

The Texas Christian Advocate.

PUBLISHED FOR THE TEXAS ANNUAL CONFERENCES OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SOUTH—BY SHAW & BLAYLOCK.

VOL. XXV.

GALVESTON, TEXAS, DECEMBER 29, 1877.

NO. 17.

Texas Christian Advocate

JOINT BOARD OF PUBLICATION.

The ADVOCATE having been returned to the direct control of the Five Annual Conferences, is now published under the direction of the following Joint Board of Publication:
WEST TEXAS CONFERENCE.—John W. DeVillis, O. A. Fisher and J. G. Walker.
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GALVESTON, TEXAS.

THE EAST TEXAS CONFERENCE.

The East Texas Conference convened in the flourishing town of Crockett on the 12th instant. The Bishop not having arrived, the writer was elected to preside over its deliberations until such time as he might be relieved by the Bishop's presence.

The attendance was full, and the business was dispatched with facility and marked harmony. All seemed happy in the annual reunion. We have never seen the preachers in finer health, nor better spirits. The spirit of consecration to the itinerant ministry seemed a contagion in the body, each vying with his brother as to who could most love and best serve.

Never has there been at any previous session more flattering reports of success from the numerous pastoral charges. A revival wave has swept over the conference, and many have been added to the church.

The Bishop was in his place on Thursday morning, greatly to the pleasure of the Conference. He was accompanied by that prince of agents, the Rev. R. A. Young, D. D., the representative of the Vanderbilt University, who won all hearts to himself, and so impressed himself upon the preachers and the people as to leave behind him a sweet savor, which will be fondly cherished in coming time.

The Conference adjourned on Sunday night, the preachers receiving their appointments with bright faces and happy hearts, and hied away on Monday to their new fields of labor. This is all we have time to say at present.

MR. BEECHER'S ORTHODOXY.

We notice in our New York exchanges the intelligence of Mr. Beecher's preaching a sermon of late to his congregation in Plymouth Church, which, however liberal in its sentiments and captivating in its sympathetic rhetoric, is yet, according to the received creed of the Protestant Church at large, heterodox.

We are at some pains to say that we do not regard Mr. Beecher as necessarily a false teacher. What ever may be our private belief, common decency requires that we regard him at least as one exonerated from a damaging charge by the Scotch verdict—not proven. Therefore, any opinion emanating from him, as from a man largely—yea, magnificently—endowed with intellect and imagination, should be dealt with in fairness and with consideration. But when a Christian teacher, whatever his caliber, reputation or connection,

esteems himself strong enough to refute the Word of God, and throw discredit on the plain utterances of the Great Master himself, we are constrained to draw away from such a brilliant egotist, fearing to be found in his company, as to have stood by the side of Korah, Dathan and Abiram—recusants on the edge of the yawning abyss! Mr. Beecher denounces the God who would punish a sinful man eternally. He would not have such a God! And he thereupon advertises his people of the sort of God that they should desire and approve of. As far as we can understand his meaning from the reporter's synopsis, this Plymouth Church God is a good kind of a benevolent old man, with a fund of indulgence never yet sounded by all the Tetzels and Beechers of earth.

The Word, the Will, the Nature of the Supreme Being is subordinate to the idiosyncrasies of beings as frail as Arius, Socinius and the pastor of Plymouth Church. We by no means exaggerate; for when men pass over the open Scripture, ignoring its explicit declarations, to find a final lodgment of eternal verities—not therein but in the higher law of their individual conscience, as they call it, but really their individual judgment or desire—then do the solemn and potent words of the Psalmist echo in our ears: "The fool hath said in his heart, there is no God." Make Almighty God weaker than man—His word inferior to the whimsies of a Brooklyn preacher—and you have a god who is no God! How sad it is that the most eloquent man in America is playing into the enemy's hand in this respect!

How many hundreds hang upon his words as upon the words of inspiration; how many thousands read his burning rhetoric, who never turn the pages of their fathers' Bible!

The Gospel preached by Mr. Beecher is a false Gospel, when he asserts that God will not punish unrepented sin eternally; and may God forgive him for so prostituting his glorious talents in the service—we were going to say of a false philanthropy—but really of the arch enemy of man!

MARVIN MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION.

REV. I. G. JOHN, D. D.—Dear Brother: The "Marvin Memorial Association" has taken the liberty of appointing you to represent it in all the Texas Conferences.

We hope you will cheerfully give your services, as the objects contemplated must commend themselves to your judgment and sympathy. We would suggest the importance of your communicating by letter or otherwise with the ministers of your conferences and such laymen as you may select, urging prompt and liberal action in the premises.

We send you extra copies of the circular letter, to be distributed as you may deem proper. The success of this worthy undertaking is greatly dependent upon the vigorous co-operation of those who should be interested in it.

Fraternally, J. W. LEWIS,
Chairman Executive Committee,
220 Washington Av., St. Louis, Dec. 13, 1877.

We most cheerfully accept the trust. In no part of the Church is Bishop Marvin held in more sacred and tender remembrance than by his brethren in Texas. Each preacher will act, we are sure, without prompting. Texas will raise its full proportion of the sum needed for a suitable memorial for our Missionary Bishop.

All communications respecting the memorial association sent us should be directed to "I. G. John, for Marvin Memorial, care Advocate office, Galveston."

By bearing this in mind, brethren will prevent much confusion and trouble. Let each preacher act promptly. 17-3

A man's virtue should not be measured by his occasional exertions, but by his ordinary doing.

(For the Advocate.)

1878.

BY R. M. MOORE.

Dingus for eighteen seventy-seven!
Hail to the dawn of seventy-eight!
Thanks be to God, who reigneth in heaven,
Blessing us all—the humble and great.

Winter, in fury, scatters his ice,
Clothing the hills and valleys below;
Ereches them all with frozen devices,
Draping his realms with velvet of snow.

Spring, in her beauty, rosy with splendor,
Comes with her sunshine tripping along;
Waking her flowers, fresh and so tender,
Treading so softly, singing her song.

Summer comes waving banners of gold,
Symbols of promise, precious as gold,
Earnest of harvest, burden that wearies
Earth in her travail, labor untold.

Autumn returns, a vessel deep laden,
Weary with cargo over the sea,
Sweeter than balsam from forests of Alden,
Richer than dreams of riches to be.

Peace, with her banners blazoned with beauty,
Sings through the land her psalm of praise;
Freedom stands watch, our goddess on duty,
Guarding her trust, her armor ablaze.

Plenty comes beaming, happy with treasure,
Bearing aloft her coronal horn,
Pouring out millions, beautiful measure,
Painting our cheeks with touches of morn.

Ceres sits crowned—a queen in her arbor,
Crowned with her sheaves—our goddess of wealth;
Commerce hoists sails on river and harbor,
Signals of growth and national health.

Tollers that tiller have reaped in abundance,
Garnered in coin of yellow ripe grain;
Barns become full and full to redundancy;
Ocherous, too, blossomed golden again.

Though we've had plenty, more than we needed,
Famine's lean shadow fell on the East;
Millions fell famished, waiting unheeded,
Tornured till death their tortures released.

Capital flies afflicted from vision,
Labor torn, hungry, savage, and wild,
Reckless of right, demands a division—
Perilous strife of parent and child!

Capital cold, as cherishes ever,
Closes its ears and eyes to its cry;
Labor, half crazed with useless endeavor,
Rises in wrath the laws to defy.

Patently trumped the tramps of the nation,
Thumping all doors, and treading all lanes,
Beating and boring all of all stations,
Checking the world for pitiful gains.

Savings banks failed, and millions of earnings
Went where the wood-henge twined its oak;
Fragments of insurance swiftdling by torments,
Vanished as bubbles, leaving no smoke.

Justice, with scales and ermine official,
Closes into court and sits on her throne,
Smiling on judge and others judicial,
Winking on crimes to justice well known.

Churchmen and Statesmen high in position
Stand at her bar, as criminals vile;
Others of every class and condition,
Followed their swift in prison-rigged style.

Mercy oft plead with paths of pity:
Some just escaped with the sentence of Cain—
Head of all men in country and city,
Banished for aye the social domain.

Death with his weapons millions has smitten,
Bishops and princes fell by his breath;
Childhood, too, sleeps, its epitaph written—
Chiseled in marble colder than death.

Temperance sweeps as billows of ocean,
Hamlet and village, city and State,
Bearing all on in waves of devotion,
Pledged to suppress the diem of hate.

Woman had prayed and sent her petition,
Jeweled with tears, and vowing her wrong,
Up to God who saw her condition,
Bade her rejoice and sing a new song.

Badges had bloomed as blossoms in gardens,
Tokens of pledges, holy as truth;
Badges of filre, as joyous as pardons,
Signals of safety, beacons to youth.

Over the earth the Gospel is ringing;
Footprints are white where ministers tread;
Moody's are preaching, Sankeys are singing,
Lifting us upward, upward to God.

War in his armor marshals for slaughter,
Europe and Asia—continents vast;
Blood soon must flow, as rivers of water,
Flow, as it did, in centuries past.

Edmund and Esau, mighty in battle,
Isaac and Jacob, beloved, speared,
Stirle earth's thrones, affrighted like cattle,
Crescent and cross, esentences revered!

Crescent and cross! oh, wonderful forces;
Centuries wax and centuries wane,
Crescent and cross, with intahly resources,
Marshal their hosts to battle again!

Europe and Asia bristle in armor;
Russia and Turkey grapple in strife;
Classic Bosphorus—thunders alarm her;
Over the Euxine rivers are rife.

History writes with pen of recorder,
Pages of blood at Plevna and Kars,
Drawing anew a crimson red border,
Blotting out Turkey, plucking her stars.

Rome is uneasy; Plus is dying;
Cardinals clutch at Peter's great keys;
Pious praying, Peter's peace eying,
Eager to seize the Vatican Sess.

REV. J. G. WALKER'S postoffice is Seguin, and not San Antonio, as heretofore. Annona need by request.

TEXAS MILITARY INSTITUTE.—It is not saying too much to place this educational enterprise in the very front rank of similar institutions in the country. It is all that could be desired: location healthy, society pure and refined; and terms extremely low, when compared with the benefits derived. The President is too well known to require any indorsement from us. A card elsewhere gives particulars.

WASHINGTON LETTER.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19, 1877.

Since our last, Congress has adjourned and few of the members remained to disturb the quiet which is now upon us. The beautiful weather we are enjoying is improved by our people in busied preparation for the holidays, now that all national matters have been settled by the solons at the capitol prior to adjournment. Our shops have put on their gayest attires, and anxious part and expectant young America throng our streets from early morning till late at night seeking after Santa Claus, knick knacks and means of Christmas enjoyments. We are not far enough removed from old slavery times to forget or lose that peculiar sanctity which attached to Christmas in the Southern States. To the slave, Christmas week was the one great epoch of his life, to which he looked forward as his only Elysian. He could endure the labors and hardships of fifty-one weeks without a murmur, providing the fifty-second week brought him the usual round of festivities which always characterized the end of the year. Old and young, freed and bondman, universally devoted Christmas week to pleasure seeking, and he was a hard master, indeed, who dared expect work from his slaves during this period. Master and mistress, save in the rarest exception, laid aside their customary dignity and became witnesses, and often sharers of the negro's pleasures, which were un-interruptedly pursued day and night by all upon the plantation until New Year's day came bringing with the indelible rule that the slave must begin his work on the second day of the new year.

We are inclined to give Congress credit for doing a great deal of work during the sessions passed. It passed all the deficiency appropriation bills, the Paris Exposition bill, and a number of minor acts, beside indulging in a vast amount of speech-making. The usual rule is to devote at least three months to debate before acting upon any appropriation bill; hence, as this Congress has some actual work done, we think it deserves credit.

In the Senate Mr. Conkling succeeded in saving his New York appointments from the President's guillotine, and their decapitation is indefinitely postponed; for how long a time depends wholly upon the feelings of the Democrats who joined their strength with his.

In the House, the seating of Patterson, as member from Colorado, nearly occupied the week, and the debate thereon was quite exciting, and the vote very close. He got into his seat "by the skin of his teeth," for the opposition lacked only one vote to defeat him and to send him back for a new election.

On Saturday afternoon Mr. Wood endeavored to press his investigation resolutions to a vote. But as there were not enough Democrats present to make a quorum, he found himself completely checkmated by the Republicans, who would interpose dilatory motions, and then by refusing to vote upon it, gain the hour's delay given by a call of the roll. One Democrat became so wrathly, that he wanted all who, though in the hall, made themselves constructively absent by declining to respond to their names when the roll was called, put in charge of the sergeant-at-arms for contumacy. His political associates laughed heartily at him, and one of them, Mr. Saylor from Ohio, reminded him of the old adage, that the horse could be led to water, but no one could make him drink. After several hours of fruitless balloting, Mr. Wood consented to have his measures go over till January 10, and in a few minutes the House adjourned. The Capitol was soon deserted, and the excitements of the past week were over. Not one of the seething crowd on the floor and in the lobby remained to disturb the silence which at once fell upon the halls and corridors.

There has been an uneasy feeling pervading our atmosphere for several days past in regard to Mexico, so strong are the efforts made by certain parties to embroil us in a war with that country. CABR.

We see it stated in the Independent that the Trustees of Andover Theological Seminary have a rule requiring the professors in that institution to pay over to the seminary treasury all moneys they may receive for preaching on the Sabbath in any of the neighboring churches.

(Communicated.)

Is the Use of Tobacco an Evil?

Is this a simple question? Doubtless so. If propounded to Dr. Summers or either of our bishops, one would be answered in the affirmative. Then, while kindred subjects are attracting so much attention, why is this passed over in silence? Brain and muscle have been laid under contribution to arrest the tide of intemperance and to suppress gambling dens. Broadside after broadside has been poured into their ranks; and a united voice has come up all over the land: Never spike the cannon till the last dead-fall of Satan falls to rise no more. Long have we waited for some champion of the quill to level his lance against the evils of tobacco. But thus far we have waited in vain. Feeling that the cause is strong, though the defender is weak, we venture into the arena of combat. Should the battle-ax of some knight of the weed prove for us more than a match, we hope some soldier of stronger sword and surer arm will step into the breach, and that the war will go on until "Iehabod" shall be written on every tobacco flag, and future generations shall know of the evil only as having existed among their fathers. It was a Methodist minister's example and influence that, ten years ago, led your correspondent a willing slave under the yoke. It was, too, a Methodist minister's example and influence that enabled us to sever the galling chain. Here we have a balanced account. No credit to the preacher. For years I have stood secure. Here and there we have let a word fall in a private way. Lately I have felt it my privilege and, perhaps, duty, to claim a more extended audience through the ADVOCATE. If I shall be instrumental in causing some young user of tobacco to reflect and reform, or some old one to realize that moral courage and God's grace are sufficient to his recovery, I have not written or lived in vain. C. R. S.

Delegates to the General Conference.

GEORGIA CONFERENCE.—*Chaired*: A. G. Haygood, W. H. Potter, J. Boring, J. E. Evans, H. J. Adams, W. F. Cook, Y. J. Allen, and W. P. Harrison. *Lays*: A. H. Colquitt, Geo. N. Lester, J. F. Langston, J. M. Deall, E. H. Pottle, J. H. Grocan, John Calvin Johnson, and H. T. Merriweather. Mr. Allen is a missionary to China. So soon as it is ascertained that he can attend the conference, the Georgians propose to take up collections to defray his traveling expenses.

NORTH MISSISSIPPI CONFERENCE.—*Chaired*: J. Barcroft, W. P. Barton, J. J. Wheat, J. D. Cameron, W. Murray. *Resolves*: A. Kendall, T. Y. Ramsey, T. A. S. Adams, Lay: J. Y. Murray, J. B. Fant, H. W. Foote, R. Paine, jr., J. B. Streator. *Resolves*: R. W. Jones, O. J. Moore, G. E. Kelsey.

MISSISSIPPI CONFERENCE.—*Chaired*: C. G. Andrews, H. F. Johnson, W. H. Watkins, R. Abbey, J. A. Ellis. *Resolves*: W. L. C. Hummick, W. E. M. Linfield, H. H. Montgomery, C. B. Galloway. *Lays*: C. K. Marshall, S. B. Watts, W. L. Nugent, R. Robinson, T. L. Mellen. *Resolves*: I. Miller, C. R. Rencher, D. Bunch, W. L. Thornton.

ALABAMA CONFERENCE.—*Chaired*: T. O. Summers, O. R. Blue, W. A. McCarty, A. S. Andrews, H. D. Moore, J. W. Rush. *Resolves*: M. S. Andrews, S. H. Cox. *Lays*: S. H. Dent, L. McSmith, F. Law, Price Williams, W. E. Wallis, R. A. Hardaway. *Resolves*: E. Y. Morris, J. H. Harris.

LITTLE ROCK CONFERENCE.—*Chaired*: A. Hunter, A. R. Winfield, E. N. Watson. *Lays*: W. E. Guise, W. H. Wheeler, S. M. McGeechee. *Resolves*: W. H. Browning, Horace Jewell. *Lays*: Resolves: A. A. Key, W. S. Jeter.

THE ROUND DANCE.—Mrs. Gen. Sherman has written another letter against round dances. She says: "It is not to be expected that young girls, who are unconscious of evil in the beginning, should reflect long enough to summon the moral courage to resist the allurements of dance, unless with encouragement and support of their parents. To the honor of pure maidenhood be it said, however, that there are young girls who decline from instinctive delicacy, even when their parents would have them join the throng who dance down the broad road of earthly pleasure."

There are 173,960 Baptists in Virginia, black and white, with 1,170 churches and 498 ordained ministers.

Down in a Silver Mine.

Those who have never inspected the lower levels of our mines may obtain some idea of the degree of heat to be found therein by visiting the "savage" works at the time of shifts. The men, packed together as close as they can stand on the cage, are popped up out of the shaft all steaming hot, for all the world like a bunch of asparagus just lifted from the pot. They make their appearance in a cloud of steam that pours up continuously from the "depths profound" and are dimly seen to step forth upon the floor of the works. As the men land and separate, each carries with him, for perhaps half a minute, his private cloud of vapor. As this passes off the man is seen to be naked from the waist up, his skin as wet as if he had just been lifted out of a pool of water. The men bring up with them—besides the steam—an amount of heat that may be felt by the spectator as they pass. All this is at the top of the shaft, where it is considered cool. What then must be a hundredfold below, where the men started from—down where the water stands at 157 degrees Fahrenheit? Down there no steam is seen; it is too hot for it. It is only when the hot, moist air, coming up from the lower regions, strikes the cool air towards the top of the shaft that it takes the form of steam. Down there, where the men come from, you must keep your hands off the pump column and the pipes; and if you pick up any iron tool you will at once put it down without being told to do so. Down there they handle things with gloves on, or wrap rags about the drills they are guiding and iron apparatus they are moving; and down there, too, you will learn to keep your mouth shut after you have drawn a few mouthfuls of hot air into your lungs. Pespire! it is no name for it. You are like a sponge that is being squeezed; you are ready to believe that you have ten million pores to every square inch of surface, or as many more as any authority may mention, and that these pores are as big as the cells of a honeycomb. You go for ice-water, and it almost seems to hiss as it passes down your throat; you keep going for it, and thus, in a short time, find out what becomes of the tons and tons of ice that are daily consumed in the mines. Remain below among the miners for an hour or two, and when you are finally popped out at the top of the shaft, all red-hot and steaming, among the other asparagus sprouts, you will appreciate the beauty, the light, and the coolness of the upper world.—Virginia (New) Enterprise.

THE DECEMBER number of the "Magazine of American History" (A. S. Barnes & Co., publishers), with index and title page for the first volume, is now ready for delivery. It contains a valuable essay on Martial Law, by Asa Bird Gardner, Law Professor of the United States Military Academy, and a curious account of the pre-historic tumuli found in the Island of Cuba. In the Biographical department there is a sketch of Marquis de Fleury, the hero of Stony Point; an account of Henry White, of his Majesty's Council for New York, with a fine steel engraving of the Copley portrait of this colonial warrior, and an original view of the Cortland House, his country residence. To these are added some further reminiscences of the famous book auctioneer and wit, John Keese, by his son, Wm. L. Keese, Capt. John Stuart's quaint and interesting diary of Gen. Lewis' expedition against the Indians in 1774 is concluded. In it there is a most graphic account of the death of the Cornstalk warrior. The reprint for the month is an explanation of the devices on the Continental Bills of Credit, with conjectures of their meaning.

The November proceedings of the New York Historical Society and a large number of literary notes close this unusually interesting number.

Assessments by Board of Missions, Northwest Texas Conference.

District	Foreign	Domestic
Waco District	\$100.00	\$400.00
Georgetown District	225.00	175.00
Corinthia District	225.00	175.00
Fort Worth District	150.00	150.00
Weatherford District	150.00	150.00
Stephenville District	150.00	150.00
Comanche District	150.00	150.00
Breckenridge District	50.00	100.00

The above is the assessment to the districts by the Board of Missions. The Discipline requires the collections to be lifted separately.

Faint not; the miles to heaven are but few and short.—Rutherford.

Texas Christian Advocate

Editor: G. JOHN, D. D. Associate Editors: H. S. Threlkeld, W. A. Coleman, D. D., W. A. Henshaw, H. T. Nabers

THE YEAR AND THE NEW YEAR

1877-1878. With solemn stroke and show, The great clock strikes the hour, That marks the closing year...

Religious Life in Palestine when Christ Appeared, and How He dealt with it.

Old books on Jewish antiquities tell us all about the "sects" into which the Jews were divided in the time of our Lord—their rise, their opinions, their usages, and so forth. These facts are very useful, but they leave much unexplained.

these; each party feeling itself, in social sympathies and intimacies, thoroughly at home only with those of their own school—but that was all. To state the religious opinions of these parties in detail, or to sketch their history, is not the purpose of this paper. Our first object is to mark the progress and formation of the three great schools of religious thought among the Jews, and even this only in so far as to bring out their enduring characteristics. When this has been done, it will be easy to see how, in dealing with them, our Lord was addressing Himself to no extinct parties, but to phases of religious life as alive now, in their essential characteristics, as ever.

effectually of idolatrous tendencies, made them yearn the more after the stately services of which they had so long been deprived, and intensified the delight with which they were renewed on their return. The people, whose instruction in the law had been so sadly neglected in a foreign land, had now to depend more than ever on their official guides, of whom it was said: "The priest's lips should keep knowledge, and they should seek the law at his own mouth; for he is the messenger of the Lord of hosts." (Mal. ii; 7.) But even before the last of the post-Babylonian prophets disappeared from the stage, the spirit of genuine religion had died down in priest and people alike; form took the place of life at once in teachers and sanctimonious hypocrisy had begun to reign.

tone of mind, would increasingly begot it; so that if the Pharisees recoiled from and were irritated by teaching fatal to their whole traditional system, the Sadducees, bringing it to a standard of purely secular judgment, would reject it with cold skepticism. In what proportion would these two classes likely be found when our Lord appeared? As the Sadducees would draw to themselves the most of the upper classes, and all who affected freedom of thought in matters of religion, so all the more devoutly disposed, the great body of the poorer and less educated classes, and as many as were of a strongly conservative turn of mind, would range themselves on the side of the Pharisees. Further, as the oral law, from its elaborate and complex character, would require "scribes and lawyers" to master and write it out, to explain, and with the chief priests who held to it, to see to the observance of it, a cloud of minor ecclesiastics would come to cover the land; the people would be brought under complete bondage to them; the consciousness of the power they wielded would dispose them to carry their heads high; and, as their influence depended on the estimation they were held in as the guardians of religion, we might expect them to make up in show what they wanted in the substance of religion. The Sadducees, on the other hand, despising this sort of thing, and requiring no "inferior clergy," as one might say, to bolster up a system in which they did not believe; but, professing to deem the divine lawable enough to take care of itself, would be much the more limited body, but would pride themselves on being the more select and enlightened class. At the same time, naturally desiring to stand well with their nation, they would probably conform to any ceremonies and observances which were popular and did not interfere too much with their liberty—and all the more from the want of depth in their whole religious character. Now this is precisely the state of things, in all respects, that existed in Palestine in our Lord's time, with both Pharisees and the Sadducees. The number of "scribes" of the Pharisaic party was such that they seem to turn up everywhere and on all occasions, while the abject bondage of the mass of the people to this Pharisaic party reveals itself ever and anon.

HOUSEKEEPING. Special Notice to Our Readers. SPECIAL CALL. AGENTS WANTED. To sell the New Patent Improved EYE CUPS. Accompanied by the best paying business offered by any house. An easy and pleasant employment.

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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 editor will distinguish the articles to which it is appended from those of either the Editor or his Associates.
 R. S. Finley, East Texas Conference
 J. S. Thrall, West Texas Conference
 W. G. Connor, D. D., N. W. Texas Conference
 W. C. Haislip, North Texas Conference
 R. T. Nabors, Texas Conference

TEXAS CONFERENCE.

The Texas Conference met in its thirty-eighth session in the lecture room of St. John's Church, Galveston, at 9 A. M., Dec. 19th, 1877. Bishop Wightman presiding. H. V. Philpott was elected Secretary, and R. T. Nabors and J. C. C. Winch assistants.

R. A. Young, D. D., Secretary of Vanderbilt University; E. L. Armstrong and Lacy Boone, of the East Texas Conference; W. G. Veal, J. Fred. Cox, G. W. Graves and R. Crawford, of the Northwest Texas Conference; D. M. Proctor, of the North Texas Conference; J. W. De-Vilbiss, of the West Texas Conference; J. L. Cotton, a local preacher, from North Texas; F. Vordenbaum, J. A. Pauley, and J. A. G. Rabe, of the German Conference; Dr. Bunting, of the First Presbyterian Church, Galveston; Dr. Howard, of the First, and Dr. Luther, of the Second Baptist Churches, Galveston, were among the many visitors of the conference.

The ladies of St. Johns and St. James Churches gave the preachers and delegates an elegant reception in the lecture room of St. John's church on Wednesday night. The pleasant hours were spent in "getting acquainted" and in conversation, interspersed with sacred music and hymns, in which the members of the different congregations, with the preachers, participated. Coffee, cake and fruit were supplied by the young ladies of the congregations, and before the hour was over one leading object of the occasion was accomplished—the members of the churches were acquainted with the preachers who were in their midst.

The action of the conference respecting the ADVOCATE was an endorsement of its management, both in the editorial and publishing departments, as cordial and pronounced as the editors and publishers could desire. We do not claim to be insensible to the estimate our brethren place upon our labors, and the assurance that preachers and patrons approve our course and appreciate our efforts, will supply a fresh impulse to our labors the coming year. If the reports adopted by the Texas Conference, as well as by those which preceded it, are pledges of faithful effort on the part of the preachers, we will close this year with ten thousand names on our subscription list.

Many important interests came before the conference, and were discussed with the freedom which characterizes Methodist conferences. If in each case the wisest decision in the judgment of some was not reached, we believe each one accorded to his brother that respect for his opinions that he claimed for his own.

The address of Dr. Young on the night of the missionary anniversary was a clear statement of the movements of our church in this department of Christian effort, and an eloquent presentation of the obligations resting on the church to send the gospel to the heathen world. The collection amounted to about \$200. The report of the Treasurer showed that while the Texas Conference was not behind the others in the offering it has sent up to the missionary treasury, yet it is far below that standard of Christian liberality presented in the Word of God. Can not each preacher in Texas raise one dollar per member this year? Were this done, a fresh impulse would be given to our mission work.

On Sabbath, at 11 A. M., Bishop Wightman preached in St. James church. We class the effort among the best sermons to which we have listened during life. Its impression on the congregation was profound, and we doubt not its results will

be visible in eternity. At the close of the sermon, S. H. Williams, O. T. Hotchkiss and Joseph Norwood were ordained deacons. Then followed a scene of deep interest to the members and congregation of St. James church. Though they had been worshipping in their house for several years, yet it had never been dedicated, because a debt had been resting upon it. At the close of the ordination service, the trustees of the church advanced to the altar and presented the house to the bishop, free of debt, to be dedicated to the worship of God. The burden which had rested on them for years had been removed. A grateful church and congregation united in the impressive service.

The memorial service was held on Sunday afternoon in St. Johns. Impressive addresses were delivered by Dr. Mood, of the Southwestern University, and Dr. Young, of Nashville. Bishop Marvin dedicated the house in which we were assembled, and preached the first sermon within its walls; and as we looked on the sable drapery around pulpit and altar, we recalled the scene, and could almost see the pale countenance and hear the deep, earnest tones of the preacher who delivered the first message of life to the congregation who would worship around its altar. His voice is silent, but his memory will abide with his brethren until they meet him on the eternal shore.

Joseph L. Murray, J. F. Dimmitt and James W. Kellogg were admitted on trial.

J. H. Chambliss, of the Tennessee Conference; A. E. Goodwyn, of the Louisiana Conference; and O. Fisher, of the Northwest Texas Conference, were received by transfer.

James E. Meredith, of the Austin Conference; M. E. Church, formerly of the Philadelphia Conference, was received in the usual form.

Calvin H. Brooks was readmitted.

Collections for the expenses of delegates to the General Conference were ordered to be taken up during the months of February and March. T. B. Buckingham, J. C. Huckabee and J. S. Clower were located at their own request.

The following are the delegates to the General Conference: Clerical—R. Alexander, H. V. Philpott and I. G. John. Resources—F. A. Mood and J. W. Whipple. Lay—J. D. Giddings, J. D. Thomas, J. C. C. Winch. Resources—J. H. Shapard, A. R. Kilpatrick and T. W. Folts.

BISHOP WIGHTMAN.

Bishop Wightman closed his episcopal tour in Texas last Monday, and left for his home in Charleston, South Carolina. His labors were arduous and his cares many and weighty. During a portion of his tour, wind and wave were against him; yet with all his travel and exposure, and with his incessant conference labors, his health and strength were sustained. His words to the preachers at each session will bear fruit in their increased devotion to the Master's service. His address to the members of the class just admitted into the Texas Conference will not be forgotten in time by many who heard him. Men who had long been in the ministry felt that his message was to them, and renewed the solemn vows which they had assumed in that hour when they stood at the threshold of the conference and took upon themselves the vows of entire consecration to the work to which their Master had called them. The Bishop bore with him the prayers of his brethren who will meet him with the warmest welcome should he again visit our State.

TO THE PREACHERS.—Every member of the five Texas Conferences is entitled to receive the ADVOCATE as agent. In the changes incident to conference sessions some may be unintentionally overlooked, notwithstanding we are making every endeavor to avoid mistakes. Will all the preachers join us in this endeavor? Post us not alone as to yourself, but also as to others in whose addresses there may possibly be an error.

GENERAL CONFERENCES. 1784--1844.

I. In view of the approaching session of our General Conference, we have thought it might interest our readers to have a brief review of previous sessions of American Methodist General Conferences. Previous to the acquisition of American independence, the Methodist Societies in the colonies were under the supervision of Mr. Wesley, who appointed the preachers as he did in Great Britain. In 1784, Mr. Wesley selected Dr. Coke and Mr. Asbury to have the superintendence of the work in America. The first conference convened in Baltimore, on Christmas-day, 1784. Out of the eighty-three traveling preachers then in America, sixty were present, representing 14,986 members. By a unanimous vote they elected Dr. Coke and Mr. Asbury to be their Superintendents or Bishops; and with equal unanimity declared for a separate ecclesiastical organization, called the "Methodist Episcopal Church." In giving an account of this conference, the Bishops say: "We formed ourselves into an independent church; and following the counsel of Mr. John Wesley, who recommended the episcopal mode of church government, we thought it best to become an episcopal church; making the episcopal office elective, and the elected superintendent or bishop amenable to the body of ministers and preachers."

II. The second General Conference met in Baltimore, in November, 1792. All traveling preachers in full connection were eligible. There were then 266 preachers and 65,980 church members. At this session James O'Kelley introduced an apple of discord in the shape of a resolution, to the effect that if any preacher felt aggrieved at the appointment given him by the bishop, he might appeal to the conference; and if the conference thought the complaint was well-founded, the bishop must give him another appointment. The conference refused to adopt Mr. O'Kelley's resolution, and he withdrew from the M. E. Church, and organized the "Republican Methodist Church." This conference made provision for the appointment and support of presiding elders.

III. Was held in Baltimore, October 29, 1796; all preachers who had traveled four years were eligible. There were then 313 ministers and 60,291 members; a small decrease, owing to the O'Kelley secession. This conference laid the foundation of the "chartered fund," for the benefit of superannuated preachers.

IV. The fourth conference met in Baltimore, May 29, 1800. Out of about 250 preachers eligible, 114 were present, representing 61,351 members. At the request of the British Conference, Bishop Coke had permission to return temporarily to Europe. It was resolved to elect an additional bishop. On the second ballot there was a tie between Richard Whatcoat and Jesse Lee. On the third ballot Mr. Whatcoat had 59 votes and Mr. Lee 55; and the former was elected and ordained. This conference raised the salary of a single preacher from \$64 to \$80 per annum; an allowance was also made for a wife and each child, but this allowance was not extravagantly large.

V. Was held at Baltimore, May 7, 1804, composed of 107 members, representing seven annual conferences, 384 preachers, and 104,070 members. The New England conference had 4 delegates; Western, 3; South Carolina, 5; Virginia, 17; Baltimore, 29; Philadelphia, 41; and New York, 12. The Book Concern was transferred from Philadelphia to New York. It was thought best to locate the publishing house at the leading commercial center of the country.

VI. Met at Baltimore May 1, 1808; 129 members represented 516 preachers and 144,590 members. Bishop Whatcoat was dead, and Dr. Coke absent in Europe; and they elevated Wm. McKendree to the episcopal office. Only about one-fourth of those eligible were present; the body of preachers was becoming too large to meet;

and provision was made for a delegated general conference. The ratio of representation was one for every five members of an annual conference. Restrictive rules, essentially the same as those now in the discipline, were imposed upon the powers of the conference.

VII. Heretofore all the sessions had been held in Baltimore. The seventh session was held in New York, May 1, 1812. This was the first delegated conference, and was composed of 90 members, representing 668 preachers and 184,600 members. We believe Dr. Lovick Pierce, who was one of the representatives from South Carolina, is the only member of this conference now living.

VIII. Met in Baltimore, May 1, 1816, composed of 108 delegates, representing 19 conferences, 695 preachers, and 214,235 members. Owing to the death of Bishop Asbury, and the enlargement of the work, two additional bishops were elected—Enoch George and Robert R. Roberts. The ratio of representation was reduced to one for every seven members of an annual conference.

IX. Met at Baltimore, May 1, 1820; there were 87 delegates, representing 11 conferences, 812 preachers, and 240,024 members. A revised constitution of the missionary society was prepared and a report adopted advising the establishment of schools under the control of the several conferences; but the great question before the body related to the presiding eldership. From the institution of that office some of the preachers had been in favor of the election of the elder by the annual conference. At this conference a resolution passed making the office elective. Bishop McKendree, who was very unwell, was not in the conference room when the resolution passed. As soon as he was able, he entered the room and announced that he regarded the resolution as unconstitutional, and an infringement upon the third restrictive rule which provided for an untrammelled episcopacy. Joshua Soule, who had just been elected a bishop, declined ordination, as he said he could not administer the office, hampered as it was by that action. The conference suspended the execution of the resolution for four years, and it was subsequently abandoned. The same question is again agitating the church.

X. Met in Baltimore, May 1, 1824; 126 delegates represented 12 conferences, 1223 preachers and 312,540 members. The church was greatly agitated on the subject of admitting laymen to a participation in the business of the annual and general conferences. The conference decided against "lay delegation" and the dissatisfied parties withdrew from the M. E. Church and organized the "Protestant Methodist Church." Joshua Soule and Elijah Hedding were added to the episcopacy.

XI. Met in Pittsburgh, May 1, 1828; 176 delegates represented 17 conferences, 1576 preachers, and 381,997 members; Martin Ruter was secretary. The conference was principally occupied with the controversy with the "Reformers" or Methodist Protestants.

XII. Met in Philadelphia, May 1, 1832; 198 delegates represented 19 conferences, 2010 preachers, and 513,114 members. James O. Andrew and John Emory were elected bishops. As some were in favor of having the work formed into episcopal districts, giving each bishop his work for four years, this conference decided to leave that question entirely with the bishops to arrange their work as they thought advisable. The restrictive rule had been modified and the ratio of representation reduced to one for every fourteen members of an annual conference.

XIII. Met in Cincinnati, May 1, 1836; 148 delegates represented 22 conferences, 2758 preachers and 652,528 members. Beverly Waugh, Wilbur Fisk and Thomas A. Morris were elected bishops. Dr. Fisk was absent in Europe, and was not ordained. When he returned, he continued in the presidency of the Wesleyan University until his death. The ratio of representation

was again reduced to one for every 21 members of an annual conference.

XIV. Met in Baltimore, May 1, 1840; 127 delegates represented 29 conferences, 3557 preachers, and 749,216 members. For the first time since the death of Dr. Coke, the British Conference sent a representative to their American brethren, in the person of Rev. Dr. Robert Newton.

XV. Met in New York, May 1, 1844; composed of 180 delegates representing 33 conferences, 4,282 preachers and 1,117,356 members. This was the last general Conference of the united M. E. Church. Leonidas L. Hamline and Edmund Storer Jones were elected bishops. In consequence of the action of the conference in reference to Bishop Andrew, fifty-one delegates from thirteen annual conferences petitioned for a separate ecclesiastical organization. A resolution was adopted authorizing the conferences in the slaveholding States, if they found it necessary, to form a "distinct ecclesiastical connection." The second resolution authorized ministers of every grade in the M. E. Church to remain in that church, or without blame to attach themselves to the Church, South. The first resolution, providing for a distinct ecclesiastical organization, passed by a vote of 147 to 15. T.

SUPERANNATED.

There was not a preacher in the Texas Conference whose heart was not filled with sadness when Dr. Alexander, with eyes suffused with tears, arose and asked for Rev. N. A. Cravens and Dr. O. Fisher a superannuated relation. Their labors have been known in all the churches for the past half century. Few men on the effective list have led more souls to the cross and received more members into the church than these faithful men of God. Their power in the pulpit has been felt in revivals, in which hundreds have been converted all over the Southwest.

These cases would not appear so sad—for man is mortal—if the church had made any adequate provision for its worn-out ministers. When we looked on the gray hairs of these war-worn veterans, and then thought of the meager pittance that will be handed them after a year's waiting, we felt, if there were no reward beyond the grave, the preacher's life afforded him a miserable recompense in his declining years.

Many of the preachers in the conference are only a few years behind these faithful leaders of the evangelical host of other days, and with their sympathy for brethren who so reluctantly retired from the open field of battle, came the thought: "In a few years the conference will assign to us the same relation." May God's richest blessings rest on these noble soldiers of the cross, and may their declining days be as peaceful and happy as their past career has been successful in winning souls to Christ.

Dr. Fisher expects to travel largely throughout the State in evangelical work. He is a man of might in the pulpit, as the church well knows. He is known and loved for his work's sake in all our conferences. Brethren who desire his services will do well to notify him at an early day. We will guarantee for him a warm reception, not only in the Texas and Northwest Texas Conferences, where he has labored for several years past with great success, but in all the districts and circuits of our great Southwest.

THE German Conference in Texas, connected with the Southern Church, has 1200 members, and contributed \$1000 to missions.

This item, which is going the round of the religious press, is worthy the attention of the Texas Methodists of American persuasion. If German Methodists can pay 83 cents per member, can not the American work measure up to like liberality? We number say 65,000 in Texas. If we can raise *per capita* a missionary collection equal to that of our German brethren, we can lay on the altar next year \$54,000. Will we make the effort?

TRAMPS.

The peripatetic members of the community who are popularly known under this unsavory title, are either genuine objects of charity or proper subjects of the recorder's court. The question, upon whom of these mendicants shall our benefactions be conferred, and how far shall these benefactions extend, has been an unsettled and painful point ever since a good God has given reason to man to direct him in the discharge of Christian benevolence. Should we be governed practically by the outside appearance, we would turn away from our doors many a well dressed and deserving applicant and supply the professional wants of many a deplorable looking, but really deceptive, beggar; on the other hand, should we regard rags and the smutch of misery as *prima facie* indications of scientific knavery, our hearts may be made to bleed by discovering too late that we had offended against the Master's precept in the rejection of one of His little ones.

The extraordinary increase of tramps in our Southern community, and consequently of applicants for our charitable service, raises this subject above the fleeting interests that would invest a temporary annoyance to the plane of reasonable Christian duty. What shall we do in the premises? Is there any general law to be laid down which will satisfy the requirements of the case, and will supply a certain method by which we may at once fulfill the law of love and preserve ourselves from gross imposition?

If we are not mistaken, this question has been asked in every generation of Christian believers; and, so far, has been unanswered. It would seem that the great and good God has given us reason, a conscience, and a heart; and besides them he has vouchsafed no more particular guide or direction. Were man a mere instinctive animal, he might be empowered by the Supreme First Cause with an eye or a nose by which he might detect the genuineness or falsity of every beggar at the Christian gate. But man is not a raven or a fox, and God requires that he shall rigidly discharge his duty in the field of benevolence in the common sunshine of judgment and under the common promptings of the human conscience. Business men are scarcely ever at a loss as to how they should treat applicants to them for commercial accommodation. And the comparatively frequent instances in which they have been and are deceived, in spite of all their experience and acumen, in no way prevents them from going on precisely in the same way in reference to such business in the future. They correctly and safely conclude that it is better to be "bitten" in the minority of cases, than, by a churlish repulsion of the entire class of doubtful applicants, drive a great business from their doors.

So should the Christian reason also. Better is it that he should be cheated in the few cases of arrant imposture than drive away from his door the really suffering and needy. Let the law of mercy always prevail. But we may advance the proportion of the instance: In the well known legal maxim that it is better that ninety-nine guilty persons escape than one innocent person suffer, we find the clear and sufficient solution of this case of benevolent casuistry.

Herein is plainly implied the almost necessary fact of our continual deception by those who are unworthy of our charity; and also our bounden duty, notwithstanding our bitter experience, to open the hand, to feed the hungry, to give to them that ask.

Alas, should we refuse, hard though it be always to comply, how sharp is the judgment we give against ourselves, praying every day as we do: "Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;" and as we read: "Give, and it shall be given unto you." And again (in case of the fearful exception): "Inasmuch as ye did it not unto the least of these, ye did it not unto me!"

Charity, like God, is infinite. It suffereth long and is kind.

Texas Christian Advocate

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

ADVERTISING RATES: Each consecutive insertion... Rates on Standing Advertisements: To find price of an advertisement for a given time...

APPOINTMENTS OF THE TEXAS CONFERENCE.

Bishop Wightman Presiding. GALVESTON DISTRICT. B. D. DASHIELL, P. E., CHAPPELL HILL. Galveston, St. Johns—A. E. Goodwyn, Galveston.

AUSTIN DISTRICT. J. W. WHIPPLE, P. E., AUSTIN P. O. Austin Station—W. Shapard, Austin. Swede Mission—Carl Chanquist, Austin.

CHAPPELL HILL DISTRICT. R. ALEXANDER, P. E., CHAPPELL HILL P. O. Chappell Hill—T. W. Rogers; J. Matthews, supernumerary, Chappell Hill.

HUNTSVILLE DISTRICT. S. C. LITTLEPAGE, P. E., HUNTSVILLE P. O. Huntsville—J. E. Meredith, Huntsville.

COLUMBUS DISTRICT. R. W. KENSON, P. E., COLUMBUS P. O. Columbus—F. A. McAshan, Columbus; W. Smith, supernumerary, Weimar.

Weimar—J. T. Williams, Weimar. Flatonia—Supplied by W. H. Cooper; C. J. Lane, supernumerary, Flatonia.

Transferred.—T. R. Curtis, to Los Angeles Conference; Jos. Norwood, to West Texas Conference. Superannuated Preachers—J. G. Johnson, W. C. Lewis, A. B. F. Kerr, T. W. Blake, J. H. Davidson, A. Hinkle, J. M. Turner, O. Fisher, N. A. Craven.

East Texas Conference.

This body met in its thirty-third annual session, in Crockett, Dec. 12, A. D. 1877. In the absence of the bishop, who was detained at the session of the Northwest Texas Conference, Rev. Dr. R. S. Finley was elected President; S. W. Turner, Secretary; E. F. Boone, Assistant, and Lucy Boone, Statistical Secretary.

The statistics show that there were 1503 added to the church during the year by ritual, and 359 by letter. There has been an increase of 24 local preachers. We now have 121 local preachers and 11,481 members. There were 920 adult baptisms, and 422 infant.

WEATHER-FIELD DISTRICT—FIRST ROUND. Weatherfield station, Hartsburg, Jan. 12, 1878. Weatherfield circuit, at Weatherfield, Jan. 12, 1878. Weatherfield circuit, at Weatherfield, Jan. 12, 1878.

WAXAHACHIE DISTRICT—FIRST ROUND. Lancaster and Hutchins, and Lancaster circuit. December 29. Rice and Chaffin, at Rice, Friday, January 4. Orange, at Orange, Friday, January 4.

PALESTINE DISTRICT—FIRST ROUND. Palestine station, January 5, 6. Athens circuit, January 12, 13. Kicker circuit, January 19, 20. Rusk and Jacksonville, January 26, 27.

osting addresses were delivered by Revs. J. C. A. Bridges and D. S. Watkins, and Dr. R. A. Young. We have no doubt that every preacher will derive lasting benefit from the address of Dr. Young. We trust to see him again in Texas. The Rev. W. B. Rankin, Superintendent A. B. S., and Rev. Dr. Mitchell, of the Texas Conference, honored us with their presence. We should like to have greeted Dr. John, but in his absence we were glad to see the pleasant face of "our Bro. Shaw." The next session will be held at Tyler. Respectfully, S. W. TURNER.

Men may live amidst enemies, but will not escape the enmity and pursuit of their own sin. This shadow at their heels will not leave them, which means destruction. Bishop Marvin's book of travels, "To the East by way of the West," is now ready for delivery. Send two dollars to The Advocate Publishing House, Logan D. Dameron, Agent, St. Louis, Mo., and get a copy.

Notice.—The Southern Review will be issued regularly during the year 1878, there being sufficient material of Dr. Bledsoe's to carry it on for a year.

MARRIED. SELLERS.—Theresa A. the residence of the bride's father, near Fredricksburg, Tex., Dec. 19, 1877, by Rev. John T. Graham, Mr. A. F. Sellers and Miss Josephine Tidwell, all of Besque county.

December 21—J. B. Hinch—list of postoffices. J. J. Davis—F. P. Ray—J. G. Walker—change made and appointment given. P. E. Nicholson—R. S. Finley—R. W. Knox—M. I. Olander—W. T. McHugh—S. J. John—S. McCarver—appointments. Joe F. Hines—postoffice list; other matters have attention.

December 22—A. Hinkle—82. 26. God John G. James—advertisement appears; your kind mention appreciated. S. H. Renfro—subscriber. Wm H. Kirksey—It is a pleasure to accommodate our friends. R. Lane—82 and postoffice. C. J. Cook. December 21—W. F. Easterling—send on the articles; fully appreciate other remarks. J. C. Cruise—will see that the Dr. gets his full number of papers. W. T. Burke. W. T. Thornberry—will answer by mail. C. M. Foy—you should have mentioned also the county. N. Holland—82 for ad. received. C. B. Frazier. W. G. Connor. J. P. Missett. F. A. Rosser—postoffice received. T. W. Hines. W. S. May—obituary. L. F. Palmer—subscriber. T. R. Atkins—change made.

December 26—Joe F. Hines—we'll never "lost"—W. A. Shook—minutes received; let advertisements come in a hurry. C. R. Shapard. D. P. Collins—appointments. J. F. Shapard—29 copies minutes will be sent to subscribers received; such lists are cheering. F. P. Ray—T. A. Grant. T. A. Garrison—obituary, etc. Mattie B. Harris—the article has merit, but it is thought best not to insert it. T. S. Gary—list of postoffices. M. B. Rankin—obituary. J. S. Clower. J. W. Johnson. John F. Graham—82. 26. Julia Philbin—Trinity—poem received; thanks. A. K. Miller—82. Wm Howells—82. 26.

WEATHER-FIELD DISTRICT—FIRST ROUND. Weatherfield station, Hartsburg, Jan. 12, 1878. Weatherfield circuit, at Weatherfield, Jan. 12, 1878. Weatherfield circuit, at Weatherfield, Jan. 12, 1878.

WAXAHACHIE DISTRICT—FIRST ROUND. Lancaster and Hutchins, and Lancaster circuit. December 29. Rice and Chaffin, at Rice, Friday, January 4. Orange, at Orange, Friday, January 4. Wesley station, Wednesday, January 9. Waxahachie station, Thursday, January 11. Waxahachie mission, at Pleasant Grove, Jan. 12. Waxahachie circuit, at Center Point, January 12. Hillsboro, at Hillsboro, Thursday, January 21. Milford, at Post Oak Grove, January 26.

PALESTINE DISTRICT—FIRST ROUND. Palestine station, January 5, 6. Athens circuit, January 12, 13. Kicker circuit, January 19, 20. Rusk and Jacksonville, January 26, 27. Cherokee circuit, February 2, 3. Tyler circuit, February 9, 10. Crockett circuit, February 16, 17. Palestine circuit, February 23, 24. Trinity circuit, March 2, 3. District stewards will please meet me at Palestine, January 5. D. F. COLLIS, P. E.

WEST TEXAS CONFERENCE. UVALDE DISTRICT—FIRST ROUND. Benton City circuit, January 5, 6, 1878. Uvalde circuit, January 12, 13. Buda circuit, January 19, 20. Sabal circuit, February 2, 3. Buda circuit, February 9, 10. Buda circuit, February 16, 17. Menardville circuit, February 23, 24. Brady City circuit, March 2, 3. W. T. THOMAS, P. E.

Commercial. TEXAS CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE OFFICE, Galveston, Texas, Dec. 29, 1877. COTTON. At New York, the market for spots opened steady; closed easy. Sales this day 973 bales.

At Liverpool, the market for spots opened quiet, but steady; arrivals moderate. MIDDLING Uplands 11-12; Orleans 65-67. The market here is steady and easy. Sales 701 bales. RECEIPTS. This Day. Season. Season. Not Receipts. 2,531 272,253 349,072. Stock on hand. 105,879 75,211 127,129.

Exchange—Gold and Silver. Buying. Selling. Sterling, 60 days. 48 1/2. 49 1/2. New York Sight. 51 1/2. 51 1/2. New Orleans Sight. 107 1/2. 107 1/2. Gold. 107 1/2. 107 1/2. Silver. 107 1/2. 107 1/2.

LIVE STOCK MARKET. REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING DEC. 23, 1877. [Reported for the ADVOCATE by Johnson Foster, live-stock commission merchant, Stock yards Galveston.] On account of the unusually heavy receipts and sales of cattle during the past week, but little business may be expected until after the holidays. Calves are in demand. Sheep and hogs in full supply.

RECEIPTS. Beaves and cows. 429. Calves and yearlings. 99. Sheep. 261. Hogs. 78. SALES. Beaves and cows. 407. Calves and yearlings. 100. Sheep. 251. Hogs. 297.

PRESENT QUOTATIONS. Beaves and cows—good to choice, 2 to 2 1/2. Beaves and cows—common and ordinary, 1 1/2 to 2. Two year old common, 1 1/2 to 2. Yearlings, choice, 2 to 2 1/2. Yearlings, common, 1 1/2 to 2. Hogs, choice, 2 to 2 1/2. Hogs, common, 1 1/2 to 2. Corn-fed beaves and cows, fair to ordinary, 1 1/2 to 2. Corn-fed beaves and cows, rough, 1 1/2 to 2.

THE GENERAL MARKET. [Quotations are not applicable to small orders but represent cash prices for large lots.] Bacon. 12 to 15. Lard. 10 to 12. Sugar. 10 to 12. Coffee. 10 to 12. Tea. 10 to 12. Rice. 10 to 12. Flour. 10 to 12. Cotton. 10 to 12. Wool. 10 to 12. Hides. 10 to 12. Tallow. 10 to 12. Soap. 10 to 12. Candles. 10 to 12. Oil. 10 to 12. Brandy. 10 to 12. Whisky. 10 to 12. Rum. 10 to 12. Gin. 10 to 12. Brandy. 10 to 12. Whisky. 10 to 12. Rum. 10 to 12. Gin. 10 to 12.

DR. CARL MURRAY. HAS OPENED ROOMS FOR THE TREATMENT OF ALL CHRONIC AND NERVOUS DISEASES, AND FOR GENERAL PRACTICE. OFFICE OF MEDICAL RESIDENCY. Private Office and Reception Room, OVER HARRY BROS.' TIN AND STOVE STORE, No. 629 Elm Street, Dallas, Texas.

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Choice sugar cured per lb. 10 to 12. 24 quality. 8 to 9. Hides. Dry selected, per pound. 16 to 18. Light salted. 13 to 15. Stock salted. 12 to 14. Kips. 11 to 13. Dressed kips and glue stock. 5 to 6. Wet salted. 8 to 10. Green. 7 to 9.

Plaster's A B No. 6, per doz. \$6.50 to 7.00. No. 1. 7.00 to 7.50. No. 2. 7.50 to 8.00. No. 3. 8.00 to 8.50. No. 4. 8.50 to 9.00. No. 5. 9.00 to 9.50. No. 6. 9.50 to 10.00.

On account of the unusually heavy receipts and sales of cattle during the past week, but little business may be expected until after the holidays. Calves are in demand. Sheep and hogs in full supply.

RECEIPTS. Beaves and cows. 429. Calves and yearlings. 99. Sheep. 261. Hogs. 78. SALES. Beaves and cows. 407. Calves and yearlings. 100. Sheep. 251. Hogs. 297.

PRESENT QUOTATIONS. Beaves and cows—good to choice, 2 to 2 1/2. Beaves and cows—common and ordinary, 1 1/2 to 2. Two year old common, 1 1/2 to 2. Yearlings, choice, 2 to 2 1/2. Yearlings, common, 1 1/2 to 2. Hogs, choice, 2 to 2 1/2. Hogs, common, 1 1/2 to 2. Corn-fed beaves and cows, fair to ordinary, 1 1/2 to 2. Corn-fed beaves and cows, rough, 1 1/2 to 2.

THE GENERAL MARKET. [Quotations are not applicable to small orders but represent cash prices for large lots.] Bacon. 12 to 15. Lard. 10 to 12. Sugar. 10 to 12. Coffee. 10 to 12. Tea. 10 to 12. Rice. 10 to 12. Flour. 10 to 12. Cotton. 10 to 12. Wool. 10 to 12. Hides. 10 to 12. Tallow. 10 to 12. Soap. 10 to 12. Candles. 10 to 12. Oil. 10 to 12. Brandy. 10 to 12. Whisky. 10 to 12. Rum. 10 to 12. Gin. 10 to 12.

DR. CARL MURRAY. HAS OPENED ROOMS FOR THE TREATMENT OF ALL CHRONIC AND NERVOUS DISEASES, AND FOR GENERAL PRACTICE. OFFICE OF MEDICAL RESIDENCY. Private Office and Reception Room, OVER HARRY BROS.' TIN AND STOVE STORE, No. 629 Elm Street, Dallas, Texas.

INTERNATIONAL REVIEW. THE ORIGINAL BI-MONTHLY. \$5.00 PER ANNUM. The chief object of this Review is to supply the demand for a non-partisan and international literature. It brings to its pages the best talent of Europe and America. Its European, as well as American, articles are of opinion of its management thus far.

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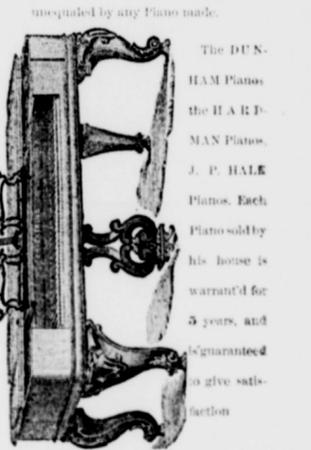
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Texas Christian Advocate

JOINT BOARD OF PUBLICATION. The ADVOCATE having been returned to the direct control of the Five Annual Conferences...

Subscription Rates. For annum (in advance) \$2 50. For six months 1 50. For three months 1 00.

(Communicated.) Popular Infallibility Considered... No. 1. BY A MEMBER OF THE TEXAS EARL.

Since certain distinguished scientists—a few in England, a few in Germany, and one or two in America—proclaim themselves the champions of unbelief...

If the Christian religion be true, how do you account for the fact that so many great men are opposed to it?

I concede the fact. I shall not attempt to deny or disguise it. Wit and sarcasm have exhausted their burning resources on the Christian religion.

Now, my skeptical friends must bear in mind that this is not my argument, but theirs. Their oracles are continually putting it before the reading public.

If the Christian religion be false, how do you account for the fact that the most profound thinkers, in every line of thought, have almost universally avowed themselves believers and advocates?

Now, my skeptical friends must keep in mind that this argument is the converse of theirs; in other words, it is their own battery turned against them.

Then there was Grotius, a generalissimo in juridical science. He stands at the head of the list of all the great lawyers of all the ages in the depth and comprehensiveness of his application of abstract truth to the intricate exigencies of society.

Then there was Boyle, who took the lead and long stood alone in tracing the inner mechanism and mysteries of organized substances, where profoundest and most subtle investigations are required to detect and to classify analogies.

Then there was Sir Isaac Newton, whose daring genius in mathematics struck down the towering traditions of the schools by irrefragable demonstration.

Who took the greatest step in advance in the science of metaphysics, which is so opposed to superstition, and so well fits the mind for separating truth from error?

Then there is Milton, a meek and sweet-spirited Christian gentleman. But it was Milton who wrote that imperial poem, "Paradise Lost," a composition which can never be equaled nor surpassed.

expulsion of our first parents from Eden.

Then there is Dante, also a Christian, whose marvellous "Inferno" is but an expansion of the Christian doctrine of retribution.

It is true you have Byron and Shelley, both exquisitely gifted, and two or three others of kindred spirit. But are not our Miltons, Dantes, Wordsworths, Coleridges, Moores, Shakespeares, Youngs, Collinses, Beatees, Klopstocks, Robert Burns, Schillers, and many others whose names I have forgotten...

In history you have the Abbe Raynal, who was called the "Big Brother" of debating clubs; Voltaire, the great favorite of school-boys; David Hume, the parlor pet of ladies; and last, but not least, rather the greatest of all, Gibbon.

Now, we could place over against these historians, some of equal and some of superior merit to any of yours. I will, however, mention but one, as he is confessedly head and shoulders above all yours put together—Niebuhr, the colossus in history, the Hercules in diplomatic criticism, and a Christian gentleman.

Then what shall I say of writers in the region of fiction. From the immortal author of Robinson Crusoe down to Sir Walter Scott, and from him down to the time of Irvine, Cooper, Dickens and Bulwer, what a galaxy of illustrious names might be mentioned, all believers in God and divine authority of the Christian Scriptures.

In the region of ethics who has skepticism fit to be named in connection with the iridescent Sir Thomas Brown—the capacious Pascal—the serene Hooker—the profound Cudworth—the exhaustive Barrow—the gorgeous Jeremy Taylor—the pure Leighton—the propitious Owen—the erudite Smith and Moore—the astute Warburton and titanic Johnson—and a thousand others, all believers in Jesus.

In modern learning who among skepticism takes rank with Sir William Jones? In blending philosophy, science, literature and art, who among you as skeptics would take rank with Leibnitz, Erasmus, Kepler, Descartes, Galileo, Latimer, Luther, Calvin, Arminius, Fox, and many others?

In the various departments of mental activities are enough to show that, although skepticism can boast of a few fine writers, as a rule, the highest order of minds have declared themselves on the side of Christ.

If you prefer such men as the author of the "Age of Reason," "System of Nature," etc., I have no more to say to you. I cannot reason with you. It would be like trying to reason with the blind man about colors, who, being asked what he thought the color of red looked like, said he thought it looked like thunder.

If Christianity is false, how comes it that nearly all the profound thinkers, great lawyers, great doctors, great poets, and great philosophers, have been followers of Jesus?

Memorial.

The following memorial was, by resolution of East Texas Conference, ordered published in the ADVOCATE:

Your Committee on Memoirs would respectfully beg leave to report:

Since our last convocation, death has invaded our itinerant ranks. One of our number has fallen as a sentinel from the walls of Zion to shout victory with the hosts of the redeemed who have gone before, upon the banks of final deliverance.

We feel inadequate to the task of doing justice to the memory of one so abundant and successful in labors and so much beloved by his brethren and numerous friends.

He was indeed a "true yoke fellow" in the gospel harness. He

was converted in his boyhood days, entered the ministry in 1843, and was admitted into the Holston Conference the year following.

During these years his labors were owned and blessed of the Lord. He received into the church 1,550, and traveled circuits averaging 23 appointments to each round. At the close of the year 1851, he asked for and obtained a transfer from the Holston Conference to the East Texas Conference.

While we deeply deplore his death, and heartily sympathize with his bereaved companion and orphan children, we praise God for giving His church such a man and minister as James R. Bellamy to labor with us—and for us—for the space of twenty years.

He was emphatically a working member of our body, and understood the whole machinery of Methodism, and knew how to adjust its running apparatus.

For several years his health had declined, but he could not consent to become a drone in the Gospel hive. He went forth even with crippled wing to gather sweets for his Master's store-house, until burdened with the fruitage of faith and good works, he took his flight to the heaven of his fondest hopes.

The night before our brother died, a near friend and brother called to see him and asked him what were his future prospects. He replied: "So far as my future prospects are concerned, all is well."

Truly may it be said of his departure from earth to heaven, that "he had fought a good fight and finished his course, and kept the faith, and that there was laid up for him a crown of righteousness." Therefore, be it

Resolved, 1st. That in the death of our beloved brother, James R. Bellamy, the M. E. Church, South, has lost an able expounder of the Word of God, the East Texas Conference a safe and wise counselor, and our church a devoted and faithful pastor.

Resolved, 2d. That we heartily sympathize with his bereaved family, and will remember them in our prayers to the One who is a Father to the fatherless and a husband to the widow. All of which is respectfully submitted.

DANIEL MORSE,) D. S. WATKINS,) D. H. CONNOLLY,)

There is a power about a heart consecrated to God—a power acting through all time—exhaustless, chainless—only to be computed and realized in a greater world.

So the soul, drawing down power from heaven, moves on life with wonderful results, reaching from age to age. Each soul, as it moves on its glorious way towards heaven, makes a ripple on the sea of time, which widens and expands till it breaks on the golden shore, safely landing waifs of infinite value, who would have otherwise been lost.

Watch for opportunities of usefulness. Every day brings them, and once gone they are gone forever.

There is more light than comes in at your window.

VEGETINE

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

It is not a vile, nauseous compound, which slumbers purges the bowels, but a pleasant remedy which is sure to purify the blood, and thereby restore the health.

Is now prescribed in cases of Scrofula and other diseases of the blood, by many of the best physicians, owing to its great success in curing all diseases of this nature.

Does not deceive invalids into false hopes by purging and creating a feebly 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 skeptical in regard to it, are now its most ardent friends and supporters.

Says a Boston physician, "I have 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 herbs, 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 restorer of the blood yet discovered, and thousands speak in its praise who have been restored to health.

PROOF. WHAT IS NEEDED.

Boston, Feb. 13, 1871. Mr. H. R. STEVENS—Dear Sir—About one year since I found myself in a feeble condition from general debility. VEGETINE was strongly recommended to me by a friend who had been much benefited by its use.

For a long time she has been troubled with dizziness and costiveness; 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.

Feel Myself a New Man. Natick, Mass., June 1, 1871. Mr. H. R. STEVENS—Dear Sir—Through the advice and earnest persuasion of Rev. E. S. Post, of this place, I have been using VEGETINE.

Report from a Practical Chemist and Apothecary. Boston, January 1, 1871. Dear Sir—This is to certify that I have sold at retail 154 dozen (1852 bottles) of your VEGETINE.

Ask the recovered dyspeptic, Bill or a sufferer, victim of Fever and Ague, the Rheumatoid, or a patient, how they recovered health, cheerful spirits and good appetite; they will tell you by taking SIMMONS' LIVER REGULATOR.

PURELY VEGETABLE. IT HAS NO EQUAL. CAUTION: As there are a number of imitations offered to the public, we would caution the community to buy no Powders or Preparations of SIMMONS' LIVER REGULATOR, unless they are prepared and stamped with the trade mark, stamp and signature unbroken.

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Texas Christian Advocate

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

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

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

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

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

Mail to thee! Mail to thee! New Year of Beauty, Full may thy months be with love and with duty.

Johnnie's Santa Claus.

BY ANNIE NORLAND.

"Mamma, is Santa Claus folkses?" Who was trying to drive away with their worldly wisdom the darling dream of "Santa Claus" from little Johnnie's mind?

Through the agency of the American Bible Society, the Holy Scriptures, "without note or comment," find their way into the cellars and garrets of our cities, to the obscure portions of our land, and into the solitary cabin upon our frontier.

BAV MISSION, CEDAR BAYOU, Dec. 16, 1877.—As I have just closed my year on this work, I will drop a line to the Advocate, that the friends that I have made here may know what I feel toward them.

Truth is the foundation of all knowledge and the cement of all societies.—Dryden.

Obituaries. Tribute of Respect to Mrs. Mary Matthews.

The Journalistic Profession. H. V. Redfield has this in a recent issue of the Cincinnati Commercial: "It has been remarked that very few who get into journalism start out with such intention."

Happy children, with such beautiful faith in parental love! Could we be in simple faith more like these we ones we could realize more fully the "good tidings of great joy," which the radiant angel came to announce to the watching shepherds on the Judean hills.

Accent. The Divine Message is delivered in a few simple, beautiful words. The sweet cadences float away on the still night air, when, in one instant, the sky is ablaze with an angelic throng.

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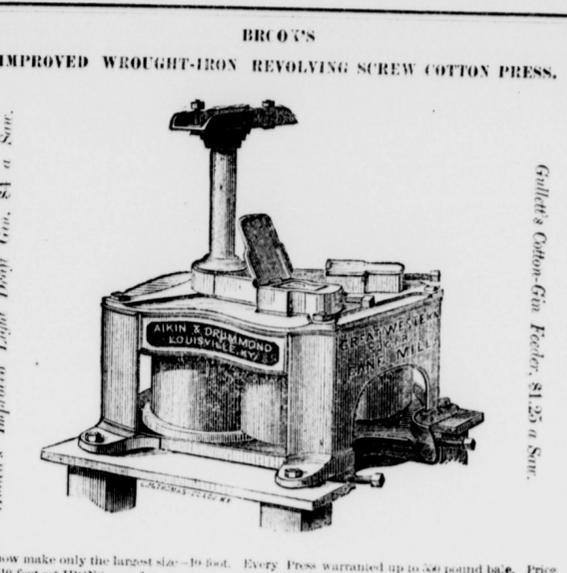
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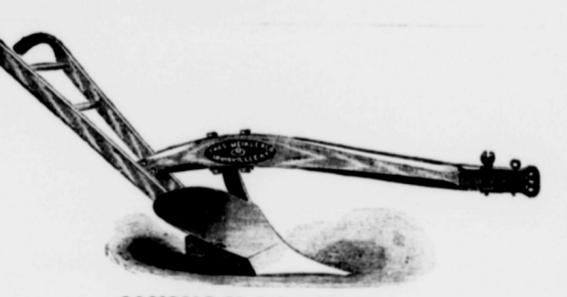
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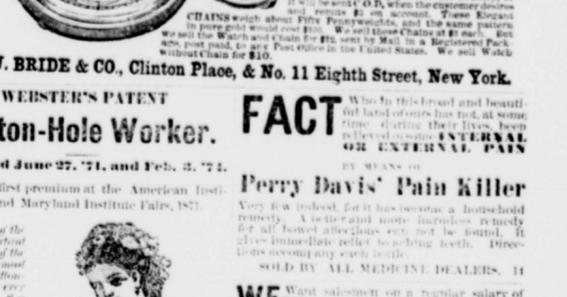
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Frank Leslie's Sunday Magazine. Conducted by Dr. Deems, of the Church of the Sanguers, New York.

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including 'Gulliver's Cotton-Gin Feeder, \$1.25 a Set' and other small notices.

Texas Christian Advocate TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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

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

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

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

News of the Week.

Washington.

The Supreme Court adjourned on the 21st for two weeks.

Pinchback's friends are pushing him for some position, either at New Orleans or abroad. The President is anxious to give patronage to each faction, and thus harmonize the different elements of the Republican party in Louisiana.

It is said that Everts favors subsidizing the mail service from an Atlantic instead of a Gulf port.

Senator Patterson is reported in a critical condition.

The Executive party went to New York last week.

The President is reported as saying that he had two serious objections to the Texas & Pacific bills thus far introduced into Congress. The first was that a Southern trans-continental road would be built without government aid in a few years, and as soon as actually needed. Second: The Texas & Pacific asks twice as much as is necessary to insure the success of the enterprise. This is important, as Hayes has been considered a friend of Tom Scott's scheme.

Robert Toombs is mentioned as a commissioner to the Paris exhibition.

Gen. Sheridan, in his testimony before the Military Committee, declined to express an opinion on the wisdom of allowing troops to follow the fresh trail of raiders across the Rio Grande. He once thought it was the only way raids could be stopped, but has always believed some international effort to check the depredations should be made. Believes Mexico could enforce any arrangement it might make except for revolutions. He, for the same reason, doubts the ability of Mexico to enforce commercial treaties. He thinks that additional garrisons might, with advantage, be established between the mouth of the Rio Grande and the mouth of Devil's river, and one about 150 miles north of Fort Duncan. He said raids were less frequent the past two years, and that Gen. Ord and Mexican authorities were on amicable terms. Had received no official report of raids into Texas the past year by Mexicans or Indians, but heard that the Lipans contemplated an expedition. The following telegram indicates the good feeling between the United States and Mexican officers:

P. H. Sheridan, Lieut. Gen.: Efforts are being made to get Canales out of Matamoros.

On the night of the 22d, a sailor from the U. S. gunboat, Rio Bravo, was shot and killed in a Mexican jail. Two Mexicans have been arrested on suspicion. Orders looking to the concentration of State troops at El Paso have been issued to Maj. Jones, directing him to enforce the law and sustain the authorities. Gen. Pope has corresponding orders.

Three companies from New Orleans have reached the Rio Grande.

In consequence of the fact that two Mexican prisoners at El Paso placed in charge of the State troops had been lynched, it has been determined by the State Department at Washington to notify Gov. Hubbard that U. S. troops cannot be used to arrest citizens of Texas unless the State authorities could insure them trials by due process of law. The recognition of the Diaz administration will be postponed until pending negotiations are closed.

France.

M. Dufaure, President of the council has ordered proceedings to be commenced in regard to electoral offenses, so that officers can not plead delay. M. de Marcere, Minister of the Interior, has ordered prefects to reinstate all municipal councils dismissed after the 16th of May.

The Temps says: "It is perfectly certain the French government does not intend departing from its attitude of reserve to play an active part in Eastern affairs."

The Eastern War.

Gen. Todleben commands the Russian army at Rostchuk.

In view of different opinions among the powers, the British cabinet decided mediation would be inexpedient.

The Porte will lay the question of negotiation before the Turkish Parliament.

It is reported that since the failure of the Turkish note to the Powers, the policy of direct negotiation has gained adherents.

The total loss of the Russians up to Dec. 20th is 80,412 men.

highest peak of the Sierracardnel, in Mexico, about fifty miles from San Carlos, under cover of a snow storm. Two Indians were killed and three wounded. About 1200 pounds of provisions destroyed; 26 head of horses captured, including several which had been stolen from Texas, and a pack mule and saddle captured from Bullis' goods. Alsati has been a refugee from Mexican justice for years. Blankets, robes, skins and clothing of all kinds, to the amount of three army wagon loads, have been burned. The troops were out of rations three days and supplied themselves out of provisions captured from the Indians.

In answer to a telegram sent by him, Maj. Jones on the 20th received the following from Lieut. Tays, giving names of Rangers shot: "Sergeants McBride and Mortimore and Miguel Garcia shot; two missing. Got out by a scratch. They took our arms. One hundred and fifty from Mexico. Send some ammunition."

"LIEUT. J. B. TAYS, Frontier Battalion."

The Governor has positive assurance from Judge Magoffen, from El Paso county, and from the Sheriff who knows all the people, that a large proportion of the mob was from Mexico. Lieut. Tays, who has lived there six years and was face to face with the mob, bears the same testimony. Garcia and others with him knew the people and confirm the statement. Capt. Blair, who was 28 miles distant, telegraphed to Gen. Sheridan that they were all citizens of Texas, has since admitted his error.

Advices from Santa Fe, under date of Dec. 24th, state that Gen. Hatch, with U. S. troops, took quiet possession of San Elizario, Ysletta and Socorro. Sheriff Kerber, with the rangers, attempting to arrest invaders, met armed resistance at Socorro and Ysletta. Two Mexicans were killed and two wounded. One ranger wounded. Three Mexicans arrested and placed in charge of a party of rangers, were taken out and shot. It is reported that troops from Chihuahua are en route for the Rio Grande in region of El Paso. The U. S. troops are barely sufficient to garrison the towns they hold.

Reports from Brownsville, under date of Dec. 23d, state that stealing animals and crossing them into Mexico is going on continually. The people do not complain of these acts as violation of international laws, but they have had reason to complain that the Mexican authorities have thrown obstacles in the way of recovering property stolen from them and carried into Mexico. A few nights ago six mules were stolen from Mr. Storms, just below Brownsville, and crossed into Mexico near the Tomato Rancho.

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Suiceman Pasha has reached Constantinople with 10,000 troops from Varna. He goes to Adrianople to take command of the army of Roumania.

The Czarrowitch reports Turkish forces outside of Rostchuk and on the lower Lom withdrawn.

Prince Charles, of Roumania, has received the iron cross from Emperor William.

It is said the Porte will order an additional levy of 300,000 men.

Many Cretan chiefs are dissatisfied with the cautious policy of Greece, which has adopted as a programme freedom under the protection of England.

The Porte is determined to carry on war to the last extremity, should the request for mediation fail.

Great distress prevails in Constantinople. The price of provisions rise as currency depreciates. Trouble is feared if the price of bread rises higher.

A Reuter telegram reports 20 battalions of Russians northeast of Erzeroum. Large Russian forces are concentrated behind Dece Boyun.

The Porte has issued a proclamation deposing Prince Milan of Servia.

On the 23d the Servians, after eight hours severe fighting, captured Akpalanka with three Krupp guns, and a large quantity of ammunition and provisions.

The latest intelligence is that the investment of Erzeroum is almost complete.

The bodies of the Turks killed in battle in and around Plevna lie unburied. The Turkish prisoners encamped amid the dead are almost starving. Plevna is one vast charnal house. Thousands of the sick and wounded captured are starving, and hundreds have died since the capitulation.

General.

A special to the Chicago Times, from Helena, Montana, says: Father Genin reported at Fort Duncan that Sitting Bull crossed the line and camped at Bear Paw Mountains with a large force of Sioux and Nez Perces Indians. They are said to be burning the prairies south of Bear Paw, and that Sitting Bull is on Miles' battle-ground, and had been joined by Lame Deer's band of seventy-five lodges.

On the 20th, an explosion took place in an immense candy manufacturing concern in New York. The boiler, which was under the sidewalk, exploded, tearing away the entire front of the building and scattering the wreck in every direction. The walls fell in ten minutes after the explosion. Over one hundred and fifty girls were employed in the building at the time. Several girls jumped from the top of the building into the fire. It is thought there are fifty bodies in the ruins. Of the 200 employes few escaped injury. An inspection indicates that it was not the boiler, but one of the tanks containing the material for making candy that exploded. Loss estimated at \$175,000.

Texas News.

The Journal says Atascosa county is filling up with men of means. The health of Pleasanton, the county seat, is excellent. Parties from Galveston have purchased in the county a large tract of land for the purpose of establishing a sheep ranch.

Cotton is coming into Palestine more rapidly than any time during the year.

The Chief reports tasteful and substantial buildings going up in Comanche. The lands in that section are rich, yet cheap. Thrifty farms and genuine wheat fields meet the eye of the traveler in all directions.

The bottom lands of Pecan bayou in Brown county are said to be equal to any in the State. The town of Brownwood is said to be growing rapidly. The houses are substantial, and the people are prospering. A hotel, three stories high, with mansard roof, is nearly completed.

The Citizen informs us of a fact which many older citizens have long known—that Gonzales is one of the most inviting parts of the State. A rich soil, good health, fine timber, and the blessings of local option are bringing good citizens to that (Guadalupe valley) county.

The Denison News reports a hog brought to that place which weighed 745 pounds. It is of the Poland China breed.

The county clerk of Cass county has issued eighty marriage licenses since Oct. 1st. That region will soon, at this rate, be independent of immigration.

A man in Gillespie county, by the name of Heineman, allowed his wife to be sent to jail for a fine imposed upon her for quarreling with her neighbors. His bliss was brief; his mother-in-law paid the fine.

The Crockett Patron says that town is animated with cotton trade. It is coming in rapidly and without abatement in quantity.

Gillespie county, under Teutonic enterprise, is thriving. Apples, pears, peaches, apricots, cherries, currants, raspberries, quinces and figs have been raised in abundance.

The Journal reports the arrival in Bell county of W. H. Todd, of Tennessee. His own family and those of his children count about forty in number. He expects to settle on Little River.

The Lockhart News-Echo pronounces local option a "good egg." Many who opposed it violently are now outspoken in its favor.

There have been only three deaths in Lockhart this year.

The Chief says early wheat is doing well in Comanche county.

Messrs. Thompson & Co., of Freestone county, have a hog which weighs the champion belt. It weighs 800 pounds. It is a Poland China.

The Monitor says more strangers are in Denton looking for houses than ever before.

Pork sells in Pittsburg, Camp county, at 4 cents per pound. Times are hard, but none are starving.

Roasting ears have been sold in the market at Brownsville, on the Rio Grande, this week.

Ellis county crops, the past year, panned out three-fourths of a bale of cotton, thirty bushels of corn, twenty of wheat and sixty of oats per acre. Soil is good, of a black sandy and waxy character. Land chiefly rolling prairie, with timber on the creeks. It boasts of thirty schools, thirty churches and one college, all prospering.

Edwards county, though among the youngest in the State, is fast filling up with an industrious population. Its fine lands, good water and rich grass presents strong attractions to the new-comers.

The papers speak of the courthouse of Bonham as one of the finest in the State. We add our testimony, having seen it.

A bonfire was kindled in the court-house square of La Grange, Fayette county, and the officers duly empowered by legislative enactment burned to ashes 107 con scalps, 6 fox scalps, 3 catamount scalps, and six wolf and wild-cat scalps; and now the farmers' calves and sheep may sleep in peace.

Settlers in Grayson county from the North are utilizing the Osage orange for fencing. They pronounce it better and cheaper than rail or plank.

Jack county, by gubernatorial proclamation, is no longer a frontier county exposed to Indian raids, and carrying deadly weapons is prohibited.

The Frontiersman reports the appearance in Kerr county of a small worm which is proving more damaging to crops than the grasshopper. The damage supposed to be the result of the frost, on examination, proves to be caused by this pest.

The immigrants coming into Montague county are an industrious class, with means enough to secure a fair start. This is the want of every county in Texas.

Fine lands in Stephens county can be bought at from \$1.50 to \$2 per acre. The Clear Fork of the Brazos runs through the county. Lands are rich, sandy loam, with plenty of post-oak and mesquite timber.

A new town has been laid out on the site of old Fort Belknap, in Young county. Its population is eight families and three stores which leaves room for future growth. Near the town is an extensive bed of coal, from which the blacksmiths gather their supplies.

Church News and Views.

In the work of the American Board, 20 new churches and 1,800 members this year are statistics as unprecedented as they are encouraging.

The Bishops of the Scotch Episcopal Church have asked the Synods to consider desirability of restoring the office of Metropolitan, which was discontinued in 1731.

The Indian Mission Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, among the Choctaws reported at the last session 850 baptisms, 40 Sunday-schools and an increase of 200 members.

Some Koords sacking an Armenian town found three boxes of Bibles which they took, selling as many of them as they could. They were not the regular Bible Society colporteurs.

The great missionary societies, one after another, are entering Central Africa. A liberal English Baptist has offered five thousand dollars toward the establishment of a station in Central Africa by the Baptist Missionary Society, which is considering his proposition.

It is reported in Scotland that the Livingstone, Scotch Presbyterian, Mission at Lake Nyanza, in Africa, are about to introduce the cultivation of cinchona, tea and coffee. The Madras government is to supply the plants.

The Baptists began their German work in 1830. In 1851 they had five German ministers with ten churches. Now they have two German associations, with one hundred ministers and 8000 members.

The missions of the American Board in the Ottoman Empire have been more successful than those of all other societies combined. The board has now in all 257 stations and sub-stations, 94 churches, 5355 members, and 11,786 pupils in schools.

The Unitarian Christian Register says that "to subscribe to a creed, in order to get into a pulpit and preach against that creed, doesn't strike everybody as a very honorable course." And so say we all.

One of the colored Baptist churches of Lexington, Va., has split on the circus question, fifty members being dropped from the roll in consequence of having attended a performance of a traveling show. This item recalls the chapter in Mosheim's Church History on the divisions of the Holland Bapists.

President Clark, of the Amherst Agricultural College in Massachusetts, who has returned from Japan, delivered an address a few nights ago in which he said that the Japanese will be great auxiliaries of mission work in China, because they are ready to embrace Christianity, and can speak the Chinese language.

W. A. Scott Robertson has made an analysis and summary of British contributions for the foreign missions during the past year. The total of contributions was \$5,242,360, of which the Church of England societies received \$2,129,680, and the joint societies, \$784,740; the non-conformist societies, \$1,308,855; Scottish and Irish Presbyterian societies, \$791,740; Roman Catholic societies, \$32,395.

A handsome and commodious Wesleyan chapel has been recently opened in Brockley, a rapidly increasing part of the suburbs of London. Cost about \$30,000.

Rev. S. H. Carhart has organized a new M. E. Church in Sherman, Texas. For the present the Sabbath services will be held in the Opera House.

An English exchange says the Roman Catholics in Scotland are less than one-twelfth of the population, yet this one-twelfth furnishes one-twelfth of the criminals. In England and Wales the Roman Catholics are one-twentieth of the population; but the Roman Catholic prisoners are one-fourth of the prisoners.

Mr. Waddy, member of the British Parliament, is a Methodist local preacher. Recently in a sermon he referred in strong terms to the decrease of liberality among Christians. The Scribes and Pharisees—of whom Christians often spoke with something like contempt—were strict in their liberality, and gave of what they obtained in the week one-tenth to God. They, as Christians, should give a great deal more; but they did not give one-half of what their fathers did, and not one-tenth what they would give if they were honest with God.

The annual summary of the gifts of British Christians to Foreign Missions has just been published, showing that the total for the last financial year 1876-7 was \$5,242,360, classified as follows: To Church of England societies, \$1,129,630; joint societies, \$884,740; Non-conformist societies, \$1,308,855; Scotch and Irish Presbyterian societies, \$791,740; and Roman Catholic societies, \$32,395. The sum given by the Romanists is much smaller than we supposed.

At a native meeting in Bombay the hall was crowded with Hindoos, Parsees and Mohammedans, about 700 being present. A band of earnest native Christians was on the platform. A kind of native fiddle, a little drum, and an instrument like a pair of thick cymbals, were all the accompaniments used. The leader chanted in a clear, musical voice the Gospel story, and every now and then the chorus joined in. He evidently understood the people and suited his illustrations to their capacities. "When a woman," said he, "knows how to make a good curry she keeps the knowledge all to herself; she may pretend to tell, but she does not. Now, Christians, when they get hold of a good thing, go and tell everybody about it; and that is what we want to do to-night." Although he spoke very plainly, the attention of the audience was very marked, and no signs of disapproval were visible. These native services of song are very popular, and the people will sit for two hours or more with the greatest patience listening to the them.

A Hindoo woman applied to a Christian missionary for baptism and reception to his church. That she might fully understand what she was at, and that her faith might be put to a reasonable test, the missionary pointed out to her the consequences of the step she was about to take. He set before her the loss of caste, the anger of her husband, and the probable poverty and suffering in store for her. She heard him through, and then replied: "I know all this. I thought it all over before I came, but I am ready for it all. What I may bear for Christ is nothing to what he bore for me."

A correspondent of the Southern Advocate, in giving an account of the Missionary Anniversary, says: "There was not an anecdote, not a joke, not a laugh; and, yet, the collection was good." The editor adds: "Let us hope that the missionary cause has suffered its last disparagement from misguided advocacy, and that henceforward the special meeting held in its interest may prove one of the most edifying and spiritual occasions of every Conference session. When this is so, the size of the collection at the time, will bear but an inconsiderable proportion to the aggrandizement the treasury will acquire from the augmentation of real missionary zeal experienced by the ministers and laymen present, and communicated by them to the Church at large."

A foreign correspondent writes that the late M. Thiers was very far from being a materialist: "I often," he was in the habit of saying in his last days, "invoke that God in whom I am happy to believe, who is denied by fools and ignorant people, but in whom the enlightened man finds his consolation and hope. I have with conviction, defended the Christian religion as insuring in the highest degree the grandeur of France and liberty in its best sense, and believing that society without Catholicism would fall into a frightful chaos. Foolish prejudices do not alarm me, and I shall never fear to encounter them when great and noble interests are at stake. Materialism is at once a stupidity and a danger. For myself, I am a passionate believer in religion, and if I were possessed of more time and strength I would like to confound materialism in the name of science and good sense."

An Old Dialogue Reprinted. "Returning from a council the other day, I overheard a discussion between my delegate, Deacon Grumbolo, and Deacon Webfut, of the Baptist Church, at Riverside. Of course the topic was immersion, and it was introduced by Deacon Webfut, remarking that his pastor, Dr. Jordan, had baptized five persons the previous Sunday. Deacon Grumbolo, who will never be outdone if he can help it, quietly replied that pastor Cyril baptized on that day nine persons. "Well, I hope he did it in the Scriptural method." "Certainly; our pastor always does according to Scripture." "Well now, Brother Grumbolo, what is your idea of the Scriptural method?" "O, I got my notion of it from the first case of baptism on record." "What was that? Not Philip and the eunuch?" "O, no; it was centuries before that. I mean the Israelites when they were baptized in the Red Sea." "Well, brother, that was a clear case of immersion. They were, as Paul says, all baptized in the cloud and in the sea." "You are satisfied, Bro. Webfut, that they were really baptized?" "Certainly; the apostle says they were, and tells how it was done." "Well, then, I have just one question to ask. Did they get their feet wet?" "They were immersed, that is plain enough. As Paul says, they were under the cloud and passed through the sea, and were all baptized in the cloud and in the sea; if that wasn't immersion, what was it?" "Well, Brother Webfut, did they get their feet wet?" "Why, that's nothing to do with it; they had water on all sides of them, and water above them; they were completely surrounded by water." "Well, Brother Webfut, as I understand, they went 'on dry ground' through the midst of the sea; and if you can immerse me on dry ground, I am very willing to be immersed. I believe in dry ground baptism, where you won't get your feet wet."—Congregationalist.

A father of three sons and five daughters was asked what family he had. The answer was: "I have three sons, and they each have five sisters." "Mercy!" replied the interrogator; "such a family!"