

Texas Christian Advocate

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

Letter from Dr. McFerrin. Corpus Christi, the seat of the West Texas Conference, is located on the shore of the bay of Corpus Christi.

I have read the history of Methodism in Georgia and Florida, by the Rev. George G. Smith, since I set out on this voyage. It is a work of interest; but has tended to increase my sadness, as I have noted the death of so many great and good men...

The greatest trouble about Corpus Christi is its inaccessibility by ships of heavy burden. In approaching it you encounter the bar between the Gulf of Mexico and Aransas Bay, and then you have to pass the channel between Aransas Bay and the bay of Corpus Christi.

While here, I have heard many stories of the olden times of Texas—when the life of a man was no more than the life of a dog. In the early settlements, it was a place of rendezvous for desperadoes and thieves.

Bro. Shaw, one of the enterprising publishers of the TEXAS CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE, is aboard; and to him I commit this manuscript, which he may insert in that excellent paper.

Memphis Conference. This body met in Brownsville, Tennessee, Nov. 21st, Bishop Keener presiding.

APPOINTMENTS OF THE PREACHERS. Memphis District.—James A. Heard, P. E.; Memphis—First Church, E. C. Slater; Central, W. T. Harris; Hernando Street, E. E. Hamilton; Saffran Street mission, G. W. Wilson; Georgia Street mission, L. D. Mullins; Springdale, J. G. Clark; P. T. Scroggs, sup; Bartlett, D. R. S. Rosebrough; Bethlehem, J. S. Renshaw; Collierville and Moscow, John A. Fife; Thos. Joiner, sup; Shelby mission, W. T. Plummer; La Grange and Saultsbury, R. S. Harris; Middleton, T. P. Holman; Macon, T. L. Boswell; S. B. Adams; Editor Western Methodist, W. C. Johnson; Bellevue Female College, W. T. Plummer, President; State Female College, John S. Collins, Professor.

Somerville District.—A. H. Thomas, P. E.; Somerville station, W. D. F. Hafford; Bolivar and Grand Junction, J. P. Walker; Bolivar mission, D. A. Ross; Whiteville, George H. Martin, R. W. Newsom; Dancyville, A. C. Smith; Stenton, R. V. Taylor, Richard Hill; Covington and Tabernacle, J. C. Hooks; Covington circuit, W. M. Leatherwood; Randolph, to be supplied; Gratitude and Bethuel, James M. Spence; Embury, W. M. McFerrin; Lucy, J. A. Corbett; Somerville District High School, G. B. Baskerville, Principal; Sunday-school Agent, J. G. Acton.

Jackson District.—J. H. Evans, P. E.; Jackson—First church, S. B. Suratt—East and West Jackson, Geo. K. Brooks; Jackson circuit, W. L. Duckworth; Spring Creek circuit, Grant T. Sullivan; Humboldt station, Guilford Jones; Humboldt mission, W. H. Leigh; Brownsville station, S. W. Moore; Brownsville circuit, James Perry; Denmark, J. R. Sykes; Millfin, E. L. Fisher; Henderson, B. F. Blackmon; McNairy mission, to be supplied; Purdy, J. Shelton White; Adamsville, Zach W. Richardson—Sanders, sup; Memphis Conference Female Institute, Amos W. Jones,

of my thoughts have been about Bishop Marvin. Is he dead? So the telegraph announced. I dreamed that he was not dead but was only a little sick. But this is only a dream. I fear he is no more and that I shall not see him again in this life. I was expecting to meet him at Jackson next week. How sad the disappointment! A good man, a great man, has fallen! I have been with him at three conferences since his return. He was full of zeal, full of kindness, and had his heart on the extension of God's work in heathen lands. How mournful the tidings of his death! How I lament his departure! Our good and great men are going—going rapidly. Drs. Linn, Schenck, Myers, Fleming, Duncan, Munsey, Moss and Bishop Marvin within a few months; and others less prominent. How shall their places be filled? Who will stand in their shoes? I am sorrowful and feel lonely as I am anchored here in the waste of waters, waiting the tide to carry me over. Well, it will soon be here and I will cross over into the sea of life. May my voyage be safe and happy.

Dresden District.—B. A. Hayes, P. E.; Dresden station, W. A. Cook, R. E. Graves, sup; Union City and Troy, N. Futrell, J. E. Beck, sup; Dresden circuit, W. C. Sellars, J. M. Major; Cottage Grove, E. B. Plummer; McKinzie circuit, Wade H. Frost, H. B. Covington, sup; Boydville, T. E. Hall; Lynville mission, to be supplied by J. C. Poyner; Fulton, F. Bynum, E. M. Bransford; Walnut Grove, J. T. C. Collins, Jeremiah Moss, sup; Hickman station, W. T. Bolling; Tiptonville, J. D. Bush; Troy circuit and mission, George T. Peebles, M. D. Robinson, sup; Hickman circuit, J. M. Platt.

Paducah District.—N. P. Ramsey, P. E.; Paducah station, R. H. Mahon; Paducah circuit and city mission, C. D. Davis; Mayfield station, A. B. Jones; Columbus station, Clarence J. Nugent; Hinkleville, J. V. Fly; Blandville mission, Joseph H. Collins; Clinton, R. L. West; Milburn, circuit, J. J. Smith; Milburn mission, to be supplied; Wingo, J. G. Pirtle; Benton, H. C. Gamble; Wadesboro, B. B. Risenhoover; Briarburg, W. G. Heffly; Birmingham, J. E. Treadwell; Pine Bluff mission, T. M. Ragsdale; Murry, J. A. Russell; Paducah District High School, S. B. Love.

Paris District.—John H. Witt, P. E.; Paris station, A. T. Scroggs; Paris circuit, Wm. Hay, G. Leath; Spring Hill, J. D. Sullivan; Paris Landing, W. H. Blalock; Camden, R. R. Nelson—D. M. K. Collins, sup; Huntingdon, H. M. Sears; Trozant, M. M. Taylor—T. C. Ellis, sup; Salem, W. O. Lanier; Lexington, J. H. Johnson; Clarksburg, J. B. Sears; Decaturville, F. B. Davis; Scott's Hill, J. J. Brooks—R. S. Swift, sup; Sallitto, T. J. McGill; Morgan's Creek, A. O. P. N. Sears; McKenzie and Milan, A. L. Pritchett; Lavinia, W. T. C. Young; McKenzie College, Preston H. Miller.

General Conference Delegates. Illinois Conference.—Clerical: Colin Murchison, Benj. R. Hester, Reserves: J. W. Westcott, J. L. Brantletter. Lay: J. W. Smith, J. B. McBryde. Reserves: L. Warnock, A. H. Prather.

Los Angeles Conference.—Clerical: Millard J. Law and W. B. Kavanagh. Reserves: Geo. E. Butler and John W. Craig. Lay: Frank M. Butler and L. D. Palmer. Reserves: Wm. A. Spurlock and R. G. Franklin.

Titans and Meek. "Blessed are the meek," exclaims the voice of inspiration, but can a man be meek with the consciousness that a dreadful monster is consuming his vitals? We are not a race of Titans. A Prometheus might stand chained to the torturing rock with a vulture perpetually gnawing his liver, and his face ever wear the expression of heroic and even meek endurance.

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Texas Christian Advocate

Table with 3 columns: Rate, Length, Price. Includes 'ADVERTISING RATES' and 'Rates on Standing Advertisements'.

Let us only raise our voice at the proper time and place and in a proper way, and the work shall be done. No plan will prevent difficulties...

The Presiding Elder Question. A writer, over the signature of Ex-P. E., discusses this question in the St. Louis Christian Advocate...

He sees, or imagines he sees, serious difficulties attending the present plan of appointing men to the office of presiding elder by a Bishop. He thinks it impossible that any Bench of Bishops should know...

Peace be within thy walls, oh Jerusalem! For my brethren and companions' sake. I will now say peace be within thee—amen.

ONE of our most prominent laymen in Alabama writes this week on a practical and very important subject. We remember Bishop Marvin's advice and warning to the preachers against going in debt. It is good advice, and yet many of our brethren and their families would to-day be without food or raiment but for debt.

Good manners, as has been pithily said, are only the absence of selfishness. They are the doing to others as we would wish to be done unto. A thoughtfulness for the comfort of those about us, a pleasant smile, a kind word—these are the ingredients of which good manners are chiefly composed.

Church Notices. Episcopal Appointments. Numerous and urgent requests have been made to have the times of holding some of the Texas Conferences changed...

JEFFERSON DISTRICT—FIRST ROUND. Daingerfield circuit, 3d Sunday in December. Jefferson station, 4th Sunday in December. Kellieville circuit, 5th Sunday in December.

DALLAS DISTRICT—FIRST ROUND. Floyd street, third Saturday and Sunday in December. Dallas circuit, fourth Saturday and Sunday in December.

PARIS DISTRICT—FIRST ROUND. Robbinston circuit, Robbinston, Dec. 13. Clarksville circuit, White River, Dec. 15 and 16. Wayland circuit, Wayland, Dec. 19.

SAN ANTONIO DISTRICT—FIRST ROUND. Floresville, at Floresville, 1st Sunday in Jan. Medina, at Oak Island, 2d Sunday in Jan. San Antonio station, 3d Sunday in Jan.

WEST TEXAS CONFERENCE. SAN ANTONIO DISTRICT—FIRST ROUND. Floresville, at Floresville, 1st Sunday in Jan. Medina, at Oak Island, 2d Sunday in Jan.

TO THE LADIES. Every Lady should use BUTTERICK'S CELEBRATED PAPER CUT PATTERNS, and save dress makers' bills and endless trouble. Every Pattern guaranteed to fit perfectly. Send for catalogue.

Meeting of the Joint Board of Publication. The Joint Board of Publication of the TEXAS CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE will meet in Galveston on the occasion of the ensuing Texas Annual Conference...

NORTH TEXAS CONFERENCE. JEFFERSON DISTRICT—FIRST ROUND. Daingerfield circuit, 3d Sunday in December. Jefferson station, 4th Sunday in December.

DALLAS DISTRICT—FIRST ROUND. Floyd street, third Saturday and Sunday in December. Dallas circuit, fourth Saturday and Sunday in December.

PARIS DISTRICT—FIRST ROUND. Robbinston circuit, Robbinston, Dec. 13. Clarksville circuit, White River, Dec. 15 and 16. Wayland circuit, Wayland, Dec. 19.

SAN ANTONIO DISTRICT—FIRST ROUND. Floresville, at Floresville, 1st Sunday in Jan. Medina, at Oak Island, 2d Sunday in Jan. San Antonio station, 3d Sunday in Jan.

WEST TEXAS CONFERENCE. SAN ANTONIO DISTRICT—FIRST ROUND. Floresville, at Floresville, 1st Sunday in Jan. Medina, at Oak Island, 2d Sunday in Jan.

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ONLY IN TIN CANS AND BOXES. Our barrels are manufactured at our TANK STATION, and do not LEAK. Merchants should purchase always in barrels, as the profit arising from the sales are much larger than when purchased in cans.

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Take Notice. The undersigned having resolved to Discontinue Mercantile Pursuits, and desiring to go into the stock-raising and farming business exclusively, has decided to Close out his Large Stock of BUGGIES, CARRIAGES, WAGONS, Etc., Also the most Complete Assortment of HARNESSES, SADDLERY, and SADDLERY HARDWARE in the State.

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

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

Northwest Texas Conference.

The twelfth session of the Northwest Texas Conference was held in Waco, beginning December 5th, 1877.

W. G. Veal was elected chairman; and F. P. Ray, G. W. Swofford, Charles E. Brown and H. B. Henry were chosen secretaries.

At the first roll-call, 85 clerical and 12 lay delegates answered to their names. This is the strongest conference in the State.

W. C. Broddie came as a transfer from the Arkansas Conference; Wm. W. Henderson from the Little Rock Conference; and R. C. Armstrong from the East Texas Conference.

Two names will be dropped from the minutes—for they have been called to answer the roll-call of heaven. R. W. Flournoy, a war-worn veteran, has laid down his arms and usefulness; and John E. Akin, son of Rev. S. D. Akin, has joined him in the better world.

On Friday afternoon, the conference assembled, with a large audience, to participate in the solemn services in memory of Bishop Marvin. They were deeply impressive. They were opened with singing "When shall we all meet again."

Dr. Alexander, R. W. Kennon and E. S. Smith, commissioners from the Texas Conference, presented a memorial asking the Northwest Texas Conference the cession of territory from their ample domain.

"look on the things" and estimate the wants of others as well as our own. The action was adverse to the appeal, yet we commend the spirit with which it was met.

The Missionary Anniversary on Saturday night drew a crowded house. The report of the Treasurer showed \$2655.45 had been raised during the year. This is about 13 cents per member.

The collection was not a large one, and we shall not report it. The preachers did not respond as on many similar occasions, but explained that they had given all they could afford when taking up their collections on their circuits and stations; while our friends at Waco appealed to the fact of their unfinished church as evidence that their liberality had already been taxed to the utmost.

The Bishop, to the great joy of the conference and the congregation, was in the pulpit on Sunday morning. He had been detained on the steamer Harlan and held an unwilling prisoner on the bar in Aransas Bay for several days.

At the close of the sermon the following deacons were ordained: Traveling—Louis S. Chamberlain, J. J. Canafax, Levi F. Collins, W. L. Harris, H. B. Henry, B. H. Johnson, J. K. Lane, Marvin Mill, G. W. Swofford, S. C. Vaughan.

Local—W. H. Edwards, G. A. T. Smith, J. P. Lowery, A. M. Lawrence, J. W. Kelley, H. C. Trammel, W. H. Lightfoot.

The following are the delegates: Clerical—W. G. Veal, J. D. Shaw, W. G. Connor, T. Stanford, J. S. McCarver.

Reserves—C. E. Brown, W. Price, T. W. Hines. Lay—J. R. Henry, O. F. Davenport, T. H. Shugart, J. T. Richards, Rev. J. H. Richey.

The rush with which business was hurried to a close gave but little time for the discussion of many important questions. From the reports we noted a deep interest manifest respecting the educational interests of the church.

THE SOUTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY received marked attention. The report revealed increasing prosperity, notwithstanding the cry of hard times. As the Regent pertinently stated: only students were reported in its catalogues.

WACO FEMALE COLLEGE is under the presidency of Samuel P. Wright, A. M. It is in a prosperous condition. Its faculty are graduates of the first institutions in the land.

MARVIN COLLEGE is under the presidency of Rev. Chas. E. Brown. It numbers 120 scholars and more coming. The conference is united in purpose to support it, and the community in which it is located are devising liberal things to insure its success.

The statistical reports show 21,908 members, an increase of 1,529; adult baptisms, 1,759; infant, 125; Sunday-schools, 131; teachers and officers, 812; scholars, 6,455; churches, 110; valued at, \$134,865; parsonages, 28; valued at, \$19,965.

Conference collection amounted to \$1,191.86; the claim of the preachers was \$36,961.65; and receipts \$25,394.35.

Waco is one of the most prosperous inland cities in the State. It numbers about 10,000 inhabitants. The public square was crowded with wagons loaded with produce, while the large stocks of goods showed the supply was meeting the demand.

With "our Shaw," we shared the genial hospitalities of our old Texas friend, Gen. T. Harrison and his family. It is one of the happy features of the minister's life that he often finds a cordial welcome in homes where the social and religious elements in the family blend in beautiful harmony.

The conference closed on Thursday night. The final words of the Bishop were among the most solemn and impressive, yet soul-cheering, appeals to ministerial faithfulness we have ever heard from the lips of one of our chief pastors.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS. This grand work is being pushed vigorously forward. Both in this country and in far distant nations talent of the first order is engaged in this important branch of Christian work.

We are by no means among those who would make this or any Christian duty paramount to that which belongs to the church itself, for this we place above all else. We would make it an auxiliary to, or a nursery from which the church may reap the richest harvests.

We know that in this State we have some "live" Sunday-school workers, and some fine and flourishing schools. But while much is being done, much more remains to be done to attain to that eminent success which the cause so justly merits.

We believe there are very few parents, if they would give the matter a serious thought, who would not encourage the work in every way; but they neglect this important duty. And this is one great cause why there are so many children never brought under the holy influence which Sunday-schools are intended to inculcate.

Some parents force their children to a very rigid code of politeness and society formalities, because it is necessary. Society demands it, fashion demands it, and the behest of two such powerful magnates cannot be ignored. God demands that your children shall be trained in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

Now, but one day in seven are children asked to attend the Sabbath-school. Every one who goes is furnished with a lesson paper. We ask you to make the test, take the lesson paper, and your Bible, for it is a part of this grand old Book, and assist and explain with the same care and diligence that you give to daily lessons.

And still the giddy multitude goes skating on. For a few moments their accents are hushed, their cheeks are wet with sympathetic tears, their hearts vibrate to the warning of "danger ahead."

What amazing hardness of heart does this not necessitate? After the soul has been touched to its quickest sense by the pathetic spectacle of the grave closing over a dear relative or friend, to see that soul break through these tender cords as though they argued an unmanly oppression, and relapse again into the drag of the devil, the "what shall we eat and drink, and wherewithal shall we be clothed?"

We sometimes think that some persons become case-hardened by passing through scenes of suffering and death. No truer principle in morals has ever been pointed out than that in Bishop Butler's immortal treatise, when he declares that passive impressions, however keen and sympathetic, are nothing, tending only to harden the heart, unless they lead at once to active habits of belief and practice!

The tyrant could go to the theatre and weep over the woes of the pictured Hecuba only to come forth and order the innocent to the scaffold. So, now, men and women may have their hearts to bleed at the grave-side in genuine emotion; and straightway returning from that awful mirror of mortality, forget what manner of men they are, by continuing to ignore God and His Son, and to walk on the slippery edges of fate.

Sentiment, however honest, is but a poor substitute for principle; intellectual perception is to faith what the cold electric light is to the sun. O, that men would pray when they stand by the coffin; that they would raise their hearts to the eternal and gracious spirit when their souls are bent in agony or kindled by friendly sympathy.

THE INDIAN PROBLEM.—Secretary Schurz in his report recommends that in the treatment of the Indians the government should observe the following: (1) that we keep faith with the Indians; (2) discourage their hunting; (3) encourage them in agricultural pursuits; (4) and in becoming individual land-owners; (5) establish schools and make education compulsory; (6) as far as practicable employ Indians in connection with the agencies; (7) discriminate in gifts between honest laborers and vagabonds; (8) provide a secret detective force to ferret out frauds in the Indian agencies.

We were pleased to see in our office last week Rev. J. C. Hartzel, D. D., editor Northwestern Christian Advocate, New Orleans. Dr. H. is in Texas visiting the conferences of the M. E. Church, and doubtless urging the claims of the paper of which he is the able editor.

THE WARNING OF DEATH.

"Fallida mors sequo pulsat pede pauperum tabernaculis."

Our immediate community has been sharply reminded of late of the bitter truth expressed so forcibly by the Roman Epicurean.

The solemn knocking of the pale king has been heard on the doors of the aged and the young, of the maiden, and the youth in the first bloom of his strength.

They were with us but a week ago and now their places shall know them no more forever. We feel like the members of a gay skating party, just an hour ago full of glee and confidence; now gathered awestruck around the black crevices down into which our companions have plunged and disappeared!

And still the giddy multitude goes skating on. For a few moments their accents are hushed, their cheeks are wet with sympathetic tears, their hearts vibrate to the warning of "danger ahead."

What amazing hardness of heart does this not necessitate? After the soul has been touched to its quickest sense by the pathetic spectacle of the grave closing over a dear relative or friend, to see that soul break through these tender cords as though they argued an unmanly oppression, and relapse again into the drag of the devil, the "what shall we eat and drink, and wherewithal shall we be clothed?"

We sometimes think that some persons become case-hardened by passing through scenes of suffering and death. No truer principle in morals has ever been pointed out than that in Bishop Butler's immortal treatise, when he declares that passive impressions, however keen and sympathetic, are nothing, tending only to harden the heart, unless they lead at once to active habits of belief and practice!

The tyrant could go to the theatre and weep over the woes of the pictured Hecuba only to come forth and order the innocent to the scaffold. So, now, men and women may have their hearts to bleed at the grave-side in genuine emotion; and straightway returning from that awful mirror of mortality, forget what manner of men they are, by continuing to ignore God and His Son, and to walk on the slippery edges of fate.

Sentiment, however honest, is but a poor substitute for principle; intellectual perception is to faith what the cold electric light is to the sun. O, that men would pray when they stand by the coffin; that they would raise their hearts to the eternal and gracious spirit when their souls are bent in agony or kindled by friendly sympathy.

THE INDIAN PROBLEM.—Secretary Schurz in his report recommends that in the treatment of the Indians the government should observe the following: (1) that we keep faith with the Indians; (2) discourage their hunting; (3) encourage them in agricultural pursuits; (4) and in becoming individual land-owners; (5) establish schools and make education compulsory; (6) as far as practicable employ Indians in connection with the agencies; (7) discriminate in gifts between honest laborers and vagabonds; (8) provide a secret detective force to ferret out frauds in the Indian agencies.

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."

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 wastebasket.

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

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

REMIT by Postoffice Money Order, Draft or Registered Letter.

THIS date on the address of your paper indicates the expiration of subscription. Renew at least two weeks in advance to prevent losing a number.

We do not keep back numbers of the Advocate.

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

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

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

Dress "Glimpses."

The Burlington Hawkeye wants to know why a Chinaman carries two watches. This is a ticklish question.—N. Y. Herald.

It will take time to answer a question of this kind.

A correspondent wishes to know at what age a girl should no longer be kissed by her male friends. A lady suggests the age when she puts on long dresses.—Ex.

Title-age is what stops such imprudence—if rightly administered by mothers and properly appreciated by the girls.

When a lover proposes to a girl in Boston she says: "Beans it's you, yes."—N. Y. Paper. When a lover proposes to a girl in New York she says: "Cents it's you, all right."—Boston Paper.

When a lover proposes to a girl in Louisiana she says: "I'm yours; but as par ain't willin', we must be married syrup-titiously."

When a young lady hems a handkerchief for a rich bachelor, she probably sews that she may reap.—[Contributed by a young woman who wants to send a marked copy of the paper to the bachelor.]—Boston Advertiser.

It really seems severe.

A Texas Congressman has hit upon the brilliant idea of reducing the expenses of defending the Southern frontier by building a railroad at the cost of twenty thousand dollars a mile.—N. Y. Herald.

The Herald puts a significant truth in the form of a joke. The idea did not originate with a Texas Congressman. A majority of the press of the State advocate the building a railroad into Mexico as a protection to our Rio Grande border. We think it would accomplish more than a standing army in that section, and at less expense.

The students of the North Adams (Massachusetts) Seminary have exalted ideas: they tried to blow building, professors, etc., sky-high last week with gun-powder.

Change, change, change, is the perpetual order. What every body ran after yesterday will be almost forgotten to-morrow.—Exchange.

Yes, change is what people run after now-a-days; and they will take it in any quantity—from a nickel up.

A DUCK BATTLE.—A gentleman from Packwaukee relates the particulars of a novel sight he was witness to the other day on Buffalo lake. His attention was attracted toward the lake by a roar that resembled the approach of a hurricane, and there he discovered myriads of ducks engaged in mortal combat. He watched them for awhile, and discovered that the battle was between the mallards and canvas-backs, who were evidently striving for the supremacy on the celery fields. The lake was fairly strewn with feathers, as if all the ducks in the land had been picked for the occasion.—Wisconsin State Register.

It is said that ten members of the United States Senate are printers by trade.—Exchange. N. B. We should like to see "proof" of this.—New York Com. Advertiser. Yes, their course in Congress hardly "justifies" the statement.—Norristown Herald. A good many of them behave as if they had been brought up at the "galley."—Philadelphia Bulletin. Yes; but they have got the "quoins" down in their pockets.—Detroit Free Press.

As the "case" now "stands," we think the first "take" should be "revised." "Pass the buck."

Capt. Howgate denies the report that he will not lead the Arctic expedition on to victory or defeat. He says: "It is my intention to give the Arctic enterprise my whole time and energy, and, if an expedition is authorized by Congress, to accompany it, if permitted to do so by the President, in whose hands the designation of a commander will be placed."—Detroit Free Press.

This government should never rest until some one of her representatives shall reach the North Pole. To satisfy the incredulous, whoever first sees it should be required to saw off a piece of the pole and bring it home with them.

America now keeps Europe posted as to when storms may be expected on the other side.

The President and Mrs. Hayes decline all invitations to the theatre and places of amusement. Managers feel that they have lost good advertisements, since they can no longer notify the public that the President and family will occupy a private box during the performance on certain evenings. Mr. and Mrs. Hayes are very devout Methodists.—Ex.

Many may differ from Mr. Hayes politically, but all good people will at least feel grateful that the President, unlike his recent predecessors, refuses to make an advertising and theatre bill-board of himself, for the small items of "free tickets to self and family."

It is fashionable now for newly married people not to let any one into the secret as to where they go on a bridal trip. It follows that some people start out keeping things from the public, and, in order to be respectable, have to keep it up all their lives.

RELIGIOUS.—The courts are busy now-a-days with the frequently successful attempts to break the wills of certain rich men, but no one has ever succeeded in breaking a woman's will.—Don't be so generous as to "give a piece of your mind" to a defuncting neighbor until you are satisfied that you have more than enough to attend to your own business with.—The trouble with the large proportion of the marriages in which happiness lives out only half the honeymoon, and then changes to suspicion and ends in despair, is that the enthusiastic lady who exclaims, "I have found a man after my own heart," should have said, "I have found a young man who is after my money bags."—We have great sympathy for the poor fellow who declared that he had no desire whatever to go to heaven if it is as musical as it is supposed to be.

"Just think," he says, "of living in a place where all sorts of people are practising on all sorts of instruments at the same time. It will be a kind of everlasting rehearsal." It is very evident that music has lost the charms with which to soothe that savage breast.

The above is clipped from the New York Herald of December 1. It may surprise our readers that this great paper classes such items under the head of "Religious." It should be remembered, however, that humanity is prone to give every other subject preferred attention. The secular press is no exception to the rule. This is, in fact, an apt illustration of the religious sentiment of the secular press at large.

Mark Twain says solitary confinement furnishes the best condition for literary labor.—Exchange.

That is to say, Mark Twain was not subjected to solitary confinement when writing Tom Sawyer.

With the progress of time offensive personalities have disappeared from the columns of the older American journals, more particularly those published in the centres of civilization—the large Eastern cities.

I have a friend—an old habitue of the Capitol—one whose rotund form and rubicund countenance have graced a front seat of the Senate and House galleries on all interesting occasions for the last thirty years. This Ancient Mariner is worth interviewing. Glancing over a list of the Senators and members of the Forty-fifth Congress he entertained us with a lively fire of running comment, as eyes and finger traveled slowly down the column. Calling the names with the air of a chain gang boss doing the roll-call, he gave utterance to his "settled convictions" in exclamations like these: "Owned by the Pacific Railroad"—"A bag of wind"—"Able and honest"—"Tom Scott's property"—"Best jurist in America"—"Garrett's bean"—"A windmill"—"Man afraid of his whiskers"—"Never makes a mistake"—"An honest

ass"—"Great and good"—"Weak and wicked"—"Sound and fury"—"Old reliable"—"The laziest man living"—"The Sphinx"—"Incarnate selfishness"—"Indomitable industry"—"Pertinacity"—"Hot shot"—"A granite boulder"—"Logic"—"Lunacy"—"Rhetoric"—"Truth"—"Turveydrop"—"Bacchus"—"Foxy"—"Picty paraded"—"The impassable" and so on to the end of the list. Not a few of your readers will be able to place his terse phrases against the names which suggested them.—Washington Letter Detroit Free Press.

THE TEN LITTLE GRASSHOPPERS.

- Ten little grasshoppers Ten on a vine. One ate too much green corn. Then there were nine. Nine little grasshoppers, Just the size for bait. A little boy went fishing. Then there were eight. Eight little grasshoppers Stayed out after seven. A white fish tipped one. Then there were seven. Seven little grasshoppers Lived between two bricks: There came a hurricane. Then there were six. Six little grasshoppers Found an old bee hive; One found a bumble bee. Then there were five. Five little grasshoppers Hopped on the floor; Pussycat took one for a mouse. Then there were four. Four little grasshoppers Found a green pea; Had a fight about it. Then there were three. Three little grasshoppers Sighed for pastures new; Tried to cross the river. Then there were two. Two little grasshoppers Sitting on a stone; A turkey gobbler passed that way. Then there was one. One little grasshopper Chirped good-by at the door; Said he'd come next summer With nine millions more.—Saturday Evening Gazette.

Church News and Views.

A Railroad Branch of the Young Men's Christian Association was organized at Keyser, West Virginia, Nov. 4, by delegates from the Association at Baltimore, Frederick and Cumberland. It is the purpose of the new association to provide a reading room for the employes of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, and to hold union gospel meetings for them. The organization at this place is the result of the labors of Mr. E. D. Ingersoll, General Railroad Secretary of the International Committee.

The late Protestant Episcopal Convention did wisely in the union of its missionary societies in one organization. A celebration of the result was held in New York city early this month, and everyone seemed gratified at the result. The new bishop of China asked for \$100,000 to found a Christian University in that country. \$40,000 have already been subscribed for this purpose. The consolidated societies ask \$200,000 for the present fiscal year.

The Sunday-school institute of the Church of England reports 28,875 teachers and 314,298 scholars. Of the scholars, 140,634 are over fourteen years of age, and 4,213 are communicants. Of teachers, 5,565 were formerly scholars. Both morning and afternoon sessions are held in the schools. The average attendance of teachers in the morning is 8,836, and in the afternoon, 14,847. The average attendance of scholars in the morning is 87,798, and in the afternoon, 162,252.

The Rev. J. McCarthy, of the China Inland Mission, has, with a native brother, been traveling extensively by foot in the interior provinces of Szechuen, Kwei-chau, and Yunnan. These provinces have hardly been touched by Protestant missionaries hitherto. The Roman Catholics have missions at two places in Kwei-chau; but it is doubtful if a Protestant missionary has ever before traveled through Yunnan. Mr. McCarthy crossed over the border to Bhamo, in Birmah. The journey occupied five months. He says he was everywhere kindly received, and had good opportunities to preach and circulate books and tracts. He describes the condition of the women as deplorably wretched, and thinks that women missionaries would be able to do a great work among the poor, down-trodden native women.

Henry Stanley, the great African explorer, in one of his letters, just published, says: "In East Central Africa the people are gathered under powerful Emperors and Kings—the great empire of Uganda, which has an estimated population of 5,000,000; the great empire of Ruanda, with an equal estimated population; the Empire of Urundi, with about 3,000,000; the Kingdoms of Usagara, the two Usuis, Unyoro, Karagwe and Usongora, and Ukerewe—all of these empires and kingdoms governed despotically, subject to the will of their respective monarchs. In his worthy efforts for the moral improvement of these benighted races the missionary, using a discreet judgment, can soon secure the good will, assistance, and protection of the supreme powers of these countries."

A Fox Story.

The latest story of the cunning fox is told by the Somerset (Me.) Reporter: The fox which Mr. Fairgrievous now has occupies a yard back of the store, to which Mr. Fairgrievous' dog has free access. The dog and fox are great friends. They frolic together, play "no end" of jokes on each other, and live in the most perfect harmony, save at "meal time." The discussion that a choice bit will call forth is sometimes most interesting. Mr. Fairgrievous gave the fox a bone the other day. The dog had been taught by experience that it was no use for him to try to capture it, so he retired into the store, doubtless hoping something would turn up in his favor. The fox ate what he wanted of the bone, and preferred to lay it away for future use. The dog pricked up his ears, but yawned and betrayed no especial interest. The fox dug a deep hole, placed the juicy bone in the bottom and, covering it over with earth, "patted" it down. He then went into his kennel, brought out an old dry bone that he had kept away from the dog several days, placed it in the hole over the sweet one, covered it up with apparent care, and retired to his kennel to watch operations. The dog saw the fox safely housed, and as he had done before, stealthily approached the treasure, resurrected the dry bone and trotted off.

VEGETINE

strikes at the root of disease by purifying the blood, restoring the liver and kidneys to healthy action, invigorating the nervous system.

Is not a vile, nauseous compound, which simply purges the bowels, but a safe, pleasant remedy which is able to purify the blood, and thereby restore the health.

Does not deceive invalids into false hopes by purging and creating a fictitious appetite, but assists nature in clearing and purifying the whole system, leading the patient gradually to perfect health.

Was looked upon as an experiment for some time by some of our best physicians, but those most incredulous in regard to its merits are now its most ardent friends and supporters.

Says a Boston physician, "has no equal as a blood purifier. Hearing of its many wonderful cures, after all other remedies had failed, I visited the laboratory and convinced myself of its genuine merit. It is prepared from barks, roots and herbs, each of which is highly effective, and they are compounded in such a manner as to produce astonishing results."

is acknowledged and recommended by physicians and apothecaries to be the best purifier and cleanser of the blood yet discovered, and thousands speak in its praise who have been restored to health.

What is needed. Mr. H. R. STEVENS—Dear Sir: About one year since I found myself in a feeble condition from a general debility. VEGETINE was strongly recommended to me by a friend who had been much benefited by its use. I procured the article and after using several bottles, was restored to health and discontinued its use. I feel quite confident there is no medicine superior to it for those complaints for which it is especially adapted, and would cheerfully recommend it to those who feel that they need something to restore them to perfect health. Respectfully yours, U. L. PETTINGILL, Firm of S. M. Pettingill & Co., 10 State St., Boston.

Mr. H. R. STEVENS—Dear Sir: The two bottles of VEGETINE furnished me by your agent, my wife has used with great benefit. For a long time she has been troubled with dizziness and constipation. These troubles are now entirely removed by the use of VEGETINE. She was also troubled with dyspepsia and general debility, and has been greatly benefited by its use. THOS. GILLMORE, 229 1/2 Walnut Street, CINCINNATI, NOV. 28, 1872.

Mr. H. R. STEVENS—Dear Sir:—Through the advice and earnest persuasion of Rev. E. S. Best, of this place, I have been taking VEGETINE for Dyspepsia, and I have benefited greatly. I am perfectly cured by its use. I have only used two bottles and already feel myself a new man. Respectfully, DR. J. W. CARTER.

Report from a Practical Chemist and Apothecary. Dear Sir—This is to certify that I have analyzed your VEGETINE since April 12, 1876, and can truly say that it has given the best satisfaction of any remedy for the complaints for which it is recommended that I ever sold. Scarcely a day passes without some of my customers testifying to its merits on themselves or their friends. I am perfectly convinced of several cases of Scrophulous Tumors being cured by VEGETINE alone in this vicinity. Very respectfully yours, G. J. GILMAN, 468 Broadway, To H. R. STEVENS, Esq.

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Texas Christian Advocate

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(Communicated.)

The Sunday Law of Texas.

In the caustic and powerful reviews of the varied sources of demoralization prevalent in the land, by the fearless and able pens of the editor and his associates, and the no less notable contributions to the editorial columns of the ADVOCATE under the famous *nom de plume* of the dagger, we do not remember to have seen a castigation of that wonderful specimen of Christian legislation designated by the caption of this article.

In whose astute brain did it originate? And what famous legislature inaugurated the great achievement? God hallows the Sabbath in its entirety and sanctifies it from all the ordinary pursuits of life. This law which disgraces the statute book of Texas desecrates God's holy day by appropriating its morning and evening hours to the unholy license of grogshops and other shops in their work of demoralization and death.

What powerful incentive prompted this abrogation of God's authoritative declaration: "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy?"

Did the raging thirst of these Christian legislators for strong drink imperatively demand the morning and evening libations of the cup of death? Must the moral sense of a Christian people be outraged for the gratification of the depraved appetite of legislators, their creatures—the exponents of public opinion? All over this broad land where public opinion is swayed by a Christian civilization and the authority of God's word is recognized by the oath of office and an appeal to its arbitrament in legislation, coincident with the opening of the doors of His temples the temples of Bacchus are opened by Christian legislation where the canaille of society congregate and the deadly influence of besotted brutality and corruption permeate the lower strata of society more fatal than the bohemian upas in the vegetable kingdom, blighting the hopes of humanity in its desolating sweep of ruin. Shall this law remain upon the statute book in this great Christian land? Let the fiat go forth from a Christian people, no! They must and will look to their legislators and imperatively demand its repeal. No Christian people can afford, in view of all their interests, material and immaterial, to tolerate a legislation that sanctions the desecration of the Holy Sabbath. No wonder that individuals, and communities, and peoples, have terrible manifestations of the Divine displeasure in His judgments upon them for their failure to recognize the authority of His law. The connection between the violation of His law and its penalty may not always be perceptible; but there is such a manifestation, by the fearful retributions of Divine Providence, as to vindicate unmistakably the Divine administration that such connection exists; and we be to the community or nationality that does not learn the impressive lesson. The ears of men are frequently made to tingle at the revelation of the Divine wrath in vindication of the authority of His law. The dreadful accidents (as they are called) upon steamboats and railroads that habitually disregard the law of God in relation to the Sabbath—the fearful fires that desolate towns and cities, have a language that unequivocally voice the authority of God's violated law.

Let every Christian community and people see to it that their municipal and State governments are the true exponents of public opinion in their legislative enactments; and that their legislators conserve the best interests of society, material and immaterial, by the recognition of God's authority in the sanctification of the Holy Sabbath.

H. M. BOOTH.

News of the Week.

Washington.

On the 7th, Mr. Stephens, of Georgia, introduced a new Texas and Pacific bill, amendatory to the Texas and Pacific Railroad acts. It authorizes the construction of the main line from Fort Worth through Texas to the Rio Grande, near El Paso; and thence through New Mexico and Arizona to a crossing on the Colorado near Yuma; and thence by the most practicable route, not further north than Warner's Pass, over the Sierra Nevada to San Diego. It provides aid only for the main route, with a subsidy of \$25,000 per mile.

On the 10th, after debate, Eustis was seated by a vote of 49 to 8.

The Texas and Pacific bill introduced into the Senate by Johnson, of Virginia, provides for a government guarantee of interest on fifty year five per cent. bonds to be issued for the benefit of the main trunk line from Fort Worth to San Diego to the extent of \$17,000 per mile, except in mountainous regions, which are estimated at 135 miles, for which interest will be guaranteed on bonds to amount of \$35,000 per mile. The price of all bonds for main line, including \$5,000 per mile to be retained by the United States Treasury, is limited to a total of \$35,000,000.

In a warm discussion on the delicate relations existing with Mexico, Hewitt, of New York, spoke of the possibility of the country drifting into war, and said the country did not want war. Mr. Reagan intimated that the existence of the free government of Mexico encouraged smugglers on both sides of the line and was obnoxious to friendly and commercial relations. Mr. Mills, of Texas, said it was absurd to be singing poems to peace in the halls of Congress while the border counties of Texas were a prey to the depredations of Mexican raiders. After a long debate the amendment of Hewitt to the instructions was given the committee in reference to Mexican affairs. It reads: "That the Committee on Foreign Affairs take into immediate consideration means of remedying existing and impending causes of difficulty between the United States and Mexico, and confirming and enlarging commercial relations between the two countries, by means of treaty or otherwise, and have leave to report to the House, by resolution or otherwise, at the earliest practicable day."

It is expected that Culberson will decline the chairmanship of the Texas and Pacific committee; and that Mr. Morrison, the third on the list, will become chairman.

Harlan took his seat on the Supreme bench the 10th.

On the 12th there was a severe struggle in the Senate over the President's civil service policy, resulting in the defeat of the New York nominations.

The House Committee on Pacific Railroad refused to excuse Throckmorton from serving as chairman, vice Rotter resigned.

The President has issued general order No. 104 against drunkenness, saying: "No person addicted to it can expect to be intrusted with any responsible duty."

Border Troubles.

Gen. Ord, before the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, said diplomacy had failed to correct the mischief on the border. The military are gradually succeeding. He thought Congressional endorsement of the military policy important. He thought the recognition of Diaz would have a salutary effect, and tend to promote quiet in Mexico.

The scout of Col. Young has been heard from. He returned to supply camp, at Point Rock Springs, Dec. 7. His command suffered from cold weather and snow storms. Water was frozen in the canteens. His party struck a party of Mesqueros under their chief Alsatic. Killed two and captured their camp. Everything in the camp destroyed, and the Indians, ten or twelve in number, turned adrift naked and helpless. This took place in Mexico.

On the 5th, Senator Maxey had an interview with the Secretary of War and Gen. Sherman concerning border troubles, and was informed that six companies of the Fourth Cavalry, 400 men; four companies of the Second Artillery, 136 men; Twentieth Regiment of Infantry, 298 men; total, 835 men, were under orders for Texas. Gen. Maxey asked specially that Gen. McKenzie be placed in command. He thinks two new posts, one between Brownsville and Fort Duncan, and one between Fort Duncan and Eagle Pass, should be erected.

Complaints have been made against Lieutenant Bullis in crossing the Rio Grande. It is said he crossed not on hot trails, but on trails weeks and months old. Army officials sustain his action.

Gen. Sherman, before the Military Committee of the House on Rio Grande affairs, testified that there was no danger of war unless from

accidental collision between American and Mexican forces. He also testified that during the past year there had been one raid of marauders into Mexico from the Texas side of the Rio Grande; and, in reply to a question, he stated that he had not advised the issuance of the order for our forces to pursue Mexicans across the river into Mexico.

Foreign.

LONDON, Dec. 10.—The *Times* correspondent at Rome telegraphs: Although there is nothing new in the newspapers concerning the Pope's health, private advices indicate that his condition is growing worse. He lies helpless, although his mind is clear. He endures great suffering, from which he is expected and even hoping for speedy release.

The capitulation of Plevna was made December 10th. The number of prisoners is estimated at from 30,000 to 40,000. Osman Pasha was wounded and yielded only after a desperate sortie made in the direction of Widdin. The suffering of his troops had become dreadful. Cold, famine and sickness had thinned his ranks and reduced his men to walking skeletons.

Four hundred guns fell into the hands of the Russians. The ground which was the scene of the sortie is literally strewn with dead and dying. Osman Pasha himself was severely wounded before he would consent to a surrender.

BOGERT, Dec. 10.—At 2:30 o'clock this morning Osman Pasha's entire army attacked the Russian grenadier corps, holding the line of investment on the left bank of the river Vide, endeavoring to force a passage. The attack was made with desperate energy, and a portion of the Turkish troops did, in fact, penetrate the line of intrenchments and batteries, but all attempts to break through the positions of the grenadiers were ineffectual.

After five hours severe fighting the Turks were defeated. Osman Pasha was surrounded on all sides and compelled to surrender with his whole army. Up to the present time it is impossible to estimate the number of the Turkish prisoners or quantity of war material taken. We only know that everything in Plevna has fallen into Russian hands. Russian losses inconsiderable, compared with the results.

After the surrender the Czar in respect for the gallantry of Osman Pasha, placed his own escort and carriage at his service and returned his sword.

It is rumored that the Sultan favors peace. Others report that he will fight to the last extremity.

The *London Times* urges English mediation at this juncture.

The general tone of the *London press*, commenting on the fall of Plevna, is to urge the government to seize the present opportunity for mediation, and while it may not be yet too late. The *Globe* says it is the duty of Minister Layard to impress upon the mind of the Sultan the urgent expediency of giving weight to pacific counsels before the resources of the empire are utterly exhausted.

LONDON, December 11.—Reuter's Bucharest dispatch says it is semi-officially announced that the capture of Plevna will not prevent hostilities from being continued, even though preliminary negotiations for peace should be commenced.

ST. PETERSBURG, Dec. 11.—The number of prisoners taken at Plevna is estimated at 40,000, exclusive of 20,000 sick and wounded.

ST. PETERSBURG, Dec. 10.—Evening.—The news of the fall of Plevna occasions great rejoicing here. The theaters are celebrating the victory by special additions to the usual programmes. Enthusiastic popular demonstrations in honor of the imperial family and army are made in the streets and public places. Great crowds are assembled, cheering and singing national anthems. The city is partially illuminated.

BUCHAREST, Dec. 12.—The sortie was solely prompted by the entire failure of provisions. Osman crossed the river Vid, attacked and took Fort Dolny Elropolje. The Russians and Roumanians were hurried up from Suserla and Bukovra. After terrible carnage Osman attempted to re-enter Plevna, but it had meanwhile been occupied by Roumanians and Russians from Gravitza. Osman, on finding himself thus surrounded, although wounded in the foot, personally conducted the negotiations for surrender. He expressly announced that he surrendered unconditionally to the Emperor.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Dec. 12.—The fall of Plevna has been officially announced here. Mehemed Ali has been removed from his command replaced by Chaktar Pasha.

A council of state has decided to appoint three Christian governors of the provinces.

CONSTANTINOPLE, December 12.—A grand council was held to-day at the War Office. It is said it was resolved to carry on the war to the last extremity.

LATER.—The estimates of the number of Turks captured at Plevna, telegraphed from St. Petersburg last night, 40,000, exclusive of 20,000 sick and wounded, are worthless, as there are no better means there of estimating the number than here.

The Vienna correspondent of the *Times*, after a careful survey of operations about Plevna since July, with various losses and reinforcements, arrives at the conclusion that Osman Pasha surrendered less than 30,000 men altogether.

Texas Items.

A farmer in Grayson county has planted three hundred acres in rye.

A man by name of Logan killed himself by jumping into a well near Burton.

A choice lot of fat beef steers were sold in Victoria county for \$35 per head.

Lampasas county has about 30 negroes in a population of 7,000.

Seventy-five persons are said to have been arrested and in jail, charged with the Texas land steal.

A toll bridge is to be built over the Clear Fork of the Trinity, between Fort Worth and Weatherford.

A car load of fine Jersey cattle has been imported by Fayette county farmers.

Drummers are said to have become a nuisance in Sherman.

The acreage of wheat already planted in Hopkins is greater than that of last year.

There are plenty of deer in Montague and planters are happy.

The International is constructing an immigrants' home at Palestine. It will shelter 100 and feed any reasonable number.

The Masonic Grand Lodge is in session at Houston.

An iron foundry is to be built in Denison by a party from Iowa.

Marion county has nearly \$2,000,000 in taxable property.

Two lads in Rockport found a bottle of whisky and drank its contents. One came near dying from the effects. Both were insensible for hours.

A flouring mill is to be erected at Brownwood to cost \$9,000.

Rev. D. Coulson, at a stock-sale in Bastrop, refused a bid of less than \$500, gold, for a cow.

A farmer in Bastrop county made on seven acres of sorghum cane twenty barrels of molasses, and from one and a quarter acres of ribbon cane two and a half barrels. He sells the ribbon cane molasses at 80 cents, and the other for 50 cents per gallon.

A fire company has been organized at Corsicana.

A load of Buffalo beef was sold in San Saba at 64 cents per pound.

Colored people in Navarro county are talking about emigrating to Liberia.

Near Proctor, Comanche county, 20 acres of small grain are sown against one sown last year.

The McKinney *Enquirer* reports cotton receipts 800 bales in advance of last year.

The Corsicana *Index* has been presented a turpin which weighed 8 pounds, and measured 27½ inches in circumference.

The *Index* reports two Gatling guns which passed through Corsicana en route to San Antonio.

A cotton gin, with 175 bales of cotton belonging to E. Blumenberger, Guadalupe county, was fired by an incendiary, recently. Loss, \$17,000.

The Dallas *Herald* reports the speedy completion of the Dallas and Wichita road a certainty.

The Round Rock *Reflector* reports the Swedish farmers in that vicinity preparing a large acreage for cotton, grain and other marketable produce.

The *Empire* says wheat is looking well in Erath county, and the people cheerful over prospects of the coming year's harvest.

Ten carloads of blooded sheep have been unloaded at Round Rock. They are new arrivals from the Eastern States.

The Fort Worth *Standard* claims the cotton crop in Tarrant and adjoining counties as better than any other portion of the State.

The *Standard* estimates the cattle shipments from Fort Worth at over 200,000, besides 300,000 hides.

The population of Rio Grande city is put down at 2500, of whom only 100 are Americans.

A party of hunters recently brought into San Antonio the venison of forty-eight deer.

The Denison compress recently compressed 1200 bales of cotton between Monday morning and Thursday. It gives employment to twenty-five persons. It is pressed to be shipped eastward.

Paris, Texas, is fast recovering from the effects of the fire.

Stephens county has wheat four inches high.

Hood county has trebled its population in eight years.

Austin has shipped 9500 bales of cotton this season.

One hundred and fifty men and forty teams are at work on the projected railroad from Denison to Mineola.

Dallas has contracted for five miles of fire alarm telegraph, alarm boxes and a general alarm, to be completed by January 1.

Dallas claims 14,267 bales of cotton this year.

Brenham needs at least one hundred new cottages.

The Fairfield *Recorder* reports a first-class syrup made in that county from ribbon cane. Farmers are turning attention to the supply of home demand.

An immense pigeon roost is 12 miles southeast of Butler, Freestone county. Parties at night capture large numbers. Many roost on bushes so low that they are taken by hand. They feed over a large region but return to the same place to roost.

The Mexia *Ledger* says stock of all kinds do well in that region, except hogs. The farming lands are good for wheat, corn, rye and oats, but not so well adapted for cotton. The beauty of the climate is one chief charm of that region.

A shipment of 1000 buffalo hides was made recently from Tom Green county.

Pork is selling in Bastrop county at from five to six cents per pound.

Fifty city lots were recently sold within two weeks to new comers in Texarkana.

The Emmet House in Texarkana is said to feed 300 regular boarders.

Increased attention is given to the culture of sugar cane in Colorado county.

Many residences are going up in Columbus, Colorado county.

Good unimproved lands can be bought in Wilson county at from \$1 to \$4 per acre. It is a fine hog and cattle region. Wheat and other cereals do well. Lands can be bought in tracts from 20 to 2,000 acres in size.

Turkeys sell in Live Oak county at 25 cents a piece.

The Mineola *Flag* speaks of many fine new residences going up in that town.

The permanent school fund of the State, on the twenty-second of June, 1877, amounted to \$3,148,868.60. The interest on the permanent fund, together with one-fourth of the annual revenue of the State and \$1 poll tax, constitute the available State school fund annually appropriated to the support of public free schools. This and \$757,323 have thus been provided for the maintenance of public schools for the fiscal year beginning September 1, 1877.

Church News and Views.

Materials are being gathered for a biography of Bishop Janes.

The last Scotch Free Church Assembly determined to raise £100,000 for church extension.

The Southern Presbyterian Church has established a school for the training of colored ministers at Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

The Wesleyan Foreign Missionary Society of Great Britain is \$100,000 in debt, and the officers are disturbed and fearful.

The Scotch Episcopal Bishops have passed resolutions favoring the restoration of the Metropolitan, which was abolished in 1731.

Steps are being taken by the Baptist Missionary Society to establish a mission on the Congo river, which has been so recently explored by Mr. Stanley.

Rev. Dr. W. W. Bennett, of the Virginia Conference, has been elected President of Randolph-Macon College, in place of the lamented Dr. Duncan.

A Roman Catholic hierarchy is to be established in Scotland; the Primate or Metropolitan is to be called the "Archbishop of St. Andrew's," and the bishops are probably to be those of Glasgow, Lismore, Aberdeen and Moray.

Mrs. John C. Green, of New York, has given \$100,000 to the American Sunday-school Union, the interest only to be available. The money is to be devoted in part to the development of Sunday-school literature of a high merit.

Bishop McTyeire left Nashville, December 4, to attend the session of the Mississippi Conference at Jackson, which was to be presided over by Bishop Marvin, who is now engaged in nobler work in a higher sphere.

Over eleven hundred persons were added to the Congregational churches in Wisconsin last year, on profession of faith, and six new churches were formed. There are now 175 ministers, or six more than last year.

The negotiations for union between the Lutherans and Methodist Protestants of Georgia have been dropped, as was to be expected.

During the last ten years there has been an increase of sixfold in the number of Chinese converts, there being now more than ten thousand.

The railroad traffic managers of Ireland attribute the great bulk of all railroad accidents to the sale of spirits along the line.

If the Northern and Southern Presbyterian Churches were united the sum total of members would be 670,124. In 1861, when they parted, the total number of members in the united body was 300,814.

M. Copen, a thoroughly educated Jew, of France, lately published in two large octavo volumes a work which aims at showing that Pharisaism was in reality a protest against Rationalism, and that the Pharisees were the Protestants of Judea.

It is said that 50,000 colored people in Georgia profess the Catholic faith, yet a Savannah priest says the Catholic missionary frequently sees his work frustrated by the camp-meetings, which are peculiarly attractive to the negro.

The Episcopal Society for the Increase of the Ministry reports that aid was given last year to 133 theological students. The contributions were \$26,575. New England furnished the largest share of these and the largest proportion of scholars—forty-three.

The Jews in Hungary have just been subjected to another indignity. The Minister of Worship has decided—and his decision is law—that any marriage of a Jewess by a Christian who has been converted to Judaism is and will be held null and void.

John Ami Merle D'Aubigne, youngest brother of the late Rev. J. Henry Merle D'Aubigne, died at Mayenne, France, on September 17. He was 81 years of age.

The Pope's receipts in full in gifts from the pilgrims, during his Jubilee celebration, amounted to \$3,295,276.20, of which \$1,818,000 was in gold.

A Catholic paper states that the personal gifts made to Pius IX. since he became Pope amount to \$140,000,000, not including Peter's Pence.

The *Baptist Weekly* calls for a union of the two Baptist Bible Revision Societies, and says their continued separation and antagonism are a disgrace to the denomination.

The Atlantic Synod of the Presbyterian Church is composed, with four exceptions, of colored churches. There are 48 ministers, 128 churches, and 9,889 members. In Sunday and mission schools there are 9,687 scholars.

The Presbyterian Synod of Virginia recently adopted a resolution declaring it to be the duty of the Southern Churches to do their full part toward the moral and spiritual elevation of the colored race.

The work of the American Board in the Ottoman Empire, when considered in bulk, is really very extensive. There are in all 255 stations and outstations, 74 churches, 5,355 members, and 11,786 pupils in schools.

Bishop Miles, of the Colored Methodist Episcopal Church, is about to start out on a lecturing tour, to raise funds to establish and endow denominational colleges at Louisville, Ky., and Sardis, Miss.

The Reformed Episcopal Church is slowly developing its diocesan or synodical organizations. Two synods have been organized—that of Chicago and recently that of New York. No bishop has yet been appointed for the latter.

The Scottish Reformation Society, in view of the re-establishment of the Roman Catholic hierarchy in Scotland, calls upon all Protestants to do their utmost to prevent the spread of Catholicism in the country. Our Scottish brethren have not forgotten the former Catholic hierarchy in that country. It is too deeply burned in their memory.

The Holston Southern Methodist Conference will send a petition to the Southern General Conference next May to change the name of the Methodist Episcopal Church to "Episcopal Methodist Church." This name was once adopted by the General Conference, but was not ratified by the annual conferences.

Rev. James Gibbons has become Archbishop of Baltimore of the Metropolitan See, and Primate of the American Church, by the death of Archbishop Bayley. On the 20th of October, 1872, he was consecrated Bishop of the Roman Catholic diocese of Richmond, Va., and at that time was the youngest Romish bishop in this country. Now he is forty-three years of age, and is the youngest Archbishop in the United States.