

BEEVILLE, TEXAS, January 13.—I send at this late date the following marriage notices for publication: Mr. Jas. F. Ray to Miss Rachael Smith, at the residence of the bride's mother, Beeville, Dec. 18, 1879. Mr. W. B. Kirchner to Miss Ella Watson, at the residence of the bride's mother, near Cravensville, Bee county, Dec. 18, 1878. Mr. B. B. Atkins to Mrs. M. J. Grantland, at the residence of the bride, near the Mineral Wells, Bee county, Jan. 1, 1879. All by the Rev. Jno. B. DENTON.

LAREDO, WEBB CO., TEXAS, Jan. 11, 1879.—Lieutenant G. B. Broadwater, commander of Company A, of the frontier battalion of State troops, left our city yesterday, after a short stay. His company is camped at old Fort Ewell, and he ran in here on official business. He and his little squad are doing a most excellent work all along our border. The battalion is composed of six companies, three of which are commanded by captains, and three by lieutenants in order to curtail expenses. The companies average about twenty men each, and do more, without a doubt, toward enforcing law and order on the whole frontier than all the United States troops from New Mexico to the Gulf of Mexico; because the United States troops have very limited authority.—Jos. Norwood.

HACKBERRY, TEX., Jan. 16.—Our first quarterly meeting has passed. Weather extremely cold at the time of holding. Presiding elder not present; was very sick at Texana. Next quarterly meeting to be held at Hallettsville. Since we have had a few days of pleasant weather, farmers are making their first steps toward a crop. In one field the limbs were thrashed off the cotton stalks; in another they were pulled up and piled; some chopping corn stalks; others repairing fences, etc. Soil in excellent condition; thoroughly wet; well pulverized by freezing, and many insects no doubt dead that would have injured the crop. I am making an effort to have the parsonage inclosed.—W. G. COCKE.

HACKBERRY, TEXAS, Jan. 17.—Revs. F. T. and L. M. Barnes are with us. Both these brethren have decided not to prosecute the itinerant race further. Bro. L. M. Barnes has delivered to me the remainder of postal cards furnished him by the ADVOCATE publishing company. The parsonage crib (cellar) has about forty bushels of corn, the smokehouse (borrowed neighbor's) a sufficiency of pork, lard, salt, and a sack of flour. Arrangements are on foot to inclose three acres of excellent land. We need a well dug, and some other things, that may be had by faithful effort.—WM. G. COCKE.

HOUSTON, TEXAS, January 20.—Our new city marshal, John Morris, is enforcing the Sunday law. He closed the bar-rooms yesterday, and is determined to enforce the law against gambling. The good citizens on the north of the bayou are well pleased with him, and say he shall be supported in his duty. The death of E. H. Cushing has proved his worth in the world. We never know the value of our friends until they are taken away from us.—G. H. PHAIR.

WALLISVILLE, TEXAS, January 16.—This circuit, Liberty, embraces a part of Liberty and Chambers counties—the most southern appointment of the East Texas Conference. Liberty, Wallisville, (county sites) Shiloh and Inside Prairie, are the appointments. Bro. R. M. Sproule, our new preacher, reached this place Sunday evening. Preached two sermons during his stay, to the satisfaction of the people. We are pleased with Bro. Sproule, and he seems to be full of zeal, energy and expectation. He is alive to the interests of the ADVOCATE.—R. M. BAKER.

TILDEN, January 18.—I am here in Tilden; will hold the last quarterly meeting for this round this evening. Weather still disagreeably cold, and I am suffering with the effects of it. Bro. Vernor has not yet arrived. I left his wife sick yesterday morning. I hope, however, he will be here this evening. He and his wife have been sick alternately nearly ever since conference.—Jno. B. DENTON.

ROCKDALE, January 20.—Good Wife: Dear, here's your shirt; it don't look well, but I've done my best. Distressed Husband: Oh, dear wife, that's a "locust-back;" you've done up the hind side of it. When I see an influential (?) layman prowling round the Bishop's room at ironing time, I think of the "locust-back" shirt. That's our lemon! J. K.; now squeeze.—BAIRD.

LOVELADY, January 20.—Yesterday, we succeeded in completing the amount necessary to purchase

a church bell, and hope soon to hear its pleasant tones calling us to the house of God.—J. C. HUCK-ABEE.

ROCKWALL, TEXAS, January 18.—All frozen up from last communication to date. Nine snows have fallen since the week before Christmas. Ground frozen every day since that time. Thermometer down to 4° below zero in the shade at 11 o'clock one or two days. Stock dying from cold and want of water. People feeding heavily. Corn rising; will be up to fifty cents by spring. Wheat looks badly, but is improved by the snows. Money still scarce and prospects more gloomy. Religious thermometer also down to zero in the shade of Christmas festivals. May thaw out in summer revivals; but the plants will be sickly. Much work for pastor and poor pay. Must trust Providence.—A. H. BREWER.

WASHINGTON, January 19.—The weather has been decidedly "variable," and so continues. Much cotton is wasting in the fields and can not be saved. Some planters have abandoned the old crops remaining in the fields, and are preparing for the new.—C. L. S.

LAVACA CO., TEXAS, Jan. 18.—The first quarterly meeting for Moulton circuit is over. No presiding elder. Rain Saturday. Small attendance at quarterly conference. First quarter nearly paid up. Outlook somewhat encouraging. The card system is a great help to get subscribers to the ADVOCATE. We are trying to build two churches on this circuit this year, and it must be done. If you can't read this, throw it in the fire.—JAS. G. WALKER.

MERIDIAN, January 20.—I am truly glad to see the stand the ADVOCATE is taking in showing the necessity of a whisky law. We need this law, and need it badly. Our people, who are trying to do right, and those trying to train up their children properly, feel the importance of this law every day they are permitted to live. Here, in our little town, there are three saloons, which are leading off youths—the hope of our country. I do not think our Legislature will look over this matter. Go on with your work.—TEXAN.

DAVILLA, January 20.—Congregations large. Attentive hearers. Missionary collection coming up finely. Parsonage will soon be built. People are warm-hearted, and wide-awake to all their interest and that of the church. By the blessing of the Holy Spirit, the church desires to double her power and numerical forces this year. Pray for us and come to see us.—H. M. GLASS.

IREDELL, Bosque Co., Jan. 15.—Some sickness in our county—caused to a great extent, doubtless, by exposure during the cold and snowy weather. There has been, I believe, seven persons mobbed in this county since we arrived in Ireddell. When shall this horrible business have end? How men should "fear and tremble" when in God's word they read: "No murderer hath everlasting life." We expect to have our parsonage at Ireddell completed.—M. MILLS.

IN TEXAS, January 22.—There are over 200 families in Bastrop county that ought to have, must have the ADVOCATE. Please send it to them. I went out to Cedar creek yesterday; rode a pacing pony; preached to a large and quiet congregation; took dinner with old Bro. Moore; rode back on the same pacing pony; did not meet with any accident. I showed Bro. Moore the ADVOCATE; asked him to subscribe, but he didn't. He subscribed for another paper though. The sun is shining; pretty day. I am glad of it. I love to read the postals.—A. PREACHER.

DRIPPING SPRINGS, January 14. After the long cold spell—during which I could get no congregation, but spent the time visiting—it has terminated in clear, warm weather. Found the inclement period excellent time for visiting; could get families all together for prayers and conversation, which seemed to be more appreciated than is usual, especially by the little ones.—W. H. KILLOUGH.

WAYLAND, Jan. 21.—Since our last we have been doing pastoral work; find the people religious and also attentive to the Word, so I feel to bless God for friends. We have no friends of darkness in this part. We have had one death in our membership, Bro. J. W. Thompson, Dec. 30, 1878. In faith, Jesus is with us to bless. Health good. God with them.—L. F. PALMER.

WHITE ROCK, January 20.—I see nothing from this section; so here's a line. Times are so hard that it is hard to pay the preacher and

take the ADVOCATE; so they say: "I love the ADVOCATE; I hail its weekly visits with delight!" Our post cards are a grand feature; I am proud that our church has an organ that is pure in tone and don't hesitate to attack the evils of the day. May God bless its whole corps of editors. Bro. J. H. White, P. C. of White Rock circuit, cut his foot with an ax last week—a bad cut. We fear it will be several weeks before he will be able for duty again. We've had some genuine winter. Wheat late and sorry. We've room for 999 good farmers.—J. N. HUNTER.

SCIENCE HALL, January 20, 1879. Met with the Council Friends of Temperance Friday night; the Council room was draped in mourning for our brother Asbury Porter, an old and honored citizen of the community, and a member of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, who departed this life last Tuesday. There is a great deal of sickness among the aged of this surrounding country, and more than usual fatality in this class. Science Hall Council is in a flourishing condition, and doing much good. Preached here yesterday; think there is a religious ripple on the surface.—W. H. KILLOUGH.

BELLE PLAIN, January 13.—Have had a long continuation of cold weather; continued ice for more than a month; heavy snow-fall last week, and though it has been thawing most of the time for four days, drifts of snow still dot the prairie, which are a foot deep to-day. Weather is now pleasant. I am working for the dear ADVOCATE. Our people like it very much. We sometimes fail to get our papers here, but suppose that it is the fault of the mails.—GEO. W. RILEY.

CEDAR BAYOU, January 21, 1879. There is now living within ten miles of this place Mrs. Barrow, age 74, who has NINETY-TWO children, grand-children, and great grand children living within ten miles of her. Her mother died some eighteen months ago, age one hundred and two or three years. Can any other part of Texas make as good showing? If so, let us hear of it. The more I see of the people, the better I like them; they seem to be all a poor preacher can ask.—S. H. B.

NURSERY, January 22.—Your correspondent is not a constitutional "tell-tale," but some things ought to be told: I heard a woman talking about you the other day. She is a woman of fine cultivation and taste. She is the mother of seven children. She says "the TEXAS CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE is the purest, best paper I ever saw, and I greet its visits to my home as occasions for listening to wholesome counsel." Now don't tell any one and let it get out.—NURSERY MAN.

PILOT POINT, January 20.—Now that the gush of Christmas postals are over, allow me to say that the pastor of Pilot Point and family have not been forgotten. From the Christmas tree they received presents, both beautiful and useful, and now that we are settled in our new home and at work, substantial are still being sent to the parsonage. These evidences of appreciation and tokens of esteem fall upon the heart of the faithful and care-worn pastor, like the softening dews of silent night upon the heated and hardened earth, to cheer and refresh it. We have been here four weeks, and have received four persons into the church by letter, and one by ritual. Our finances are starting well. This prompt and efficient board of stewards make monthly collections and payments. My congregations are large, attentive and serious. May great grace rest upon this kind people.—THOS. M. SMITH.

WORTHAM'S BEND, Jan. 19.—We live in the dark corner; depend solely on the ADVOCATE postal cards for news. Now, one brother says the road at Georgetown is running. We want to know what kind of a road it is. He don't say whether it is a big road or a little road, a railroad or a dump-cart road. How is the road running, on its all-fours, or does it stand erect on its pasterns. Tell us also where that road is running to.—ZERO.

BASTROP, June 20.—The preacher is here and at work. Congregations large and attentive. One accession last Sunday by profession and baptism, and we are praying and looking for a good time at the quarterly conference. Hope to build a parsonage during the year. Haven't succeeded in doing anything for the ADVOCATE yet. Hope to place it in every Methodist family before the year closes.—W. WOOTEN.

MISSION VALLEY, January 20.—Shipments of plants and cuttings of the Lenois grape to France this year will exceed that of any former year. Probably the sup-

ply from our own establishment for the French market will exceed 100,000 this year. The demand far exceeds the supply. The Warren is a better grape, and will do equally well in France. But the vitiiculturists of that country are less familiar with its qualities. It is freely confessed by the vineyardists of Southern France that were it not for these Southern varieties, grape culture would have to be abandoned by them.—G. ONDERDONK.

CLINTON, January 20.—Our first quarterly meeting closed yesterday evening. We had a good attendance, considering the cold. The circuit was pretty well represented. Preacher's claim for the quarter almost paid—a good beginning. Brother Cooley was with us, and did faithful work. We had a solemn and impressive meeting at our sacramental service Sabbath evening, and indications of better times coming. Health good.—J. F. DENTON.

TILDEN, January 20.—Our first quarterly meeting for the Oakville Mission was held on the 18th and 19th. Bro. Denton, our new P. E., was present, and full of the spirit of the Master. The people were eager to hear the Word of Life. No better attention was ever known in any country. We received one sister, who had been a member of our church before. Impressions were made, no doubt, that will be lasting. We expect great results yet at Tilden.—J. VERNOR.

PLEASANT RIDGE, January 20.—Weather still cool, but little rain. The farmers are sowing small grain, of which but little is up, on account of cold and want of rain. Quite a number of immigrants coming into the neighborhood—a good share of them Methodists. Let more come. The church is on rising ground, we think: some in that ought to be out; others out who ought to be in. The health of this country very good. I married Mr. J. C. Jones and Miss Z. J. Fuller, Dec. 26, 1878, both of Hays county.—J. W. PERRY.

AUSTIN, January 21.—In his inaugural address, the Lieutenant-Governor declares that he enters upon the duties of his office with hesitancy and in doubt as to the wisdom of the choice made in his election. This reminds me that never before have I met a man in Texas who seemed to have the least doubt as to his own ability to run a church, State government, Federal government, an army, or anything else. A few fail to succeed in their private business, but it is not for the want of qualification, but because the business will not submit to wise direction. Holmes says: "If you take the conceit out of a man you spoil him." According to Holmes' standard, we all have at least one element of greatness.—W.

NORTH TEXAS, January 20.—True, as W. Price says, "our discipline does not intimate that our lay delegates shall have any part or lot in the appointing." But is it right for a lay delegate to stand by and see a preacher sent to or returned to a circuit when he knows he will not be welcomed and supported? Is it right for a delegate to stand dumb and see a "gum log" preacher sent upon his people, when there are plenty of hickory sticks full of fire to be had? Weather greatly moderated. Our preacher is at his post, and he is a hickory stick, too.—LITTLE STEWARD.

BRYAN, January 24.—A terrible tragedy occurred here yesterday, resulting in the death of W. R. King, lumber dealer, and the wounding of Solon Randall, ex-policeman. King and Randall had some words in the morning about some wood, when King cursed Randall. In the evening they met in the store of G. W. Smith, when Randall cursed King. They both commenced firing with pistols, and exchanged ten shots. King was shot in the left arm and abdomen, and died this morning. Randall was wounded slightly in the hip, and will recover. This sad affair is regretted by our entire community.—M.

WHITESBORO, January 22.—Our town is alive this sultry weather. Houses are being built in every direction. The cars run within ten miles of us, and are to be here in three or four weeks. Business is reviving; but we can't brag of any revival in religion as yet. Do the two often revive together, Mr. Editor? District conference is to be here in the summer. Can we have the editor of the ADVOCATE? We would be glad.—I. S. ASHBURN.

THE INCLOSURE. In response to the call to inclose the campus of the Southwestern University, which will require about seven hundred panels, we acknowledge the receipt of the fol-

lowing amounts: Liberty Hill, by Rev. J. K. Lane, 15 panels, 1 tree and \$10; Georgetown and Round Rock, by Rev. G. W. Graves, 15 panels, 1 tree and \$10; Cameron, by Rev. J. A. Walkup, 5 panels and \$3.25; Burnett, by Rev. H. W. South, 2 panels and \$1.30; Granbury High School, by Rev. J. J. Shirley, 2 panels, 1 evergreen and \$2; Mexia, by Rev. J. S. McCarver, 5 panels and \$3.25; Waxahachie, by Rev. F. P. Ray, 1 panel, 1 tree and \$1. F. A. MOOD, Regent.

The International Association, having for its object the reform of International law, will hold its seventh annual meeting next summer in London. The subjects to be discussed will be "Bills of Exchange," "Negotiable Securities," "Bankruptcy," "Patent Law," "Collisions at Sea," and other subjects of private international law, as well as questions of public law not yet announced.

SUCCESS OF THE MOFFETT LIQUOR LAW.—Richmond, Jan. 3.—The general assembly reassembled today. There was no quorum in the house. Auditor Taylor sent in report of operations under the Moffett liquor law, showing total receipts from the time of its commencement to be \$472,834, being an excess of \$210,638 over assessments of the preceding year, which after deducting rebates allowed under the law leaves a net balance of \$110,761 in excess of the results of the old law. The auditor says the result of the experiment shows clearly that the law is capable of being made a most powerful agency for raising revenue, and suggests a number of modifications and changes to that end.

It begins to be clear that the five millions which secured us Alaska bought for us a large slice of heathendom. The Presbyterians, under the leadership of the hardy pioneer, Sheldon Jackson, have established a mission there. An effort is making to found an Alaska home for girls, and the facts show one is much needed. They are painful enough: "Women are regarded only as slaves; daughters are sold for blankets. A girl's fate is to be murdered in babyhood, or sold to shame in girlhood. In this part of our land no brother protects a sister, no father cherishes a daughter; even mothers know no motherhood." A few thousands will organize a home wherein right ideas of domestic life may be illustrated.

Dr. Edmond de Pressense, one of the most intelligent observers of the religious movements of France, expresses the opinion that many Frenchmen are inclining to Protestantism. "Recently," he states, "in the department of Ain, whole communes have been asking to be organized as Protestant parishes." The project of a new religious and political French Protestant journal, is for the present held in suspense. It is now estimated that 100,000 persons attended the conferences held in the Salle Evangelique, Paris, during the recent Exposition. The discourses delivered under the direction of the English Christian Evidence Society, at the same time, will be published soon in volume form.

They manage the tramp question more wisely in the East than we do in the West. They are waging war against indiscriminate private giving, and are making the lazy and shiftless work or migrate. "Six months ago the overseers of the poor at Providence leased a woodyard, to which the police were directed to send all lodgers at the station houses. The result has been the establishment of a city wood yard, which is constantly growing in size, and supplies fuel at market rates, and the number of tramps entertained at public expense has fallen off from 3,169 to 1,085, as compared with the corresponding six months in 1877. The men of families formerly receiving \$2 a week from the city, because they could get no work, have been supplied with all they can do at this yard at 50 cents a day." The problem is to make tramps earn their living as other people do. There is no great difficulty in the case, if a plan like that pursued at Providence is adopted.

VAIN confidence is the forerunner of shame. PEN AND SCISSORS.

"The Monthly Record," says the young king of Siam still favors progress among his people. He has requested the Rev. S. G. McFarland, D. D., "to take charge of a government school in Bangkok, with a view ultimately, if this succeeded, of establishing a system of popular education for the people." Dr. McFarland has concluded to accept this offer, regarding it as an important and vital work. It is, indeed, of great moment that such a movement should be placed under the charge of a Christian superintendent.

The Watchman says: "It is a singular feature of our times that an age which has seen the conversion of the Sandwich Islands, of Madagascar, of the South Sea, of the Karens, of the Telogogos, an age which has seen the destruction of the Pope's temporal power, an age which has seen the doors of China and Japan thrown open to the herald of the Cross, should

be an age which encourages de-pair of the ultimate victory of Christianity over the world."

A QUESTION ANSWERED.—In the Texas Presbyterian of Jan. 17, we find the following. It has reference to the biographical sketch of the late Horatio Christman, published in the ADVOCATE of December 21:

"In the opening page of Brazos Presbytery records we find: viz.—Minutes of the Presbytery of Brazos, organized at Christman's School-house, in the vicinity of Independence, Washington county, Texas, April 3d, 1840. Afterwards Minutes are dated at Christman's Settlement, at several meetings. The query is—whether this is the same person mentioned in H. S. T.'s article? If so, the spelling of the name in the records should be Christman and not 'Christman.' Who can settle this historical point? The record should have the exact name."

In response we will state that the neighborhood now known as Gay Hill (from Thomas Gay, an old settler), was formerly known as Christman's Settlement, from Capt. Christman, whose obituary was lately published. We would further inform the Presbyterian that Capt. Christman was converted under the ministry of the late Dr. Daniel Baker, of the Presbyterian Church. H. S. T.

Some of our Northern religious exchanges that take a great interest in managing political affairs are very much exercised over the inscrutable providence that has placed at the head of the Interior Department of the government a German infidel, just at the time when that department is endeavoring to christianize as well as to civilize the Indians. It seems so incongruous to see the distinguished German Secretary playing the role of a Christian Propagandist among the American semi-barbarians. The question now before Congress is, whether these barbarians shall be left to be converted by Secretary Schurz, or turned over to General Wm. Tecumseh Sherman for instruction and discipline.

The Indian bill now before Congress provides 1. For the establishment of a United States Court in Indian Territory, to possess both criminal and civil jurisdiction. 2. That all Indians comprising "The Five Nations" shall be made citizens of the United States, amenable to the Federal laws and competent to serve on juries of the United States Court, etc. 3. That the lands now held in common shall be divided and held in severalty, but inalienable for a limited term of years. The sub-committee do not at present recommend the establishment by Congress of a regular territorial government for these Indians, but provide merely that they shall be entitled to representation by delegates.

SOME INTERESTING FINANCIAL ITEMS.—It has never been a difficult matter to regulate the ratio of gold and silver to correspond with the market values of these metals. In 1834 Congress thought to remedy what it conceived an evil by lessening the amount of gold in gold coins—the act of 1792 having undervalued silver and overvalued gold, leaving the ratio as 1 to 15. This rendered gold and silver impossible of concurrent circulation. It was, therefore, enacted that after July 31, 1834, gold coins should contain the following quantities of metal:

Table with 2 columns: Pure Gold, Standard Gold. Rows include The eagle, The half-eagle, The quarter-eagle, and The dime.

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Table with 2 columns: Standard Silver. Rows include The dollar, The half-dollar, The quarter-dollar, and The dime.

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The extent to which the silver dollar was actually coined from 1835 to 1872, including both years, may be seen by the following figures: 1835, —; 1836, \$1,000; 1837, —; 1838, —; 1839, \$300; 1840, \$61,000; 1841, \$173,000; 1842, \$184,518; 1843, \$165,100; 1844, \$20,000; 1845, \$21,000; 1846, \$169,000; 1847, \$140,750; 1848, \$15,000; 1849, \$62,000; 1850, \$47,500; 1851, \$1,300; 1852, \$1,100; 1853, \$16,110; 1854, \$33,140; 1855, \$36,000; 1856, \$62,500; 1857, \$91,000; total, \$1,329,625.

Any one who desires to read an able article on the effects of these several changes in our coin standards, will find it in the N. Y. Independent of Jan. 16, by Samuel T. Spear D. D. The coinage of the United States for the year just closed was 22,754,389 pieces, worth in aggregate \$5,228,278 50. There were double eagles, 343,518; eagles, 738,000; half-eagles, 131,740; three dollars, 8,231; quarter-eagles, 286,200; dollars, 3,820; silver, 10,529,550; trade, 300; half dollars, 1,578,400; quarter dollars, 2,390,800; twenty cent pieces, 600; dimes, 1,578; five cent pieces, 2,350; three cent pieces, 2,550; cents, 5,799,850.

We append a list of present legal tenders: 1. The minor coins of the United States, "at their nominal value for any amount not exceeding twenty-five cents in any one payment." 2. The subsidiary silver coins of the United States, "at their nominal value for any amount not exceeding five dollars in any one payment." 3. The gold coins of the United States, "a legal tender for all payments at their nominal value when not below the standard of weight and limit of tolerance provided by law for the single piece"; and when below this standard, then "a legal tender at valuation in proportion to their actual weight." 4. The silver dollar of 412 2/3 grains, a legal tender at its nominal value "for all debts and dues, public and private, except where otherwise expressly stipulated in the contract." 5. The notes of the United States, commonly called greenbacks, which are declared to be "lawful money and a legal tender in payment of all debts, public and private, within the United States, except for duties on imports and interest on the public debt." 6. The national bank notes, which are receivable "at par in all parts of the United States in payment of taxes, excises, public lands, and all other dues to the United States, except duties on imports; and also for all salaries and other debts and demands owing by the United States to individuals, corporations, and associations within the United States, except interest on the public debt, and in redemption of the national currency"; and also for "any debt or liability" due from one national bank to another, with the exception of the banks "organized for the purpose of issuing notes payable in gold." 7. The silver certificates, which are "receivable for customs, taxes, and all public dues," and which, "when so received, may be retained." 8. Gold certificates, which are receivable "at par in payment for duties on imports."

Texas Christian Advocate

Prepared for the ADVOCATE. INTERNATIONAL BIBLE LESSONS.

BY R. N. MOORE. FIRST QUARTER—SIXTH LESSON—Feb. 9, 1879.

Nehe. xlii: 15-22: The Keeping of the Sabbath: Time—428-433 B. C. Place—Jerusalem; Rulers—Artaxerxes I. (long) King of the Medo-Persian Empire; and Nehemiah, Governor of Judea.

GOLDEN TEXT: Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.—Ex. xxviii.

Between this and the last lesson there is a gap of almost, if not quite, twenty years. Nehemiah had given eleven years to the reforms of his people and their preservation from their adversaries, and had returned to the court of his generous king, Artaxerxes. We have no records of him beyond this chapter. But his two great acts recorded—the building of the walls of Jerusalem, and his effort in this lesson to fortify his people against greater enemies than Sennaballat and Tobiah, the soul-killing and nation-destroying habits of Sabbath breaking—stamp him as one of the world's great reformers.

We can be certain that he did not retire in indolence and ease. He realized that a life that was not made up of activities and was not fragrant with good deeds was worthless. To measure the magnitude of the reforms proposed in causing his people to keep the Sabbath, we must take into the account the long captivity of the Jews among a non-Sabbath observing people, their long residence in Judea since their return, where the Sabbath had been generally disregarded; and the strength of the anti-Sabbath leaven that for five hundred years had been creeping in from the Phoenicians, and all of their other neighbors, until at this time scarcely any remembered to keep the Sabbath day holy.

Perhaps as good an illustration of the Sabbath desecration then can be seen in some of our leading Gulf cities of this country, where this baneful virus of legalized sin has floated over with the Spaniards and Italians, and with others from South Europe. In these cities every kind of business goes on as usual, save, possibly, with a little more vigor on Sunday. Stores with dry goods and groceries are open, and men are shameless enough to solicit trade. Markets display the meats and vegetables, and the saloons of course go on with their deadly work. And what is the most astonishing of all, those claiming to be Christians patronize those stores and markets, and we fear sometimes the saloons also, and all this in the face of this commandment: "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy." How can such pray as our Savior taught us, "lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil," while they thus violate God's plain command. They court the "temptation" and delight in the "evil." This Sabbath desecration is such a monstrous crime against God and man that we know not how to begin its exposure. But one thing is certain, all who love God should do as did Nehemiah, "testify against it."

V. 15: "In those days saw I in Judah some treading wine-presses on the Sabbath, and bringing in sheaves and lading asses, as also wine, grapes and figs, and all manner of burdens, which they brought into Jerusalem on the Sabbath day, and it testified against them in the day wherein they sold victuals." "In those days," after his return to Jerusalem from Persia; many of the people of those days, for the better security, lived in cities and villages, and in many instances for the same reason had their wine-presses there also. A wine-press of that day consisted of two stone vats, one higher than the other. The grapes were placed in the higher one, and as the juice was trodden out it ran into the lower one. "On the Sabbath," by the law of Moses, the profanation of the Sabbath was deemed a great sin. No one can love God and trample this law under his feet at the same time. "Bringing in sheaves;" this they did for better security; "lading asses," a double violation of the law; "as also wine;" such as wine "I testified," bore witness; "sold victuals;" sold food.

V. 16: "And there dwelt also men of Tyre therein, which brought fish, and all manner of ware, and sold on the Sabbath unto the children of Judah, and in Jerusalem." Tyre was the chief city of the Phoenicians, the commercial people of the ancient world. The Jews, in the days of David and Solomon, had intimate commercial relations with them, but the result had been bad—1 Kings, chaps. iii, ix and xi. They were superior to the Jews in intellectual culture, and hence their influence over them. Jezebel, one of that race, ruled Ahab to his ruin, and the ruin of his people; and her daughter, Athalia, Queen of Jehoram, well nigh sank Judah in hopeless idolatry. "Brought

fish;" Zidon was their great fish market.

V. 17: "Then I contended with the nobles of Judah, and said unto them: what evil thing is that ye do, and profane the Sabbath day?" "Contended with;" struggled with (in argument). "Nobles of Judah;" men of influence, not rulers. Then, as now, wealth was influence; and to comprehend the influence of some of those "nobles," read the fifth chapter of Nehemiah, and it will appear that there were Shyllocks then. "What evil;" how great an evil.

V. 18: "Did not your fathers thus, and did not God bring all this evil upon you, and upon this city? Yet ye bring more wrath upon Israel by profaning the Sabbath." "Did not your fathers thus?" For answer, read Jeremiah, chapter 17. Severe had been Israel's punishments for profaning the Sabbath. "All this evil;" the captivity, the destruction of both the temple and Jerusalem, and the general desolation of the whole country. It is "profaning the Sabbath" to trade and treat it as any other day.

V. 19: "And it came to pass, that when the gates of Jerusalem began to be dark before the Sabbath, I commanded that the gates be shut, and charged that they should not be opened after the Sabbath; and some of my servants set I at the gates, that there should no burdens be brought in on the Sabbath day." "Gates;" began to be dark; "when the gates of Jerusalem began to be dark before the Sabbath, I commanded that the gates be shut, and charged that they should not be opened after the Sabbath; and some of my servants set I at the gates, that there should no burdens be brought in on the Sabbath day." "Gates;" began to be dark; "when the gates of Jerusalem began to be dark before the Sabbath, I commanded that the gates be shut, and charged that they should not be opened after the Sabbath; and some of my servants set I at the gates, that there should no burdens be brought in on the Sabbath day."

V. 20: "So the merchants and sellers of all kinds of ware lodged without Jerusalem, once or twice." "Sellers;" traders of a lower order than merchants; "lodged;" camped; "once or twice;" until they learned that Nehemiah was in earnest.

V. 21: "Then I testified against them, and said unto them, why lodge ye about the wall? if ye do so again, I will lay hands on you. From that time forth came they no more on the Sabbath." "Testified against them;" notified; "lay hands on;" arrest. Their presence outside the walls with their goods was as much a violation of the Sabbath, as if they had had them in their keeping inside the walls. The warning was sufficient.

V. 22: "And I commanded the Levites, that they should cleanse themselves, and that they should come and keep the gates, to sanctify the Sabbath day. Remember me, O my God, concerning this also, and spare me according to the greatness of thy mercy." He had the Levites relieve his servants, as the Sabbath regulations were a part of their duties. "To sanctify the Sabbath" was to free it of all secular labor. We can well imagine that the "nobles" and "merchants" did not tamely submit to this interference with their vested rights, and that Nehemiah was a much abused man, and hence his prayer, "remember me, O God, * * and spare me." It is well that he had authority to back him; otherwise, he would not have been safe or successful. Reforms are unpopular.

APPLICATION. We herein have what was deemed Sabbath-breaking in Nehemiah's day; and it becomes clear that we are not guiltless to-day. Our Creator understood our physical and spiritual needs, when He set apart one day in the week as a "rest," and bade us "remember" it. It is our duty, as much as it was Nehemiah's, "to testify" against them who forget it; against the butchers and grocers who sell "victuals," as well as Christians who buy from them.

16. Godless Tyrians sell "all manner of ware" in our streets on the Sabbath day, under the shadow of Christian churches, and in the face of laws forbidding them to do so. So much for our ungodly associations. The moral law is more vital to society than the physical or civil.

17. It is the duty of every lover of his race, every one who feels that God will not hold him guiltless, who tramples his law under his feet, to contend with the "nobles" of our land, who lend their influence to this profaning of the Sabbath, and to ring in their ears, "What evil is this that ye do?" Our Sabbaths are the stations on the railroad of life, where we secure our spiritual fuel, the motive-power that bears through to the depot of eternity.

18. As certain as cause produces effect, so certain is it that they who violate the Sabbath are visited with evil therefore. The individual ruin and disgrace, and national shipwreck and distress, are the histories of individual and national Sabbath breaking. Henry says: "Religion is never on the throne while the Sabbath is trodden under

foot." France has known no Sabbath for almost a century, and for almost a like period she has known no peace or rest. For two centuries Spain has made the Sabbath a day of pomp and parade and riot, and for two centuries she has been on the decline.

19. We must not only protest against violations of law, but we must enforce the law. We must shut the gate of authority against all who would sell or buy on the Sabbath day.

20. Enforce the law, and they who buy or sell on the Sabbath will not appear more than "once or twice" about your walls with their wares.

21. Should they forget the law, "lay hands" on them with severity, and they will "remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy." They will keep the letter, if not the spirit.

22. Let our Levites, our ministers, cleanse themselves in the matter, and keep the gates of this law. Let all Christians do their whole duty, and persevere through all persecutions, and let each one look to God for help, and pray, "Remember me, O God, * * and spare me, according to the greatness of thy mercy."

The United States Supreme Court has finally settled the vexed question of polygamy in Utah, Chief Justice Waite delivering the opinion as follows: The principal questions raised are: First, whether the first amendment to the constitution prohibits interference with religious practices, which are contrary to the law of the land; and, second, whether a criminal action can be justified by a plea of religious belief. This court holds that the constitutional guarantee of religious freedom was not intended to prohibit legislation in respect to marriage, and that it is within the legitimate scope of the power of every civil government to determine whether polygamy shall be the law of social life under its dominion. Laws of congress for the suppression of the former are, therefore, valid and constitutional. With regard to the second question, it is held that a criminal practice can not be excused on the ground of religious conviction. To permit this would be to make religious doctrines superior to the law of the land and, in effect, to permit every citizen to become a law unto himself. The government could exist only in name under such circumstances, and the only defense of the accused in this case is his belief that the law should not have been enacted. It matters not that his belief was a part of his religion; it was still belief and nothing more. The judgment of the lower court, in which the prisoner was found guilty, is therefore affirmed.

"It speaks well for the Methodist Episcopal system that out of ten thousand three hundred appointments made in 1877-8, no preacher declined to go where he was sent, and no society refused to receive the man appointed."—Exchange.

We find the above giving the rounds of the religious press. It refers to the M. E. Church, (North), and does speak well for the ministry and membership of that church. But we venture the assertion that at least three-fourths of the more important appointments were the subject of previous negotiation, the people and preachers having in advance of the meeting of the annual conferences when the appointments were formally announced mutually understood each other. Do our readers consider this an unpardonable sin in Methodism, or necessarily a brake upon itinerant wheels? The terms cliques and rings are odious when applied to political parties; but when used in reference to annual conferences they are simply detestable. In the nature of things, some men will acquire more influence than others. Their situation and knowledge of the whole field, and their relations to the work give them opportunities to know more than some other men; and that knowledge ought to be utilized both in arranging the work and distributing the workmen. We assume that such men act with an eye single to the glory of God, and the good of the church, and that it is not only ungenerous, but unjust, to apply to them opprobrious epithets. Most questions have two sides; some are many-sided. We have given one side of the question of ministerial removals, a side in which preachers complain that undue and secret influences dictated their removals, when they ought to have remained. The other side is, that laymen sometimes have good ground to complain that preachers are returned to them, from year to year, long after they have ceased to be useful. The preacher is a good brother, clever, pious, and generally harmless in the pulpit, or out of it. He has a home in a good neighborhood where his family enjoy the benefits of good society. He has local attach-

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NOTICE

IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT I SHALL APPLY to the Legislature now in session to pass a bill appropriating from the State Treasury Four Thousand Dollars to reimburse the estate of Geo. W. Peete, deceased, for losses to property caused by the storm that visited Galveston on the 16th and 17th of September, 1875.

ROSA M. D. PEETE, 1924 Adm'r. of Est. of Geo. W. Peete, dec'd.

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[Extract from the Baltimore "American," December 21, 1878.]

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Texas Christian Advocate

SHAW & BLAYLOCK - Publishers.

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It is to the interest of the publishers of this paper that subscribers receive EVERY NUMBER. We spare neither time nor money in having it properly mailed. Our patrons will confer a favor on the office by notifying us of the non-receipt of ANY ISSUE. Do not wait till you have missed several numbers, but let us know at once, and we will investigate the matter and see that you get the paper. This can be done in a few words on a postal card.

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THE TEXAS CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE

Now that the conferences have all been held, the preachers gone to their new fields of pastoral work, and the sacred campaign of 1879 fairly opened under Methodist regime in Texas—as is the case elsewhere—it is opportune to say a few words by way of emphasizing the growing interests which Methodism in Texas has invested in her church organ.

The TEXAS CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE has a history which reaches far back, and connects itself with the earlier heroic days of the Fathers, who planted the standard of the cross in these lands—then the wilds of Texas—but few of whom now live to witness the remunerative harvest of their labors. God bless their memory, and keep alive in their successors the spirits that animated them, and kindled into flame their burning ministry.

When the history of Methodism in Texas is written, if justice is done to the TEXAS CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE, it will be conspicuous as one of the great agencies employed by which that form of Christianity known and designated Methodism, was planted and cultivated in these broad lands.

The financial storms through which it has passed have more than once threatened to sink it out of sight; but somehow—and we hardly know how—it has lived and continued on its voyage of mercy and good will to men. It has been, and now is, the child of Texas Methodism, and is entitled to the care and affections of its now vigorous, prosperous mother. Upon the principle that a mother's tenderest sympathies and heartfelt affections involuntarily flow out and to an afflicted child, the trials and conflicts of the ADVOCATE, in its past history, should endear it to every Methodist heart in Texas. Its angelic mission, from week to week and from year to year, has been, in kind, the same of the godly men to whom is committed the message of salvation to the lost.

There has been no period in its past history when it was not a power for good. There has been no church enterprise in Texas which has yielded a larger per cent. of remunerative good than has the ADVOCATE. It has been wide-spread, and continuous; silent, but effective. It affords us great pleasure to announce to the conferences, and to the church as well, in Texas, that there never has been a time in its history when it was so prosperous, or promised so much as now. It has been growing in favor at home and abroad, and will compare favorably with most of the members of the ADVOCATE family. The contract entered into at Calvert, two years ago, with Shaw & Blaylock, has been fully carried out; indeed, they have done far more than they obligated to do. The whole church owes them a debt of gratitude for their continuous, unselfish manliness in its publication, which excites the admiration of the JOINT BOARD OF PUBLICATION. We might mention, in this connection, the sad disaster which reduced their entire office, machinery and fixtures to ashes; and the short delay until the ADVOCATE again was on its way to its patrons, full-fledged without the mark or smell of fire on its lovely costume. They asked no help, but even filled out the full number of its issues to every subscriber.

They offer and pay the largest premiums to the agents of any paper published in our church. They love the church, and seem disposed to expend every dollar the paper makes in its improvement—in enlarging and beautifying it. Their purpose is to make it the equal, if not the superior, of any of our church papers. We congratulate the Methodists of Texas that our loved ADVOCATE

has fallen into the hands of the present publishers. It is a guarantee of future prosperity.

The chief editor, Dr. I. G. John, as the readers of the ADVOCATE know, is every inch an editor—abreast of the times; he wields the pen of a ready writer; and, though small in stature, he is *plein pouvoir*, and as brave as an approving conscience can make him. His blade is sharp and his arm is strong against the vices and demoralization of the times. The other editors are but helpers, and yet they form an arm of power which may not be underestimated. Truly, we have an admirable church organ, with a pledge from the publishers of further improvements, as the patronage may justify.

That introduces us to the line of duty, as it opens up invitingly, before the Methodism of Texas. It is not to *sustain* the paper. That falls so far below our duty, and is so humiliating to the manhood of Texas Methodism, as not to be entertained for a moment. *Sustain it!* No, indeed! The golden opportunity now offers to make our church organ all that we want it to be; and if we dreamily let it slip, it may be many a day before the chances will favor us as now.

Is there any good reason why the subscription list should not run up to ten thousand in A. D. 1879? We think of none; but many why it should. Put the ADVOCATE into ten thousand families and it will have fifty thousand readers. The good that would result to the souls and bodies of so great a number, cannot be estimated. It will preach wherever it goes, and open the way to more extended usefulness to every preacher, both traveling and local. It will help to solve the church financial problem and induct our people into "the grace of liberality," on a Scriptural basis. The presence of the ADVOCATE in a family is a guarantee of increased intelligence, if not of piety, in that house. The bane of our people in Texas to-day is that their reading matter is not of that character to enrich and enlarge the fund of useful knowledge. The country is flooded with a cheap—and often pernicious—literature, which contains a poison as demoralizing as it is attractive and insinuating to the proclivities of depraved nature. A thousand presses are turning out this flood upon the world, and it is hawked and peddled along the line of every railroad, in every steamboat, in every city, town and hamlet. How are we to save our children and young people from this stupendous upas of iniquity? By placing the ADVOCATE in every family, and circulating our church literature with all possible speed.

To Agents—Brethren, let us roll up a tide of patronage to the ADVOCATE in this year of grace, A. D. 1879, which shall enlarge its capacity, beautify its comely face, gladden the hearts of the publishers, and strengthen the arms of Methodism in this great growing State.

To our People—To take and read our own church papers is a duty we owe to ourselves, to our families, and to the church we love. Times are never so hard but that by a little care and saving, we can raise \$2 50 to pay for the ADVOCATE. You can't do without it, and escape a loss to yourself and family in comparison to which the subscription price is little indeed. It will whisper its message of light and comfort on Sabbaths, beguile the leisure hours in the family circle, and keep you posted, not only in the news of the day, but in the aggressive movements of the church in her onward march to certain triumph against our common enemies—the devil, the world and sin. Finally, for the ADVOCATE, its editors, publishers, agents and readers, we invoke your daily prayers:

That the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ would grant to its editors wisdom, purity, patience and consecration, that they may be strong to do good; that its agents may receive a fresh baptism of the spirit, and that its readers may feast to edification upon its successive issues.

R. S. FINLEY,
Chairman Joint Board of Publication.

POSTAL CARDS.

When any brother is out of postal-cards, either for subscriptions or for reporting items of intelligence for the paper, they will be supplied promptly by this office on notice being given.

The real name of the writer should accompany the postal as in the case of other communications. If it is the wish of the writer that a *nom de plume* shall be used, append it to the lower right corner of the card, and the real name on the left with a circle around it.

PREMIUMS.—Our friends must not imagine we have forgotten to offer premiums for 1879. We have not yet completed our arrangements, but hope soon to offer a list of premiums far exceeding in value and attractiveness any heretofore offered. We desire, if possible, to offer six leading premiums, to-wit: one in each conference to the preacher sending us the largest number of subscribers during 1879; and one to the preacher, of whatever conference, sending us the largest number of subscribers during the year.

SHAW & BLAYLOCK,
Publishers TEXAS CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE.

ON OUR CIRCUIT.

Every circuit-preacher is supplied with a plan of his work. Ours is a large one. It reaches from the Sabine to the Rio Grande, and from the coast to the Staked Plains. Many gray hairs will come before we complete the first round, for the field is enlarging with the tide of immigration more rapidly than the swiftest team can bear us on.

Thirty years ago, traveling a circuit was somewhat different from the same affair the present day. Then a Spanish pony, a Mexican saddle and blanket, a stake-rop, and the inevitable saddle-bags were the usual out-fit of the traveling preacher. His path lay along dirt-roads, or across the trackless prairie. Swimming creeks, and sleeping under the stars were incidents so familiar to him that he hardly preserved them in his memory. Now, a palace-car often bears him on his mission; and as he rests, or reads, or writes while reclining on the cushioned seat, he fancies that travel has ceased to be a labor, but has become one of the luxuries of life. If hungry, and he has fifty cents in his pocket, he can step into a neat and roomy dining-car—if he happens to be, as we are now, on the International—and sit down to a warm supper in which chicken, and oysters if in season, play their part.

As the I. & G. N. express crossed Buffalo bayou and swept swiftly toward the north, we beheld one of those sunsets which are seldom seen only in this sunny land of the Southwest. The sun had dipped behind the Western sky, but his departing rays were thrown upon the clouds which flecked the heavens, transforming them into masses of crimson light. Near the horizon the colors seemed brighter than any earthly painter could paint them, while those above were shaded with softer rays, until near the zenith they were a pale pink, like the modest blush on the cheek of beauty. Toward the North, a mellow haze of a light greenish tinge rested on the horizon, bringing out more clearly the glowing crimson of the clouds above. As the sun went down, the rich, warm glow softened and faded; at last, as we looked, the bright scenes faded away, and our eyes rested on the dull and sombre clouds, which deepened into darkness as the night came on. The day was gone, but its last hour was one of resplendent beauty. The shades of night gathered round us, but the sun with undimmed glory was shining over other lands. May our last hour be as bright. When clouds darken over hearts which may mourn our departure, may the sun-light of heaven shine upon us in that other land.

After a night of such rest as one can obtain on the cars, with sleep broken by whistle and jar, we were roused by the brakeman's cry of—"Troupe; change cars for Tyler"—and we were reminded that we must leave the palace car and assume a circuit preacher's outfit, like that of thirty years ago. Bro. Pope met us at the depot; sent us to his home, and a couple of hours sleep but partially prepared us for the two sermons Bro. Thompson, of Marshall district, imposed upon us.

Some men have the faculty of making you feel that they are doing you a favor, while working you nearly to death. Perhaps this is as it should be. Some of us would do but little in this world if there were no one to set us to work.

Troupe is at the junction of the Tyler branch of the International. Though much of its business has been diverted to other points by branch roads, it is a thriving village and has the trade of a good section of country.

Our membership here is small, and our preachers are indebted to our Presbyterian brethren for a house of worship. We remember the day when our church generously opened its pulpits to the ministers of all other denominations, who were then unsupplied with houses of their own. We have been a l-

eral people. We not only opened our houses to other churches, but when they became organized, we contributed liberally toward the erection of houses for them. Now it is but right when, in many places we have left ourselves out in the cold, that these houses should be open to the Methodist preacher. We appreciate their kindness, yet we can but feel that we would have shown ourselves a wiser people, had our liberality in building churches for ourselves measured up to our generosity to other people.

Parting from the iron horse at Troupe, we left in company with Bro. F. M. Stovall for his home, in Rusk county, where the ADVOCATE team had been resting during the cold weeks with which the New Year had been ushered in. We shall long hold in grateful memory the attentions we received from this kind family. As one of the pioneers of Methodism in Eastern Texas, Bro. S. had traveled in early days the field to which he is now assigned. Our days of travel with him, after the Tyler Conference, were enriched by many a story of the conflicts and triumphs of Methodism in this region. The soldier loves to fight his battles over. As he told of revivals at some point near our line of travel, or in some ancient house of worship still standing by the roadside, we would catch the kindling enthusiasm with which the veteran recounted the victories of youthful days. We have a profound veneration for those men who laid the foundations of our church in Texas. Only a few remain. New people have come in. The railroad has revolutionized the land, and the old trails traversed by the earlier itinerants are nearly all obliterated. The preacher returns with furrowed brow and frosted locks to the field he traveled in the vigor of early manhood, and finds himself almost a stranger in the land he helped to open for the Gospel. Yet the zeal of the youthful preacher is unabated in the war-worn veteran. God bless him.

As ye go, preach. On Tuesday night we met an appointment at Overton, the junction of the Henderson branch of the International. Our church building here is of good size, but not so neat in its appearance as is the Baptist church in the same place. Our membership is small; but from the earnest tone of the pastor in his exhortation, we feel assured the work will move on this year.

We felt lonely when we parted with Bro. Stovall Wednesday morning and headed our team towards Kilgore. We had been companions in travel for many days since the conference at Tyler, and a shadow seemed to fall upon us as our ponies plashed through mud and water with no companion by our side. Yet, not alone. "Go, preach," is our commission. "Lo, I will be with you," is the promise that gives us strength.

KILGORE lies some eleven miles north of Overton, on the International, and is important to our church as the location of the Alexander Institute. We found Bro. A. confined to his house by indisposition, but met from himself and family that cordial welcome the circuit preacher knows so well how to appreciate. The Institute is one of the most popular and prospering in Eastern Texas. The building is commodious and well-appointed. At night a large and attentive audience met us in the hall of the Institute. The singing had in it a peculiar Methodist ring, which inspired the preacher, though he entered the house much jaded by rugged travel. Bro. Sampey, P. E. of San Augustine District, whose family resides here for the benefit of the school, was at home, and made us feel at home.

LEAVING Kilgore, our route soon brought us into the old road leading from Tyler to Marshall. Thirteen years ago, in company with Bishop Marvin and a group of preachers, we traveled this road *en route* to the conference at Marshall. It would seem that the church

could have better spared all the rest of that company than Bishop Marvin. But God has taken him. Surely His ways are past finding out. Bro. Dennis, if we mistake not, was in that company. He also is gone, but his name is precious in the churches he served so faithfully.

Our next appointment was at Longview, a thriving town of some 1800 or 2000 inhabitants, located at the junction of the International and Texas Pacific road. Our church has a neat house of worship, of ample size, and a parsonage in process of erection. A good church building and a house for the preacher indicate that the people regard the gospel as a permanent institution.

On a former visit to this section, we attended a quarterly meeting at Summerfield, some eight miles from Longview, where we also have a comfortable house of worship. We were specially interested in a visit to the grave-yard. The grounds were securely enclosed and laid off in neat walks, adorned with cedar and *arbor vita*, whose well trimmed branches show the care with which this people guard the resting place of their dead. We thought of many fenceless graveyards we have seen, where a pile of rails over the graves are the only protection from the ravages of hogs or the tread of cattle. A sunken spot in the ground, filled with drifting leaves, is but a slight memorial of the loved ones who have left us.

Accompanied by Bro. Booth, we visited several points of interest in Longview. The court house is one of the best buildings of its kind we have seen, and yet cost only \$13,000. The first floor is divided into offices for the officials of the county and district; a well proportioned court-room is on the second floor, with a full complement of rooms for jury and witnesses on the second and third floors. Under guidance of Sheriff Durham, we ascended to the roof, and then understood why the town had received its name. The view toward Henderson was a long one. About a quarter of a mile from the court-house is a mound of rock from which the Texas Pacific has largely drawn its supplies for culverts and bridges. It is now nearly exhausted. Workmen were swinging, by the aid of a derrick, a large block into a wagon. A pile of rock, heaped up as high as an ordinary meeting house, is awaiting transportation. It is destined for a bridge on the Texas Pacific near Dallas.

A large lumber trade is carried on from this point. This interest is being developed by the Longview and Sabine Narrow Gauge Railroad, which has been extended some twelve miles to the South. It has been built chiefly through the enterprise of the Barner Brothers, who have a large saw mill in the vicinity. Seven years ago they entered this business with no capital but their energy, and now they have several scores of men in their employ. They understand the value of a pine tree. Every part is utilized; the slabs are sawed into pickets and laths, and the rest cut up into stove wood, finding a ready market among the families of the town. The furnace is fed by the saw-dust.

A large wagon shop is another important enterprise. Last year it turned out several hundred wagons which, in every respect will compare well with the imported article. East Texas has, in her timber, many industries which are essential to the material prosperity of the State. The iron horse is heading toward her vast forests of long-leaf pine, and when the whiz of the circular saw is heard among the hills of our southeastern counties, it will reveal their real value.

Right glad were we on Friday evening to come in sight of the hospitable home of our old friend, Col. J. F. Taylor, six miles from Marshall. It is seldom the weary itinerant passes by these preacher's homes without calling. A cordial welcome, a warm supper, at which we are reminded that it is not long since hog-killing time, a good night's rest; and here we are in the morning near a crackling fire with plenty of wood and fatty pine at hand to keep it going, busy with pencil in hand grinding out copy for the tireless jaws of the ADVOCATE press.

WILL THE STATE SELL ITS HONOR TO SALOON MEN?

The Legislature of Texas is now in session. The highest office of that body is to protect and promote the morals of society. The wisdom of statesmanship is not in regulating and restraining immorality, but in preventing it. Society should be so constituted and regulated as to exclude every demoralizing tendency, and to include only what pertains to the well-being and happiness of the social body. It is nonsense to think of protecting life and property in immoral society. The grand office of government is the protection of the moral state.

Do drinking saloons tend to the moral good of the social body? Does the saloon keeper regard himself as a promoter of public virtue? Does he not confess that for personal, financial ends he pursues a business that brings demoralization, loss and ruin to his fellow men? There is no good in drinking saloons. The men who keep them make no such claim. The legislator who votes the license can say nothing in favor of them. There is not an intelligence so dwarfed or corrupted or perverted as to justify them on the ground of public good. They are evil, only evil—a most terrible evil. The whole influence of them is against life, property and good order. They are an unmitigated curse—giving birth to murder, degradation, domestic discord and poverty; they are the prime cause of most murders. They fill our jails, penitentiaries, poor houses, public hospitals and send down through posterity corrupted blood.

Three-fourths of the young men reared in Southern cities fill drunkards' graves, and they are led to this manner of life and death by the well arranged drinking saloons made by legislation a part of our social system. These saloons degrade and kill men, crush the hearts of women, and fill the land with children without the instincts and hopes that a better state would give. They lay a tremendous tax upon property, virtue, happiness, manhood and womanhood. The money tax might be borne, but the tax on virtue, domestic happiness, and blighted hopes, is too heavy to be borne. Will not the Legislature cease to license these gates of hell?

Already every family in the land has offered its victim and has seen some member go through these licensed gates into hell. Is it not time to stop the curse? Why does not the whole moral force of the land assert itself against this great evil?

Is there any good to society in these saloons? Is there one reason why they should be continued? Is there no way by which to rid the land of that universally acknowledged to be a curse?

Is it true that the Mayor of Galveston, the protector of public morals and upholder of law, sees no sense in attempting to enforce law, and asserts that gambling-houses can not be permanently suppressed? Perhaps the idea of the Mayor, was the law is defective in definiteness or penalty.

Gambling-houses can be suppressed, perfectly and permanently suppressed. Laws can be so framed and executed that no man would dare, in Galveston or any other city, establish such a house.

The fact that gambling houses are not suppressed, show some defect in legislation or administration. No law can enforce itself, but when the legislature sets itself to stop gambling, there will be no difficulty. Sufficient penalty with certainty of enforcement would shut up every gambling house in Galveston in one day—if by no other means, by shutting up the keepers in jail.

We acknowledge from the publishing house at Nashville a copy of the Complete Quarterly Conference Record Book, embracing a period of four years. Questions are arranged according to revisions made in the discipline by the General Conference of 1878. Every quarterly conference should have one.

Texas Christian Advocate

FOR THE ADVOCATE. A CHAPTER FROM ITINERANCY.

BY NEFAS QUARRIE.

The new preacher drove up to the parsonage gate, and cast an inquiring and inventorial glance over the premises, even while he proceeded duly to take possession of the same. He was a very grateful preacher that day, because he had a parsonage to live in. It had been his lot, during all the years of his itinerancy, to build parsonages, and then, "with a feeling akin to pain," to find himself moved to some parsonageless circuit; but he felt that his reward had come at last. Through some fortuitous concourse of circumstances, conference had sent him to a work that had a home for its preacher. I have said that the new preacher was grateful; yet, in spite of his gratitude, it struck him, in the course of that inquisitorial survey, that the orchard was not exactly the proper place in which to pasture all the cattle of the surrounding country—though this seemed to have been the impression of the last proprietor. It struck him, too, that the yard had been used for a pasture-ground, judging from the torn and broken cedars and the demolished rose bushes. The new preacher was conscious that the cattle were at that moment banqueting, with apparent relish, on the remains of the orchard, and that some horses were walking complacently over the garden, seeming to consider that they had an inalienable right to the place; and that the hogs were industriously rooting up the front yard—a light, airy variety of hogs, as delicately formed as gazelles, and with a miraculous power of slipping through impossible cracks. And the new preacher walked into his parsonage, strongly suspecting that there was "something rotten in the state of Denmark." Not very peaceful was the rest of the new preacher on that first night of his stay in the parsonage. The hogs bivouaced under the house, and made night musical with their complainings, their dissatisfaction with themselves and the world in general, and their hints to each other to "lie over." Occasionally one would rise, with an apparent impression that he had been called and must go instantly; and, forgetting to calculate his height, would strike himself against the floor with force enough to jar the house. It was in vain, after each of these accidents, that the new preacher hoped the victim had disabled himself. The melody of their voices prolonged itself all through the night, and only ceased when day was beginning to dawn upon the exhausted new preacher. All that day, and for many days thereafter, might have been seen a clerical form, in very unclerical haste, in pursuit of predatory cows and hogs. The former in affectionate remembrance of the fruit trees, broke in again and again; and when the fence was finally made secure against them, walked round and round the parsonage, uttering melancholy howls of disapproval. The latter evaded their clerical pursuer with all their native grace and agility, skipped over fences buoyantly, insinuated themselves through cracks where it seemed nothing but a shadow could have passed, and returned to the charge the moment pursuit was stopped. For the new preacher was tired sometimes, but they never were. "You can't keep those hogs out," suggested one of the neighbors kindly. "You might as well let them alone. Why, the last preacher raised those hogs right here in the yard." The new preacher made no reply. He only thought within himself that he had discovered the decayed substance which had become offensive in Denmark. "They made a trough by the kitchen door," his informant went on, "so that they could feed the pigs without much trouble. These hogs have grown up right here in the yard. You'll never be able to keep them out." "They shall stay out," returned the new preacher somewhat rashly, considering all the circumstances. "I have never been accustomed to living in a hog-pen, and I don't intend to make one of the Methodist parsonage." This closed the discussion, and the new preacher goes on with his work. He still pursues predatory hogs into apparent no-thoroughfares of fence-corners, whence they always disappear like ghosts. He still attempts to erase the marks of neglect and destruction among the fruit trees and on the flower yard. He even has dreamed of a coming summer when forgiving nature shall make the renovated yard bright with bloom, and the desert blossom as a rose. Yet in spite of himself, he works at his labor of love somewhat moodily. "Of what use is it," he said to himself: "Paul may plant his parsonage yard, and improve

the place as skillfully as only Paul could do, and Apollos might come and add his labors to Paul's, and then another man might come along the next year and turn his cattle in to gather the increase." Therefore, the new preacher has a solemn exhortation to address to the next preacher, as yet unknown, and delivers it in this wise: "It is one of the undiscoverable things who you are to be, oh visionary next-preacher; but whoever you are, look well to the parsonage fences, I implore you. The Methodist Church will give you the parsonage as a home. If you appreciate its character, you will surround it with all the endearments of home—with all that will make it pure and beautiful, and will rise in your own heart some aspirations after better and nobler things. He is less than a man who will degrade what should be his home into a pound for stray cattle or a pen in which to raise his hogs." If there is one sacred association that clings to the ministerial office, it should cling to the representative of that office; and clinging to him, it should surround his home. He can not degrade either of the three without necessarily degrading the others. Woe to the minister who preaches a religion pure and undefiled from the pulpit, and does not practice an undefiled religion at home. And finally, oh unknown next-preacher, if there is no spark of poetry in your own soul which would lead you to plant a flower for its own sake, remember that some preacher may come after you weak enough to cherish such an affection, weak enough to be delighted over a rose, and to study his sermons better when the fragrance of honey-suckle and mignonette is wafted in at the door. For his sake, suffer these flowers that are here to grow in peace. And so, perchance, the day may come when you may be the last preacher—and when the new preacher, coming into a pleasant and attractive home, may think back upon you gratefully, and pray that your church, wherever you go, shall rise up and call you blessed.

IF I SHOULD DIE TO-NIGHT. My friends would look upon my quiet face Before they laid it in its resting place. And deem that death had left it almost fair; And laying snow-white flowers against my hair, Would smooth it down with tearful tenderness, And fold my hands with lingering caress. Poor hands, so empty and so cold to-night!

IF I SHOULD DIE TO-NIGHT. My friends would call to mind with loving thought, Some kindly deed the icy hand had wrought, Some gentle words the frozen lips had said; Errands on which the willing feet had sped— The memory of my selfishness and pride, My hasty words would all be put aside, And so I should be loved and mourned to night.

IF I SHOULD DIE TO-NIGHT. My friends would look upon my quiet face Before they laid it in its resting place. And deem that death had left it almost fair; And laying snow-white flowers against my hair, Would smooth it down with tearful tenderness, And fold my hands with lingering caress. Poor hands, so empty and so cold to-night!

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special tax as liquor dealers to the United States government. This ruling took effect January 1, 1879.—Exchange.

THE Pope has issued a new encyclical. He wants his Bishops to cultivate friendly relations with the civil governments where they reside if they can. He seeks a compromise, but does not propose any. The Roman Catholic ecclesiastics will be permitted to take part in local politics, and seek whatever advantages from the State they can get. Moreover, he urges them all to omit no effort, especially by way of preaching, to check the spread of socialistic heresies. It is evident that the spirit and policy of Leo XIII. are not exactly like that of his predecessor.

Children's Department.

I'll Put it Off. Some little folks are apt to say, "When asked their task to touch, 'I'll put it off at least to-day; It cannot matter much." Time is always on the wing— You cannot stop its flight; Then do at once your little tasks, You'll happier be at night. But little duties still put off, Will end in "Never done;" And "By-and-by is time enough," Has ruined many a one.

The Origin of the Jumping-Jack.

Come with me to the park this fair day, for I wish to show you a certain carriage and its occupants, and tell you a story. In pleasant weather, the scene is gay and grand with multitudes bleating thither for recreation amid country sights, odors and surroundings. The rich and the poor of all ages and classes, afoot, on horseback and in carriages, make a living panorama of the shaded walks and graded drives. But here comes the "turn-out" for which we have been waiting: a magnificent span of dapple-grays, by far the most powerful team we have seen; a carriage to match, roomy and costly, but not gaudy; a driver not in livery, as many are, but looking just the man for his work; and such a load as are making merry within—every one of them a hunchback! Yes, from the crooked gentleman on the back seat to the little fellows up by the driver, all are hunchbacks; well-dressed, happy-seeming, but with a wistful look—and, as they roll by, you see in them the introduction to my little story. Something like twenty years ago a miserable brick house in a back alley was the home of Archibald Ramsey, a Scotch carpenter. He worked down-town in a shop, making cornices, moldings, mantels, and a variety of the more elaborate parts employed in finishing houses. Every evening he took home pocketfuls, and often handfulls also, of bits and ends from the shop. These oddly shaped fragments of soft, sweet-smelling pine furnished amusement for poor little Alec, Mr. Ramsey's hunchback boy; and when they had served this purpose, they were used as kindlings in the kitchen stove. There was a household of little Ramseys, of whom Alec was the oldest, and when he was amused, so were the others, thus giving the over-worked mother time for other duties. Alec was sixteen years old, and not taller than an average boy of ten. He was very much deformed, and had lived in an age and country of kings seeking dwarfs and human oddities for "court fools" or "jesters," he would have been a prize to some iron-handed tyrant. His shoulders were almost as high as his head, his arms hung out loose and dangling, and the rest of his body was shrunken and slender to a most pitiable degree. But whoever, with a tender heart, looked into his great, questioning eyes and noted his broad, fair forehead and his clean, delicate hands, would soon forget the sad shape in the nobility of the face. I need not linger to speak of his studies, which, all unaided, he pushed along with success; nor of his constancy in the Sunday-school, where he was a universal favorite. It is about his play with the bits of pine from the shop I wish to tell you. Many a doll pile he built on the kitchen-floor; many a funny thing he whittled out to amuse the little ones; many a comical toy he made and gave away to neighboring children. Often he said, and often thought, "What can I whittle that will sell?" For only money seemed likely to bring him the changed life for which he longed. Once, when he sold for a few pennies a queer little pine trinket, his father stroked his silken hair and said: "Ah, me, poor hunchback, I dimna ken but ye may mak' your fortune wi' your knife." How that little piece of encouragement rang in his ears and stimulated him to think and whittle, whittle and think! One genial afternoon in May, Alec crept out to enjoy the balmy air, and by the noise of a crowd ofurchins on a vacant lot at a little distance, was drawn in that direction. Here he saw a colored boy, named Jack, attempting, for the amusement of the party, all sorts of pranks in imitation of circus performers. Barchanded and clothed in striped red and yellow garments of coarse quality, the negro lad almost seemed made of India rubber. Alec watched his capers in amazement. Never before had he seen such antics, or even thought them possible. It was no wonder that the frail, stiff-jointed little hunchback dreamed it all over again, as he did that night. The next morning his whittling genius took shape from this event, and before noon he had produced a rude pine image of the negro-head, arms and legs loosely hung with bits of brown-wire, and the whole curiously arranged, so that by working a string, it would jump, nod, turn somersaults, and go through quite a series of contortions. With colored pencils, he blacked his head, neck, hands and feet, reddened his lips, whitened his eyes, and rudely striped in yellow and red the body, all in imitation of the little negro gymnast. Before it was completed, his younger brother, who had been with him the day before, named it "Jumping-Jack." And in the afternoon, when he went to the vacant lot and exhibited it to the youngsters there, it was not only universally but boisterously hailed by the same name. When he returned home, he brought instead of the Jumping-Jack, a silver half-dollar, for which he had sold the toy to an eager, well-dressed lad of his own age. And not only this, but he had orders from the boys for half a dozen more, to be made as soon as possible. Oh, what a proud, glad heart beat within that deformed little body of Alec's! How his temples throbbed! How elastic his step! What flashing eyes! What a skein of wild and hopeful talk he unloosed to his mother! So much money for his whittling, and a chance for more and more! Castles, sky-high and star-bright!

But I have not told you all. That evening he whittled, and the next day he whittled, and before night had added to his capital three more shining half-dollars. The next day he doubled his money. The demand for Jumping-Jacks increased. Boys came to the door, silver in hand, to get what he had not time to make. His grave Scotch parents began to hold serious counsel over the matter. If Alec could find such sale for these pine images in that neighborhood, why the whole city would require thousands; and what would sell to delighted children in one city, would sell elsewhere also. If they could supply the market, a fortune might readily be made. Scotch blood, once aroused and challenged, is sanguine and venturesome. But it would be uninteresting to repeat all the details: so the rest of my story shall be brief. Alec's Sunday-school teacher, who was a lawyer, procured for him a potent Jumping-Jack of every description: a rich old uncle of Alec's mother built him a factory and started him in business; and within a year from the afternoon when the poor lad wondered at the pranks of the colored boy, Jumping-Jacks from the Ramsey factory were selling in great numbers all over America. Truly Alec did "mak' a fortune wi' his knife." To school he went; into a better house, all their own, the family moved; easier circumstances, better health, less weariness, and ample means for doing good, came to the Ramseys. But the best point in my story is that a fine asylum and school for hunchbacks, free to the poor, is one of the noble enterprises to which Alec has been chief contributor. Those deformed lads in the carriage yonder are from the "Ramsey Asylum for Hunchbacks."

That was Alec's carriage, and that "crooked gentleman on the back seat" was Alec himself. Every fair afternoon he is out in this way, taking a load of "his boys," as he calls them, and thus, as often as once a fortnight, he gives every inmate of the asylum a turn in the park.—I. L. Reman, St. Nicholas for February.

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Texas Christian Advocate

SUCCESS in preaching depends largely, if not wholly, upon three things: 1. Consecration to Christ and his truth. 2. Consecration to the work of saving souls; and, 3. A clear perception of what the people need, so that the preaching may be adapted to them as they are, with a view of making them what they ought to be.

How to extinguish state and city indebtedness: Introduce the Moffet bell-punch. This would work like a charm in such cities as Galveston, Austin, San Antonio, Dallas, etc. Vermont has realized half a million dollars from the Moffet bell-punch in the first year of its use. Experience has shown defects in the administration of the law that will be cured and leaks that will be stopped, and it is thought the revenue for the ensuing year will be greater than it was last year.

The invitation to Bishop Simpson to deliver "the Lyman Beecher course of lectures on preaching" to the theological students of Yale College, is something new in the history of that venerable institution, and a new departure among American churches. Yale is the fountain head of Calvinistic Congregationalism, of the straightest Eastern type. Bishop Simpson is a Western Methodist, Armenian. When extending the invitation, the Yale professor asked the bishop, as a Methodist to tell his experience, and the lectures abound in personal reminiscences. They are the living utterances of a thoroughly liveman. In the same connection we may remark that we have been favorably impressed with the attention which the periodical press in the North and East devotes to religious questions. These lectures, long as they are, are reported for a large number of periodicals, and published in the ensuing issues of the papers.

Our Bishops visit conferences; preach, lecture classes, address preachers, etc., and our press makes no note of these deliverances. During the late political canvass, speeches of representative men, delivered in various cities of the state, were often published in full in the next morning papers. But we have none or but few short-hand reporters in our ministerial ranks. The ability to take down, verbatim, the utterances of a rapid speaker, is a very desirable accomplishment, and one that is coming very much into demand. We wish our institution at Georgetown had a competent teacher and that our young men studying for the ministry, in addition to their other studies, could learn the art of reporting.

The name of H. V. Philpott no longer graces the editorial head of the St. Louis Christian Advocate, as associate editor. A strong, forcible and peculiarly original writer, Bro. P. added largely to that paper's interest.

The British Wesleyans are working with energy in behalf of the Wesleyan Methodist Thanksgiving fund of \$1,000,000 which they have determined to raise for the payment of the debts of the connection, and the strengthening of their missionary, educational, and benevolent enterprises.

Bishop Lane, of the Colored M. E. Church in America, writing to the Nashville Advocate says: "I have held three Annual Conferences. First, the North-west Texas Conference, which met in Dallas, Texas, Nov. 20. We had a pleasant session. We received eight on trial. The Conference was well attended. That Conference has 1,128 members. From there I went to the East Texas Conference, which met at Crockett, on Nov. 27. There we had a good time. The Conference was well attended. Received on trial six. That Conference has 7,433 members. Our brethren there appear hopeful. I was invited to preach for the white people in the Methodist Church on Sunday night. We had a large congregation. Preached on Monday night. My white friends gave me a liberal collection to help me on, which was thankfully received. From there I went to Georgia, where we had a very large Conference—120 in attendance. Received nine on trial. That Conference has 13,590 members. We had a pleasant session. I had some hopes of raising a school in the bounds of the Georgia Conferences; but there has been very little done as yet. We have a committee appointed to look after a location and draw up a plan upon which to proceed. We have only \$20 on hand. The brethren complained of such hard times with them that we do not see our way clear as yet to buy any property; but we have not lost courage."

This but-ter-fly soft. That soars a loft. On his wings of gold and starry blue. More than twice would think he waits to greet you on the other shore. Anything stronger than hon-ey-dew.

Obituaries.

SCOTT—Died, at Denton, January 2, 1879. Thos. R. Scott, after a protracted illness. Bro. Scott was an acceptable member of the Methodist Church, and died in the faith.—W. L. LAYLEY.

SEALY—Sister Sarah G. Sealy was born in North Carolina, June 21, 1839; was converted and joined the M. E. Church, South, in 1868, and died October 30, 1878. She was the wife of a local preacher, now in charge of Lexington mission. I had but a short acquaintance with her; but having an opportunity of visiting her a few days before her death, I found her trying to cast all her cares on Jesus. A short time before she died she was greatly blessed. She rejoiced and was happy, and died in the full triumph of a living faith. The dying Christian always finds his faith honored in his triumphs over death, which is the victory. To the Lord be all the glory.—M. H. PORTER.

CORNELIUS—Rev. Henry Cornelius was born January 23, 1814, and departed this life on Feb. 23, 1878. He joined the M. E. Church, South, when fourteen years old; was licensed to exhort when about eighteen years of age, and soon after was licensed to preach, and for many years traveled in one of the Arkansas conferences. For several years past he has lived in or near Acton, Hood county, Texas, until a few weeks before his death, when he came to Jacksonville to spend his last days with his son, Dr. Cornelius. He fell ill on the 23d of December last, he fell asleep in Jesus. He leaves several children, and a large circle of friends to tell in sadness their loss, while to him it is gain.—W. V. JONES.

WHEREAS, It has pleased God to remove by death our beloved brother and steward, William D. Stell, who departed this life, at peace with God and all mankind, in the bosom of his family, on December 23, 1878; therefore, be it resolved, That we deplore the death of Bro. Stell, whose walk and conversation endeared him to all. That the church has lost one of its most faithful members and efficient officers. That we tender our sincere condolence to the bereaved family of our late brother, feeling, as a church, that their loss is irreparable. That these resolutions be spread on our minutes, a copy sent to the bereaved family, and that the TEXAS CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE be requested to publish the same. J. T. L. ANNIS, P. C. T. L. KEZIAH, Secretary, pro tem.

HIGHTOWER—Ashbury Waters Hightower was born in Putnam county, Georgia, June 24, 1819, and died in Johnson county, Texas, January 10, 1879. In his early boyhood he embraced religion and joined the Methodist Church, of which he was a member till the time of his death. Several of his family have passed over the river before him. Others remain, with the widow, who has patiently shared his lot. In life they have the consolation of a bright hope that his exchange of worlds has been a happy one. He is laid to rest in the Methodist church—class leader, steward, Sunday-school superintendent—always performing faithfully whatever duties were required at his hands. He was a man of many traits of character worthy of emulation. His noble, manly bearing, his magnanimity of soul, his unspurred reputation as a Christian citizen, have made him a name, and an enduring memorial with all who knew him, for which his family should be thankful. His death was so sudden that no dying expressions were heard from his lips, but we have what is better—a well spent life and a firm confidence in the mercy of God, and the ability and willingness of the Redeemer to save.—OSCAR HIGHTOWER.

ROBINSON—Old Father Robinson, after a pilgrimage of near a hundred years, has finally gone to his reward. Father Wm. Robinson was born in Virginia, September 13, 1788, and fell asleep in Jesus, December 31, 1878, being over ninety-three years of age. He came to Texas in 1822, and moved the next year to religion, where he joined the Methodist Church. Father Robinson returned to Texas in 1830, settling in Walker county. The third session of the Texas conference was held in his neighborhood, while he was living here, in December, 1843. Bishop Andrew, who presided, writing of Father Robinson in his miscellany, says: "The old gentleman is quite the patriarch of the neighborhood—an honest, industrious, pious man, who has raised a considerable family of children. These are happy in walking in the steps of their venerable father." Father Robinson was licensed to preach in 1830. He was the first surveyor of Montgomery county, and was at the battle under the Mexican government. It may be truly said he died of old age, being entirely blind, nearly deaf and perfectly helpless. He died apparently without being sick, except a slight chill and fever. He had been living with his son, Bro. G. W. Robinson, about two years when he died. Way his numerous descendants rejoice him in heaven.—S. S. ANGELO.

DALLAS—Mother Elizabeth Dallas, whose maiden name was Reed, was born in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, in 1797. She professed religion and joined the M. E. Church while in the nineteenth year of her age, and lived the life of a pious and devoted Christian, and secured the confidence and good will of all who knew her. Mother Dallas came to Texas in 1833, and settled near Independence in Wash D. territory, where she lived until the 21st of December, 1878, when, and long that she had served over sixty years, took her rest.

"Sickness and sorrow, pain and death. Are felt and feared no more." Her death was calm and peaceful. The writer of this, when in that community, always found her comfortable and pleasant home with Mother Dallas and her kind and affectionate children. In fact, their hearts and doors have always been open to all who love and serve the Lord. Her church a valuable member, and the community a bright example. We all feel poorer than we did before her death. "E'en down to old age, all my people shall receive." My sovereign, eternal, unchangeable love: And when hoary hairs shall their temples adorn, Like lambs they shall still in my bosom be borne."

Partlow—Beard Partlow, son of W. S. and E. J. Partlow, was born October 29, 1877, and died at Liberty, December 9, 1878; aged fourteen months and eleven days. Like several of the other children, he was born with the chill winter winds of earth. The Father took him to Himself, to bloom forever in the paradise of God, where "No blasted bud, Nor withered flower, celestial gardens know; No 'whelming flood, nor fierce descending shower, Scatters destruction, like a ruthless foe." Taken from the wiles of the tempter and the evil to come, to his home in heaven, ere his pure spirit had breathed the poisoned atmosphere of sin. Life's sea may rage, but he died not; and his name will never "drift a wreck upon the cruel waves. Withered hopes, disappointments and care can never fill his heart with sorrow. In heaven? A glorious thought! Little Bear-baby you very much; but we recognize the hand of Providence in our bereavement. We submit to the will of the Father, and "Kiss the hand that smites; There were the tears from your eyes, bereaved father and mother; for why should you sorrow as those who have no hope? He is not dead, but sleeping." Father, look forward to that reunion beyond "this vale of tears, where there is "No hidden grief; No wild and cheerless visions of despair; No vain petitions for a swift relief; No tearful eyes, no broken hearts are there."

Little—Felix Edward Little, infant son of Rev. M. E. and Drusilla Little, departed this life at Central Institute, Limestone county, Texas, January 10, 1879; aged two years and ten days. Eddie was indeed a remarkable child, beautiful and intelligent, and evidenced almost infantile inspiration. It was a heavenly feast to converse with him about heavenly things, and seemed like holding communion sweet with a cherub fresh from the skies. A privilege enjoyed but once in a life time, and reflecting great credit upon his parents, who had taught the dear baby so much about God and heaven; but he was too pure and bright for a world like this. God needed him more in heaven than we did on earth. "For there's something in heaven for children to do." Though a great trial for the parents to give up until the resurrection their only child, and to be a jewel so rare, yet the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ enabled them to say: "It will be done." Yet, to-day, through their tears they can see that the dear child is forever daily resting on the breast of one who loves more dearly than any one in earth or heaven. Dear parents, Eddie has preceded you only a little way to the "hills of gold," and will survey your joyful inheritance there; perhaps already has taken possession of the family mansion, and awaits in glad anticipation for you to join him. Select some bright star to light your way; it is a light in the window of your own mansion, for you kept by Eddie's hand. He knows your itinerating will be over after awhile. Be sure he waits to greet you on the other shore.—J. H. BURNETT.

Church Notices.

TEXANA DISTRICT.—SECOND ROUND. Texana, 1st Sunday in March. Boxville cir, 2d Sunday in March. Hartsdale cir, 1st Sunday in March. Concrete cir, 4th Sunday in March. Leesville cir, 5th Sunday in March. Hartsdale cir, 1st Sunday in April. Mouton cir, 3d Sunday in April. Clanton cir, 3d Sunday in April. Lavaca River mission, 4th Sunday in April. A. A. KILLGOUR, P. E.

CORPUS CHRISTI DIST.—SECOND ROUND. Boeille cir, at Lebanon, Feb 8, 9. Galind and Victoria, Feb 8, 9. Coletto cir, at — Feb 22, 23. Rockport cir, at Rockport, March 8, 9. Corpus Christi sta, at Corpus Christi, Mar 15, 19. Nueces River cir, at Mesquite, Mar 22, 23. Oakville mis, at Oakville, Mar 29, 30. Helena cir, at Escobedo, April 5, 6. Rancho cir, at Sandley's, April 12, 13. J. S. B. DENTON, P. E.

SAN MARCOS DISTRICT.—SECOND ROUND. San Marcos circuit, at New Bethel, Feb 15, 16. Blanco cir, at Curry's Creek, Feb 22, 23. Round Mountain mis, at Walnut, March 1, 2. Lookhart cir, at Prairie Lea, March 8, 9. Gonzales and Belmont, March 15, 16. Mountain City cir, at Cherry Springs, Mar 22, 30. Seguin, at Hill Creek, April 5, 6. Navasota and Belmont, April 12, 13. Thompsonville cir, at Cherry, April 19, 20. Each quarterly conference will elect three delegates to the ensuing district conference. O. A. FISHER, P. E.

SAN AUGUSTINE DISTRICT.—FIRST ROUND. Shelby, at Center, February 8, 9. Lynn Platt, at Indian creek, February 15, 16. Pleasant Grove, February 22, 23. San Augustine, at Pine Grove, March 1, 2. Miami, at McMahon Chapel, March 8, 9. The district stewards will meet at Center Feb. 8. My postoffice is Kilgore, Gregg county, Texas. W. M. A. SAMPY, P. E.

HUNTSVILLE DIST.—FIRST ROUND. Willis and Montgomery, Feb 8, 9. Anderson, at Anderson, Feb 15, 16. Polke mis, at Union Centre, Feb 22, 23. Courtney and Plantersville, at Courtney, Mar 1, 2. Spring Creek, Mar 8, 9. Navasota and Mission, at Navasota, Mar 15, 16. The district stewards will please meet me at Huntsville on Saturday, March 22d, at 2 o'clock P. M. Arrangements will be made for their entertainment. Call on my home. S. C. LITTLEPAGE, P. E.

PALESTINE DIST.—FIRST ROUND. Pennington cir, at Loveland, Feb 8, 9. Palestine cir, at Guisland, Feb 15, 16. Crockett cir, at Wesley Chapel, Feb 22, 23. Larissa cir, at Burk's Chapel, Mar 1, 2. Athens cir, at New York, Mar 8, 9. Trinity cir, at Merideth's school-house, Mar 15, 16. JOHN ADAMS, P. E.

BEAUMONT DIST.—FIRST ROUND. Newton cir, at Burkville, 2d Saturday and Sunday in Feb. Jasper cir, at Peachtree, 3d Saturday and Sunday in Feb. Woodville cir, at Woodville, 4th Saturday and Sunday in Feb. Mt Hope cir, at Mt Hope, 1st Saturday and Sunday in March. Beaumont cir, at Beaumont, 2d Saturday and Sunday in March. Liberty cir, at Liberty, 3d Saturday and Sunday in March. Moscow cir, at Moscow, 4th Saturday and Sunday in March.

HOOPER cir, at Hooper, 5th Saturday and Sunday in March. The district stewards will please meet me at Woodville circuit, Feb. 22, Feb. next, at 10 o'clock A. M., in the Methodist church, at attention to the business entrusted to them. (See next column, chapter 11, section 15, page 116.) The names of the following brethren have been furnished me by my worthy predecessor, viz: B. Z. Powell, T. J. Carraway, J. C. Boldin, Henry Stegall, G. W. O'Brien, and Y. L. McNeil. Others elected, but not named, will consider themselves notified. It is to be hoped that these brethren will feel their bounden duty to meet at the appointed time and place for the purpose indicated. DANIEL MOORE, P. E.

MARSHALL DIST.—FIRST ROUND. Bellville cir, at Kilgore, Feb 8, 9. Longview cir, at Longview, Feb 15, 16. Harrison cir, at Wiley's Chapel, Feb 22, 23. Garville cir, at Union Chapel, Mar 1, 2. Starrville cir, at Antioch, Mar 8, 9. Galveston valley cir, Mar 15, 16. Miami cir, at Miami, Mar 22, 23. Grand Saline, Apr. 6. Elysian Fields cir, at Mount Zion, Apr 12, 13. R. W. THOMPSON, P. E.

CHAPPELL HILL DISTRICT.—FIRST ROUND. Bryan station, February 8, 9. Hempstead sta, February 15, 16. Elbee circuit, February 22, 23. Caldwell circuit, March 1, 2. Lexington mission, March 8, 9. Giddings circuit, March 15, 16. T. W. ROGERS, P. E.

GALVESTON DISTRICT.—FIRST ROUND. Richmond, February 8, 9. Eagle Lake, at Quinan, Feb 15, 16. San Felipe, at Asbury chapel, Feb 22, 23. The district stewards will meet in Shearn church, Houston, December 30, at 7 P. M. B. D. DANIEL, P. E.

PARIS DISTRICT.—FIRST ROUND. Ladonia circuit, Feb 8, 9. Clarksville circuit, Feb 15, 16. Wayland circuit, Feb 22, 23. Roxton circuit, March 1, 2. District stewards meet at Paris, December 25, at 2 o'clock P. M. JOHN H. McLEAN, P. E.

JEFFERSON DISTRICT.—THIRD ROUND. Kelleyville cir, second Sunday in February. Dangersville cir, 3d Sunday in February. Mount Pleasant cir, first Sunday in March. Coffeetown cir, second Sunday in March. L. B. ELIAS, P. E.

AUSTIN DISTRICT.—FIRST ROUND. Winchester cir, at Winchester, Feb 8, 9. Elgin cir, at Elgin, Feb 15, 16. Lagrange station, March 1, 2. Flatonia cir, at Flatonia, March 8, 9. Selmar circuit, at Selmar, March 15, 16. Columbus station, March 22, 23. The quarterly conference of Columbus mission will be held at Bastrop on the 1st of February. The district stewards meeting will be held at Bastrop on the 1st of February. The interests of the work require a full attendance. E. S. SMITH, P. E.

SHERMAN DISTRICT.—FIRST ROUND. Callinsville cir, at Tipton's second Sunday in Feb. Saylor cir, third Sunday in February. Pilot Grove at Blewbridge, fourth Sunday in February. J. M. BINKLEY, P. E.

TERRELL DISTRICT.—FIRST ROUND. Rockwall cir, at Rockwall, Feb 8, 9. Farmersville cir, at Rock Creek, Feb 15, 16. Kaufman cir, at Kaufman, Feb 22, 23. R. M. POWERS, P. E.

GAINESVILLE DIST.—FIRST ROUND. Maryville cir, Feb 8, 9. Henrietta cir, Feb 15, 16. West Fork mis, Feb 22, 23. Montague cir, Feb 22, 23. W. H. MOSE, P. E.

SULPHUR SPRINGS DIST.—FIRST ROUND. Pillsbury cir, Feb 1, 2. Sulphur Bluff cir, Feb 8, 9. Greenville sta, Feb 15, 16. White Rock cir, Feb 22, 23. Sulphur mis, March 1, 2. R. LANK, P. E.

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THE LAUNDRY.—The chapter devoted to washing and ironing, is so practical and clear that the most inexperienced can follow its directions successfully, and the recipes given for washing fluids, removing stains, etc., are of the greatest value.

CHILDREN.—Mrs. Elizabeth Cady Stanton's article, "Something about Babies," has attracted especial notice from the press, and ought to be within the reach of every mother.

HEALTH AND SICKNESS.—Hints to the Well" is crowded with sensible suggestions on the preservation of health, and "Hints for the Sick Room" gives full directions for the care of the sick room, nursing, proper food and best mode of preparing food for invalids.

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Texas Christian Advocate

EDITOR'S NOTICES.

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

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.

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

CHURCH NEWS.

THE contract for the publication and management of the St. Louis Christian Advocate will expire by limitation February 1. "By arrangement made between the parties concerned," says that paper, "the editorship and business management will be continued as heretofore."

In the United States the entire membership of the Methodist churches is estimated at about 3,800,000, with 26,642 local, and 22,194 traveling preachers.

We note by our exchanges that very many revivals are in progress in the North and East. It should be borne in mind that revivals are not peculiar to any season. God will bless your work as greatly in the winter as in the spring.

MISSIONARY.—The publishing house is issuing a prayer-book, by J. J. Ransom, our Brazilian missionary.

A letter from Rev. J. W. Lambuth says: Miss Rankin, sent out by the women of Southern Methodism, has arrived at Shanghai, and commenced her work among the women of the empire. "We can see," says the letter, "a glorious light arising, and a better day for the church of God in this land of darkness and idolatry. * * * If we had fifty devoted Christian women, we could find work for them within forty or fifty miles of Shanghai." * * * Eight to ten million women within easy access of the place."

Rev. C. W. Dress succeeds Dr. William Butler (M. E. Church), as Superintendent of Missions in Mexico. Dr. Butler (by advice of physicians) and family sail for Europe early in February. The South India Conference (M. E. Church) met at Madras December 5; Bishop Bowman, presiding. Reports show that the work is prospering at every station. There are two districts and over a score of works, all supplied.

RICHMOND, Jan. 24.—The East Hanover presbytery to-day, by a vote of 16 to 5, removed the sentence of suspension from Dr. E. T. Baird, secretary of the Presbyterian board of publication, who was suspended last year for alleged irregularities in connection with funds of the concern, and restored him to the office of gospel ministry.

Whether the methods of certain evangelists, in advertising precocious child vocalists, or any other forced adjuncts to the preaching of the word, are always wise, becomes a question. In Baltimore the ordinary means of grace have been neglected by the church-membership that the occasional expounders from abroad might be heard in their centers of attraction and parade. The home altars have been almost deserted, that the ephemeral services yonder and anywhere might be magnified. In our own and other cities, expeditors of doubtful propriety and shocking bad taste have been introduced to win the crowds. Household training and ordinary ministrations of the Gospel by pastors have been held in disesteem, while the marvelous doings of the stranger-within-the-gates have been attended, not so much for worship as for an entertainment; not so much to renew the spiritual life, as to be startled, shocked and set into extravagant attitudes toward Christ the Prince of Peace. Let pastors put more warmth and light into their sermons, and more zeal into their daily ministrations, and thus leave the people excuseless in their craze for miracles.—Methodist Protestant.

NOT A CHURCH PAPER TAKEN.—A young preacher having reached his work, had occasion to write to the Editor. He was a little blue, and no wonder. He said, among other things: "There is not a Church paper taken on this work." And his letter, which was not complaining in its spirit, made it very plain that there is not in his circuit much else, except people. They are badly off in everything that belongs to Church activity and power. We wonder what sort of a preacher was there last year. We do not remember his name, and we will not try to find out. The possibility is his salary was very small; the amount raised for missions smaller still. It is very certain that no sort of provision was made for the new preacher.—Wesleyan Christian Advocate.

News of the Week.

WASHINGTON.

SENATE.—The National Woman's Suffrage Association are pressing their cause again. Their memorial has gone to the Senate privileges and elections committee, where it will likely remain.

A resolution passed calling for information as to the commissions paid bankers for the negotiation of United States bonds.

The consular and diplomatic appropriation bill awaits the President's signature. Appropriations of \$20,000 for charges des affaires ad interim and diplomatic officers abroad, and \$20,000 to be expended at discretion of the President were abolished. Total appropriated by bill as passed is \$1,187,835, or \$10,200 more than present bill.

A bill is pending in the Senate providing for the purchase of ground contiguous to arsenal at San Antonio.

HOUSE.—A resolution passed instructing Ways and Means committee to inquire into the feasibility of equalizing the internal revenue tax among the States.

The bill to restrict emigration of Chinese to the United States passed the House.

The following are confirmations of postmasters in Texas: Frank M. Goar, Tupelo; C. B. Sabin, Galveston; A. G. Wilcox, Rockdale; A. B. Palm, Round Rock; C. H. Clifford, Hearne; Chas. Kickenbarger, Bonham; A. B. Norton, Dallas.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The revenues from spirits paid the United States government for the year ending June 30, 1878, was about fifty and one-half million dollars—not including ten millions for fermented liquors; the revenue from tobacco was \$40,087,617; from penalties \$343,900. These figures, says an exchange, do not include the market value of the articles; time, muscle, land and material wasted in manufacture, nor the substance, time and blood associated with their use. The penalties have no reference to the disappointment, blight, blood or heartaches involved in this whisky traffic.

On the 25th in the United States Court at Jacksonville, Fla., Judge Settle sentenced, under conviction of making false election returns, Lee, county clerk, three years in Albany penitentiary; and Wright, sheriff, and Johns, justice, to one year each.

W. A. Ellis was arrested in New York on the 23d at instance of a Dallas banking house, under indictment for swindling.

In the recorder's office, Kansas City, January 22d, was recorded a deed of trust conveying the Leavenworth, Lawrence and Galveston railroad to Messrs. Chas. Merriman, H. Thayer and Geo. S. Hall, Boston; Moses Taylor, New York; and L. W. Peck, Chicago—including all branches of the road, rolling stock, depot, and other property for \$769,000. The road is appraised at \$1,135,358.

There were in New York city last year, 917 commercial failures with liabilities amounting to nearly \$64,000,000, and assets estimated at about \$19,000,000.

The State of Nevada is out of debt and has \$700,000 in her treasury.

Rev. Dr. Wilson was last week fined three hundred dollars, in a St. Louis court, for having unwittingly married a minor.

One bookbinder in New York has bound forty thousand copies of Tennyson's poems since last October.

In 1878 there were nearly eight hundred new books issued from the American press—more than two books a day.

It is going the rounds of the press that Wm. H. Vanderbilt and Aug. Belmont made return that they have no personal property subject to taxation.

The annexation of a strip of Missouri (about twenty miles long by two wide) to Kansas is being agitated. This territory will include Kansas City—which would then be in fact, as it now is in name, the chief city in Kansas.

A Pottsville (Pa.) dispatch of the 20th reports Locust Gap mine on fire a-depth of three hundred feet. No miners below.

The Missouri legislature is asked to relieve all church property from taxation, while the Illinois legislature has under consideration a bill for taxing it.

There is no lawyer in either branch of the Delaware legislature. As a consequence the State keeps out of litigation, out of debt and out of trouble generally.—Ec.

The cost of the Philadelphia Centennial Exhibition, according to the report of the commission, was \$11,161,611.55, of which \$517,685.43 represented dividends to stockholders, after returning the \$1,500,000 advanced by the government. The stockholders, 16,275 in number, would have made a handsome thing if they had not been compelled to refund the loan voted by Congress.

TEXAS LEGISLATURE.

AUSTIN, JAN. 25.—SENATE—Senator Hobby was elected president, pro tem.

The Texas Senate doubtless realize the truth of Burns' lines:

"A chiel among ye takin' notes,
And, faith, he'll prent' em."

The enterprise of the Galveston News reporter ferreted out the "kernel" of Senate proceedings in executive session and the time of that august body was principally consumed on the 25th seeking the source of said reporter's information. We submit, it is the business of a reporter or editor to print news—and it takes about all his time to accumulate it. He can't afford to waste any explaining to the uninitiated the "source." Let the reporter refuse to testify, we say.

An additional committee is to be reported, styled the "Committee on Judicial Districts."

Blossingame and Swain compose the Senate committee to visit the penitentiary at Rusk.

Resolution passed as to the necessity of investigation of causes of yellow fever at places where it originates.

The following confirmations reported to the Governor: J. D. Templeton, Secretary of State; Thos. Ball, assistant Attorney-General; V. O. King, Commissioner of Insurance, Statistics and History; J. B. Jones, Adjutant General.

Jan. 28.—The Governor recommended a supreme court of nine judges; executive appointment of district attorneys, and divesting county courts of all business except probate. The Governor signed Mr. Bryan's joint resolution in reference to yellow fever investigation. The Governor nominated T. J. Goree, superintendent of penitentiary. Bill to secure railroad-employees their pay, passed.

Jan. 25.—HOUSE—Baker, Coleman and Stewart of Delta, appointed a committee to visit the Penitentiary. A petition was received asking that before suffragans are allowed to vote, they be required to present tax receipts. \$2000 appropriated for postage for Comptroller.

Bills and Resolutions of importance pending in the House: Bill to exempt from forced sale 200 bushels of corn and 500 pounds of meat to every family; to declare homicide by negligence a felony, punishable with one to three years in the penitentiary; to prevent clerks, under penalty, issuing marriage licenses to persons living outside the county where the license is demanded; to instruct committee on Indian Affairs to inquire into the condition of Polk county Indians; an insolvent and debtors act; to provide mode of sale of public school lands; to repeal law to prevent forgeries of land titles; amendments to the probate law; to instruct Committee on Taxation to inquire into the propriety of taxing drummers—proceeds to go to the protection of the frontier; an amendment to the law for protection of stock and stock raising—indicating the counties subject to and exempt from the law; a concurrent resolution looking to a special session for consideration of the new codes; instructing Finance Committee to report why the fiscal and scholastic year may not begin and end together; to amend election law as to fix mode of designating election precincts; to regulate fees of executors and administrators; to require bills of sale when stock is sold outside the county; a joint resolution instructing our congressional delegation to ask Congress to fix the values of foreign coin—the intent of this being to stop bank speculation in Mexican silver; a bill to repeal dog tax; a petition from Lamar county against occupation tax and that on farm products; to ascertain amounts due teachers of public schools, from 1873 to 1876; to provide for investing proceeds from sales of school lands in bonds; to provide for a criminal court in each county open at all times; to regulate physicians' charges; to provide a mode of paying interest and principal on county bonds given railroads; making it a penalty to let diseased sheep run at large; to authorize county courts to fix salaries of assessors and collectors, sheriffs, treasurers, county and district clerks; to amend the law creating public weighers so as to increase number according to necessity; to compel persons and corporations having patents in land office to pay fees and remove them in thirty days—fees to be doubled monthly until taken out; to allow payment of occupation tax in jury and county scrip; to make harboring of minors against consent of parents a penal offense; to appropriate \$150,000 for pension deficiencies; to allow \$1 per day and mileage to witnesses; to prevent county attorneys representing defendants in criminal cases; to create a new county out of Live Oak and contiguous counties; to define money and property subject to taxation; to provide a more certain and rigid enforcement of local option.

The following are among the bills and resolutions of importance pending in the Senate: To regulate contractors, builders and mechanics' liens; to provide for the care and protection of the East Texas penitentiary; to provide for the record of contracts relating to land in a manner to distinguish separate from community property; regulating juries in capital cases; resolution looking to abolition of frontier battalion, and organization of a smaller force, with the duties fully defined, and authorizing the proper committee to make a thorough examination into the management of said battalion, expenditures, etc.; a bill to suppress lawlessness and crime by the organization of a force for that purpose—providing for sixty men for Mexican border and frontier protection; to regulate the payment of public money by State Treasurer.

The Merrick and Durant memorial, asking relief as counsel in case where certain bonds, taken from the Treasury, were held in England; petition from Grayson county grand jury, for law against bowling alleys as a species of robbery; joint resolution regulating suffrage; bill to provide speedy and authoritative publication of opinions of the Supreme and Appellate Courts in Texas Law Journal; to authorize non-residents to pay taxes on land in unorganized counties at the Comptroller's office; bill to authorize County Judges to solemnize the rights of marriage, and to validate those heretofore solemnized; resolution to stop indiscriminate slaughter of buffalo.

Texas Items.

Galveston: A petition is in circulation memorializing the legislature to annul the present city charter, and virtually to place the affairs of the city in liquidation. It is a good idea—as at present the city is in the hands and under control of bondholders. We trust the Legislature will give the memorial such attention as will insure to benefit of Galveston's tax-oppressed citizenship. * * * Pools are openly sold—and advertised to be sold—at the Bank Exchange. If Galveston's officials had regard to their oaths of office, this would not be. * * * The San Antonio Free Press, the Galveston News and other personal enemies of Judge Ireland are doing all in their power to make it appear indelicate for this gentleman or any of his supporters to aspire to succeed Mr. Schleicher in Congress. It looks to us very much like the Schleicher element are playing a game for political ascendancy on the coffin of their dead hero. We certainly think their allusions, whether pro or con, are in bad taste—but to this complexion does political trickery reduce men? * * * Mr. A. Robira, of the firm of Preston & Robira, one of the most useful members of the board of health of this city, and beyond reproach as a gentleman, suddenly died Jan. 23d. He had been unwell several days, and had taken narcotics to obtain rest. On the day of his death, he had taken an ordinary dose of chloral and morphine, leaving orders that he should be roused at one o'clock. At that hour all attempts failed, and although attended by a number of prominent physicians, he remained for six hours in a comatose condition, when he died. He leaves a wife and several children.

HOUSTON COUNTY—East Texas Patron: Crockett wants street-cars. A fire company needed. Local option is being advocated. A Bible class of about a dozen organized at the Methodist church. Four deaths in the county from pneumonia in two weeks. Sidewalks great need in Crockett. James Quisenberry, one of the accused in the Grayson murder trial at Palestine was acquitted.

RUSK COUNTY—Henderson Times: Thad. Bewer succeeds Sheriff Nichols, deceased. Mr. B. is resolute, honest and of unimpeachable integrity.

WASHINGTON COUNTY.—Brenham Sentinel: A German was attacked by dogs near Long Point. He clubbed his gun, and aiming to strike at the dogs, the piece was accidentally discharged, killing the old man instantly. A letter from Moses Austin Bryan, cites an interesting historical item: January 17, fifty-eight years ago, Gen. Juuquin Arredondo, commanding the Eastern Internal Provinces in New Spain, granted permission to Moses Austin to colonize 300 families in the then wilderness of Texas. The small settlement at Nacogdoches was broken up by Royalists; and at the time there was not a civilized human being in the territory between San Antonio de Texas and the Sabine river. In 1832, he heard the alcalde of Laredo tell his uncle, Stephen F. Austin, that in the Rio Grande valley they never salted their meats, but cured them by attaching them to the end of poles elevated above the reach of flies—

in which position the meat would dry up ere it became putrid. Mr. Bryan thinks this valley the garden spot of America. The temperance meeting at the Methodist church was a success. The programme consisted of music and three addresses: "Effect of drink on Society," by W. B. Riggs; "Effect of drink on the Family," by Rev. F. T. Mitchell; "Effect of drink on the Individual," by Rev. W. H. Carroll. The legislative memorial for the observance of the Sabbath is being circulated for signatures. The Sentinel is soon to appear daily.

Sheriff Wilson, of Palo Pinto county, remained at Austin after Sheriff's Convention adjourned, "it is said, on a protracted jollification." Because of some imagined insult, he began firing upon a squad of gentlemen on the Avenue. One ball mangled Mr. Sam Ball's finger, another shattered his watch, which, perhaps, saved his life; a third ball struck a Mr. Ellison (a western stock man), in the hip, wounding him seriously. In the mean time, Marshall Ball, of Sherman, and some others, opened fire upon him, shooting him in several places, causing death instantly.

A San Antonio family of five are all ill with trichinae, from eating pork partially cooked.

They are getting everything arranged by Bryan Agricultural and Mechanical College for the boys to have a nice time. They have had a newspaper for some time, and have now just received four six pound brass Howitzers. It is not stated whether these are to be used in the education of their embryonic editors, or for general military purposes. It seems a pity this magnificent building and grounds are not situated on some of our beautiful coast bays. The boys could then, a la Harvard, employ what little time they have to spare in boating; developing the physical, you know. As it is, dotting parents may entertain some fears that their boys may have a few minutes each day to devote to books.

Thos. Brandt, brakeman on the T. & P. Railroad, was run over and killed by the cars at Minneola, on the 23d.

PERSONALS.

We take pleasure in announcing that the Southwestern University, at Georgetown, has now a distinct department of Natural Science, including chemistry and the kindred subject of geology. P. D. Mood, professor, is highly recommended—coming to his Texas field from Emory (Ga.) and Wofford (S. C.). He is pronounced "expert and enthusiastic" in this branch of scientific research.

Rev. W. B. Rankin, Superintendent of the American Bible Society, was in the city the past week. He called at the ADVOCATE office.

Mrs. Paine, wife of the Bishop, is ill with pneumonia.

The Longview New Era says: Bro. J. S. Mathis is on his work, and has made a good impression.

Rev. John Cook, of West Virginia Conference, has been suspended.

Rev. S. H. Brown passed through the city with his family en route to his new work, Cedar Bayou.

Rev. P. E. Nicholson, Websterville, showed his smiling face in our office this week.

Bro. Snider, of Georgetown; and Bro. Caruthers, of Austin, paid us a visit Thursday. Bro. S. thinks the reports of death-rate in cattle during the cold weather is somewhat magnified.

We are glad to notice the ability which characterizes the Dallas Christian Advocate, the organ of the colored M. E. Church. We trust it may succeed in its good mission.

The Raleigh (N. C.) Advocate's modesty prevents it printing the many good things its correspondents say of it. The TEXAS ADVOCATE is considerably afflicted with modesty, too; however, we don't leave out many good things said of us. Sometimes inadvertent-modesty (?) makes us overlook harsh criticism.

Judge Sabin has been renominated postmaster at Galveston. He has thus far filled the position with great credit to himself, and we believe, to the entire satisfaction of Galveston.

There is an English rumor that Queen Victoria will abdicate in favor of the Prince of Wales as Prince Regent.

Gov. St. John claims for Kansas 900,000 population.

To Dr. Edwards, Northwestern Christian Advocate, Chicago: We want to say to you—and we speak as a religious journal, non-political: the communication in your paper of Jan. 15th, in regard to mob-violence in Harrison county, Texas, oppression of negro voters, trickery, etc., is unqualifiedly and maliciously false from beginning to end. Please so state in justice. The article is headed: "A

Speak of History, by S. S. S." We are not surprised that so blatant and malicious a falsifier should fail to give his full name. The initials are appropriate, however—"S. S. S."—Sin, Shame, Slander.

Thos. H. Early, son of Bishop E., is Superintendent of Public Instruction at Lynchburg, Va.

There is considerable demand for "Uncle Bob's Letters." "Uncle Bob" (late Rev. R. W. Blew, of Western Methodist,) died at Memphis with the fever. His letters to the children were very popular. A good man's deeds live after him.

Rev. H. T. Hudson is writing a history of Methodism in North Carolina.

Bro. G. C. Triple, of Davilla, on his way home from Mississippi, called at the ADVOCATE office last week.

Bro. Yeager, of Alum Creek, also called at the ADVOCATE office recently.

R. P. Roberts, clerk of the Supreme Court at Tyler, has resigned. Ex-Attorney General Boone has left Austin for his home, carrying with him many kind wishes.

Boston, Jan. 21.—Geo. Stillman Hilliard, lawyer and author, is dead.

Bishop Peck, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, was recently the guest of Bishop Wightman, in Charleston. He is the weightiest Episcopos in America, according to the flesh.

Rev. Arthur Davis, a superannuate of the White River Conference (formerly of the Memphis Conference), is dead.

Rev. J. H. Dye, of the White River Conference, is chaplain of the Arkansas House of Representatives.

Alexander, of Battenburg, is the choice of the younger members of the Assembly for the Bulgarian throne; while the older leaders favor Prince Henri, of Reuss, formerly German ambassador at Constantinople.

It is proposed to freeze out the yellow fever by powerful refrigerating ships.

HELP NEEDED—BOOKS at COST.—Brethren who want books and pictures to sell, here they are at cost—at St. Louis wholesale rates! I have them on hand and must get them off. It is a portion of a stock which I have been selling for the Paris District High School of the North Texas Conference. The stock consists of about 75 volumes of Bishop Marvin's "To the East by Way of the West," and "Errors of the Papacy"; also, our eight Bishops in a group; Bishop Marvin and the China Conference.

Brethren, send on your orders to me at Llano, Texas. I can easily have the things shipped from Round Rock to any point on the railroad. When goods are to be sent by mail, the postal charges will be deducted from the above rates. The cash must accompany each order. Fraternally yours—H. B. SWAFFORD, LLANO, TEXAS, Dec. 25, 1878.

Sleight of hand—refusing a marriage proposal.

Better to have been betrayed than to betray others.

Anybody can catch a cold. The trouble is to let go again.

Weddings are always fashionable.

Self-sacrifice is the only power that can plant or build.

A woman that successfully hides her age is educated beyond her years.

He who thinks he has nothing to fear from temptation is most exposed to a fall.—Hebner.

There ain't nothing that a man will thrive so well on as abuse that ain't merited.

Never strain a point in writing. If you do, you will have to sharpen your pencil again.

It is not so much by dress as by address that men prove whether they are the work of God or the tailor.

Let a young man be petted by his mother, and furnished all the spending money he wants by his father, and it's only a question of which poor house he will die in.

There is one advantage in marrying a woman who hasn't a mind of her own; she can't forever be giving you a piece of it.

"I am inclined to believe," said a pop to a lady who had refused to sing, "you are fishing for compliments." "Oh, no," replied she, "I never fish in so shallow a stream."

No rich American ever knows what he is worth. After his death, his family are generally glad to make his fortune pay off his debts.

"I never knew a fashionable woman who didn't think more of a fool than of an upright, sensible man," says Talmage.

The highest point in the gold premium was reached in July, 1864, when it was held at 285, making the value of a greenback dollar, only thirty-five cents.