerant in the district was present, except one superannuate. The secretary, the Rev. J. E. Akin, the son of your old correspondent, had rarely an omission or a mistake for correction. This is the frontier district on our northern boundary. Five out of nine charges are missions, while one, which gives the name to the district, is a station; the other three are circuits. Since the session of our Annual Conference the increase in the number of members has been: On the station, 49—being about 46 per cent; the circuits, 77—being about 164 per cent; the missions, 195—being about 40 per cent; the entire district, 321—an average of 34 per cent. There are in the district 27 new preaching places. Twenty churches have been organized since the session of our Annual Conference, while 31 were reported at the beginning of the year, an increase of over 64 per cent. Fifteen adults and forty-six infants were reported as having been baptized. Fifteen per cent. of the heads of families hold family worship. Some charges report 10 per cent., one reports 30 per cent., while one makes the extraordinary amount of 50 per cent. Do not these figures demonstrate activity and energy on the part of the ministry, and concern for the interests of the church on the part of the membership? A noble band of missionaries are these, pushing out to the frontier, carrying the gospel to the parts beyond, to the poor, to those who would otherwise die destitute of the word of life. And yet, while this self-sacrificing spirit must be admired, what shall we say of the sufferings to which their families are exposed, or rather of the church which allows these things? Look on that picture, then on this. All these preachers are married men, except two, and most of them with children dependent upon them for food and raiment. These three circuit-preachers have had allowed by their stewards, for their support, \$1,000, and have received \$167 45, of which less than \$50 is in cash. These five missionaries have had (by their stewards) allowed for their support \$1,520, of which they have received \$307 61, of which \$135 was in money. Can your readers divine how four families and one young man can manage to live on \$135 from November till July? Yet this is the aggregate of their receipts from their fields of labor. One of these has had more to pay for house-rent than all the money he has received. Does not this look much like a repetition of the miracle of Cherith? Were it not for the earnest Christian heroism of the wives and children of some of these men, they would not be thus exposed to the galling hardships of this frontier life, but they look for a home over yonder, where there will be full compensation. There is one feature of this subject that is little thought of, if we may judge from the absence of all mention, which is, nevertheless, the source of the greatest concern to our frontier: "What is to become of their children?" Cut off almost exclusively from all society, far from any but rudimentary schools, their parents hard put to it for the plainest food and clothing. What of their education? The father has no time, on account of the number and distance of his appointments, to teach them, if he could. The domestic duties devolving solely on the mother, absorb her time, while the boys, as soon as they are stout enough, must be employed in the field to get food. How the parents' hearts ache to think that the want of culture, thus forced upon their offspring by their service of the church, must lower their children in the social scale, and lessen their prospects of usefulness. This is the most painful thought in the experience of these itinerants on the outside row. What more noble work could the means of the wealthy accomplish than the fostering of these outcasts of the church?

LITTLE'S LIVING AGE.—The numbers for the weeks ending July 28 and August 4, respectively, have the following noteworthy contents: George Sand; by Matthew Arnold; Is the Moon Dead; Pascal and Montaigne, by the late Prof. Grote; The Egyptian Campaign in Abyssinia, from the notes of a staff officer; The Little Old Man of the Battinolle, a chapter from a Detective's Memoirs; The Planet of War; Miss Mary Carpenter; Notes on the Geological Distribution of Animals; Japanese Children; Parliament; together with installments of "Carila," by Mrs. Oliphant; "Pauline," by the author of "Mr. Smith," from advance sheets; "Green Pastures and Piccadilly," by Wm. Black; the conclusion of "The Marquis of Lossie," by Geo. MacDonald, and choice poetry and miscellany. A new volume of this standard eclectic began July 1st. For fifty-two numbers of sixty-four pages each or more than three thousand pages a year, the subscription price (\$8) is low; while for \$10.50 the publishers offer to send any one of the American \$4 monthlies or weeklies with The Living Age for a year, both postpaid. Littell & Gay, Boston, are the publishers.

The following patents were issued to citizens of Texas, for week ending August 15, 1877; furnished for the ADVOCATE by J. McC. Perkins & Co., solicitors for patents etc., 513 Seventh Street, Washington, D. C. 193,070. Breech-Loading Firearms. J. C. Patnecky, Austin.—Filed June 22, 1877. 193,737. Traction-Engines. L. Walker, Dallas. Filed June 25th, 1877. 193,792. Cotton-Harvesters. Clinton E. Graves, Galveston. Assignor of one-half his right to S. Samson, same place. Filed June 13, 1877.

(Communicated.) Indorsement. LONGVIEW, August 17.—Glad to receive our Advocate once more and that the general feeling among our people. We hail with delight the regeneration of our organ and congratulate all parties upon the bright auspices under which it re-enters upon its course of usefulness in the accomplishment of its mission. Success to the efforts in requiring the changes of the paper which has belated them in the service of the church. A bright future is before them in placing the Advocate with the cooperation of the church, in the front rank of religious journalism. Surely, there is a sufficient stimulant to our people to enlist their energies in this joint co-operation. The mission of our Advocate, as unambiguously manifested, is sufficient to glorify the hearts of its patrons to redouble their efforts to place it; here its commanding influence shall manifestly be felt, entering circles, public opinion, and thereby causing the public morals of society, in the purification of the sources of moral power, by the re-organization of our organ, in the production of the grand result. H. M. BOYER.

MARRIED. LEWIS—MARTIN—At the residence of Mr. James Hughes, on the evening of the 16th of August, 1877, by the Rev. T. A. Garrison, M. August M. Lewis and Miss Mary Martin, all of Birch Creek Mission, Bosque county, Texas. SMITH—NICHOLS—At the bride's residence, Aug. 15, 1877, by Rev. J. F. Hines, Mr. Walter C. Smith and Miss Edie S. Nichols, all of Bosque county, Texas.

The Moravians have long been a people that happily illustrated, in their efforts to send the gospel to the heathen world, the sentiment saying: "There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth." Now the United Methodist Free Churches of England are pursuing the same course. With a system of 20,000 persons, they have sent out, and are sustaining in foreign fields, fifty-seven missionaries. Under the Divine blessing they have now 6,240 communicant members of their native churches, 2,657 of whom were brought in during the past year.

An exchange says: "The Methodists are almost as numerous in Michigan as the Episcopalians, Presbyterians, Baptists, Congregationalists, and United Presbyterians combined. Here are the figures: Episcopalians 8,867, Presbyterians 11,869, Baptists 24,278, Congregationalists 12,525, United Presbyterians 1,250, and Methodist Episcopal 57,500. Total 120,830."

Letters Received. August 17.—J. T. Morris, R. E. Bausely, P. W. Archer—\$2.50, James R. Hall, August 20.—W. J. Joyce, Thos. G. McGehee, none handed editor.—S. Akin, F. L. Alant—\$15.00, W. W. McLanahan—sent engine at price we will take for many one.—W. Johnson—sent to good sister S. Williams, as desired.—Joe F. Adams—order received, and acknowledged. ADVOCATE, doubtless, in kind etc.—E. S. Smith—sent more as good.—V. H. Shelton.—H. M. Booth.

In patent boxes, per dozen, 16 to 17; Bay, 28 to 30; Island, 28 to 30; Fruit, Fresh Apples, per bbl., choice from first hands, \$5.00 to 7.00; Lemons, per box, 5.00 to 5.50; Cocoanuts, per M, 45.00 to 50.00.

Shakered, barrels, No. 2, \$10.50 to 11.00; Half-barrels, No. 1, 7.00 to 7.25; Half-barrels, No. 2, 6.00 to 6.25; Kils, No. 1, 1.50 to 1.75; Kils, No. 2, 1.40 to 1.60; Herring, Dutch, per keg, 2.50 to 3.00; Codfish, per pound, 6 to 8.

Flour, 6.50 to 7.00; XXX, 7.50 to 8.00; Family, 8.00 to 8.50; Low grades, 5.00 to 6.00; Feed, Rye, Raisins, layer, per box, \$1.50 to 2.00; Prunes, per pound, 8 to 9; Currants, Zante, in boxes, 8 to 9; Half-boxes, 3.00 to 3.50; Bay, Texas, per ton, 9.00 to 10.00; Western prime, 20 to 22; Western choice, 25 to 26.

Choice sugar cured, per lb., 12 1/2 to 14; 2d quality, 9 to 9 1/2; Hides, selected, per pound, 13 1/2 to 14; Light salted, 13 1/2 to 14; Stack salted, 12 1/2 to 14; Kips, 12 1/2 to 14; Damaged kips and glue stock, 6 to 8; Wet salted, 8 1/2 to 10; Green, 7 to 8.

At New Orleans, the market for spots opened quiet, but firm; closed steady. Sales this week, 3,222 bales. Low Middling, 11-16c; Middling Uplands, 11-16c. Futures opened steady and closed firm. At Liverpool, the market for spots opened dull, and quotations unchanged; arrivals steady, with buyers; Middling Uplands, 6; Orleans, 6-3-16d. At New Orleans, the market opened dull and nominal; Good Ordinary, 9 1/2; Low Middling, 10; Middling, 10 1/2. Sales 60 bales. The market here is quiet. Sales 25 bales. Receipts 80 bales. Exports, for the season, 463,883 bales; same time last season, 467,608 bales. We quote as follows: This Day, Yesterday, Low Ordinary, 8 1/2, 8 1/2; Good Ordinary, 9 1/2, 9 1/2; Low Middling, 10, 10 1/2; Middling, 10 1/2, 10 1/2; Good Middling, 10 1/2, 10 1/2.

Exchange-Gold and Silver. Sterling, 60 days, 5 1/2; New York Sight, 5 1/2; New Orleans Sight, 5 1/2; Gold, 101 1/2; Silver, 99. Closing gold rate in N. Y., 101 1/2; Commercial Sterling in N. Y., 47 1/2; Closing gold rate in N. O., 105 1/2.

LIVE STOCK MARKET. REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING AUG. 21, 1877. (Reported for the ADVOCATE by Johnson Foster, live-stock commission merchant, Stock yards, Galveston.) Light supply of choice cattle of all grades in hands of dealers, yet trade is very slow at quotations. Ample supply of sheep for present wants. No demand for hogs. Receipts: Beeves and cows, 292; Calves and yearlings, 150; Sheep, 600; Hogs, 600. Sales: Beeves and cows, 297; Calves and yearlings, 130; Sheep, 102; Hogs, 102. On hand: Beeves and cows, 41; Calves and yearlings, 20; Sheep, 70; Hogs, 70.

THE GENERAL MARKET. (Quotations are not applicable to small orders, but represent cash prices for large lots.) Bacon, 8 1/2 to 8 3/4; Clear ribs, 8 1/4 to 8 1/2; Corned beef, 6 1/2 to 6 3/4; Ham, 9 to 9 1/2; Lard, 14 to 15; Extra heavy, per yard, 13 1/2 to 14; Light weight, per yard, 12 1/2 to 13; Medium, per yard, 11 1/2 to 12; Heavy, per yard, 10 1/2 to 11; Flour, 6 to 7; From store, per 100 lbs., 70 to 75; By the car load, 49 to 50; Coffee, 20 to 25; Pepper, 26 to 27; Western, 16 to 18; Eastern, 15 to 18; Corn, Northern Texas, free from weevil, 35 to 40; Southern Texas, weevil, 45 to 50; Corn Meal, 3 to 3 1/2; Flour, 3 to 3 1/2; Coffee, 18 1/2 to 19; Tea, 19 1/2 to 20; Choice, 20 1/2 to 21 1/2; From store about 1/2 c. advance.

MR. BAYARD TAYLOR. "I take great pleasure in recommending to parents the Academy of Mr. Swithin's 'Short-Hand'... The Academy for young men and boys is 12 miles by rail from Philadelphia, \$200 a school year for boarding, washing, gas, school charges, etc. Payable quarterly. No extraneous charges of any kind. Students admitted at any time, special individual and class instruction for advanced and backward pupils. Graduates receive certificates of Yale College. For picture of building, gymnasium and circular address SWITHIN C. SHORT-HAND, Harvard University A. M., Media, Pa. (Media has seven churches and a temperance church.)

THE CENTRAL ROUTE! The connecting link between the trunk lines of the NORTH and EAST and the GULF of MEXICO on the SOUTH, forms the Great Through Route and Main Artery of Commerce and Trade, TO ALL PORTS, and offers the Best Route on quick time, with more comforts, better accommodations and greater security than any other line. Buy your tickets and ship your freight by the HOUSTON & TEXAS CENTRAL RAILWAY.

No. 3, St. Louis & Chicago Express. Leaves Houston daily at 5:30 P. M. Arrives at St. Louis daily at 6:00 P. M. Arrives at Chicago daily at 6:00 A. M. No. 1, Leaves Houston daily, except Sunday, at 7:00 A. M. And arrive as follows: No. 4, Leaves St. Louis daily at 8:45 A. M. Arrives at Houston daily at 10:00 A. M. No. 2, Arrives at Houston daily, except Sunday, at 8:00 P. M. F. L. MANCHESTER, Eastern Passenger Agent, 417 Broadway, New York. GEN. J. B. ROBERTSON, Passenger and Immigration Agent, 1 North Fourth Street, St. Louis. A. ALLEN, Northern Passenger Agent, 30 Clark Street, Chicago, Ill. J. H. COFFIN, Ticket Agent, Houston, Texas. J. WALDO, A. H. SWANSON, Gen'l Ticket Agent, Gen'l Supt.

Great Inducements! Special Offer!! Ladies Ready Made Suits. Camels Hair Cloth! 3 Piece Suits, Plain Wrappers! Trimmed Wrappers!! THE NORTH WESTERN SUPPLY CO. In answer to the many inquiries for LADIES READY MADE SUITS, that can be worn and ready for the year, have made arrangements and we will send FREE OF EXTRA CHARGE one of our CAMEL HAIR SUITS, 3 PIECES, ready made, RETAIL VALUE \$3.00 to \$4.00, WHOLESALE VALUE BY THE DOZ \$25 each, at WHOLESALE SALE PRICE, on receipt of the following coupon and \$1.50. This coupon is our engraving, which is a correct picture, engraved from Photograph taken expressly for this advertisement. This coupon retails for 25 to 40 cts. per yard in any store, and a lady knows it takes 15 to 18 yards to make a suit. Then add the cost of Coupon and \$2.25. Wholesale price \$2.75. LADIES WRAPPERS, trimmed with Flounce and brown piping, (CAMEL HAIR CLOTH) Coupon and \$3.00. Wholesale value \$3.00. Cut out the following coupon and send it to THE NORTH WESTERN SUPPLY CO. It is good for half a dollar as part payment for one of our CAMEL HAIR SUITS or WRAPPERS. Only one coupon received toward each suit. LADIES ACTING AS AGENTS, AND SENDING IN CLUBS OF TEN, WILL BE ALLOWED ONE SUIT FREE. ONLY ONE COUPON NEEDED FOR A CLUB. Send money by registered letter or post office money order, either way is safe. Remember this price covers all packing, shipping and express charges on suits. We will fill all orders received at any time at these prices. GIVE PLAIN SHIPPING DIRECTIONS, NAME, POST OFFICE, COUNTY, AND STATE.

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CHICKERING PIANO, unrequited by any Piano made. The D.C.N. HAM Pianos, the I.A.R.D. MAN Pianos, J.P. HALE Pianos, Each Piano sold by his house is warranted for 3 years, and is guaranteed to give satisfaction. Wholesale Agent for the Celebrated Estey & Co. Organs and Mason & Hamlin Cabinet Organs, which are acknowledged to be the best Organ and Piano in the world, wishing to act as agents, will be furnished specimen of organs and pianos at wholesale agents' rates. Musical instruments, organ instruction. Also sheet music, and music books, at wholesale and retail. #1 The house of Werthein, established in 1843, is favoredly known all over Texas. Send for catalogue, price-list, or further information, as above. SHAW & BLAYLOCK, STATE PRINTERS. \*Furnish estimates for printing newspapers, books and all kinds of job printing.

\$250 New Square Grand Rosewood Pianos for \$250. STATE AGENTS FOR THE CELEBRATED WEBER & EMERSON PIANOS. MASON & HAMLIN ORGANS. THOS. GOGGAN & BRO. GALVESTON AND NEW YORK. Regular Weekly Steamship Line. Consisting of the following named steamers: STATE OF TEXAS, Capt. Nickerson; CITY OF SAN ANTONIO, " Pennington; RIO GRANDE, " Bolger; CITY OF HOUSTON, " Stevens. FRIGHT and INSURANCE at the LOWEST RATES. One of the above named steamships will leave New York every SATURDAY, and Galveston for New York every WEDNESDAY, and on SATURDAY when the trade requires. For freight or passage apply to J. N. SAWYER, Agent, 34 Strand, Galveston. C. H. MALLOY & CO., Agents, 123 Maiden Lane, New York. PETER WERTHEIN, LEADING SOUTHERN PIANO HOUSE. Nos. 78 and 80 RABONNE STREET, NEW ORLEANS. Having constantly on hand an assortment of TWO HUNDRED PIANOS AND ORGANS, he offers them on the most accommodating terms and at greatly reduced prices. This stock consists of the world renowned CHICKERING PIANO, unrequited by any Piano made.

MR. BAYARD TAYLOR. "I take great pleasure in recommending to parents the Academy of Mr. Swithin's 'Short-Hand'... The Academy for young men and boys is 12 miles by rail from Philadelphia, \$200 a school year for boarding, washing, gas, school charges, etc. Payable quarterly. No extraneous charges of any kind. Students admitted at any time, special individual and class instruction for advanced and backward pupils. Graduates receive certificates of Yale College. For picture of building, gymnasium and circular address SWITHIN C. SHORT-HAND, Harvard University A. M., Media, Pa. (Media has seven churches and a temperance church.)

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Texas Christian Advocate

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WEST TEXAS CONFERENCE—John W. DeVillio, O. A. Fisher and J. G. Walker. SOUTH TEXAS CONFERENCE—S. J. Hawkins, W. C. Haislip, W. F. Eastering.

Subscription Rates. Per annum (in advance) \$2.50. Three months " 1.00. TO CLERGS. 6 subscribers (cash to accompany order) \$12.50

(Communicated.) How to Make a Poor Pastor.

- 1. Find the following in an old book. I judge the prescription is infallible. It is not patented. Any congregation is free to use it.—E. S.] 1. Be very careless and irregular in attending church.

Selections.

Rome a Vast Cemetery.

The ground on which the Eternal City stands is such as a geologist would find it hard to describe: it is a mass of ashes, of vegetable and animal detritus, corrupted by contact with the filth of sewers, constructed at different periods, without any regard to the public health.

The subsoil of the Piazza Coloma, the gayest and most lively spot in the city, is strewn with corpses. It was the cemetery of the church (now destroyed) of St. Andrea, first discovered in 1625, in digging in the piazza for a water conduit.

The Russian Bath.

The Russian vapor-bath has come into use in the United States as a medicinal agent. But in the life of the Russian peasant it plays a most important part. No orthodox peasant will enter a church until he has cleansed himself physically by means of the bath.

Alligator Leather.

Twenty years ago the secret of tanning the alligator was revealed to a partner of a Boston boot and shoe house by an old Canadian.

facturers in every portion of the United States, as well as exported to London and Hamburg. In the foreign trade, however, the French are formidable rivals, owing to their superior methods of tanning, in which, as a nation, they beat the world. The alligators formerly came almost entirely from Louisiana, and New Orleans was the great centre for the business.

Goose's Cheese Argument.

An L.L.D. (and I am sorry to say he is a Massachusetts L.L.D.) was dining at the table of a lady who never furnishes wine, no matter who is her guest, at whose house General Grant spent nearly two days, during which time not one drop of wine, ale, or spirits would she present to him or his staff;

Drinking Women.

It is undoubtedly true that many of our women who indulge in the dissipations of fashionable society are given to the drinking of champagne, and even spirituous liquors. The practice also is growing, and its baleful results are apparent to any one who is well acquainted with the lovely creatures who adorn our gay saloons of fashion.

Excavations in Pompeii.

An interesting report on some new excavations in Pompeii is given by Dr. R. Schoener in the Allgemeine Zeitung. In the Via Stabiana a large and elegantly decorated private mansion has been entirely laid bare.

Geese Full of Fun.

A goose has perhaps the keenest appreciation of humor of any animal, unless it be her own arch enemy, the fox. The writer once saw in a little grassy paddock some eight or ten fat and healthy pigs and half a score of geese.

French Love of Flowers.

An American in Paris writes as follows: "The French woman must have her daily supply of flowers, even if she is compelled to stint her table to obtain them. When she purchases the substantial for her breakfast she is sure to take home with her a bouquet of flowers.

Agents Wanted.

To sell the New Patent Improved EYE CUPS. Guaranteed to be the best paying business offered to agents by any house. An easy and pleasant employment.

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panther, painted on the wall in the shape of a gilt statue; a Homer, and various other paintings, not a few of which are provided with Greek inscriptions of names or of verses. Some portions of the house are got up in a pure Greek style; others are a mixture of the nobler Hellenic and of the showier and less congruous Roman style.

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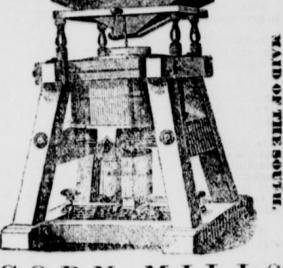
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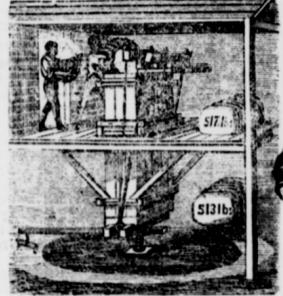
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Are used in the Public Schools of Boston, and exclusively in the New England Conservatory of Music.

HEDGE ROSE SEEDS.

CROP OF 1877—PRICE REDUCED.

About 100 seeds in a paper, 2 papers, \$1; 10 papers, \$2; 50 papers, \$10; 100 papers, \$20.

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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

WHEN articles are rejected, we must decline to give reasons therefor.

AGENTS sending us new subscribers or renewals, will please affix to their signatures the word "Agent."

We desire to send the Advocate to every preacher in Texas, but we expect all who do not forward us five subscribers, to pay \$1.25 as subscription.

In preparing articles for publication, write on but one side of the paper; otherwise your communications may be thrown into the waste-basket.

ARTICLES reduced publication will, in no instance, be returned to writers.

ORIGINALS should not be over twenty lines; eight words make a line.

REMIT by Postoffice Money Order, Draft or Registered Letter.

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We do not keep back numbers of the Advocate.

PARTIES desiring to make contracts for advertising, should write for card rates.

PRIVATE letters to the editor should be marked "Personal."

BUSINESS letters and communications should be addressed to SHAW & BLAYLOCK, Publishers.

Selections.

Iceberg Adventure.

The actual collision between the steamship Moravian and an iceberg on her recent passage is thus depicted in the Quebec Chronicle: A passenger who had left the saloon and had come on deck to smoke a cigar prior to retiring, thus describes what occurred: I was on the point of walking forward in the direction of the bridge, when the sailor stationed in the bow called out "Ice ahead!" the captain, who was on the bridge at the time, instantly called out very distinctly, "Ice ahead!" and simultaneously gave the orders to the engineers through the electric wires to ease, stop and reverse the engines; he also wired the signal to the man at the wheel, "Hard-a-port." His orders were immediately acted upon, and a signal to that effect was sounded on the bells so that he might know his instructions were promptly obeyed. This action, of course, only took a few seconds to carry out, when the passenger, on looking toward the prow of the boat, saw a large iceberg directly in the ship's course, and looming up through the darkness as high as was the lower yard on the foremast. Immediately after, spite of the shifting of the helm and the reversing of engines, she struck the ice-mountain with a tremendous concussion. It seems that the Moravian, as is the case with one or two of the steamers of this line, is provided with a stout bowsprit some twenty feet in length, and, under Providence, its bearing so well the first brunt of the shock the hull was not completely pierced the ice in an oblique upward direction, and was for half its length shattered and splintered in a most strange manner to within a few feet from the bulkheads. The hull next came in contact with this dread of the sea, and with such force as to bend and twist several of the ribs of the vessel and bulging the outer plates in such a manner that they were forced in and out until they looked like the undulating waves of the ocean. The strain on the rivets was terrible, and had it not been for the unusual strength and excellence of the construction, a hole big enough to have sunk her immediately would have been the result. As it was, the leakage commenced immediately. The engines being uninjured, the vessel slid off the ledge of ice on which she had thrust herself and backed into deep water. The effect of the concussion on the vessel was to entirely demolish it; it was split in two, and the passengers on both starboard and port sides could see and hear the fragments as they crumbled past the stateroom windows.

The sheriff answered: "That was Gov. Pollock." The condemned man turned deathly pale, and lifting up both hands, he said: "Oh, sheriff, was that Governor Pollock? Why didn't you tell me? Oh, if I had known it I would have fallen at his feet and cried for 'mercy.' I would have asked him to save me. Oh, why didn't you tell me that was the Governor."

He wept and wrung his hands in agony to think the Governor had been right in his cell and the sheriff did not tell him it was the Governor.

Sinner, I bring you good news to-night. There is one greater than any governor. He is here to-night, and He is here for a purpose. He is here to save sinners. He is here to pardon you—He does not want you to perish and be lost. He came to give you a pardon—do you want the pardon? Take it! it is for every one.

Cossacks in the Russian Army.

The Cossack is not a very savory gentleman, and Galatz is a fine place for taking the edge off one's sensibilities regarding smells, and we can get to windward of the Cossack we wish to inspect, which is more than we can do in regard to the Galatz drabs.

Friend Cossack is a little chap, about five feet five, even on his high heels, but at once sturdy and wiry. His weather-beaten face is shrewd, knowing and merry. His eyes are small, but keen, his mouth large, and between it and his pug nose—rather redder than the rest of his face—is a tuft or wisp of straw-colored moustache. His long, thick, straight hair matches his moustache in color, and is cut sheer round by the nape of his neck. He wears a round oil-skin, peakless shako with a knowing cock to the right, to maintain which angle there is a strap around his chubby chin. Below the neck the Cossack is all boots and great-coat exteriorly. The great-coat, which is of thick gray blanketing, comes down below his knees; his boots come up to them. He is more armed than any man of his inches in Europe, is our little Cossack friend, and could afford to lose a weapon or two and yet be an averagely dangerous customer. Weapon number one is the long black flageless lance, with its venomous head that seems itching to make daylight through somebody. He carries a carbine, slung in an oil-cloth cover, on his back, the stock downward. In his belt is a long and well-made revolver in a leather case, and from the belt hangs a curved sword with no guard over its hilt. Through the chinks in his great coat are visible glimpses of a sheep-skin undercoat with the hair worn inside (today at noon the thermometer was 70° in the sun). His whip completes his personal appurtenances; he wears no spurs. He rides cocked up on a high saddle, with a leather band strapped over it, a wiry little rat of a pony, with no middle-piece to speak of, with a ewe neck, and a gaunt, projecting head, with ragged flanks, loose hocks, limp footlocks, shelly feet, and a general aspect of knackerism—the sort of animal, in fine, for which a costermonger would think twice before he offered "three quid" for at the northern Tattersall's on the outskirts of the Metropolitan Cattle Market on a Friday afternoon.

But the screw is of indomitable gameness and toughness—lives where most other horses would starve—is fresh when most other horses are knocked up—and is fit to carry its rider across Europe, as Cossack ponies have done before to-day.—London Daily News' Galatz Correspondence.

WHAT THE BIRDS ACCOMPLISH.

The swallow, swift and nighthawk are the guardians of the atmosphere. They check the increase of insects that otherwise would overload it. Woodpeckers, creepers and chickadees are the guardians of trunks of trees. Warblers and fly-catchers protect the foliage. Blackbirds, crows, thrushes and larks protect the surface of the soil. Snipe and woodcock protect the soil under the surface. Each tribe has its respective duty to perform in the economy of nature; and it is an undoubted fact that if the birds were all swept off the face of the earth, man could not live upon it; vegetation would wither and die; insects would become so numerous that no living thing could withstand their attacks. The wholesale destruction occasioned by grasshoppers, which have lately devastated the West, is undoubtedly caused by the thinning out of the birds, such as grouse, prairie-hens, etc., which feed upon them. The great and inestimable service done the farmer, gardener and florist by the birds is only becoming known by sad experience. Spare the birds and save your fruit. The little corn and fruit taken by them is more than compensated for by the quantities of noxious insects they destroy. The

long-persecuted crow has been found by actual experience to do far more good by the vast quantities of grubs and insects he devours than the little harm he does in the few grains of corn he pulls up. He is one of the farmers' best friends.

Episcopal Appointments.

Numerous and urgent requests have been made to the Episcopal Conference, held in the Texas Conference, to change the following changes have accordingly been made. You will oblige me by publishing them as extensively as possible.

North Texas, at Bonham, Nov. 7. West Texas, at Corpus Christi, Nov. 21. South Texas, at Brownsville, Dec. 6. East Texas, at Crockett, Dec. 12. Texas, at Galveston, Dec. 19.

W. M. WRIGHTMAN, Secy.

PALESTINE DISTRICT—THIRD ROUND.

Secesh circuit, August 25, 26. Kickapoo circuit, at Camp Ground, Sept. 1, 2. Crockett circuit, at Crockett, Sept. 8, 9. Pennington circuit, September 15, 16. Athens circuit, September 22, 23. Trinity mission, September 29, 30.

J. A. DAVIS, P. E.

BEAUMONT DISTRICT—THIRD ROUND.

Home circuit, at Cochran's chapel, Sept. 1, 2. E. L. ARMSTRONG, P. E.

Obituaries.

Tribute of Respect.

W. H. W. Wear was born in Collin county, Texas, December 18, 1836, and died in Denton county, May 3, 1877. He had four children—two sons and two daughters. He was a member of the M. E. Church, South, September, 1857. He was truly a devoted and sincere Christian, never failing when opportunity offered to own Jesus as his savior, and himself an unflinching follower of the Lamb. For over two years he was a member of the Sunday school at Zion, and his walk with us as a Christian, and his labors for the glory of the Father, and the salvation of the world, were worthy the praise and approval of all who knew him. His sufferings were severe and for some time before his death he was in a state of prostration. His last earthly expression was: "The will of my Father be done and not mine." He died at the age of 40 years, and his death was a great loss to the church and the world. He was a true and faithful servant of the Lord, and his works do follow him. He leaves a wife, one son and two daughters, and many other kindred and friends to mourn his death. He has crossed over the river to join his father, who has for many summers been "Resting under the shade of the tree." Therefore be it remembered, that in the death of W. H. Wear, the church has lost a worthy member and the church one of her brightest lights.

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HEADQUARTERS FOR School Books! School Books!

J. E. MASON, Galveston, Texas.

BROOKS IMPROVED WROUGHT-IRON REVOLVING SCREW COTTON PRESS.

Improved Light Draft Gin, 84 a Star.

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Texas Christian Advocate

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

When articles are rejected, we must decline to give reasons therefor. AGENTS sending us new subscribers or renewals, will please affix to their signatures the word "Agent."

jectures concerning the question which heads this article.

"What is life?" asked a little girl of perhaps seven summers. "Suppose I should close my eyes and open them to find it all a dream and that I had never lived at all?"

Yes, life to her seemed very lovely. Childish hopes gilded her future sky with rainbow hues, and shielded from view the dangerous quick-sands of futurity.

Weeks, months, and years have glided by, hearing the young dreamer swiftly across the Enna-meads of girlhood, nearer, and nearer to the portals of the mystic temple of womanhood, and again she asks, "What is life?"

I have heard that life is but "A painful passage over a restless flood," and observation has taught me that much of misery enters into every life.

Why, oh! why was I created to add one more to the millions of sorrowful human beings.

A voice seemed to answer, "Life is what you make it." "He most lives who thinks most, feels the noblest, acts the best."

"Is there no poverty you can relieve; no sick for you to nurse; no word of consolation you can utter; above all, are there no sinking mariners on life's billowy ocean whom you can guide to the haven of rest?"

Many are the ways in which life can nobly be spent. Seek your own pleasure and you will find the fairest roses crumbling into dust before your eager hand can grasp them.

Live for the good of others, and your frail bark will glide smoothly over the rough billows of the ocean of life, to the sweet songs of a peaceful conscience; and when the voyage is ended, your glorified spirit will take up the broken refrain and sing through unending day the praises of the life, celestial.

ETTA. [From the Nashville Advertiser.] North Texas Conference.

JEFFERSON DISTRICT CONFERENCE. The Jefferson District Conference held its 11th session July 19-21, at Atlanta, Texas.

The Jefferson District Conference held its 11th session July 19-21, at Atlanta, Texas. We had desired and expected the presence of one of our Bishops, but the beloved Bishop Doggett could not reach us.

In his absence the presiding elder, the Rev. J. Clark Smith, discharged the duties of President, with honor to himself and satisfaction to the body. The attendance was more than for three years past, and the duties were entered upon and prosecuted with zeal for the Divine Master, and love for each other.

All in all, it was pronounced one of the most delightful sessions ever held. From the reports rendered, it was discoverable that while we do not measure up to the scriptural standard of spiritual life in every respect in this district, yet are there improvements which augur well for the future.

The social meetings of the church are becoming generally popular. The literature of the church is being more extensively read and circulated than heretofore, though upon this point we are yet short of the real necessities of the day.

Nor will the improvement of the church upon this point be more rapid until she is thoroughly awakened to the absolute necessity of a pure literature. Crime is said to be most alarmingly on the increase throughout the world. If asked for the cause we would answer, "The insect invariably partakes of the hue of the leaf upon which it feeds."

The country flooded with an impure literature is but the country educating for crime. O for the day when the sensational and debasing shall be cast aside for the rational and elevating! Resolutions commending our publications to public patronage were passed; also expressing sympathy with, and for, our TEXAS CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE, in its recent misfortune, and pledging, if possible, a more hearty support for the future.

The Committee on Books and Periodicals, to whom the interest was referred, estimated what to them seemed our legitimate due in aid of the Publishing House (the entire amount called for being the data), and apportioned the same to the several charges. Their action was heartily and unanimously adopted, and the deficit ordered to be raised without unnecessary delay. The Agent may be assured of our sympathy, and, in addition to that received already, may expect other substantial evidences of the same. A new feature in the business was the appointment of a committee to consider our duty to the colored race, and especially that

part of it in membership and sympathy with the Church, organized under the direction and by the assistance of four Bishops. The report, which was adopted, after expressing pleasure in the friendly relations existing between the races, pledges support in all honorable ways.

Among the conspicuous characters of the Church who came in at appropriate times for favorable notice, we mention Drs. Summers, of the Nashville, and John, of the Texas Advocates. But as these brethren are doubtless "freighted to the guards" with compliments, we withhold the exact phraseology. The missionary anniversary resulted in a collection amounting to \$103.05.

The addresses were delivered by the Rev. Dr. J. J. Davis, and the Rev. S. J. Hawkins. The body was handsomely entertained by the good people of Atlanta, who richly deserved the vote of thanks received. The next session is to be held at Daingerfield, Texas.

D. F. FULLER, Sec. Daingerfield, Texas, Aug. 1, 1877. (Communicated.)

LIVINGSTON, TEXAS, Aug. 17, 77. I have just closed a meeting at this place of six days. There were several who professed faith in Christ, and nine accessions to the church—all adults. We had to close to commence another meeting at Moscow. Bro. Moore, L. D., was with me and did valuable work.

We baptized seven adults and three children; one household, a mother and all of her children. Prospects are brightening on this circuit. I have received more than half of my salary. Domestic mission claim already met. The first number of the ADVOCATE since you were burned out came last night. Were glad to see it. It seemed like one of the family had returned home from a long trip. May God bless it and its editor.—J. M. BOND.

Selections. The Dead Sea. The Dead Sea is about forty miles long and about eight in width. On its north and west shores is a pebble and muddy beach, without shell or trace of living creature, so far as I observed; no vegetation surrounds it, and for our usual noonday lunch we could obtain no shade from the sun. I had to use my umbrella, and can now better understand Jonah's complaint over his withered gourd, and the beauty of the prophet's figure—"the shadow of a great rock in a weary land!"

On its banks, near its junction with the Jordan, are a number of reeds, but they were perfectly withered and brittle, probably irrigated, however, by some stray streams from that river at the period of its annual overflow. Altogether, the scene was the wildest and most deathlike of any I have ever seen, and had an extremely depressing effect on the spirits, for which, no doubt, an unwonted atmosphere was also to blame. So intense was the heat at this level—the lowest spot on the earth's surface, being 1300 feet under the level of the Mediterranean Sea, and more than 3700 under that of Jerusalem—that three of our party who had made a tour of the world, said they had never experienced heat so intolerable, not even under the equator, nor yet on the Red Sea voyage.

It seems obvious that the Dead Sea water surface was, at no very distant era, several hundred feet higher in level. This fact, I think, incidentally indicates the former fertility of Palestine, because a luxuriant vegetation would produce more rain, and consequently a larger volume of water supply by the Jordan and its tributaries than in modern times. Some say a miasma rises from the slime beds of the Dead Sea, which induces depression of spirits and excessive fatigue. This is possible, but probably imagination has something to do with the feeling. True it is, however, that neither man nor living thing tarries many hours in its vicinity; nor is a boat seen on its silent, solitary waters, although from their high specific gravity everything floatable swims on its surface with remarkable buoyancy. Even the naval officer who undertook to survey its boundaries and sound its depth has done so imperfectly, driven off, if I remember aright, by sickness. The waters of the Dead Sea contain nearly a fourth part of solid matter, of which one-half is common salt. It is said the bottom or bed of the sea is of asphalt, and lumps of bitumen are frequently seen on its shores, and also some flakes of sulphur. The sense of solitude is awful, nor can I imagine any punishment more severe than to be left here alone for even a single week. The valley of the Dead Sea is surely the most extraordinary fact of geography. Its waters have been sounded, and found 1320 feet deep, so that its bottom is nearly a mile lower than Jerusalem! Ever filling and without egress, yet it is never full—assuredly no unfit type of the "valley of the shadow of death!" Bathing our hands in its waters, a

disagreeable feeling remained until we had afterwards washed them in the Jordan further on in the afternoon.—The East.

Lakes and Rivers of Africa. Mr. Stanley visited Cameron's river Lukuga in July, 1876; went some three or four miles further than Cameron had gone, and pronounced that it is no river at all, but a simple creek ending in morass, although a little further on this drains westwardly; and as the waters of the lakes are certainly rising from year to year, he believes that in a short time an outlet will here be formed. The apparent discrepancy may be easily reconciled by the fact that Cameron was here at the close of the rainy season, when the waters of the lake would be the highest; while Stanley was here in the midst of the dry season, when they would be at the lowest. Cameron counted 96 rivers falling into that portion of the lake explored by him; and it may be presumed that there are half as many more falling into the other part. These must in the six rainy months carry into the lake much more water than can be taken up by evaporation; while in the hot, dry season the evaporation is quite likely fully equal to the inflow. Cameron himself says: "I suppose that in the dry season or when the lake is at its lowest level, very little water leaves by the Lukuga." The character of the water of the lake confirms this theory. If the inflow were all taken up by evaporation, the residue would be salt, as the Caspian, the Great Salt Lake, and the Dead Sea are salt. If nearly all were discharged through a constant outlet, it would be fresh like Superior and Ontario; but, as Cameron says: "The water of Lukuga tastes the same as Tanganyika; not salt, but peculiar, and not sweet and light like other rivers." It is more than probable that the outlet through the Lukuga has been slowly choking up, which would account for the fact that the level of the lake has of late years been rising. Cameron passed the sites of many submerged villages, and Stanley found several branches where Cameron had encamped to be several feet under water. This rise appears to have been very notable since Cameron's visit. The old chief who accompanied him was very loath to permit Stanley to go up the river. He was afraid that the other white man had thrown some "medicine" into the water to make it overflow the country; and if one white man could work so much mischief, what might not be done by two? For Stanley had a white companion.—National Repository for August.

He Saved the Child. Not long ago I visited Greenwood Cemetery, the well-known burial ground of New York city and Brooklyn. It may well be called the city of the dead, for its deceased population is now one hundred and sixty thousand. It is, perhaps, the most beautiful cemetery in the whole land. The grounds are attractive and well-kept, and are nicely laid off into lots, drives and foot-paths. It has several large fountains and lakes.

It has many costly monuments. But the one that most interested me was that of a fireman. It was erected by the New York fire companies, in memory of a brave fireman, who, many years ago, lost his life at a great fire in that city. A little child was in an upper apartment of a burning building. This heroic man rushed up into the flames and smoke to save it. He secured the child, passed it out through a window into the hands of others, and it was saved. But just then the fierce flames wrapped the brave man in, and the building fell, so that he lost his life.

The monument over his grave is beautiful in design. On top of the tall shaft stands the marble figure of a strong fireman. He has on full uniform. In one hand he holds a fire-trumpet, and in the other arm he proudly bears a sweet little child. He leans forward, and seems to be rushing from danger.

Though this occurred a long time since, people love to think of that noble man, and to talk about him; and you see many persons stopping at this monument, and fondly lingering about it. We always fall in love with the character that sacrifices himself to save others. How much, then, we should love Jesus. How dearly He loved us. He gave His own body to die on the cross to save all children—yes, to save everybody. Do we not love to think of Him? and to talk about Him? And shall we not build a monument for him? Yes, but it need not be of marble. What He most delights in is a pure heart. But see how weak we are. We want pure hearts to please Jesus, and yet we must ask Him to give us a clean heart. No one else can do it. He is willing to cleanse our hearts in His own blood, if we only ask it. How precious a Saviour is ours!—J. M. Hubbert, in S. S. Gem.

Captain Kidd, the Pirate. Lord Macaulay's sketch of Captain Kidd is so well known that he may be missed in few lines as by no means a brilliant or successful brigand, although in posthumous renown, second to none of the craft. Perhaps his advantage over others in this respect is due to his having been hanged instead of killed in action, or cast away in remote tropical seas. Kidd was an old privateer in the West Indies, and being known as a brave seaman, was recommended by Lord Bellamont, then Governor of Barbadoes, and several other persons, to the home government as one admirably fitted to command a king's ship cruising against pirates, on account of his knowledge of those seas and practice in warfare. The project met with no favor in England, and would have fallen through altogether had not Lord Bellamont and his friends fitted out the Adventure galley at their own private charge. Kidd was put in command, and furnished with the king's commission, charging him to hunt down pirates, all and sundry, especially Thomas Tew and others specified by name. He also held a commission of reprisals, for it was then war time, empowering him to take French merchant ships, in case he should meet any. The Adventure galley sailed from Plymouth in May, 1696, carrying thirty guns and eighty men, and after scouring the North and South Atlantic, tried the Indian ocean, picking up a French merchantman or two; but of pirates never a one. At last the patience of Kidd, who appears to have meant well originally, wore out; his crew turned mutinous, and he became, according to his defence, a pirate *malgré lui*. After a fairly lucky cruise, he sailed for New York, thinking his offence would be winked at, but was immediately seized, and all his books and papers, sent home for trial, and hanged with six of his associates. His career proved an exception to the rule that it is well to set a thief to catch a thief.

Nebuchadnezzar's Hunting Diary. Among the discoveries made by Col. Rawlinson, in the excavations of Babylon, was Nebuchadnezzar's hunting diary, with notes, and here and there a portrait of his dogs, sketched by himself, with his name under it. He mentions in it his having been ill; and while he was delirious, he thought he had been out to graze like the beasts in the field. Is not this a wonderful corroboration of Scripture? Rawlinson also found a pot of preserves, in an excellent state, and gave some to Queen Victoria to taste. How little Nebuchadnezzar's cook dreamed when making them that, twenty-five centuries after, the Queen of England would eat some of the identical preserves that figured at his master's table.—National Repository.

A MONKEY'S FATAL CURIOSITY.—The soldiers at the United States Arsenal at Sumnerville had until Monday a pet monkey, the "cunningest" Darwinian that ever left the African forests. Jocko was ordinarily a good monkey, but, like too many of his biped contemporaries, he possessed a great fault. Jocko was tormented by curiosity, and, alas! it finally brought him to an untimely grave. For some time Jocko had been in the habit of watching the artillerymen as they fired the morning and evening gun, and was finally endued with an ardent desire to be a gay "soger boy." Last Monday morning he slyly approached the piece which is used for firing the salute, and jerked the lanyard. To the amateur artilleryist's surprise and disappointment the cannon didn't fire. He immediately darted to the mouth to see what was the matter, when the piece suddenly went off, and so did Jocko—all his aspirations and limbs blown to the winds. His remains literally strewn over the sward.—Augusta (Ga.) Chronicle.

THE KORAN says that when Abraham set out on his travels, he was insufficiently acquainted with religious truth. He saw the star of evening, and he said to his followers: "This is my God." But the star went down, and Abraham said: "I care not for any gods which set." He waited until the constellations appeared, and then said: "These are my gods." But the galaxies were carried beneath the West, and he said: "I care not for gods which set." When the moon arose, he said: "This is my god." But the moon, too, went down. When the sun arose he saluted it as king, but the wheeling sky carried the king of day behind the flaming pines of the West. And Abraham, in the holy twilight, turning his face toward the absent-azure, said to his people: "I give myself to Him who was, and is, and is to come, Father of the stars and moon and sun, and who never sets, because he is the Eternal Noon."—Cook.

Scalping in Olden Days. Herodotus, the "father of history," tells the following of the ancient Scythians: Every Scythian drinks the blood of the first prisoner he takes, and presents the king with the head of the enemies he has killed in fight. For if he brings a head, he is entitled to a share of the booty; otherwise not. They flay these heads, by cutting a circle round the neck, close under the ears, and stripping off the skin, as they would do that of an ox; then they soften the skin with their hands, and these skins, thus prepared, serve instead of napkins, hanging on the bridles of their horses when they ride. He who has the greater number of these thinks best of himself, and is accounted the most valiant man. Many Scythians clothe themselves with the skins of men sewed together, as with the skins of beasts; and frequently stripping the right hands of the enemies they have killed, extend those skins with their nails, and use them for coverings to their quivers. For the skin of a man is thick, and of a brighter white than that of any other animal. Many take off the skins of men entire, and carry them about on horseback, stretched out upon a board. These usages are received among the Scythians; yet they are not accustomed to use all heads alike, for those of their enemies are treated in the following manner: They cut off the whole face from the eyebrows downward, and having cleansed the rest, if they are poor, they content themselves to cover the skull with leather; but the rich, besides this covering of leather, gild the inside with gold, and these serve instead of cups for their drink.

Waste Basket. A little girl suffering from the mumps declares that she feels as though a headache had slipped down into her neck. A Scotch blacksmith, being asked the meaning of "metaphysics," explained it as follows: "When the party that listens dinna ken what the party who speaks means, and the party who speaks dinna ken what he means—that is metaphysics."

A remark of an old minister is commended to all preachers who are tempted to complain of small congregations: "It is as large a congregation, perhaps, as you will want to account for at the day of judgment."

A Western paper says: "A sad, sweet smile went wandering around a pious congregation in this city last Sunday morning when the good pastor, with tender and solemn intonation, read: 'Do men gather thorns of grains, or thigs of thistles?' And he couldn't for the life of him imagine what they were smiling at." One of the Philadelphia divines is reported to have closed a very impressive discourse by warning his hearers against bartering away their immortal life for a "pot of message."

AGOOD ONE.—Coming into court one day, Erskine perceived the ankle of Mr. Balfour, who generally expressed himself in a very circumlocutory manner, tied up in a silk handkerchief.

"Why, what's the matter?" said Erskine. "I was taking a romantic ramble in my brother's grounds," replied Balfour, "when, coming to a gate, I had to climb over it, by which I came in contact with the first bar and grazed the epidermis of my leg, which has caused a slight extravasation of blood."

"You may thank your lucky stars," said Erskine, "that your brother's gate was not as lofty as your style, or you must have broken your neck."

A SLIGHT MISTAKE.—The present Archbishop of Dublin, the gifted author of the work, so widely known, on "The Study of Words," is not in very robust health, and has been for many years apprehensive of paralysis. At a recent dinner in Dublin, given by the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, His Grace sat on the right side of his hostess, the Duchess of Abercorn. In the midst of the dinner, the company were startled by seeing the Archbishop rise from his seat, and still more startled to hear him exclaim in a dismal and sepulchral tone: "It has come! it has come!" "What has come, your Grace?" eagerly cried a half dozen voices from different parts of the table. "What I have been expecting for twenty years," solemnly answered the Archbishop—"a stroke of paralysis. I have been pinching myself for the last twenty minutes, and find myself entirely without sensation." "Pardon me, my dear Archbishop," said the Duchess, looking toward the absent-azure, "pardon me for contradicting you, but it is I that you have been pinching."—Harper's Magazine.

Two packers in Aransas bay are putting up turtle for the market.

Are children's minds ever puzzled by deeper questions than "I, we are dolls made to cry, or animals made in the centers of glass marbles?"

Yes, but few years have passed since the writer was a child, and she still remembers her wild con-

jectures concerning the question which heads this article.

"What is life?" asked a little girl of perhaps seven summers. "Suppose I should close my eyes and open them to find it all a dream and that I had never lived at all?"

Yes, life to her seemed very lovely. Childish hopes gilded her future sky with rainbow hues, and shielded from view the dangerous quick-sands of futurity.

Weeks, months, and years have glided by, hearing the young dreamer swiftly across the Enna-meads of girlhood, nearer, and nearer to the portals of the mystic temple of womanhood, and again she asks, "What is life?"

I have heard that life is but "A painful passage over a restless flood," and observation has taught me that much of misery enters into every life.

Why, oh! why was I created to add one more to the millions of sorrowful human beings.

A voice seemed to answer, "Life is what you make it." "He most lives who thinks most, feels the noblest, acts the best."

"Is there no poverty you can relieve; no sick for you to nurse; no word of consolation you can utter; above all, are there no sinking mariners on life's billowy ocean whom you can guide to the haven of rest?"

Many are the ways in which life can nobly be spent. Seek your own pleasure and you will find the fairest roses crumbling into dust before your eager hand can grasp them.

Live for the good of others, and your frail bark will glide smoothly over the rough billows of the ocean of life, to the sweet songs of a peaceful conscience; and when the voyage is ended, your glorified spirit will take up the broken refrain and sing through unending day the praises of the life, celestial.

ETTA. [From the Nashville Advertiser.] North Texas Conference.

JEFFERSON DISTRICT CONFERENCE. The Jefferson District Conference held its 11th session July 19-21, at Atlanta, Texas.

The Jefferson District Conference held its 11th session July 19-21, at Atlanta, Texas. We had desired and expected the presence of one of our Bishops, but the beloved Bishop Doggett could not reach us.

In his absence the presiding elder, the Rev. J. Clark Smith, discharged the duties of President, with honor to himself and satisfaction to the body. The attendance was more than for three years past, and the duties were entered upon and prosecuted with zeal for the Divine Master, and love for each other.

All in all, it was pronounced one of the most delightful sessions ever held. From the reports rendered, it was discoverable that while we do not measure up to the scriptural standard of spiritual life in every respect in this district, yet are there improvements which augur well for the future.

The social meetings of the church are becoming generally popular. The literature of the church is being more extensively read and circulated than heretofore, though upon this point we are yet short of the real necessities of the day.