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L. G. JOHN, D. D., Editor.

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ON OUR CIRCUIT.

We found the Sunday-school in Marshall in progress as we entered the church on Sunday morning. The extreme cold weather had reduced it in size, but we saw abundant evidence of an excellent school under the superintendency of Bro. Hartzill. We are reaching the conclusion that some men are specially called to this work. Its responsibilities are second only to those of the pastorate. In each both heart and brain must be employed, or meagre results will follow. We were hardly seated, before the superintendent called us to the altar; and after days of hard dragging through the red mud of East Texas, we found it refreshing to look into the bright faces of the youthful throng, and to speak to them of the walls of their own Jerusalem, which every youthful Nehemiah of this day is called to build. We believe every preacher has a call to preach. Is not every one called to do something? The whale of worldliness is swallowing the fleeing prophets.

Our church building in Marshall is one of the largest in Eastern Texas. It is built of brick, and will meet the present and future wants of the living generation. The parsonage in the rear of the church is one of the largest and best appointed in the State. The want of a home for the preacher is one of the chief impediments to our itinerant system. A change of appointments would be a light affair if, in addition to the toil of travel, the question, where in my new work will I find a shelter for my family? was not to be answered in nearly every case. The preacher who neglects to put the question, is unmindful of the wants of his own household. The church that is indifferent to the call, is undeserving the labors of a faithful pastor.

We noticed in the congregation at Marshall quite a number of children. We mark this down as a good indication. We have often seen a large Sunday-school and yet hardly one would be seen in the house of public worship. There is an evil in this. Is the pastor or are the parents in fault?

Quarterly Conference was held on Monday night. There was a full attendance and the interest manifested in the business of the church was clearly marked. Attention to details will insure success in nearly every branch of business, and this rule applies to the church interest as directly as to worldly affairs. Each man must do his work, and not slight the smallest task. The broken cog on the wheel of a watch which can only be discovered by a magnifying glass may arrest its motion, and cause the conductor of a train to miss his time and wreck a dozen cars. The efficiency of our economy demands each part of the machinery to be in order. One steward can derange by his neglect the financial system

of a pastoral charge. A faithful and efficient presiding elder will see that all the work is in order. We have never known a church to be prosperous in all its departments when a few official members in attendance was the rule with the Quarterly Conferences.

UNDER the guidance of Mr. Cumminsky, Chief Clerk of the Superintendent of the Texas and Pacific Railroad, we visited their machine shops, located at this point. There are about 200 hands employed in the different departments. A powerful engine drives the machinery of the entire establishment. We had been walking through the various apartments, with wheels in motion and bands of every size driving them, with the usual jar and clatter which is found in the workshops of the sons of Vulcan. Ponderous hammers were lifted by steam and smote with steady yet rapid stroke the blazing metal; car wheels were revolving in another apartment, and the steel chisels were shaving from the steel rim of the iron wheels chips which curled like pine shavings under the motion. Along the roof of other buildings there was a mass of pulleys and wheels driving lathes for wood, and lathes for iron; for running saws and boring holes through solid iron. And yet, when we stood before that powerful engine, with its swift and regular motion, no jar was visible and scarcely a noise was heard. An infant could have slept before that furnace with its slumbers undisturbed. Yet the movement of that silent piston was driving the wilderness of belts and wheels, and keeping the hands and brains of hundreds of men busily at work. Many of the mighty forces of the material and moral world are making but little noise.

The steam paddy which is loading cars with dirt to fill up the grade along the track of the Texas Pacific, especially interested us. It works on the plan of the steam dredges employed in the harbors and channels of rivers and coasts, and yet we can stand for hours and see the huge machine, guided by one hand, tear up from the hill-side a cart load of earth, move it steadily around until it hangs suspended over the truck, and then drop it precisely on the spot desired; and then move back to its work, and sinking into its place at the base of the ditch, tear its way with its iron teeth along the bank of earth, and when filled swing round and deposit its load on the track. No son of Erin can handle his spade with greater decision, and none of them keep more steadily at business. With nine hands to run the machine and level the earth on the cars, and then dump it along the track, this machine will do the work of more than one hundred men.

As the shades of night were gathering over the track of the Texas Pacific, we were rolling westward through the hills of Harrison and Gregg counties. In each pause of the train we could hear the moan of the wind in the pines and as we moved along the whirl of the saw and the flash of the furnace fires reminded us that enterprise was rapidly providing homes for the settler and fencing for the farms of Western Texas. As daylight dawned, we looked out on the bald prairies and black lands of Williamson county, traversed by the International. Less than one year has made great changes in this western section. The towns along the track show marks of growth. Farms and pastures have been opened, and the fencing and new buildings show how much the rich soil of the west is depending on the forests of the east for development. On the

platform of several stations, and beside the doors of many business houses in the towns, we noticed coils of barbed wire piled up, indicating another of the modern improvements for the development of our broad prairie lands.

The valley of the Brushy, as the cars near Round Rock, is one of the beautiful spots of Texas. Farms and pastures join each other for miles, and all give evidence of skillful management. What a country North and Northwest Texas will be when all over its rich, black uplands the enterprise of the incoming population has opened farms and pastures, and orchards and comfortable homes are visible from every hill-top.

Methodist Literature for Methodist Sunday-schools.

BY BISHOP McVEIL.

Many of our Sunday-schools went into winter-quarters, and soon they will be coming out. With the opening spring, as the roads and weather get better, hundreds of them will be reorganized, and subscriptions will be renewed for papers, and other Sunday-school requisites to be used during the rest of the year.

There is an increasing class of schools in the country that bravely go through the winter in good working order. These are called, not inaptly, *Evergreens*; and they will feel the stimulus of the season, and be replenishing their libraries. Then the village and city schools that go all the year round, steadily growing, will be making out orders for Magazines, Catechisms, Lesson-papers, Hymn-books, Tune-books and such like. Thousands, and hundreds of thousands, of the children and youth of the Church are to be supplied with printed matter, in some form, for reading, study, and devotion.

The first view that presents itself is: Here is a large item of trade. Shall this business patronage be given to our own Publishing House, or be turned away to strangers? The Church is ready to receive it, and has provided a Publishing Agent, and an Editor and all necessary appliances for this very purpose. They stand prepared to do the work. Great expense of men and means has been incurred for their preparation. On good authority it is said that the patronage of all our Sunday-schools would alone pay our Publishing House debt. The friends of Southern Methodism are trying to meet the present distress by funding this debt at lower interest and on longer time. Is it not right and reasonable that they should be helped to the extent of the orders for Sunday-school literature that are now being made up by our people? *Their Publishing House needs their help.*

The greed of the trade has been excited by this demand. No wonder that "drummers" and "commercial travelers" are abroad, in person or by circulars, pushing their various publications. They are ready to take the job of supplying our schools, cheap. They have in some instances got in between the Churches and their Sunday-schools; got in between the pastor and the superintendent. Now, our own *Sunday-School Magazine* and *Visitor* and *Little People* and *Lesson Papers* bear comparison with any—the best in the land—in intrinsic merit, in fitness, and in cheapness. This is admitted. It can no longer be denied.

Let pastors, Sunday-school superintendents, and Quarterly Conferences, take a plain, practical view of the matter. Within a few weeks a large sum of money will find its way from their hands to Chicago, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, New York, Boston—or Nashville; for the benefit and building up of the Publishing House of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South; or for the benefit and building up of the publishing houses of other Churches, or corporations, or individuals.

There is another and more important consideration: With the opening of the spring blossoms, our Sunday-schools in country, village, and city, will be marching forth with new life and increased numbers—a great and hopeful army, *three hundred and eighty thousand strong*. Under what banner?

Our Discipline puts Sunday-schools under Chapter V., which bears the general title, "The Means

of Grace." The first section under that head is Public Worship; second, Prayer-meetings; third, Love-feasts; fourth, Class-meetings; fifth, Sunday-schools. This language is not equivocal:

"*Ques.* What directions are given concerning Sunday-schools?"

Ans. 1. Let Sunday-schools be formed in all our congregations, where ten persons can be collected for that purpose. Let the schools be under the control of our own Church; and it is recommended that they use our own publications. And it shall be the special duty of preachers having charge of circuits and stations, with the aid of the other preachers, to see that this be done; to engage the co-operation of as many of our members as they can; to visit the schools as often as practicable.

"Let our catechisms be used as extensively as possible in our Sunday-schools; and let the preachers faithfully enforce upon Sunday-school teachers the great importance of instructing children in the doctrines and duties of our holy religion."

The good that is being done by Sunday-schools is a matter for rejoicing among Christians. The systematic study of the Holy Scriptures that is going on in them is one of the best signs of our times.

The opportunity afforded by this institute for shaping the religious character of the rising generation justifies the Church in providing for it, and giving directions concerning it. Shall these provisions be made available? Shall these directions be observed in the conduct of Methodist Sunday-schools? That is the point to be considered by those in charge of them when purchasing their Sunday-school literature.

Show the pushing agents of the patent-outside literature, manufactured for the trade in the North or East—just as iron cotton-ties and wooden pumps are manufactured—show them the Sunday-school publications got up weekly and monthly and quarterly by Dr. McFerrin, Book Agent, and Dr. Cunningham, Editor, and challenge comparison in cost and quality with their publications—and the result may be stated about this way:

They affect to have our most enterprising "workers" on their side—to be in sympathy with them. Indeed, they themselves are "workers;" know what is wanted; they are "live men," you know. All well enough—your Sunday-school literature; only it is behind the times! General Conference was not made up of practical Sunday-school "workers;" old fogies; mean well; very safe; but not up to the age. Young people are wide awake, you know—wants something fresh and taking, you know.

And such tricks of trade have resulted in loading down some of our Sunday-schools with books, magazines and papers, that would suit a Congregational, a Unitarian, or a Universalist school as well. No distinctive doctrine is taught in song or lesson. The best that can be said is, there is a studied vagueness of teaching and a pleasing generality, with much scene-shifting. One result, however, is secured—a good deal of matter, printed and bound in various styles, has been sold, and trade is lively.

All the moral and religious reasons that call for Methodist preachers in Methodist pulpits call also for Methodist literature in Methodist Sunday-schools.

February 1, 1879.

No one will ever hereafter accuse Dr. Fitzgerald of excessive modesty. In a late number of the *Nashville Advocate* he said: "Paul tried poetry at Athens, and made a failure." And again: "After Paul's failure at Athens, etc. We have been accustomed to consider Paul's sermon on Mars Hill a fine specimen of pulpit oratory; and so far from being a failure, Dionysius, the Areopagite, and a woman named Damaris, and others with them, clave unto him."

F. W. D. Mays and others propose to publish a new paper to be called the "Columbia Tidings." They are of the Columbia Conference.

REV. DE WITT TALMAGE is to be investigated by a committee of the Brooklyn Presbytery.

REV. PHIL L. HENDERSON (M. E. Church, South,) died at Decatur, Ala., January 21.

RICHARD HENRY DANA, poet and essayist, is dead.

We clip the following from an exchange:

Alabama clears some \$30,000 a year working out her convicts. On the last day of December there were but eighty-five in the penitentiary.

This introduces one of the most important questions that will be discussed by our Legislature—how to utilize the labor of convicts? If we set them to making shoes, the shoemakers object; and if we set them to any other mechanical pursuit, the mechanics of that department object; and if they are hired out, objection is raised. The question is a simple one: We must either devise some means to make this class support themselves, or we must levy a tax to support them; for no one would consent to a proposition to starve them. A question not materially different in its solution relates to the management of asylums and poor farms. If we remember rightly, our deaf and dumb asylum has been furnished with a small printing establishment, so that the mutes might learn to make their living at type setting. When they had so far progressed as to print a copy of the State Constitution, or some other pamphlet, and put it on the market, the dealers in periodicals objected. This was interfering with their trade, and the pamphlets were withdrawn. We shall, perhaps, next hear that the old ladies that sit in the corner and knit socks for their grandchildren are making a protest against having the blind girls of the asylum taught to knit. Is it so that labor is such an exalted privilege that none but those who are sound in mind and members of pure morals, are permitted to engage in it? The question is a very simple one: We have either to tax ourselves to support all these classes in idleness, or we have got to teach them how to work and support themselves.

The Catholic priests in Belgium, as has that peculiar development of inhumanity generally, have an eye to what we term here the "main chance." The city priests having contracted for more masses than they could give, and being unwilling to lose the "purgatory margins" put up, established a "mass agency." The manager of this made contracts with country priests to relieve the city brethren, at half price, of any superfluous mass-work. When this ecclesiastical broker or purgatory middleman had accumulated \$17,000 in commissions, the Belgian Chambers put a stop to the speculation.

The society for the suppression of vice held its fifth anniversary January 29. It was alleged that a widespread conspiracy exists against the society by its enemies. Sister societies had been established, however, during the year in Boston, Cleveland, Louisville, St. Louis and Chicago. Over 300,000 names and addresses of obscene circulars have been captured and nearly twelve tons of obscene printed matter destroyed. The greatest triumph of the year had been the closing of Madame Restell's establishment in New York.

MR. G. T. LATHROP is now the manager of the *New Orleans Advocate*—the former publisher being unable to go on with the business. The paper is published under the supervision of a publishing committee of the Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana conferences. This committee promise to agents and patrons prompt attention, and ask their efforts to extend its circulation.

PERHAPS it may strike some readers as not reasonable, but we want to ask this question: Where is the evidence that burying the dead on the Sabbath is not a violation of that day? Of course this does not refer to those cases where medical authority would pronounce immediate interment necessary.

Say, or some French writer on political economy, defines taxation: "The art of plucking the public goose so deftly as not to make it squeak." Have we not in Texas nearly reached that point? Between State, county and city taxes; taxes general and specific; smoke-house, occupation and poll, we have nearly reached the limit. There is some danger of killing the goose that lays the golden egg.

THE REV. R. H. RIVERS, D. D., has been appointed to Auburn station, Alabama. Transferred from Tennessee.

NANTSANG, CHINA—*Extracts from Daisy's Journal*—Nov. 21, 1878: Just through with evening Sunday-school; really proud of the way my girls answered, for Walter has given me the girls' day-school here. * * * We spent last week in the country. * * * Sold \$200 worth of books—the cheapest I brought 1½c; the cheapest 1c. When in the country, if I venture out, such a crowd! My, nobody can say a word. * * * I tell Walter, if he does speak the best, I am the most attractive; for, though he may draw a thousand lookers-on, I draw my *tens of thousands*. Nov. 23: * * * I wish you could see our cook—blind in one eye, lame in one foot, deaf in one ear, and I should take him to be paralyzed in one if not both sides. Nov. 26—Walter has gone to a village four miles away to preach and sell books; he and Fong went on a wheelbarrow. * * * I wish you could have seen how angry a Roman Catholic got at church. The preacher was telling how we differed from them; he got up and left the church; said lots of bad words about us. November 29—Walter left home at ten; back at five; sold a great many books. He found, to his surprise, that a man was going around the country pretending to be his agent; getting the people's money, telling them Walter would give them medicine. * * * Three persons, yesterday, wrote their names down as probationers. * * * They all say numbers here believe, but have not the courage to profess their faith. What a glorious work this is! Just feel so happy, happy! Nov. 30.—Have received money to carry on the boys' school for six months. I must tell her (grandma), tell you, tell all, what a bright life a missionary's is! * * * We certainly are blessed in gaining converts. Poor old Noah worked 120 years, and then only converted his own family. Shanghai, Dec. 1.—We came here yesterday. To-day we all commended—Bro. Parker, Miss Rankin, Dr. Allen, father, mother, Walter, I and all our missionaries. * * * The altar was three times filed by our native Christians. * * * What a bright, beautiful world we do live in!

According to the reports of newspaper correspondents at Austin, there is around the capital a patriotic army of office-seekers, numerous and meritorious; but impetuous, needy and greedy. When will men learn that the truly independent and happy man is the one who creates and carries on a successful private business?

THE pastors and memberships of our church in Texas, we are glad to say, are becoming in earnest in church and parsonage building. We suggest the propriety of always choosing the site for a church with a view to a parsonage being contiguous. Also remember there is nothing so pleasant as an abundance of room—for yards, gardens, etc.

REV. LEROY M. LEE, D. D., of Virginia conference, and once connected with the editorial department of the *Richmond Christian Advocate*, is compiling a book on the "Dispensation of the Spirit."

THE Indian (C. N.) Mission Conference (M. E. Church, South) has 103 local preachers, 617 white members, 4482 Indians, 108 colored members.

The Rev. B. T. Kavanaugh, D. D., of Houston, Texas, is at present in the city, on a visit to his brother, H. H. Kavanaugh—*Southern Methodist*, Louisville.

Mrs. Boring, the wife of the Rev. Dr. Jesse Boring, formerly of Texas, died of pneumonia at Augusta, Ga., recently.

THE upsetting sin is what a negro preacher called drunkenness.

HON. JEFF. DAVIS is the only survivor of President Pierce's cabinet.

God gives us ministers of love. Which we regard not, being near; Death takes them from us, then we feel That angels have been with us here. —James A. Birch.

COMANCHE DISTRICT.—SECOND REPORT. Comanche cir. at Comanche, February 22. Hamilton mission, at Hamilton, March 1. Plum Creek cir. at Williamson's school-house, March 3. Henson Creek cir. at New Olive, March 15. Lampass cir. at Lampass, March 22. Burnet cir. at Burnet, March 29. Llano mission, at Llano, April 5. San Saba cir. at San Saba, April 12. Mountain mission, at Center City, April 19. Brownwood cir. at Brownwood, April 26. C. H. ELLIS, P. R.

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Our Postal Cards.

MEDINA CIRCUIT, January 20.—People of Oak Island have put new cooking stove in parsonage; people of Boragos built new chimney to parsonage; people of Pleasanton sent preacher and family lot of varieties; people of Somerset ought to think, talk and act about building a new church; people generally fed preacher and family during Christmas days, on the "fat of the land." Large congregations, Sunday-schools, prayer-meetings and three missionary collections lifted. H. G. HORTON.

SEGUIN, January 25.—The weather is spring-like to-day; peach blossoms are appearing; bees are working vigorously and bringing in "bee-bread;" flowers somewhere. Mrs. Coit closed the first session of her school yesterday, and successfully. The free school was under her charge part of the session. The Episcopalian colleges are also doing well.—W. J. JOYCE.

NEAR HELL'S GATE, DEWITT Co., Jan. 24.—I left Cuero this morning in search of one of my stewards that has recently moved to the country, and found him within a half mile of the above named gate. I asked, what road is this you are living on. It is the Rancho road that leads by hell gate. Very well said I, as soon as dinner is over I leave this road. I have not knowingly and willingly traveled it in twenty years. The good lady of the house was exhorted not to accompany her husband any further in that direction, but she seemed not at all alarmed. Oh the creature's love; how strong it strikes the sense. The writer felt better when he saw a neat Bible lying on the stand, and our own ADVOCATE by its side, which Bro. P. wishes continued.—J. W. V.

KERR Co., January 23.—Spring weather for the past week; fall wheat looking fine; spring wheat very much injured by the cold; earth very dry; not had rain enough to wet it six inches since July; prospects gloomy for farmers; religious prospects encouraging; have had some gracious meetings; am laboring and praying for general revival.—JAS. H. TUCKER.

DENTON, January 24.—Everything pertaining to church interest in my charge is seemingly quiet; congregations increasing; have had some accessions by certificates; our town is improving steadily; I consider the general outlook in this section encouraging; think people who are hunting homes would do well to take notice of this country; law-abiding men will not only find a good country here, but have a hearty welcome by this excellent people. To all such, we say come. J. D. WHITEHEAD.

GATESVILLE, January 22.—I have been one round on my work. I find my people all in good spirits and preparing for "crops." I am at work for the ADVOCATE. Will get a good many more names. Money is very scarce in this country. The Plum Creek circuit has plenty of provisions, and to spare.—W. H. CARR.

CLIFTON CIRCUIT, January 25.—At first quarterly meeting for this circuit the preacher in charge reported more than twice his assessment collected for foreign missions, and for domestic missions. If any one can beat that let us hear from him. Some money collected for a new church. The whisky party in beat No. 4, McLellan county, took another trial at local option a short time ago, and got beat nearly two to one.—VIC.

WHITE ROCK, January 22.—Reached my work five days after Conference. Met a cordial reception. Found the parsonage to be almost a blank—not a stick of improvement outside the house. That "fine well of water" proved to be a hole in the ground with a few bricks, and a jack-rabbit at the bottom. No deed to the land; can't get one. An undesirable location for a parsonage, to be sure, with neither land nor water. Sold out for less than cost; going to build anew. While cutting wood the 11th inst., I made a mis-lick and cut off four of my toes. I have suffered much since, but have had the warmest sympathies of the people. Thanks to those young ladies who rode three miles to-day and brought me chicken, lightbread and cake; also to the kind sister who sent them. Such kindness is hard to forget.—J. H. WHITE.

HARRIS COUNTY, January 24.—I have some things to say of Clear Creek mission. The cold winter has killed 200 head of my improved cattle, and they are still dying. I am on a new work. No church-house, and but two members to commence with; no stewards, and

in the wilderness. But, thank God, the Good Book tells me that all things work for good to them who love God. To-morrow I will start for the first time and try the "Dry Bones," and trust in God, for he has been good to me and mine. So far, all in good health.—P. E. NICHOLSON.

CALDWELL, January 27.—Have just reached my new work; was weather-bound seven weeks. Yesterday evening we had the heaviest rain we have had for months, with considerable hail. Quite a tornado passed a few miles east of us; one house blown to pieces; several unroofed, and several persons severely injured; we had but little wind here. We notice considerable land broken up preparatory for planting. Farmers say they are going to plant early. A good deal of small grain is being sown.—J. L. LEMONS.

GRAPEVINE, January 23.—To the preachers first: Are you answering to the private calls of F. A. Mood for our University? I am glad to know that there is a Woman's Missionary Society in Dallas. May the work speed over our country, and may we answer to the (Macedonian) cry. Who will answer by saying: here am I, send me.—ELIAS ROBERTSON.

NAVASOTA, January 20.—Bro. Dunlap, of Milican, who had been a member of the Methodist Church in that neighborhood about forty years, died in this place last night, while absent from home on business. I first knew him thirty-six years ago. He was truly a good man, having the confidence of all; a faithful member and officer of the church. His age about seventy years.—J. M. WESSON.

ELYSIAN FIELDS, January 26.—After leaving conference I reached my new (old) circuit in due time, after a day's travel in snow, and ice sometimes thick enough to bear up horse and buggy—intensely cold; but was repaid for all by my very kind reception. After an experience of forty-three years in Texas, I pronounce this the coldest I have hope of success. Sister Emily Stroud, of DeBerry, transferred to the church triumphant, 17th instant, in her 48th year; had been a member of the church over twenty years; leaves a husband and many friends to mourn her loss. I am pressing the claims of the ADVOCATE.—J. C. WOOLAM.

ALTO, January 27.—I have been on my new field of labor several days. I am well pleased. I have visited a goodly number of the people and met several appointments and made many acquaintances; made the acquaintance of one family in which I saw triplets—sisters—all well and fine looking. Luck—the father subscribes for the ADVOCATE; I send you nine subscribers; how will that do for a commencement? We want the ADVOCATE to visit all our people, for it is a power for good.—T. T. BOOTH.

HUNTSVILLE, Jan. 28.—A Temperance Council was formed by me at Minneola, with twenty-seven members, on January 20. Prof. Boone, W. P. It was much needed there. Huntsville Council United Friends of Temperance was organized January 27th: 28 male and 8 female members. H. Brahan, W. P., and E. Wymer, W. S.; quite a success, in spite of the mud, which was fearful. Yours for the right. J. V.

ROUND MOUNTAIN, January 12.—Last Sabbath I dined with Bros. Ingram and Price, veterans of the Texas revolution and of Texas Methodism. Bro. I. came to Texas in 1821; joined our church in 1834; fought through the war of 1836. Bro. P. joined the church in 1839. Who can beat that in priority. Round Mountain very much in need of a good doctor.—C. R. SHAPARD.

ATHENS, January 27.—Arrived at my charge Dec. 24. Weather intensely cold; met a hospitable reception; entered the work Jan. 3; made one round, and tried to preach five times; find a very kind people, and very well pleased with general outlook. Henderson county to the present has been overlooked by seekers of good cheap land. It is out of debt, has some \$3000 in the treasury, and county scrip at par with silver. Good health, good lands, good water, plenty of timber, and thousands of corn and pork, to be had on reasonable terms. Railroad projected and building from Lawrence, on the Pacific, to the Sabine Pass, via Athens. Religion at a low ebb; hope to see a better day. Pray for us. ADVOCATE appreciated. Heaven bless you.—J. R. D. TAYLOR.

VICTORIA, January 24.—At last I am at home; had a pleasant trip on the City of Norfolk; found wife and little ones well. We have had

a severe winter; stock of all kinds have suffered, and many have died on the prairies; illegal cattle skinning has been the topic of the day. We are having fine weather now, almost spring; farmers are pushing the plow, preparing for early planting. Religion is at a low ebb here; our pastor, Bro. Woolls, puts in his appearance once a month; expects to do better after awhile. We are needing rain—money hard to get.—FREE GREEN.

FAIRFIELD, January 25.—I have at last been able to get into the house I had rented in Fairfield. The brethren seem to be glad that I have a home with them. Mrs. Davis, considering her feeble health, has endured her trials very well. I am one of the preachers that had to move; thank the Lord for Methodist economy; I put God and providence in it all. If God seems not to be in my appointment, I will soon get Him there. We often lack faith. Outlook good.—A. DAVIS.

BUFFALO GAP, January 20.—Weather pleasant to-day; some snow on the ground that fell two weeks past. Nearly round the second time; congregations small; doing what I can for the ADVOCATE and other interests of the church.—L. F. COLLINS.

CLIO, BROWN Co., January 24.—Our first quarterly conference embraced the first Sabbath in January. Owing to the inclemency of the weather our attendance was small. We had two edifying discourses from the presiding elder. He preaches as one burdened with the interests of his charge. Oh! for more of such a spirit. I think my work in a good condition; it has marks of life. The brethren pray and tell their experience in class-meetings.—L. S. CHAMBERLAIN.

LIVE OAK, January 27.—This is an important point in my charge, situated on the beautiful Salado. Clever people; large congregations. Yesterday we occupied our new church building, soon to be finished. Those who have borne most of the burden in this noble cause deserve honor. God will bless this people. Our church membership here is composed of a great number of intelligent young persons.—H. M. GLASS.

GEORGETOWN, January 27.—Our quarterly meeting closed yesterday at Manor; presiding elder gave us a fine sermon upon the aggressive feature in Christianity; we trust good will result; have passed nearly through Austin circuit, and am well pleased with the prospects for the year. There is, indeed, much hard work to do, but if we can carry out the resolutions we have formed, much may be done. The country is very dry; stock perishing for water, and the farmers hauling for home use, yet the plow is seen everywhere on the move, and wheat is beginning to look green in spite of drought.—W. G. NELMS.

WEATHERFORD, January 27.—I have made but one round on my work on account of illness. My physician says I will be able for pastoral work by the first Sunday in February. Bro. Hines is improving very fast.—L. H. TRIMBLE.

LAREDO, WEBB COUNTY, January 23.—The small-pox is still raging here, but has abated a little since my last postal card. At 4 o'clock A. M. to-day J. H. Davidson, the celebrated gambler, familiarly called Johnnie Davidson, died in this place after an illness of fifteen days. His disease was small-pox. Notwithstanding he was only 26 years of age, he had won and lost his thousands, and only a few days before he was taken sick he lost \$1750; he was buried by the charity of his many friends, leaving nothing but a fine gold watch, some other jewelry, and sorrow to his poor widowed mother, of Austin, Texas.—J. NORWOOD.

MEDINA CIRCUIT, January 24.—Rev. J. A. Graham, transfer from the Arkansas to the West Texas Conference, is now living and his sons farming within bounds of my work. His postoffice is Somerset, Atascosa county. He came too late to receive an appointment. We are endeavoring to form for him a circuit out of unoccupied territory, of which there seems to be plenty. He has been an itinerant for twenty years. Warm weather, and too dry for planting.—H. G. HORTON.

ELBEKE, BURLESON COUNTY, Jan. 24.—Notice: The readers of the ADVOCATE, at Deansville, who have not paid for their paper, will please meet me at Chiesman chapel the second Sunday in February, pay for their paper, and renew their subscription.—T. A. GARRISON.

SAN MARCOS, TEX., Jan. 28, 79.—There have been fine rains here,

which were very much needed; but I learned from Bro. T. S. Garrett, this morning, that a terrible storm had passed over the eastern half of the town of Lockhart, wrecking nearly one-half of the town, totally demolishing the Presbyterian church, and greatly damaging the Methodist church. I start for Beeville this morning to begin my second round of quarterly meetings.—Jno. B. DENTON.

SAN MARCOS, TEX., Jan. 28, 79.—Prof. J. H. Bishop, former principal of Coronal Institute, has located at Belton, in charge of a mixed and school of high grade. He is a Christian gentleman of superior teaching qualifications, and deserves success. Coronal Institute, of this place, is doing well under the administration of Prof. R. O. Rounsavall. Our dry weather was abruptly ended on the 26th ult. by a very heavy fall of rain, mixed with hail. Spring appears to be upon us.—J. S. GILLET.

ROCKWALL, TEX., Jan. 25, 1879.—Quite a change in weather since my last. Winter has given way to spring, giving a new impulse to business. Farmers stirring—plowing, making and repairing fences, preparing gardens, etc. Religious zeal still below par. Prices for farm products unchanged, and money pressure continues. Rockwall preacher on his work and doing well. My place on Farmersville circuit supplied by W. A. Edwards.—A. H. BREWER.

ROCKDALE, TEX., Jan. 28, 1879.—T. C. Walker, who killed Blackstone Crunk at a dancing party near Gause last September, and for which crime he was recently brought back to this State from Louisiana on a requisition from Gov. Hubbard, had his preliminary trial here to-day before Judge Ford. The evidence for the defense corroborated the evidence for the State, supporting the charge of murder in the first degree, and therefore not a bailable case. Walker was remanded to jail. The dignity of the State will be vindicated; but Crunk is dead. Dances, knives, pistols and bad blood.—BAIRD.

MARSHALL, TEX., Jan. 28, 1879.—Dr. John left us to-day; gave us two big sermons. He is not so small in the pulpit. He will send you quite a list of subscribers. The first quarterly conference for this station is over. Preacher's salary, \$800; presiding elder, \$150. These amounts will be paid. The board agreed to organize the church into two missionary societies—one to collect foreign missionary money; the other domestic. The official board seems more in earnest about the work than ever. Bro. Boone is hard at work. God bless the ADVOCATE.—R. W. THOMPSON.

CALDWELL, TEX., Jan. 28, 1879.—I would advise Bro. "T." not to make a fuss about the parsonage yard being full of hogs, etc.; but just go to work, as I did, and fix up the fence, though wife says she expects to be fleeing all summer. If we don't get our church fixed, I am afraid our congregation will be fleeing. Bro. Watson says "it is a difficult matter to feel devotional with three fleas in each sock." If this postal is too full of fleas, please drop it in the stove instead of the waste basket.—J. L. LEMONS.

BRECKINRIDGE, TEXAS.—Fathers are doing their best. Wheat is evincing vitality. Fencing promises to be such as to afford security to coming crops. The railroad is coming; buildings are in process of erection. Col. T. P. Wheeler is busy with his clients—yet he is building us as fine a Sabbath-school as is in Northwest Texas. N. S. Greenwood is doing a first-class mercantile business. Money is, or seems to be, more abundant.—W. M. GOODE.

NORMAND HILL, BOSQUE Co., TEX., Jan. 25, 1879.—Sister Cox, living on Hog creek, found a nest containing 135 eggs, which her hens laid during the cold spell of weather. I saw a man on the 23d ult. one-half of whose face was black. This I write to match Bro. Clower's crossed man. The sun has hatched the earth out of its frozen sleet, and grangers are turning her 'tother side up with plows. The school and church cabin at Hollis' Prairie is burned up—accidental. I want Dr. Kavanaugh to write some more for the ADVOCATE.—HOYLE.

LAREDO, WEBB Co., TEXAS, Jan. 30, 1879.—The prospects are beginning to brighten as we bend our energies toward establishing a permanent high school here for our Mexican Border Mission District. My wife is now teaching a few of the children of friends, but we will open the school proper (male and female) on the first Monday in March. Have engaged an excellent Spanish teacher of long experience in Monterey. I intend to give the readers of the ADVOCATE a series of postal cards exposing a few

of the acts of the Roman clergy on the Rio Grande, which I am prepared to prove at any time.—JOSEPH NORWOOD.

IOLA, January 22.—The rats have emigrated from the cities and the rail routes to the country! A neighbor, burning the grass off his cornfield preparatory to winter plowing, is reported to estimate number burned to death at 1,000 on 15 or 20 acres. They killed about twenty while trying to escape from the fire. Corn, potatoes, young chickens and goslings are their favorite food. Cats keep fat on them and yet we don't miss them. Crops of corn are great nests for them, and they burrow under houses and chimneys and are an awful pest. Give us a "rat killer" equal to the emergency.—ELDORADO.

[We suggest that a good way to kill rats is that practiced by Artemus Ward for the destruction of dogs: Cut their tails off just behind their ears. Be careful, however, or they'll (the rats) bite you. *Pro tem.*]

SIMS, January 28.—Passed through much cold weather. Spring seems to have come; farmers are plowing; wheat is beginning to look well; warm, cloudy weather; some rain; health is good; all are getting ready for another year's labor; people seem to love to go to church. We have a fine Sunday-school; interest is increasing; future outlook is hopeful.—W. D. ROBINSON.

KOSSE, January 27.—You can skate only on a hard "c." Skat yourself, Ocaul! Little girls' supper for benefit of the new church will take place next Thursday night.—W. L. ANDREWS.

IOLA, GRIMES Co., January 27.—Our 1st quarterly meeting for Zion church 25th and 26th ultimo. Bro. Littlepage, our deservedly popular P. E., was with us in the spirit of the Master; the outlook is encouraging; we expect to have a camp-meeting in connection with the District meeting, and expect God to meet with us and bless the assembled host. So mote it be. Heavy rain Sunday night; health good; corn 50c., pork 3 and 4c., molasses plenty, 50c. per gal.—ELDORADO.

ARLINGTON, January 27.—Local option a year ago was that whisky should not be sold in this place. Local option now is that it shall, but before another 12 months it will be that it shall not. The first fire of our little city occurred last Wednesday night, destroying three business houses. Wheat backward, but prospect good. Twelve months ago there were two copies of the ADVOCATE taken on this circuit. Now there are thirty-two. If you will fight for the right in the future as in the past it will soon be sixty-four.—ANNIS.

SPLINTERVILLE, January 29.—All right on Splinterville circuit. Hog and hominy in abundance; coffee stout; wife (next to the best woman in Texas) all aglow with joy. No nice things yet; look for some soon. I have been well received; in fact, very popular. Some think I ought to be P. E. Others think I ought to be Bishop. I don't know how I could stand the "humiliation." Congregations large and appreciative. Nothing but a first-class station would induce me to leave this circuit. More anon.—JIM JINKINS, P. E. Splinterville Circuit.

WHITESBORO, January 27.—Are there no more "Christmas trees" to hear from? and are the "receptions" all announced? Ain't it tempting some of us too much, and would you be surprised if some of us were to be guilty of "coveting" our "neighbor's house"? Well, if it is time to "resolute," I resolute that we all be permitted to go to see those good people who make the preacher so happy that he loves his wife more. I ain't very old, but I never saw such a reception. Wish I could next year. I'll write more when I get me a house. I blistered my feet yesterday walking so fast.—"ZEK."

TYLER, January 28.—With the exception of a few country members, I have visited and formed the acquaintance of the entire membership of Tyler station. I found every door open, every hand warm. We are hopeful, and expect a successful year. My worthy and beloved predecessor has cleared the ground, planted the seed; we hope to harvest an abundant fruitage. Many families are not taking the ADVOCATE, but promise to do better. Organized two missionary societies last Sabbath; will bring up full assessments.—U. B. PHILLIPS.

ROCKDALE, January 29.—Rev. W. F. Cheekley, assistant minister of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Toronto, died of starvation a short time since. His large and afflicted family had for two years been entirely destitute of any article of

food except bread; and during those two years the sacred privacy of Mr. Cheekley's household was not invaded by the vigilant "reporter." The suffering and starving of preachers fail to interest the average news scavenger. But if some venomous tongue had raised a false report on Mr. Cheekley, "independent journalism" would have made the American people acquainted with him in a great deal less time than two years. Newspapers never treat of subjects upon which their editors bestow no thought.—BAIRD.

MINNEOLA CIRCUIT, January 30.—Just returned from Glade Water and Big Sandy, happily disappointed in both; had evil reports from them, but they are improving; at Glade Water they have a Union house and a church bell, but, oh! how sadly is vital godliness neglected. To my brethren of East Texas Conference would say, we need much help; need devout prayers, faith, sympathy and encouragement. Hope our "postal brethren" will remember us, and in writing give us something devoutly wholesome. Glad to see you and the paper improving, especially on the "ads." This is a business little place; country produce sells quite low; pork at 1 and 2 cents for instance; we live, but where-withal shall we be clothed. Forget us not.—W. R. MANNING.

BRENHAM, TEXAS, Jan. 29.—Of the spiritual work in the church in this charge, I have, as yet, no special thing to write. Stormy weather and rainy Sabbaths have been the order of the day. But, sir, I took my pencil in hand to tell you of this joyous 29th: After enjoying the most exuberant hospitality of sundry Brenham homes for about five weeks, during which time the parsonage has been undergoing thorough repairs, we were to-day ensconced in our new home; and then it would have done your itinerant heart good to have seen the array of dining-room and kitchen supplies, which came in by drays, buggies, on horseback and on foot. These kindnesses will be long remembered. May God bless the givers.—F. T. MITCHELL.

RUSK COUNTY, January 29.—After a long trip in the cold and mud I reached my new field; found kind friends and a hearty reception, which makes a preacher and his wife feel good. We are in good hopes of a prosperous year. Bellevue circuit has a tolerable good parsonage. Weather warm; times hard; money scarce; farmers low-spirited; some interest in fruit raising in this part of the State; some of the farmers are talking about planting corn.—A. D. PARKS.

LINN FLAT, January 28.—ADVOCATE, "our postal cards" ask for all the news weekly, but guessing from the small type and close print, we think once a month will do. We have got no subscribers for the good old ADVOCATE yet, but intend to, or trouble somebody mightily. There is considerable excitement in this part of our county (Nacogdoches) over the killing of Mr. Dorsey Campbell by Wm. Weatherly, on the 26th instant. After taking a great deal of abuse, he was shot down on the highway. Campbell was a good citizen and a member of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church; the other is said to be a bad man.—J. T. SMITH.

KOSSE, February 3.—The little girls' supper for the benefit of the Methodist Church netted \$66.40. Misses Ida Dillon and Ella Woods deserve much credit for the manner in which the supper was gotten up. The committee appointed to meet a like committee from the Cumberland Presbyterian Church to build a union church, has been dissolved, and we are going to build a Methodist church straight. W. L. ANDREWS.

MARSHALL, February 1.—When itinerant Methodist preachers are not willing to go where the Bishop thinks they ought to go, then they should be run over or put out of the way. When one preacher will not, it follows another must. We are all on the same platform. The Bishop has the authority, and let him exercise it. If men growl, let them growl. First quarterly meeting at Henderson is over; work moves off well; Bro. Turner is deep in the affections of all the people; he is, with consecration, a coming man. May God give us many such.—R. W. THOMPSON.

PALESTINE CIRCUIT, ANDERSON Co., January 30.—Religious items are scarce. Weather still unsettled, but very warm. I have not done anything yet for the ADVOCATE, only to talk. I expect through the providence of God to do my best for the dear ADVOCATE. The people up this way have learned to spell, read, talk, plead and preach hard times. But I verily believe

that hard times will come along sure enough, by and by.—JAMES F. HENDERSON.

ELYSIAN FIELDS, JANUARY 29.—We are moving on quietly. We find the membership with life and energy enough we think to secure success. A few days since one of our veteran Methodists of Elysian circuit, Doctor W. R. Downs, accidentally fell off his gallery and broke his leg above the ankle; is now suffering severely, though patient withal.—J. C. WOOLAM.

TEXANA, JANUARY 29.—The weather is now warm, and the grass looks green. Some have commenced to plant corn for early use. Gardening is going on in good earnest. There is some sickness in the county, but none in Texana. The church is in very good condition. We are now at work trying to raise money with which to build a parsonage at Texana. I think we will succeed. A new jail is being put up in Texana.—M. A. BLACK.

DOUGLASSVILLE, CASS CO., TEXAS, Jan. 29, 1879.—Last Sunday evening a sad affair in our little village. Some boys met, as their custom was, on the street to while away time; two of them got into a scuffle, when one of them whose name was Hewitt drew his knife and tried to cut the other, whose name was Hunt. Hunt ran a short distance and picked up a stick, striking Hewitt on the head, which caused his death in about ten hours. Began in fun, but ended in death. So much for street Sunday-schools.—J. CLARK SMITH.

WEATHERFORD TEXAS, JAN. 29, 1879.—We have been very near death's door with the typhoid pneumonia, but through the providence of God we are now convalescent. We have many thanks to give for the kindness received from dear brothers and sisters during our illness, and especially J. Debusk and family, under whose kind roof we fell, for there was no labor too great that they did not undertake for my recovery; and through the exposure and fatigue, Debusk was the subject of a spell of pneumonia, but is now on rising ground.—S. B. ELLIS.

FRONTIER MISSION, TEXAS, JAN. 31, 1879.—My first postal (please give it a conspicuous corner). Great temerity in writing (having nothing to write and must condense that). Religious: None of us have enough religion; some have none. Secular, weather moderate; farmers at work and so is the devil. Inferences to be drawn. Yours to condense intensively.—PETER PITTLER.

P. S.—I had to trim this card to get it in the envelope. Yours condensed to a puff.—PETER PITTLER.

HENDERSON, FEBRUARY 3.—A bout three weeks ago, there was a disturbance in the farm yard of Mr. J. M. Cousins, five miles south of this, at night. On going out, he found a dog attacking his calves and hogs; attempting to drive him away, he was attacked and bitten in the face and on the hand. The dog was afterwards found to be rabid. Mr. Cousins had the wounds cauterized, and then went to try the virtues of a mad-stone in Collin county, where he remained seven days. He returned home about ten days ago. On yesterday, week, he began to show signs of hydrophobia. He grew gradually worse. I saw him on Friday morning last. It was most distressing to behold his suffering. He died that evening. He was really a pure Christian man. He lost his wife a year ago. He leaves three orphan children. Thus a good man, a working Christian, has been destroyed. I hear of other cases in this and adjoining counties. How does this harmonize with the repeal of the dog-tax? Had we not better have a law to destroy a few thousand dogs? More anon. Yours truly.—S. W. TURNER.

TEXAS, JANUARY 28.—A young preacher says: Is not Bro. T. mistaken in saying the earth's daily velocity in its orbit is 18,000 miles? Is it not 68,000 miles? So says my book. "All quiet along the Colorado."—C. R. SHAPARD.

CALDWELL, FEBRUARY 3.—On last Saturday evening, the 1st instant, Mr. Isaiah Hudson, living near this place, who has been affected with a painful chronic disease, which rendered life almost a burthen, committed suicide by shooting himself. He stepped out of the room where he had been in conversation, picked up a gun, and on reaching the yard, placed the muzzle very near his face and literally blew his head to atoms; pieces of his skull and brains were scattered several yards around.—J. L. LEMONS.

POSTAL CARDS.—Will the brethren head their postals in the following order: Postoffice county, date. Many now leave out the county. Very few people are so familiar with the State as to properly locate the intelligence unless county is given.

LETTER FROM THE COUNTRY. NUMBER TWO. Education by the State.

With solicitude do I begin to write about this subject. Were I not deeply impressed with the importance attaching to it just now, I would be silent. But it is a vital question; it involves momentous issues; it is a matter of universal interest.

Being a citizen of Texas, holding a common hope, and moving to a common destiny with every other citizen, I may speak freely to my peers in the commonwealth; and being a freeman, prizing the rights and liberties received from the fathers, I may speak confidently to those who are heirs with me of the same priceless legacy; and being a practical school-room worker, whose duty and delight have been, for more than a generation, to watch and weigh the school systems adopted both on the Continent and in America, I may speak earnestly to those who are solemnly intrusted with the work of providing for all the people of our State the best possible educational facilities.

"Is education a function of the State?" "Should a State establish and maintain schools by the taxation of property and by the use of public moneys?" are not now questions open to debate. They have been discussed and decided. Free public schools established and supported as State institutions are part of our political economy; they make a wide and strong plank in the platform of every political party; they are settled and endorsed principles in Federal and State policy. That the general government will give aid to public schools and that each State government will maintain a system of public schools, may be taken as postulates, and treated as accomplished facts. We need not enquire, "Is it just or unjust? is it wise or unwise?" The matter is decided, and it behooves all men to admit it. Especially all patriots, philanthropists, and christians should admit it, and lay tribute upon all skill and knowledge and experience for devising a system adapted to the ends contemplated and effective in working out the results desired.

School systems should be framed by school-men—educators. Men who understand Mental Philosophy as well as Political Economy—men who have studied the Psychological and the moral aspects of the question—men who know, equally, what is needed by teachers and pupils in the school-room, and by parents and guardians and society out of the school-room, should draft the school law and administer the school system.

A railroad corporation may have within its membership large wealth, much social culture and varied attainments in science and literature and financial knowledge, but at last the road must be built and built by a civil engineer. It is possible, nay, it is probable, that neither the president nor the superintendent of any railroad in the Union can locate a roadbed, nor construct a bridge, nor build a locomotive. Nor is an inability to do such things any reflection upon the understanding of these gentlemen. For these are things that can be done well only by those who have learned to do them.

In the same manner it is not the slightest disparagement, in any sense, to the eminent jurists, the distinguished physicians, the princely merchants, the accomplished farmers, and the learned statesmen who compose our legislature, to say that practical educators ought to be consulted as to the form and details of a school law, and ought to have somewhat to do in developing and conserving the educational interests of the State. No work is so peculiar, so delicate, so difficult as the work of education. No men can wisely provide for that work who do not know the "theory and practice of teaching."

The Legislature is now in session in Austin. The State Teacher's Association met this week in the same city. It may promote the general good to have these two honorable bodies brought within each other's influence. If a mutual and genial sympathy was engendered and cherished; if each assembly felt warmly and seriously its high obligation as the custodian of sacred interests; if there was between the two bodies a free and hearty conference as to school matters; so that teachers and lawmakers saw school questions from the same point and in the same light, we may reasonably expect that the cause of education will be benefited.

A full list of those who have advocated public instruction—education by the State—would embrace the names of many of earth's greatest men. Let a partial list suffice: Plutarch, Epictetus, Aristotle, Cicero, Dinter, Milton, Adam Smith, Lord Brougham, Sir Thos. More, Macaulay, Washington, Jefferson, Madison, Webster, Barn-

ard, Mann, Page, Philbrick, and others—in doing honor to whom one does honor to himself.

But very many just as good and just as great men oppose State education. They do it on the ground, mainly at least, that there is not and can not be any religion in a school sustained at public expense. This is in part a fact, and in part an assumption. There is little or no religion in our public schools. Those who manipulate these schools seem to be afraid of giving offence, in some quarter, if they introduce any religion. But there should be a decided and positive religious element in each public school.

Religion is not sectarianism. Denominational tenets, as they distinguish one sect from another, ought not to be taught. Each church has, or can have, schools of its own for that work. But the Bible ought to be read and studied, and the cardinal truths and principles of the Christian religion ought to be carefully taught in precept and conscientiously exemplified in life.

This opposition to religious education—to the Bible in public schools—comes from Romanism alone. When Luther gave Europe a free Bible, when he bought it from monastic cells, and unfolded its bright pages so that all could freely see and rejoice in its light, the war began. Loyola stepped forward, instituted the Order of Jesuits and subsidized all the power and resources of the See of Rome to destroy the blessed influence of the unbound Word of God. The strife over this Book, this one book, is going on now, and the battle waxes hot. Protestants must not succumb. If the Bible is given up, utter desolation will follow. The government rests on the Bible. The schools must teach the Bible, and the God of the Bible will save the government and the schools.

Every consideration that appeals to self-interest—every argument furnished by reason—every motive springing from conscience, and every feeling that fills and fires the parental heart, demands that we claim a system of education by the State which will recognize the Divinity of the Bible, and subordinate all worldly wisdom to its sublime revelations of God and His will.

E. D. PITTS, CHAPEL HILL, TEXAS, JAN. 31, 1879.

DRINK AND CRIME.

The daily papers of the State are continually publishing painful and shocking accounts of crime, the great majority of them inspired, confessedly, by strong drink. Here, at the capital, where law and order should prevail, there have been during the past five months seven murders, while drunken brawls, endangering the lives of men, have been of frequent occurrence. Outside of counties where local option is enforced, crime is undoubtedly on the increase, and if unchecked, will in a short time undermine and destroy the prosperity and happiness of the State. The great cause, so prolific of criminal lust and violence, is the liquor traffic, and it should be prohibited.

Judge Clarke, of the Eighth Judicial District of this State, says: "That out of five cases convicted of murder, four were traced directly to strong drink." Frederick Hill, a high authority in all matters of penal science, says: "I am within the truth when I state, as the result of extensive and minute inquiry, that in four cases out of five, when an offense has been committed, intoxicating drink has been one of the causes." The Board of Police of New York, in their report for 1874, say: "We are fully satisfied that intoxication is the one great leading cause which renders the existence of our police courts necessary." A committee appointed by the Dominion House of Commons, at Ottawa, Canada, reported: "Your committee find, on examination, that out of 28,289 commitments to the jails of the provinces of Ontario and Quebec, 21,236 were committed either for drunkenness or for crimes perpetrated under the influence of drink." In the report of the U. S. Commissioners of Education for 1871, it is stated: "Of 14,315 inmates of Massachusetts prisons, 12,396 were intemperate." W. J. Mullen, Prison Agent for Philadelphia, says: "Of 44,169 arrests by the police, the records of the courts and aldermen show that of these arrests three-fourths were cases of disorder, arising solely from the use of intoxicating liquors." Pennsylvania receives \$300,000 annually for liquor licenses, and spends over \$2,000,000 for paupers and criminals, created by the traffic. How is it with Texas? Mrs. Elizabeth Comstock, the great Quaker philanthropist, during the last eighteen years visited 115,000 prisoners, and of these she finds 105,000 were brought to prison through liquor. Dr. Chas. Fowler says: "Of 23,000 arrests in Chicago in one year, more than 20,000 were occasioned by liquor." John Adams, (in his works, vol. 2 p. 84.)

speaking of the drink traffic and licensed saloons, says: "The consequences of these abuses are obvious. Young people are tempted to waste their time and money, and to acquire habits of intemperance and idleness that we often see reduce many to beggary and vice, and lead some of them at last to prison and the gallows. But the worst effect of all, and which ought to make every man who has the least sense of his privileges, tremble, these houses (saloons) are become, in many places, the nurseries of our legislators. An artful man, who has neither sense nor sentiment, may, by gaining a little sway among the rabble of a town, multiply taverns and dram-shops, and thereby secure the votes of taverner, retailer, and all who may be induced by flip and rum, to vote for any man whatever." Again, Mr. Adams says: "Sermons, moral discourses, philanthropic dissertations are all lost upon this subject. Nothing but making the commodity scarce and dear will have any effect." The above facts and figures, which are those of statistics, are a few of the visible results of the traffic. Where it is the most active, there the jails are the most crowded, and human life and property are least secure. The State has no enemy so powerful and injurious as this traffic. It more than trebles the cost of the criminal machinery of the State, while it reduces to poverty multitudes of families, and pitilessly invades and blots out the light of many homes in anguish and despair. There is a legitimate and sure remedy for this great evil: it is prohibition.

HARD BRICK.

FUTURE OF THE ROMAN CHURCH.—At the imposing ceremonies of laying the corner-stone of the Roman Catholic Cathedral in Providence, R. I., on Thanksgiving Day, Father Fidelis, formerly James Rust Stone, of Hoboken, N. J., was the preacher. I was quite surprised at the frank utterance of his opinion of the future of the Catholic Church in this country. I doubt not the correctness of it, but it must have been unwelcome to the bishop and priests present; who, if they view the matter with the intelligence of the preacher, as doubtless many do not, are careful not to proclaim it to their respective flocks, as he did to the multitude assembled. I quote his words: "I do not think that the glowing expectations concerning the future of the Catholic Church in this country which have been entertained by some will be speedily realized. In the twenty-five years which are to come, her growth may continue healthy, strong and vigorous, but I do not believe as rapid as heretofore. That great movement of the Irish people to this country has already come nearly to an end; the tide of immigration has ceased, has almost dried up. It is a mistake to expect any very great addition to the Church by the immediate conversion of those outside her fold. From five to seven per cent, who are every year confirmed by our bishops throughout the country are converts to the Catholic faith; but it is not any such increase as will enlarge to any great extent the Catholic Church of this country.

"And this increase is more than counter-balanced by the loss which she suffers. The number of her children who fall away from year to year is greater by far than those who are brought into the church from the outside. The influences which surround us are dangerous and subtle; the young people whom we see coming to manhood and womanhood about us are brought in contact with forces the most dangerous and most diabolical, and many are falling under the influence of this attack of the infernal enemy."

Why did not Father Fidelis name these obstacles to the increase of the Catholic faith? He knew it was *intelligence*, not ignorance, the Catholic Church has to contend with in this country; but it would be a damaging and dangerous confession to make before the multitude. Besides it would not do to utter it in the polite ears of intelligent, invited Protestant guests present, that those surrounding influences, however subtle or dangerous to the Catholic faith, were "diabolical," or "infernal."

It is with the ignorant the Catholic faith finds most converts and adherents; and those who seek the light will understand its past history, and with an open Bible, will question any and every claim of their belief it sets up. The subtle power of truth has, however, nothing "diabolical" or "infernal" in it. The Light has come and error and darkness must flee.—S. W. S. in Boston Watchman.

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.

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NOTICE. IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT I SHALL APPLY to the Legislature now in session to pass a bill providing for 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 15th and 16th of September, 1875. ROSA M. D. PEETE, 19-21 Adm'r of Est. of Geo. W. Peete, dec'd.

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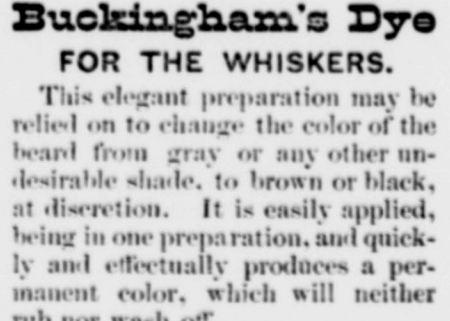
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Texas Christian Advocate

THE INFIDEL PRESS.

From the St. Louis Republican.

A RELIC OF THE DARK AGES.
Vanderbilt University, at Nashville, Tennessee, owes its origin and maintenance to the eccentric generosity of the venerable gentleman whose name it bears; and who, if he thought anything about it, intended that his liberal donation should be the means of giving to others better education than he himself received. The old Commodore was destitute of what is commonly called learning; but he was not narrow-minded in matters of opinion; and had he supposed his money would go to the support of sectarian stupidity and bigotry, he would undoubtedly have kept it for his affectionate children to fight over.

Dr. Winchell, lately a member of the faculty of Vanderbilt University, is an eminent geologist as well as general scientific scholar, of unimpeachable character not only as a man, but as a Christian. In common with other geologists and scientific scholars, he entertains certain well-established views concerning the antiquity and primacy of man. As he had freely published these views before he accepted the professorial chair, he of course did not hesitate to announce them afterwards to the students committed to his charge. But this announcement was made the cause of immediate action on the part of the other members of the board of management, and Dr. Winchell was promptly dismissed from a place he honored more than it honored him. And when, a little while ago, that pious and intelligent body known as the Tennessee Conference met at Clarksville, the proceeding was endorsed as follows:

"The university has afforded us intense gratification by its recent action. This is the age in which scientific atheism, having divested itself of the habiliments that most adorn and dignify humanity, walks abroad in shameless denudation. The arrogant and impertinent claims of this science, falsely so-called, have been so boisterous and persistent that the unthinking masses have been sadly deluded. But our university alone has had the courage to lay its young but vigorous hand upon the mane of untaught speculation and say: 'We will have no more of this. Science we want, but no crude, undigested theories for the sons of our patrons. Science we must have, science we intend to have; but we want only science clearly demonstrated; and we have great cause to rejoice in this step; for it deals a blow the force of which scientific atheism will find it extremely difficult to break.'"

OUR COMMENTS.

The above rantings of the St. Louis Republican, by which it seeks to strike a blow at VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY and the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, as well, might pass unnoticed in these columns but for the fact that that paper is patronized and read by many Texas Methodists.

The very issue which contains this spawn of malice, which would, if it could, raze the very foundation of one of the grandest Universities in the South, and strike down one of the largest and most influential Christian churches in the land, will find its way into hundreds of Methodist families and the business houses and offices of members of the Methodist church, from the Supreme bench down through all the grades of business life. To say that it is an insult, wantonly perpetrated, to offend and damage a great Christian communion, and all the patrons and lovers of higher Christian education, is not to stigmatize it beyond its merits.

The animus of this wanton foray needs no interpreter. The Republican is in a rage. What is the matter? Have the ribs of nature broken in, and let "blue spirits and gray" into his sanctum? Is some one sinking a magazine under the office of the Republican? No. What then is to pay? Why, gentle reader, would you believe it? The trustees of the Vanderbilt University, some months since, had the audacity to discharge a professor that did not suit them, and the Tennessee Annual Conference, at its late session, passed a resolution approving the action of the trustees in the premises. What if they did? What has the Republican to do with it? Is it any part of its business? What has he to do with the legitimate business of the University, or the act of approval by the conference? It is a species of impudence on the part of a secular editor which merits rebuke from all good people.

The thrust which he makes at the Vanderbilt faculty is not only in bad taste, but it is both little

and mean. He does not hesitate to charge the University with sectarian stupidity and bigotry. That is modest—is it not? This flippant editor enshrines himself complacently in a robe of assumed dignity, and pronounces sentence of stupidity and bigotry on a university whose fame fills the land. What wisdom! What learning! "A little learning is a dangerous thing," may find an exemplification in these swelling pretensions of the Republican. We would not call in question the scholarship of the Republican, but it is true, as a general rule, that true scholars are not apt to make such swelling pretensions to learning as to sit in judgment on a famed university and pronounce it stupid, etc.

We will not, however, lose sight of the fact that, underneath this bubbling, spouting mud geyser, there lies concealed an impelling force which has incidentally cropped out in the above onslaught on the University and church, which, when fully comprehended, furnishes a key by which to unlock what otherwise seemed mystery. Dr. Winchell, the defunct professor in the University, was found to be a disciple of, and a devotee to a species of scientific atheism, which the Republican calls the best results of geological and archeological research. Here is the bug under the chip. There is an old book upon whose principles, doctrines and teachings the University, and the church as well, were founded; and for that book the trustees and the faculty of Vanderbilt had a special veneration. They did not like to see its historic records impeached by the fancies and theories of a professor, under the name of science. It is a well known fact—and in no place is it better known than in Vanderbilt University—that there can be no antagonism between true science and the Bible. If science is true and the Bible is true, they must be in harmony. That there is a class of scientists, so-called, who, in the interests of Atheism and Deism, are moving earth and hell to unhinge, cast down and annihilate the Christian religion, who can doubt? This they seek to do by throwing odium on the Bible; and science, so-called, is laid under contribution to accomplish the nefarious end.

No science is perfect: it has been the business of one age to modify and improve the science of the past age; a future age will but improve the learned follies of this. Science is scarcely out of its swaddling clothes. Is it entitled to more credence than the Bible? Must this old book—hoary with the age of centuries; written by the finger of inspiration; born amid the thunders of Sinai and completed under the gorgeous splendors of the Apocalypse; whose footprints are seen in the crumbled dust of earth's wrecked and ruined greatness; whose teachings are God-like; whose promises are the hope of the world—fly the stage, before the gorgeous dictum and sacrilegious pretensions of an ungodly and pseudo-philosophy? No indeed! Away with a thousand such scientific tinkers, and give us the Bible in all our universities, colleges and common schools, and let Darwin, Huxley, Tyndal, and their satellites erect their own institutions of learning, based upon their atheistic science of dirt; hang out their true colors and test their systems before an enlightened world—compete for patronage and take the chances.

By universal consent, the Republican shall be the organ of the new institution of advanced ideas; and no one shall complain at the absence of the old Book, obsolete with age, whose teachings are two hundred years behind the times! Neither will society be offended in case a Christian professor should be ejected from it.

The establishment of such an institution will afford the Republican a fair chance to make available his accumulating stock of scientific learning and brilliant rhetoric, in the advocacy of an endowment fund, which some eccentric old man (he so styles Commodore Vanderbilt) of advanced ideas may be induced to give largely.

In that case, the Republican would accomplish what the world has never seen before—an infidel giving largely to endow an infidel institution. It is amusing to see how this arrogant censor warms himself up into a fume of indignant passion, until he fancies that the head of Vanderbilt University is already broken in the estimation of all sensible people. Heat is created by friction, while too much friction generates an overplus of heat, which must find some outlet or method of escape, or the effects will be damaging, if not fatal. The ejection of a professor—a gentleman, and a Christian of advanced ideas—from the university for no other reason than that they did not want the young men of the university inducted into his advanced ideas of quasi Atheism, the dreams of science, was hard on the Republican; but when the Tennessee Annual Conference, and months afterwards, endorsed the act of the trustees by a telling resolution, it was too much for the Republican and the sympathizers of advanced ideas; and hence the howl: want of brains, two hundred years behind the times, a relic of the dark ages, etc. The friction in the machinery of that Republican must have been very great to have produced so much malicious heat and so dark a column of menacing smoke. Will the Vanderbilt University be able to hold up its broken head, or the Methodist Church survive this earthquake shock from the batteries of this newspaper of advanced ideas?

"No intelligent parent would any more think of sending his son to Vanderbilt University for an education than of dressing him in the costume of two hundred years ago."

We are slow to believe that the editor of a respectable secular journal could be the author of so revolting a spawn of ignorance and malice as stands at the head of this article, or that it got into the Republican by his approval. It may be that some young man without business—there are always more or less of this class about large cities—with hair parted in the middle, sporting a fancy cane, with cigar elevated to an angle of forty-five degrees, was editor pro tem; and, to do a smart thing and thereby impress mankind that he could do things, decided to strike a fatal blow on the University and the great Methodist church, and leave them in a careening attitude; so that on the return of the editor, a single push of his editorial finger would send them headlong into the gulf of oblivion.

If in this conjecture we are correct, the editor will relieve himself and journal of the offensive odium, by so stating to his readers. Otherwise, it is but an act of self-respect, that every Methodist in these States—they swarm by the million—should drop the Republican from their fingers, wash their hands, and fumigate them from the odor of uncleanness.

SATURDAY NIGHT.

Pollock's angel in his flight toward heaven traversed the gloomy domains of Satan, and in the sights he there beheld and the sounds he heard, learned many a truth respecting the inflexible authority of the law of God and the folly of its persistent violation. It is not wise to place ourselves in frequent contact with scenes of sins, lest becoming too familiar with its frightful mien we learn "first to endure, then pity, and then embrace." Yet, possibly, it is well that the veil be sometimes lifted that men and women may know what pitfalls are dug along the paths their husbands, sons or brothers are compelled to tread.

It may not entirely unfit us for our devotions on the Sabbath to enter one of the principal saloons of Galveston on Saturday night. The gas lights flash along the side walks and from the signs and the surroundings, we are not likely to mistake the place for the rooms of the Young Men's Christian Association. The furniture is elegant; the bar supplied with liquors suited to every taste. A number of tables, with chairs at command, occupy the floor, and are surrounded by men

engaged at "Pedro"—a game of cards—or dominoes, or billiards. The stakes are usually cigars and the drinks. If the passion for play can be sated only in games in which greenbacks of any denomination can be lost or won, a faro table or a private poker room can be found by proper search.

One fact is worthy of note: On Saturday night, the men who through these tables are chiefly men clad in the coarse garb of the mechanic or the laborer. The merchant, the lawyer, the doctor, the gentlemanly gambler, have their private resorts to-night where no impertinent eye will measure the depth of their play. Here, tonight, are men with their weekly wages in their pockets. The wife is anxiously waiting for a portion of that money that she may replenish her exhausted supply of groceries. Their stakes are small. It is only drinks for those sharing the game; but as the night wears on, their wages leak out of their pockets into the till behind the bar, and when they reach their homes, their brains are reeling under the strong potations; and when they wake with aching heads in the morning, it is to read a bitter reproach in the sad faces or tearful eyes of wife and children. We pity the weakness of these unhappy men, who drown in drink or waste in the excitement of play, the money that belongs, by the most sacred bonds, to those dependent upon them. We have no particle of sympathy for that business that is steadily luring them to perdition. Is there no safeguard for the families of these victims of an unhalloved passion? Have they no rights which the legislators can guard?

SUNDAY AFTERNOON.

If the place (let us step into the same place Sunday afternoon) did not look like the rooms of the Y. M. C. A. last night, it does not look like a meeting-house or a prayer-meeting this afternoon. The tables and chairs and bars are unchanged, but a different company are lounging before the bar, or rattling dominoes, or deep in the game of "Pedro." There are husbands here who are willing their wives should think the press of business compels them to spend at least a part of their Sunday in their counting rooms. There are fathers here whose hearts will one day ache as their sons rush recklessly past them down that fatal grade to ruin. Often there are groups of boys—of men in their own estimation—of from fifteen to twenty years of age. Some may be sons of parents whose seats are seldom vacant in the house of worship. Some are employes who would be discharged at once if their habits should be known.

It is but just to say that sometimes certain proprietors of these saloons take the tables from these young men, and warn them honestly respecting the folly and danger of their course. Their rooms and tables are open to men of mature age, who know what they are doing when they drink deep at the bar or bet recklessly at faro; but there are times when they are unwilling to have a hand in leading the sons of their friends and neighbors to inevitable ruin. While we respect the act, we accept it as a stern and terrible verdict brought in by men who know full well probabilities and perils lie along the gambler's path, respecting the moral turpitude of the business in which they are engaged.

It is in vain, however, that they clear the table. We pity the moth that flutters about the flame, and with hand or breath may seek to banish it from danger, but it flutters back to perish in the blaze. Now and then the proprietors may be startled at the work they are doing, and may warn young men of the peril which surround the path they are traveling, but it only irritates the youth when it comes from men who make gambling the business of their lives. So long as these saloons are open, young men will feel the power of their fascination, and when now and then the qualms of conscience or the fear of public sentiment causes them temporary exclusion from

these haunts, they will hunt up others where the proprietors have no conscience left and no pity for the infatuated victim who flutters into the blaze.

There is another class who deserve unqualified denunciation: Men of high social position often frequent that room, and their presence there gives countenance to its scenes. The proprietor may warn the youth of the consequences of the habit he is forming in the billiard saloon and at card table, but these warnings are neutralized by the presence and example of men with grey hairs on their heads and sons and daughters in the family circle, who habitually patronize these haunts of sin. Society is not secure from these perils until the strong hand of the law abates the evils, and the voice of public sentiment strongly demands its enforcement.

SOMETHING NEW AND STRANGE.

We have received a tract of eight pages, which pretends to revelations unequalled since the days of Munzer and the Anabaptists of the sixteenth century—unless they find a rival in Joe Smith and the Mormons. The following is the title page: "The following visions given by the Holy Spirit, at Corsicana; and in the presence of T. M. Goodnight, of Corsicana, Texas; and R. J. Sims, of Hailesville, Texas; and R. J. Haynes, of Ennis, Texas; and R. B. Graves, of Corsicana, Texas. They are believed to be a picture of the world's history in the near future."

It occurs to us that no sober, intelligent man can read this tract and come to any other conclusion than that its author is a crazy man.

We are filled with melancholy to see the names of several clergymen of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church associated with, and partners to the ravings of this crazy prophet. That intelligent clergymen of any evangelical church should appoint a special prayer-meeting, to pray for the restoration of the nine gifts in I Cor., xii: 7, 8, 9, 10, is enough to startle sober minds. Three of these gifts are: 1. Working of miracles; 2. prophecy; 3. divers kinds of tongues. That these miraculous gifts found a period at the end of the apostolic age has been the belief of the great and good down the ages until now. True, there have been pretenders to miraculous gifts in every age. Romanism has taxed her ingenuity to keep the heresy alive, and modern spiritualism has come to the rescue with its lying, ghostly wonders.

These pretenders to miraculous gifts and the arts of prophecy have done much harm in the world. They have led the simple into the mazes of their own speculations; weakened the faith of good people; and brought our holy religion into contempt in the eyes of skeptics. The world has had enough of it, while the church of God has groaned beneath the burden.

Now, that an effort should be made in this year of grace, 1879, in the State of Texas, and in the comely little city of Corsicana, to revive this defunct heresy is truly amazing. And by whom? Look at the head of this article and read the names! Really, we should have thought the tract a stupendous hoax—gotten up and sent out by an enemy, but for a note accompanying it over the signature of one who professed to be an eye witness to the scenes narrated.

Is this the fruits of tramp evangelism? Is it holiness gone to seed? Is there any climatic peculiarity of the country, of the water, soil, or population, to invite or attract such a tide of fanaticism as to unsettle the faith of good, but simple people? Is this the prolific soil in which holiness roots itself so deeply and grows so luxuriantly as to measure up to such heights as to nullify and obliterate forever the natural instincts and propensities of human nature, and dissolve the marital relation, and thereby divorce husband and wife; which rises above church relations and ordinances and thrusts its holy fist into the trumpet's mouth, hushing into silence the now useless message of redemption in the

gospel? All this we have heard from this wonderful outgrowth of holiness. (!)

A religion which ignores the relations of life, or the duties growing out of them, as defined by Christ; or the church and sacraments, or the gospel as "the wisdom of God and the power of God," is not the religion of the Bible. It is the devil, in the stolen costume of an angel. Let this crazy man and his confederates, and these rampant bands of holiness who are too holy for the church and its appointed ordinances and appliances, find their level under the ban of an enlightened Christian intelligence. The attempt of this modern prophet to imitate the hieroglyphics of holy prophecy—the beasts of Daniel and of the Apocalypse—is as puerile as his interpretations are stupid.

One is reminded of the school boy's first attempt to draw the picture of a horse: having exhausted his imitative skill, and not feeling right certain that others would know what it was, he wrote under it: "This is the picture of a horse." We are right sure that no one would have known the import of his prophecies if he had not given the interpretation. As it is, we don't know much about it—neither does he.

We feel sad over this abortive attempt at prophecy, as it was perpetrated in the name of our holy religion. We pity the aberrated prophet and almost censure his confederates.

The present clamor, everywhere heard throughout Christendom, for a union of Christian churches, is being extensively used to strengthen modern liberalism. The world has ever made capital out of the wicked sectarianism of the various churches, as evinced by the fierce war they are accustomed to wage upon each other about trifles. The church or portions of it, half admitting the charge, are seeking to hush their assailants by breaking down denominational distinctions, and have one strong, popular, influential organization. But to do this, concessions must be made, the truth diluted to suit every taste; a broad, liberal creed must be adopted that will embrace all and offend none, that will agree partly with everybody, though perhaps entirely with nobody. Thus the church is becoming so horrified over her own folly, in contending about little things, that she is gliding into a liberality on the other hand which will not contend for anything.—Pacific Methodist.

ONCE and a while somebody's political temper becomes disturbed by what he finds in the Recorder. Then he writes. He always says the same thing. He doesn't want the paper to meddle with politics! So then, Exactly. He believes in a religion that doesn't meddle with politics. Well, we do not believe in any such religion. Christianity meddles with every mischief under the sun, and under the earth. The gospel is light, and it penetrates into all dark places. The Recorder is not a party paper—is not set in the defense of either Republican or Democratic principles, as political criteria; but it proposes to apply the rule of righteousness to the ordinary vocations of man. We do not believe in any religion that is not able to shine full-faced and sweetly as a summer morning into business, into art, into literature, into science, into politics, into everything. We make no promises to narrow this outlook in such way as to be blind to any of the devil's maneuvers wherever he shows his pranks, and there is no place where he needs watching more vigilantly than in the realm of politics.—Methodist Recorder.

A leper, with the disease fully developed, was shown to the medical fraternity of Chicago recently. The phenomena of the disease are as follows: The general color of his skin is a yellowish bronze. All over his body are whitish patches, which are totally insensitive to touch and to the deep prick of the lancet, there being an entire loss of sensation in the legs up to the knees, in the larger part of his hands, and in nearly all of the trunk. His eyelashes and eyebrows are gone, his sight is impaired, his toe and finger nails are changed, and his lower limbs covered with large crusted ulcers, covered with black scabs. The patches were preceded by the formation of large blisters on the surface. He walks with a painful limp, but when dressed, no one would imagine he was a victim of this terrible malady, or of any other, except for the color of his skin and the loss of his eyelashes and eyebrows.

Texas Christian Advocate

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THE ADVOCATE never inserts advertisements known to be of an immoral or scandalous character. It refuses every year an amount of this character of patronage that would actually increase its revenue; in fact, throws out advertisements suspected of being of this nature almost every issue. Nevertheless it can not undertake to relieve readers from the need of exercising common prudence on their own behalf. They must judge for themselves whether the goods advertised can, in the nature of things, be furnished for the prices asked. They will find it a good rule to be careful about extraordinary bargains. In all doubtful cases never pay for goods except upon delivery.

LADIES who want paying employment at home should introduce their names, Buckeye Cookery, in their own towns. It pays liberally. Write at once for particulars. SHAW & BLAYLOCK, Galveston.

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.

SUBSCRIBERS desiring a change in the direction of the ADVOCATE will always state the name of the postoffice to which the paper is sent, as well as the one to which it is desired the change may be made.

WE are almost daily in receipt of requests for renewals, including back numbers of the ADVOCATE. We are anxious to comply with the requests, yet because of the rapid increase in our circulation, and our efforts to do so to meet the demand, we are frequently left without a copy of an issue. We are, therefore, frequently unable to meet the request for back numbers.

Every subscriber unwilling to lose a number, or who is anxious to keep a complete file of the ADVOCATE, can, by looking at the date of expiration of his subscription, printed on the direction slip, easily renew in time to prevent any delay in the receipt of the paper.

That superb book, BUCKEYE COOKERY AND PRACTICAL HOUSEKEEPING, ought to be in every house. No practical, sensible woman, who loves her home and takes pride in her table and her house-keeping—and it is fashionable now to be a good housekeeper—can examine the book and not want it. It is written in simple terms; was written by women after carefully experimenting, step by step, and is packed full of information useful to a housekeeper. Every cooking recipe has been tried and found good, and the miscellaneous recipes are worth the price of the entire book to any housekeeper. Agents are wanted in every town in Texas. Ladies who need employment, can make money by introducing the book among friends. For further particulars, address SHAW & BLAYLOCK, Galveston, Texas.

FOR particulars regarding Electric Belts, address PULVERMACHER GALVANIC CO., Cincinnati, Ohio. 29-2606w

Down to \$2.—That excellent Southern weekly agricultural and family paper, Our Home Journal published at New Orleans, which has obtained all similar enterprises in the South, has been reduced to \$2 a year, post paid. Started after the close of the war, it has steadily improved every year. It has not only appeared regularly and promptly every week, but has absorbed two other similar papers. While it is almost alone in the field of the entire South, the paper improves in value every year, and its publisher and editors make it the most valuable paper for the Southern planter and farmer and their families. Every issue is brim full of valuable information for the practical agriculturist. Besides the choice family reading, valuable recipes for home and farm, it contains condensed items upon manufacturing science, literature, etc., etc., the news of the week, news from all the Southern States, the New Orleans market reports, and much other interesting reading matter. It is one of the best arranged and neatest printed papers in the South. Price, only \$2 per annum. Address Jas. H. Hummel, publisher, New Orleans.

Consumption Cured. An old physician, retired from practice, having had placed in his hands by an East India missionary the formula of a simple vegetable remedy for the speedy and permanent cure for consumption, bronchitis, catarrh, asthma, and all throat and lung affections; also a positive and radical cure for nervous debility and all nervous complaints, after having tested its wonderful curative powers in thousands of cases, has felt it his duty to make it known to his suffering fellow. Actuated by this motive, and a desire to relieve human suffering, I will send, free of charge, to all who desire it, this receipt, with full directions for preparing and using, in German French or English. Sent by mail, addressing with stamp, naming this paper, W. Sherar, 149 Powers' Block, Rochester, New York. 44-cow-26

A GOOD ACCOUNT. "To sum it up, six long years of bed-ridden sickness and suffering, costing \$200 per year, total, \$1,200—all of which was stopped by three bottles of Hop Bitters, taken by my wife, who has done her own housework for a year since without the loss of a day, and I want everybody to know it for their benefit." JOHN WEAVER, Butler, N. Y.

Every community can furnish evidences of the beneficial effects of AYER'S CHERRY PECTORAL in the person of some recovered victim of Consumption.

Calendar—February, 1879.

Table with columns for Day of Week, Day of Month, Sun Rises, Sun Sets, Moon Sets. Rows for days of the month.

February 25—Fifth Sunday after Epiphany. February 9—Septuagesima Sunday. February 16—Sexagesima Sunday. February 23—Quinquagesima—Shrove Sunday.

MOON'S PHASES. Table with columns for Day, H. Min., M. Full moon, Last quarter, New moon.

HISTORICAL EVENTS—FEBRUARY. February 1, 1758—John Wesley's return from Georgia. February 4, 1878—Dr. Job M. Baker died. February 5, 1849—Rutgersville College chartered. February 6, 1875—Southwestern University chartered. February 7, 1738—Wesley meets Bohler. February 15, 1872—Nashville Publishing House burned. February 17, 1759—Whitefield's first field preaching. February 22, 1781—Richard Watson born. February 23, 1791—Wesley's last sermon. February 24, 1863—Grace Murray buried. February 25, 1839—Dr. Wilbur Fiske buried. February 26, 1791—Wesley's last burial.

UNANSWERED LETTERS.

January 31.—John S Mathis, subscribers, \$5, and order for 9 specimen copies; will always send specimen copies free. M B King, change of address. J C Baird, 2 postals. U B Phillips, postal. R W Thompson, postal. B H Scott, will post you. J K Lane, subscribers. J P Mugh, postal. J P Mussett, subscribers. Mrs M A Ireland, thanks. W W Henderson, subscriber. W Vaughan, subscriber. Hoyl, postal. W T Garrett, subscribers. I N Reeves, will attend to all. W M Goodie, postal. J G Walker, subscriber; we are not over-run with postals; send 'em along; they contain useful matter; and if we get too much crowded we can issue a supplement. The postals are fulfilling just the mission we intended them for. A Davis, subscriber. J L Lemons, postal; that made us tick. D Morgan, subscribers. Benj G Blackwell, subscribers. "Ike" Ashburn. W M Robbins, subscriber. J W Chalk, subscriber; a postal full of splinters. E D Pitts, minutes will soon be out; will forward you a separate table of T. C. statistics as soon as same comes from the stereotype foundry at Austin. Annis, postal; the ADVOCATE will continue the fight, never fear. M A Black, communication. Mrs S C Follin, \$2; suggestion adopted, and Cook Book offered for four subscribers. J S Lane, subscribers. J P Mussett, all O. K.; take your own time; appointments: will try and get it right. O T Hotchkiss, communication. R M Moore, let us have more duals when ready. W G Baker, will look after it. G S Handel, subscribers. B A Thomason, all account. J R Wages, paper changed. O P Thomas, obituary. A P Belmont, change of address. Samuel Morris, subscriber. A D Cooper, change of address. D J Martin, marriage notice. W R Manning, postal. M B Carr, \$2.50 for renewal. Samuel Morris, subscriber.

February 1.—L W Harrison, subscriber. M A Laverty, will see to it. L G Walkin, subscriber. J G Walker, postal. A M Hill, address changed. F T Mitchell, subscribers; show us the list of subscribers; we will look out for them at conference. If "does a fellow's heart good" to read that cheerful-brim full of good things postal. B Harris, subscriber; good as the last; change of address. A J White, subscribers; you are doing anyway. J H Sutherland, subscribers; J W Canafax, subscribers. J W Canafax, subscribers. J G Walker, postal. W H White, subscribers. Marlon Mills, send money, \$2, for E. by way of W. J. W. Hill, enclosing a letter from Kellyville to 149 Powers' Block, Rochester, N. Y., for my "dear sister," and contains matter entirely irrelevant to our business; the only interesting thing in the whole to us is an enclosure of \$2.50; perhaps the letter intended for us has gone somewhere else. J W Ledbetter, postal. W T Melugin, subscribers. W F Cummings, subscriber.

February 3.—M A Black, \$2.50 and subscribers. J H Henderson, postal. Hattie Henderson, postal. Little Weekly, postal. B H Scott, subscriber. M W Sherar, two postals with subscribers. T E Sherwood, will certainly send. G Woolton, postal and subscribers. E S Williams, subscriber. J T Richardson, will attend to matter. John W Hall, \$5 for subscribers and West Texas Conference picture. D Horse, change of address. M A Black, postal. R M K. R. communication; no name accompanying it, was dropped gently into the "box" without perusal. A C Meyer, communication. W W Spence, communication. J Clark Smith, subscriber; all right about remitting; suit yourself. E Koen, obituary. A D Parks, subscribers. M Pugh, subscriber. A Bush, subscribers; from all right; all right. J L Murray, postal. W G Veal, change of address. R P Payne, postal; will exchange. R R Royall, change of address. S B Ellis, postal. J W Billington, subscribers; specimen copies. J Clark Smith, postal. F G Stephenson, obituary and subscriber. J C Weaver, subscriber. J H Shaw, postal. J T Smith, no; we want the postals weekly; we hold that this is an instance where you can't give us too much of a good thing.

February 4.—T G Woods, subscribers. O T Hotchkiss, subscribers. Jos Norwood, all to be as hard you please. G W Swoford, subscribers. J D Shaw, subscriber; glad to know that work is progressing on new church. W Turner, three postals and a subscriber. W R Alexander, will see to it. W J King, tell Bro H. the fault is with us, and will be remedied. M A Black, postal. R W Thompson, postal. A Little, subscribers. M F Minton, will charge renewal to Bro. McA. W L Anderson, postal; that resolution to "build straight" is business. R S Sharp, postal. W M Spence, the ADVOCATE is placed on each member's desk every week. John S McCarver, obituary and subscribers. J G Johnson, will be right; marriage notice also. J J Davis, subscribers.

February 5.—Julia P Trautt, our printers wish you were; not often do they get such manuscript. M A Black, obituary. B Harris, communication. J P Baird, \$2.50 and subscribers. M M Moore, subscribers. E S Williams, communication. W M Robbins, subscriber. Sallie B Kendall, postal. J W Decker, subscriber. Ernest Anglin, postal. R T Nabors, postal. H H Sullivan, subscriber. W L Andrews, marriage notice. J L Lemons, postal. M A Black, postal. E C Finley, all right as you send them, promise you guarantee. W R Manning, subscriber. Buckeye book sent. E B Thompson, subscribers. J C Black, postal. R V Gallaway, subscriber. F C Stephenson, subscribers. Fount Jones, postal. J C Black, postal. J Thomson, postal. T A Smith, \$1.25 subscription. I G J Allwell.

SUNDAY-SCHOOL PUBLICATIONS.

NASHVILLE, TENN., Jan. 31, 1879. You will find enclosed an article from Bishop McTear's pen, called forth by the exigencies of the time. Our circulation is extending rapidly, but we read more carefully to the doctrinal and RELIGIOUS training of the children of the Church. We can, with the aid of our children are properly trained in this generation, the church of the future is safe.

Dr. Cunningham will pardon us for extracting the above from a private letter. It affords an opportunity to say some pointed things to those Sunday-schools in Texas that do not patronize our own literature. There are a number. We have in view, however, one in particular. It is reputed a most prosperous Sunday-school, and is, perhaps, in numbers. Its superintendent may be characterized as a runner after scenic effects. Methodist doctrines are ignored and Methodist literature abandoned. We recently heard a leading member of a school, in open church conference, solicit subscribers to a Sunday-school paper not published by our church. These brethren illustrate a trite saying: "O save me from my friends." In retrospect, the history of such a school, we will discover some very significant facts: The scholars do not attend the church services; they know nothing of our doctrines; they take no interest in the missionary cause; they are disposed to consider the school and church rival institutions; and, hence, when they think themselves too old for Sunday-school scholars, they seldom become members of the church. In the exceptional cases, theirs is generally a quasi professional, devoid of spirituality and zeal. They seem to consider the church a sort of heavenly railroad car, (palace sleeper at that), in which they take a lower berth, expecting to wake up in glory without any effort of their own. They look upon the pastor, apparently, as the porter of this magnificent coach. He must keep awake, and exercise a lively supervision over their vestments, keeping (not to speak irreverently) their spiritual boots-a-shining and their flickering lamps in oil. Sunday-schools thus conducted are an evil; better have none at all. Let us, brethren, cease to ignore substance and cease to grasp at shadow. Wake up—be alive! Feel an interest in the Methodist Sunday-school as only a part of the Methodist church—a preparatory department; hence have everything connected with it Methodist. Look not to the spiritual welfare of children, and to their Methodist indoctrination, is simply a farce. We close by again quoting the wise and prophetic words of Dr. Cunningham: "We must look more carefully to the doctrinal and religious training of the children of the church. If our children are properly trained in this generation, the church of the future is safe."

Pen and Scissors.

The New York Methodist is the most genuinely fraternal of all the Northern Methodist papers that reach our table.

FRANCE has no bankrupt law; no release for a debtor, but to pay his debts; and France has the fewest commercial failures of any civilized country.

It will be seen from our columns and postal cards that a goodly number of pastoral charges in Texas have recently built new parsonages, or improved the old ones. Let the good work go on, until every pastoral charge and presiding elder's district has a house for both preacher and altar.

ALAS FOR US!—It appears from recent investigations that bread, that indispensable staff of life is poisoned by the baking powders most popularly used; the manufacturers having incontinently substituted burnt alum for cream of tartar. So we go; our poor food-consuming mortals; our bread, and butter; our sugar and coffee; our molasses and milk all poisoned by the unprincipled chemists. We have one resource—baked bread eggs.

The cumulative experience of advancing years shows that prohibitory laws are the only effective means of diminishing the evils of intoxication. Directly and indirectly, Texas pays more for intoxicating liquors—including, of course, stupefying lager than for all the churches, all the schools, all the court houses, and civil officers of the State. The evils of intemperance are appalling, but they may be arrested. Maine has for fifteen years put a stop to the traffic and enjoys the enviable reputation of a sober State. The following contrast between two counties in Illinois, we find in an exchange. Let those counties in Texas that have adopted local option, adhere to the principle, and in due time it will bear its legitimate fruits. But to the comparison: "Edwards county, which has not licensed a liquor saloon for twenty-five years, is situated in the southern part of the State, where whiskey used to be plenty and schools few and poor. Its exceptional character is due to its settlement thirty years ago by a body of men of Temperance. And now the Clerk of the Circuit Court testifies that the jail during these twenty-five years has not averaged one occupant a year, and the county has sent but one person to the penitentiary, and that man got drunk at a licensed saloon in an adjoining county and killed his wife; that the county has an annual average of only three or four persons to support; that its taxes are thirty-two per cent. less than in adjoining or license-granting counties; and that quarrels are so few that the Circuit Court completes its year's work usually in a week. Chicago, on the other hand, which licenses nearly 1,000 saloons, pays \$670,000 this year for policing the city."

THERE is all but universal complaint throughout the State of the delay in the execution of the laws, and especially in the punishment of criminals. To one not "learned in the law," it would appear as though when a crime has been committed and the proof seems positively to fasten that crime upon a particular person, punishment ought to follow conviction. But it does not. The Judge decided that some evidence should, or should not be admitted; or in transcribing the records of the case a clerical blunder is committed, and an appeal is taken; and the case reversed and remanded for a new trial. At the next trial, important witnesses are out of the way and the culprit escapes punishment. To an outsider it looks as though the law was made especially to shield criminals. The fact that so many escape punishment leads to mob violence. The people are discouraged from attempting to make arrests. The arrest will put the country to expense, with only a very remote prospect of bringing offenders to justice. Almost every important case is appealed to the highest tribunal; and the result is, that the Appellate and Supreme Courts of the State are overcrowded with undecided cases; and the number is constantly increasing. In case of criminals, this levies a heavy tax upon the counties, and gives the prisoners opportunities to escape. In civil cases, litigants are kept in suspense, and their business arrangements deranged; by the delay in reaching a decision. To avoid this delay, Governor Hubbard, in his message to the Legislature, recommends that all civil business be transferred from the Appellate to the Supreme Court, and that the number of Judges in the latter be increased to five, seven or nine. The Appellate Court could readily decide all criminal cases appealed, and with this increase in the number of Justices of the Supreme Court that body would be able to keep its docket clear.

AN INDUCEMENT TO LADIES.

Many of the ladies who have read the advertisement in our columns of the "BUCKEYE COOKERY BOOK," have felt a desire to possess so valuable a household guide. So as to place this admirable book within reach of many who have wished for, but could not purchase it, we now offer it as a SPECIAL PREMIUM TO LADIES. To any lady sending us four subscribers, and the money therefor, (\$10), we will mail a copy, prepaid. SHAW & BLAYLOCK.

COMPOUND OXYGEN.

is especially valuable in Southern latitudes, where, from climatic causes, the tendency to acute or chronic forms of disease is towards debility and loss of vital force, which always retards convalescence, and renders a return to health uncertain and impossible. After medicine has done its work of breaking the disease, and the physician leaves, as he must, to nature the business of repair and restoration, he too often finds that nature acts so feebly, and builds again so slowly, that the period of convalescence is frequently prolonged through many weary months, while in many cases the old vitality is never restored, and the patient sinks into a state of permanent invalidism. To meet this condition of low vitality, the "Compound Oxygen," which acts directly on the great nervous centers, rendering them more efficient, vigorous and active, and capable of generating more and more of the vital force, which are life and health, offers an agent of help and restoration, which acts promptly and surely. Our Treatise on "Compound Oxygen," its nature, action and results, gives the amplest information in regard to this new treatment for chronic diseases, which is being rapidly introduced in all parts of the country. This Treatise is sent free. Address DR. STARKEY & PALEN 1112 Girard Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

T. O. THOMPSON, The Old Established and Reliable JEWELER.

Cor. Tremont and Market Sts., Galveston, Texas. Watches and Jewelry carefully repaired at low rates.

es. All Work Warranted. Articles for repair can be sent by mail, registered, with safety. Prompt return guaranteed.

BLESSING & BRO., The Old Established and Reliable Photographers of Texas.

Are still at their old stand, 174 Tremont Street, Galveston, where they will be pleased to see their friends and patrons. All kinds of pictures executed in the finest style of the art and at reasonable prices. PHOTO-CHROMO MATERIAL and CONVEX GLASS for sale. Send for price list. 34-17.

E. E. RICE & CO., GALVESTON, TEXAS. SEEDSMEN.

have on hand a large stock of fresh Garden and Flower Seeds. Orders from the country promptly filled at lowest rates.

Laudreth's Seeds—1878 Growth. Seeds to the amount of four pounds can be sent by mail at 1 cent per pound.

J. B. BARTON, Agent for Kee's Celebrated Shirts, 174 Tremont Street, Galveston—174

Finest Quality Dress Shirts for \$9; second quality Dress Shirts for \$8; best Jean Drawers. Good heavy Knit Under-shirts, 35 cents. Best Cotton Flannel Underwear, per suit, \$1.25 to \$1.75. Best Red Flannel Underwear, per suit, \$5.75. Quality guaranteed. Send for price list and directions for self-measurement. No stamp required.

Commercial. TEXAS CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE OFFICE, Galveston, Texas, Feb. 3, 1879.

COTTON. At New York, the market opened firm and closed steady. Sales to-day 191 bales. Quotations for all grades are as follows: Ordinary, 7 1/2c; Good Ordinary, 8 1/2c; Low Middling, 9 1/2c; Middling, 9 3/4c; Good Middling, 10 1/4c.

At New Orleans, market is firm and active. Quotations are as follows: Good Ordinary, 8 1/2c; Low Middling, 8 3/4c; Middling, 9 1/4c. Sales, 1,000 bales.

At Liverpool, the market for spots opened firm and closed steady. Middling Uplands, 6 1/2c; Middling, 6 1/4c.

The market here opened firm and closed firm. Sales 1502 bales. Quotations nominal for all grades: Low Ordinary, 7 1/2c; Ordinary, 7 3/4c; Good Ordinary, 8 1/4c; Low Middling, 8 3/4c; Middling, 9 1/4c; Good Middling, 9 3/4c.

Market unchanged; prices quiet for all grades. Eastern, Fine and Medium, 18 @ 22c; Western, Fine to Medium, 17 @ 21c; Improved Mexican, 12 @ 15c; Mexican, 9 @ 11c; Burry, 3c @ 4c lower.

Exchange—Gold and Silver.

Sterling 60 days, 47 1/2; Selling 47 1/2. New Orleans Sight, par 1/4 prem. Gold, 100; Silver, 92 1/2.

MACHINERY MARKET. (Reported by John W. Wicks, Galveston.)

SKINNER PORTABLE STEAM ENGINES. 8 Horse Power, \$650; 10 " " " 775; 15 " " " 900.

ECONOMIZER STEAM ENGINES. 8 Horse Power, \$625; 10 " " " 700.

GULLETT IMPROVED (light draft) GIN. Gullet Improved (light draft), \$1.00 per bag; Self-Feeder, \$1.25.

BROOK'S LATEST IMPROVED COTTON PRESS. Complete set of Irons, \$165; with Cotton Box, 200.

SIMMONS' BELT GEARED STEAM COTTON PRESS. 8 foot, \$290; 9 foot, \$320; 10 foot, \$350.

MISCELLANEOUS.

New Buckley Mower, \$100.00; New Buckley Reaper with Table Rake, 175.00; Gullet Revolving Steam Belt-Geared, Double-Box, Steam Cotton Press, 275.00; All-Steel Complete Cotton Cleaner, 150.00; Faughit Deering Central Support Gin and Running Gear, 180.00.

LIVE STOCK MARKET.

Compiled by Johnson Foster, Live Stock Commission Merchant. MONDAY, February 3, 1879.

RECEIPTS—Beaves and cows, 700; Calves and yearlings, 91; sheep, 195; Hogs, 148. SALES—Beaves and cows, 717; Calves and Yearlings, 100; Sheep, 102; Hogs, 158. ON HAND—Beaves and cows, 207; Calves and yearlings, 20; Sheep, 620; Hogs, 148. TOTAL RECEIPTS SINCE JANUARY 1—Beaves and cows, 1265; Calves and yearlings, 157; Sheep, 788; Hogs, 944.

PRESENT QUOTATIONS.

Beaves and cows, good to choice, 2 1/2c to 2 3/4c; Beaves and cows, common and ordinary, 2 1/4c to 2 1/2c; Two-year olds, common 2 1/2c to 3 1/2c; Two-year olds, choice 3 1/2c to 4 1/2c; Yearlings, common 2 1/2c to 3 1/2c; Calves, choice 2 1/2c to 3 1/2c; Hogs, choice 2 1/2c to 3 1/2c; Sheep, choice 2 1/2c to 3 1/2c; Sheep, common 2 1/2c to 3 1/2c; Sheep, fair 2 1/2c to 3 1/2c; Sheep, poor 2 1/2c to 3 1/2c; Corn-fed beaves and cows, fair to ordinary 2 1/2c to 3 1/2c; Corn-fed beaves and cows, rough 2 1/2c to 3 1/2c; Hogs, 2 1/2c to 3 1/2c.

REMARKS.

Corn-fed cattle—Market glutted and dull, with no prospect of any improvement for the present. Grass Cattle—in no demand on account of the prices at which corn-fed cattle are selling. One hundred head included in receipts and sales were designed for and have been forwarded to Havana.

THE GENERAL MARKET.

We quote jobbing prices for country customers, and liable to ordinary fluctuation.

Bacon, Short clear, 5 1/2c to 6c; Clear ribs, 5 1/2c to 6c; Shoulders, 4 1/2c to 5c; Breakfast bacon, prime, 7 1/2c to 8c; Lard, 11 1/2c to 12c; Light weight, per yard, 11c to 12c; Ties, per bundle, \$2.50 to \$3.00; Balling twine, 12c to 15c.

From store per 100 lbs., \$1.10 to \$1.20; By the car load, 1.20 to \$1.25; Hens, 22c to 24c; Turkey, 25c to 28c; Common, 9c to 12c; Corn Meal, 1.00 to 1.25; City, 2.00 to 4.25; Flour, 1 1/2c to 1 3/4c; Fat, 1 1/2c to 1 3/4c; Good, 1 1/2c to 1 3/4c; Choice, 1 1/2c to 1 3/4c; Country, 1 1/2c to 1 3/4c; Assorted stock, 1 1/2c to 1 3/4c; Fancy, 1 1/2c to 1 3/4c; Rock, 1 1/2c to 1 3/4c; Dry Goods, Standard prints, 5c to 6c; Brown domestic, 4c to 6c; New York domestic, 5c to 6c; Bleached domestic, 5c to 6c; Bleached domestic, 5c to 6c; Lowells, 7 1/2c to 9c; Brown ducks, 10c to 16c; Brown drills, 10c to 16c; 3-4 Island, 4c to 8c; Tickling, 7c to 11c; Hickory, 7c to 11c; Chevots, 7c to 11c; Kentucky Jeans, 8 1/2c to 10c; Flannels, red, 12c to 14c; Flannels, white, 12c to 14c; Crackers, 5c to 7c; Cream and ginger, 7 1/2c to 8 1/2c; Citrus Goods, Strawberries, 2c per doz., \$1.75 to \$1.90; Pine apple, 2c per doz., 1.60 to 1.75; Damsons, per doz., 1.50 to 1.60; Apples, full weight, 1.50 to 1.60; Oysters, 1 lb. full weight, 8c to 10c; Oysters, 2 lb. light w.t., 1.00 to 1.25; Potatoes, 60c to 80c; Tomatoes, 2c per doz., 90c to 1.10; Eggs, Country, patent boxes, per doz., 22c to 23c; Island, 25c to 30c; Fruit, Fresh, Lemons, per box, 6.00 to 7.50; Apples, per box, 3.00 to 3.40; Raisins, per bushel, \$2.25 to 2.50; Prunes, per pound, 8c to 9c; Currants, Zante, per pound, 7 1/2c to 8 1/2c; Tea, Mackerel, barrels, No. 2, \$10.00 to \$12.00; Half-barrels, No. 1, 5.00 to 5.50; Half-barrels, No. 2, 4.00 to 4.50; Pickles, 5.00 to 6.00; Kites, No. 1, 1.25 to 1.50; Herring, Dutch, per keg, 1.25 to 1.50; Codfish, per pound, 5c to 6c; XX, 4.50 to 5.00; XXX, 4.75 to 5.00; Family, 5.50 to 6.00; Best grades, 6.00 to 6.25; Hams, Cured sugar cured per lb., 8 1/2c to 9c; 23 quality, 7 1/2c to 8c; Bacon, Western, per ton, 18.50 to 19.00; Western prime, 17.50 to 18.00; Light salted, 14 1/2c to 15c; Stack salted, 11c to 12c; Damaged kips and glue stock, 5c to 6c; Wet salted, 8c to 8 1/2c; Hardware, Sixty per dozen, Collins' Kentucky light, \$10.00 to \$12.00; Red Warrior, 9.00 to 10.00; King, (from basis, 3c @ 4c).

Common bar, per pound, 3c to 4c; Second quality, 15c to 20c; Sheet, common No. 26, 4 1/2c to 5c; Galvanized sheet iron No. 26, 10c to 12c; Sheet, zinc, 15c to 20c; Nails (basis 10d.), 2c per keg; \$2.75 to \$3.00; Holloware, 4c to 5c; Axes, 2c to 3c; Horse shoes, 4 1/2c to 5c; Fence wire, 2c to 3c; Belting 40 per cent. discount from list; Pelted tinware, 20 per cent. dis. from list; Stamped tinware, 25 per cent. dis. from list.

Lard, 11 1/2c to 12c; Ties, per bundle, \$2.50 to \$3.00; Half barrels and firkins, 7 1/2c to 8c; Lime, Cement, etc., Alabama, 1.85 to 2.00; Cement, 1.75 to 2.00; Plaster Paris, 2.25 to 2.75; Lumber, Rough yellow pine, per M feet, \$18.00 to \$20.00; Second quality, 15.00 to 18.00; Dressed weatherboards, 18.00 to 20.00; Surfaced boards, 20.00 to 25.00; Straight-edged boards, 18.00 to 20.00; Flooring, 17.00 to 19.00; Floor joists, 25.00 to 30.00; Cypress lumber by the cargo, 10c to 15c; Shingles, per M, 2.50 to 3.00; Laths, 10c to 15c; Molasses, Texas, per gallon, 25c to 30c; Louisiana, 25c to 30c; Northern, 30c to 35c; Dates, per pound, 7 1/2c to 8 1/2c; Almonds, hard shell, 18c to 20c; Filberts, 15c to 18c; Brazil nuts, 15c to 19 1/2c; From store, 4c to 5c; Car load, 25c to 30c.

Onions

Red, 2 1/2c to 3 1/2c; White, 2 1/2c to 3 1/2c; Kerosene per gal in barrels, 17c to 17 1/2c; Pratt's Radiant, in cases, 20c to 22c; Insurance oil, in cases, 33c to 35c; Powder and Shot, Drop-shot, per bag, 1 1/2c to 2c; Buck, per bag, 1 1/2c to 2c; Rifle powder, per keg, 5 1/2c to 6c; Blasting, per keg, 4 1/2c to 5c; Pottery, Chickens, per doz., \$2.25 to 2.75; Turkeys, per doz., 9.00 to 10.00; Ducks, 3.50 to 4.00; Geese, 5.00 to 6.00; Course, per sack, 1.40 to 1.50; Fine, 2.00 to 2.50; Supp. White, 8 1/2c to 8 3/4c; White, 8 1/2c to 8 3/4c; Crushed, 10 1/2c to 10 3/4c; Off White, 9c to 10 1/2c; Choice Yellow, 7c to 7 1/2c; Prime, 8 1/2c to 8 3/4c; Yellow C, 8c to 8 1/2c; Tea, Imperial, 50c to 60c; Gunpowder, 30c to 40c; Oolong, 30c to 40c; Souchong, 25c to 30c; Tinners Stock, I.C. 10x14 Charcoal Tin Plate, \$7.00 to \$8.00; I.X. do do do, 9.00 to 10.00; L.C. 14x20 do do, 6.50 to 7.50; L.C. do do do, 6.00 to 7.00; L. & F. Block Tin, 20c to 25c; Pig lead, 7 1/2c to 8c; Soldier No. 1, 11c to 12c; Sheet zinc, 9c to 10c; Tobacco—Smoking, Fine cut, per bucket, \$6.00 to 8.00; Blackwell's Durham, per lb., 60c to 65c; Duke of Durham, 55c to 60c; Little Joker, assorted, 55c to 60c; Myrtle Durham, 45c to 50c; Low grade, sound, 11 inch plug, per pound, 39c to 40c; Good, long stock, 45c to 48c; Medium, 50c to 55c; Bright, 55c to 60c; Choice summer cured Hilla, 45c to 50c; Low cut, sound, 40c to 45c; Medium to good twist, 50c to 55c; Bright, summer cured Hilla twist, 55c to 60c; Wheat, No. 3,

Texas Christian Advocate

Sunday School.

INTERNATIONAL BIBLE LESSONS.

Prepared for the ADVOCATE. BY R. M. MOORE.

FIRST QUARTER—SEVENTH LESSON—Feb. 16, 1879.

Psalm 131-6. The Way of the Righteous; Time uncertain, but between 1085 and 1015 B.C.; probably in what was afterwards Judea; Ruler, Saul or David, King of Israel.

GOLDEN TEXT: But the path of the just is as the shining light that shineth more and more into the perfect day. Prov. iv.18.

In this lesson we go back six centuries, from Nehemiah to David, and from the history of the Restoration and the Psalms. In these Psalms, or sacred lyrics, we find specimens of our sublimest poetry. They were written, as is well known, in Hebrew; some of them at least 200 years before Homer sang of Achilles, and 1000 before Virgil sang of Aeneas. Poetry is the measured language of emotion, and tongue of music; but Hebrew poetry is measured on a most liberal scale, and has, of course, a wide range of utterance. It is not like the Latin and Greek verse made up of precise metres; nor is it like ours, hampered with rhyme. A normal verse of Hebrew consists of two lines with a rise and a fall. Each line or sentence has a number of syllables, varying from 5 to 13; and in this respect it resembles the Greek hexameter, that varies from 13 to 17 syllables. Its pauses vary from one to three, and its accents from one to seven. There runs through the Hebrew verse a thought-rhythm; and it is especially rich in what is termed parallelism. Our Book of Psalms was divided into five different books in the Hebrew and had been compiled in as many different ages. Each book as compiled, ends with a special doxology; the first three with a double "Amen," and the last two, with a "hallelujah." These Psalms are the outgrowth of spiritual awakenings.

Table with 2 columns: Book, Verses. Book I closes with Psalm 41. Book II " " " 72. Book III " " " 89. Book IV " " " 136. Book V " " " 150.

The first and second Psalms seem to be an introduction to the entire book, as they give the essence of all. They are, as it were, the text or prelude to the sermon or song. The first rests firmly on the law of Moses, and the second looks triumphantly to Christ. These Psalms were "the songs of Zion." David was the author of at least half of them; and Moses, Solomon and others composed the balance. The first Psalm, in the original, has two stanzas of three verses each. The first describes the righteous man, and the second contrasts him with the wicked man.

V. 1. "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful." Like the sermon on the mount, this book opens with a benediction, and commentators agree that the word translated "blessed," being plural, is equivalent to "O the blesseds." There is an infinite range of blessings to the good man in this plural benediction. Observe the gradations in "walketh," "standeth," and "sitteth." The increase order of the action indicates the direct progress of the "ungodly," the "sinner," and the "scornful" in this department from God. The "ungodly" is one without God, a negative sinner; the "sinner" is an actual transgressor; and the "scornful" is one hardened in sin. Again, with "walketh," "standeth" and "sitteth" there is implied customary action. Blessed is he whose habit is not to walk, etc. He who keeps company with the "ungodly" will in time find "sinners" congenial, and will enjoy sitting with the "scornful." The "ungodly" man's "counsel" leads to the "way" of the "sinner," and to the "seat" of the "scornful." Following the advice of the ungodly is the first departure; standing in the path of sin is the second; and, at rest, satisfied, sitting and teaching in the seat of the scornful, is the third and last.

V. 2. "But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night." This verse teaches that negative virtues are not sufficient. A man may not walk with the ungodly, stand with sinners or sit in the seat of the scornful, and yet may not measure up to a righteous man. He may come far short of positive duties. There is no life in negative virtues. We apprehend the psalmist does not pronounce a blessing on such a negative man, but on him who "delights in the law of the Lord." A bad man may keep the letter of the law, but he can take no delight keeping it. "The law;" the written Word of God. He who loves God will love His law, and no one can keep His law without loving Him. "The Lord;" Jehovah. Meditation is continued thinking of. We think much of those we love. The mind follows the heart. "Day and night;" continuously;

but of course consistently with the wants of our physical natures and our duties.

V. 3. "And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper." The first verse tells us what the righteous man must not do; and the second what he does; and this verse tells us what he is like, or how we may know him. Man is often figuratively referred to as a tree. (See Isa. lxi: 3; lxxv: 8; Jer. xvii: 8; and John xv: 1.) "Planted;" is suggestive of God's nurturing care. "By the rivers of water;" this refers to the Eastern custom of irrigation, where streams of water are made to flow between rows of trees. The water for irrigating purposes comes from perennial fountains; and wherever these streams are seen, their banks are lined with a rich growth of trees, whose fruits never fail and whose leaves never wither. Through Eden there flowed a river shaded by the tree of life. The righteous man also who delights in God's law and meditates thereon, will prosper. Spurgeon says: "The Lord's trees are all evergreen; but, unlike the evergreens of this country, they are all fruit-bearers." Leaves are the evidences of life. The man who lives in communion with God thrusts up the green leaves of his life into God's sunlight. "Whosoever he doeth shall prosper." The good man is thus assured that all he does shall succeed. But time is too short to measure success. The wicked man's apparent success may be his eternal ruin; and the good man's failure may be his everlasting gain. The most of success lies over the border line of time.

V. 4. "The ungodly are not so; but are like the chaff which the winds driveth away." The picture of the "ungodly" man now follows that of the righteous man. First, he is unlike the righteous, but is like chaff, worthless, useless and fit only for the fire, but of no real value as fuel. The figure here is that of the thrasher's winnowing the dead chaff without substance from the wheat.

V. 5. "Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous." "Therefore;" because useless. "Stand;" abide the test; "the judgment;" trials in this life, but more especially the final test of the judgment referred to by Matt. xv. "The congregation of the righteous;" the assembly of the righteous. In this life sinners may mix in with the righteous, but at the judgment, God's fearful wrath will winnow them out.

V. 6. "For the Lord knoweth the way of the righteous; but the way of the ungodly shall perish." "For;" because; "knoweth;" watches; "the way;" the life. God knows the life the righteous man leads, and He knows that also of the ungodly; "shall perish;" shall come to ruin.

APPLICATION.

1. Shun the counsel of the ungodly and the way of the sinner and the seat of the scorner as you would the poison of the deadly viper. They are all way-stations to the bottomless pit, where the worm dieth not and the fire is not quenched.

2. On the other hand, seek God; take delight in His law, and think of His mercies. These are the safeguards on the highway of life.

3. Our daily lives should be as fresh and fragrant with loving deeds of charity as God's evergreen trees on the river of life.

4. Then there will be no danger that our lives will prove as the ungodly chaff. And it becomes us to remember that in that winnowing process, the light and chaffy wheat will go with the chaff, and not remain with the wheat. None but the solid wheat will abide that test. And so none but those of solid Christian worth will abide the winnowing judgment.

5. There will be a separation of the chaff from the wheat, and the ungodly from the righteous.

6. Here is the evidence that God keeps His all-seeing eye on the way or life of the righteous, and follows him to the end with the most tender care. And the evidence is equally as clear that He will call the wicked to an account, and that the penalty for a life of sin is eternal death.

GOSPEL GEMS.—By W. Warren Bentley—published by G. D. Russell, 125 Tremont street, Boston—is the name of a new evangelist singing book. The "Gospel Gems" consists of 112 pages, containing over two hundred hymns. Every department of Christian labor is represented, and evangelists will find this a collection of choice hymns. About seventy-five composers have enriched this work by their compositions. Price, \$25 to \$60 per hundred, according to binding; 30 cents per copy in paper.

Children's Department.

PALESTINE, ANDERSON COUNTY, Jan. 20th.—Dear Uncle John: I am a little girl—a Methodist preacher's daughter—and I want to be one of your Bible class, to read the Bible with you. Your little niece—HATTIE B. HENDERSON.

PALESTINE, ANDERSON COUNTY, TEXAS, Jan. 30th.—Dear Uncle John: I am a little German girl, and I want to be one of your Bible class. Your little niece—LIZZIE WICKLE.

PILOT POINT, Jan. 31, 1879.—Dear Uncle John: I see you call for names of those who will read the Bible through this year. I read it through last year, and have commenced it again. Add my name to the list.—SALLIE B. KENDALL.

RED OAK, Jan. 31, 1879.—Dear Uncle John: I am very anxious to join your children's class. I am 12 years old; have begun reading the Bible; got as far as 13th chapter of Proverbs, I read a chapter every morning, and if I get time more during the day. I am also studying a theological catechism; have a lesson for every Sunday morning. Our nearest Sabbath-school is Lancaster, and that is five miles—and the roads are so bad I can not go now, but I am going as soon as they get good. Dear Uncle John, I wish I could see you and hear you talk. Your little friend,—EARNST ANGLIN.

JOHNSBORO, Feb. 2.—Dear Uncle John: I am so glad you want the boys and girls to write to you, and promise to answer their little questions. But I have a big question first. Please tell us how to have a Sabbath-school? We had a good one, but gave vacation last summer to find out whether we wanted lesson-papers or catechisms, and we have forgotten to commence any more. Some want Baptist lessons, some want Methodist, and some don't want any at all—they only want the Testament. What will we do? We have a good day-school all the year. It is a shame not to have a good Sabbath-school. Please tell us what to do, and I will show your answer to papa and others. Put my name on Testament class.—FOUNT JONES.

FREDERICKSBURG, Feb. 3, 1879.—Dear children: As Bro. John has opened a column for us among the postals, we should write, and thereby benefit ourselves. The following letter, which I send you, is from a dear Chinese friend, who is earnestly striving to become a saved Christian, and who is working for the salvation of the souls of other Christians with whom his business places him.

H.—TEXAS.—Dear friend—I have received two letters from you already, but as my business was pressing and urgent, I could not answer sooner. I hope your wish may be true; I still continue my visits to the Sabbath-school and church and am learning fast. I am going to try to go to school as soon as possible, and follow in the path of the just and righteous; and some day I expect to go to heaven and see all my friends sitting on the right hand of God. I still search the scriptures for untold truths, and expect one day that that will be my salvation. You may have thought that I had forgotten you, but never; was only too busy at the time. I hope to receive courage from the Lord. Your friend in Jesus.—LEE TING.

How many dear children who have their Redeemer will pray for Lee, pray believing that God for Jesus' sake will answer you, to send His Spirit to comfort and strengthen him to bear the cross which he has taken up, and to open the way for him to be sent as a great light to his countrymen over the sea who are perishing in darkness. Your cousin,—JOSEPHUS.

A Cheerful Home.

A SINGLE BITTER word may disquiet an entire family for a whole day. One surly glance casts a gloom over the household, while a smile, like a gleam of sunshine, may light up the darkest and wearisome hours. Like unexpected flowers which spring up along our path, full of freshness, fragrance and beauty, do kind words and gentle acts and sweet dispositions make glad the home where peace and blessing dwell. No matter how humble the abode, if it be thronged with grace and sweetened with kindness and smiles, the heart will turn lovingly toward it from all the tumult of the world as the dearest spot beneath the circuit of the sun.

The influences of home perpetuate themselves. The gentle grace of the mother lives in the daughter long after her head is pillowed in the dust of death; and the fatherly kindness finds its echo in the nobility and courtesy of the sons, who come to wear his mantle and fill his place; while on the other hand, from an unhappy, agoverned and disordered home go forth persons who shall make other homes miserable, and perpetuate the sourness and sadness, the contentions and strifes and railings which have made their own early lives so very wretched and distorted.

Toward the cheerful home the children all gather "as clouds and as doves to their familiar windows;" while from the home of discontent and strife and trouble they fly forth as vultures to rend their prey. The men who disturb and disorder and distress the world are not those born and nurtured amid the hallowed influences of Christian homes; but rather those whose early life has been a scene of trouble and vexation—who have started wrong in the pilgrimage, and whose course is one of disaster to themselves and trouble to those around them.—S. T. C. H.

PRaise.

By HETTY L. H. WARD.

For gladness summer days, For joy and peace always, Dear Lord, I sing Thy praise: For woful winter's night, For grief's long, fearful fight, Still praise, O Lord of Light. For all the calm I find, For lightsome, happy mind, I praise Thee, Lord most kind: For all life's toil and strain, For weary heart and brain, I praise Thee, Lord, again. For dear ones' health and peace, And joys that still increase, My praises shall not cease; Yes, for their grief and care, And burdens loved ones bear, I praise Thee still with prayer. For home, for each dear friend, For life, thy life shall end, My praises shall ascend; For dear ones gone before, For death's foot at my door, I'll praise Thee, Lord, no more. With gladness I'll receive The joys my God shall give, And praise Thee while I live: The griefs Thou mayest send— My heart in twain may rend— Still praises shall ascend. And when kind Death shall stand To lead me by the hand Into Immortal land, I'll praise Thee and adore, Upon the heavenly shore, Dear Lord, forever more.

Pen and Scissors.

The revival at Madison Square, Baltimore, for nine weeks, has resulted in the conversion of 322, and 292 accessions.

Our legislators fail to pass stringent laws against vice with the array of facts and figures before them, then there is only one remedy—never read the news in our newspapers.

A WRITER SAYS, "The rage for dancing comes of vanity, and want of intellectual resources." This is a hard hit, but we fear a just one. It originated among savages, and is their amusement all over the world.

A LEARNED divine accented a simple-hearted Christian in this way: "Well, John, it is a long and hard way to Heaven, is it not?" "Oh, no, sir," he answered; "it is only three steps." "How is that, John?" "Why, first, step out of yourself, second, step into Christ; third, step into Heaven." The minister acknowledged his indebtedness to the poor rustic for one of his most comprehensive lessons in experimental theology.

Mr. Joseph Cook measures the advance in temperance in this country by two facts, which he puts in juxtaposition thus: "Sixty years ago Lyman Beecher attended an ordination at which forty dollars' worth of liquors were drunk by New England ministers. To-day Mrs. Drake—who may God bless!—expels intoxicating beverages from the Presidential mansion."

Will parties writing obituaries for the ADVOCATE be careful to give the name of the place where the person died. A stranger is frequently at a loss to know whether the subject whose obituary he is reading is John Smith of Smith county; Tom Jones of Jones county; or James Brown of Brown county; or some other Smith, or Jones, or Brown, of some other county.

The production by State and Territories of precious metals during 1878 is as follows: California, \$38,229,401; Nevada, \$5,181,549; Oregon, \$1,213,224; Washington, \$7,311; Idaho, \$1,808,122; Montana, \$9,763,610; Utah, \$6,061,612; Colorado, \$6,232,747; New Mexico, \$43,813; Arizona, \$2,287,983; Dakota, \$2,215,804; Mexico (west coast), \$1,204,995; British Columbia, \$1,283,469. Total, \$87,154,622.

The colored Baptists are very numerous in Richmond, Virginia, and they are very prosperous. The "Old First Church," which has a great fame, reports for 1878, 115 baptisms. There are eight or nine other churches of colored Baptists in that city. Their ministers are men of energy and character. Among them is the Rev. John Jasper, usually known as "the philosopher," who stands firmly by his faith that "the sun do move." On this topic he has preached and lectured copiously.

Bismarck, as reported by Moritz Busch, who was on his staff when in France, says: "I do not understand how people can live without a belief, and without a public confession of faith, without believing in God as the Judge Superior, in a future life, and the duty of fulfilling one's mission on earth. If I were not a Christian, I would not remain at my post a single hour. I did not believe in God, I would do nothing for human masters. Take away my faith, and you take away my love of country."

The government of Austria takes the super vision of family worship, and forbids it in some cases. A few simple folk in the empire who had changed from the Catholic to the evangelical faith, and who have reformed their lives too, tell this story: "On a certain Sunday, while the family of— were holding morning family worship, at which none but the family and two lodgers were present, the police appeared, drove us all out of the room, and bade the household to get to work, telling them that if they wanted to pray, they must go elsewhere." Again and again the officers have appeared, and have repeated this proceeding. No charge of disorder or political designs is made against these humble converts. They have been fined and imprisoned also for the offense of worshipping God in their own homes. There is nothing like a paternal government—for superintending family prayers.

In the *Standard's* history, Professor Tyndall has recently made a restatement of his religious opinions. His language shows that he has not been misunderstood. He rejects materialism; he admits religious feeling as a fact of human consciousness; he denies, however, that there is an objective correspondent to this feeling. He says, "It is against the mythologic scenery, if I may use the term, rather than against the life and substance of religion, that science enters her protest." Professor Tyndall does not hold the conviction universal among Christians, and so well expressed by Archbishop Willberforce, that "religion, being divine reality, implies the existence of certain outward facts, external to ourselves, which have a being independent of our thoughts, and are the object of our consideration. Neither can it flourish unless the subjective action of our thoughts be maintained by the presence of such objective realities."

LOTTERIES.—Among the subjects which might profitably engage the attention of our legislature, is that of the head of this article. Our constitution prohibits lotteries; but our sister State of Louisiana had chartered them; and thousands of dollars are annually sent out of Texas to buy tickets in a lottery in New Orleans, with which the names of two distinguished Confederate generals have been conspicuously paraded as deities for the venditor. Section 47, article third of our constitution reads as follows: "The legislature shall pass laws prohibiting the establishment of lotteries and gift enterprises. In this State, as well as the sale of tickets, in lotteries, gift enterprises, or other evasions involving the lottery principle, established or existing in other States." If our present statutes are insufficient to save our people from this species of swindling, let them be amended. As our constitution absolutely prohibits special legislation, it is hardly necessary for the legislature to spend time on such bills, to be vetoed by the Governor.

We have at length an official declaration of the present prospect of peace between the Vatican and Germany. A motion having been offered in the Prussian Diet for the modification of the law of May, 1875, which suppressed the religious orders, Dr. Falk said that the government was "not disposed to retract any of its measures." Still further he added: "The Pope has frequently given expression to his wish for peace, and therefore it has become the duty of the government to try and find by negotiation the basis for an understanding; but the nature of such a basis has already been laid down in the well known letter of the Crown Prince to his Holiness, according to which we must leave out those debatable points of principle which lead us on principle to antagonism. But the peace must be a possible peace, not one that calls on the state for unconditional submission, not one that bids it retrace the steps it has taken, in order to reconstruct its own position, and to be fair to all confessions. Such a peace would find no epithet strong enough to characterize it, and history warns us that after a time the same questions left unsettled will crop up again and renew a state of conflict." If all this does not mean that Germany refuses to yield the supremacy it has assumed over the administration of the Church, it means nothing. It was stated also by Dr. Falk that the law of 1875 distributed over four years the work of dissolving the monastic establishments which were devoted to education. There were at that time in Prussia forty-four orders of this kind, maintaining 819 establishments. Of this number 764 have been suppressed, and substitutes provided. Dr. Falk declared emphatically that the government "would not give back the schools into the hands of the religious orders."

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CHAPPELL HILL, January 14, 1879.

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SUNDAY-SCHOOL CONVENTION.

Under a resolution of the Texas Conference, at the late session in Chappell Hill, Bishop Keener appointed a committee of five (to-wit: E. D. Pitts, I. G. John, U. C. Spencer, H. V. Philpott, and I. Z. T. Morris), to provide for the holding of a Sunday-School Convention.

The movement should have the hearty approval of the entire membership of the church. Success hinges on unanimity in sentiment and co-operation in effort. Every hand can help—every voice can cheer. To enlist interest and promote harmony, the writer proposes to set forth, in a series of papers, his views of the objects and methods of the convention. Other views are invited.

It should be known as "The Texas Conference Sunday-School Convention;" should be composed of all the Sunday-school workers within the territory of the conference who can be induced to attend; should be organized by the election of a president, a secretary, a statistical secretary, a treasurer and an executive committee; should hold its sessions annually at such times and places as may be selected by the executive committee; should consider and discuss in a practical manner questions relating to Sunday-school work; should be conducted according to a programme prepared by the officers of the convention and published in advance of the time of holding the Convention; should furnish to each Methodist Sunday-school within the boundaries of the conference, a full account of the proceedings of the convention; should report work and results to each ensuing session of the Texas Conference.

Special attention is solicited to each item in the foregoing enumeration of particulars.

First—The name: The Texas Conference Sunday-School Convention.

There can be no valid objection to the name. It is appropriate, because it gives the metes and bounds of the field to be possessed and worked. It is also significant. It means that the Convention originated in the conference; is endorsed by the conference; and is designed to be a helper of the conference "in the religious instruction of the children."

Within the limits of her territory the conference is the representative of Wesleyan Methodism; and if she has any mission at all—if it is to see that those who receive her ministrations are thoroughly indoctrinated in the pure and vital truths of a clear-cut Wesleyan Methodism, Methodists ought to be Methodists; not in a narrow, bigoted sense—not to the point of a morbid denominationalism, but real, genuine, conscientious Methodists. They cannot be such Methodists without a full, intelligent, appreciative apprehension of the "doctrines" contained in the Methodist "creed." It is well—a consummation to be wished and prayed for—that children should enter the church of their fathers. But they who are Methodists simply because their fathers were, and can give no better reason for the faith that is in them, are not very likely to be "bright lights" or "strong pillars" in the church.

The "Articles of religion," as found in the Book of Discipline, ought to be taught, ought to be amplified, illustrated and enforced by Scripture proofs. If these Articles rest, as we believe, upon the Word of God, we can safely afford to teach them; for, in so doing, we teach the Word of God. The tenets of the church are well formulated. There is no lack of clearness or of emphasis. Let the children of the church be drilled in them. Let the formulas and proof-texts be as familiar to them as are the rudiments of geography and grammar. Let their religious education be as rational and radical as is their literary education. They will then have in them the root from which growth comes; they will not be dwarfed nor twisted; they will not wither nor cast their leaves; they will not bud and blossom merely; but, at the time of figs, will yield an abundant harvest of matured fruit. There is no rule in arithmetic for computing the value of this deep, subsiding, religious culture in early childhood; nor is it possible to estimate the influence it exerts as a factor in working out the difficult problems of Christian life. Such culture is now the one grand desideratum of Church and State. It ought to be furnished in our homes, but it is not; in our day-schools, but it is not; in our pulpits, but it is not; in our Sunday-schools, but it is not.

The work of the Convention should be in this direction. Its design is to supply the young people of the church (and to the old people, too, if they will accept it) a system of full and effective instruction in those fundamental and saving truths which are the strength and beauty of our loved Methodism.

It will not be the purpose of the convention to dogmatize nor to proscribe. It will not arrogate to the Methodist Church nor to the Texas Conference all that is good, and true and beautiful in the world. It will not refuse fellowship to any who love the Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity, and who have the mind that was in Him. It will give brotherly love and Godly sympathy to all who are toiling "in the kingdom and patience of Jesus."

But it will adopt the form of sound words called Methodism, and will maintain that the Arminian view is the scriptural view of the plan of salvation.

Occupying this standpoint, and entertaining these convictions, the conference will be distinct in its interpretations of Scripture and earnest in its efforts to have the children of the church grounded in the faith of the Wesleys.

Already there are two similar conventions, one under the auspices of the North Texas Conference, and one under the auspices of Northwest Texas Conference. It is to be hoped that similar ones will be ordered and held under the auspices of the East Texas and West Texas Conferences.

The objects of the convention should commend themselves to all thoughtful minds, and to all loving hearts. The aim is to serve God; to build up the church of Christ; to save the children from unbelief, from debauchery, from death.

Let preachers and laymen give hand and heart to the enterprise.

E. D. PITTS, CHAPPELL HILL, TEXAS, JAN. 24, 1878.

Church Notices.

TEXANA DISTRICT—SECOND ROUND.

Texana, 1st Sunday in March. Rockport, 2d Sunday in March. Sandie's mission, 3d Sunday in March. Concrete cir, 4th Sunday in March. Leesville cir, 5th Sunday in March. Halletts cir, 1st Sunday in April. Moulton cir, 2d Sunday in April. Clinton cir, 3d Sunday in April. Lavaca River mission, 4th Sunday in April. A. A. KILGORE, P. E.

CORPUS CHRISTI DIST.—SECOND ROUND.

Boeville cir, at Lebanon, Feb 8, 9. Goliad and Victoria sta's, at Victoria, Feb 15, 16. Coletto cir, at —, Feb 22, 23. Rockport cir, at Rockport, March 1, 2. Corpus Christi sta., at Corpus, March 1, 2. Nueces River cir, at Meansville, Mar 22, 23. Oakville mis, at Oakville, Mar 29, 30. Halletts cir, at Halletts, April 5, 6. Rancho cir, at Sandie's Chapel, April 12, 13. J. 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. Rockport cir, at Rockport, March 15, 16. Gonzales cir, at Belmont, March 15, 16. Mountain City cir, at Cherry Springs, Mar 29, 30. Seguin at Mill Creek, April 5, 6. San Marcos station, April 12, 13. Thompsonville cir, at Liberty, 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. Corpus Christi sta., at Corpus, March 8, 9. Melrose, at Melrose, March 15, 16. The district stewards will meet at Center Feb. 8. My postoffice is Kilgore, Garza county, Texas. W. A. SAMPEL, P. E.

HUNTSVILLE DIST.—FIRST ROUND.

Willis and Montgomery, Feb 8, 9. Anderson at Anderson, Feb 15, 16. Dodge mis, at Union Centre, Feb 22, 23. Courtney and Plaudville, at Courtney, Mar 1, 2. Navasota and Millcan, at Navasota, Mar 15, 16. The district stewards will please meet me at Huntsville on Saturday, March 23d, at 2 o'clock P. M. Arrangements will be made for their entertainment. Call, on arriving, at my house. S. C. LITTLEPAGE, P. E.

PALESTINE DIST.—FIRST ROUND.

Pennington cir, at Lovelady, Feb 8, 9. Palestine cir, at Lovelady, Feb 15, 16. Crockett cir, at Wesley Chapel, Feb 22, 23. Athens cir, at Athens, Mar 1, 2. Athens cir, at New York, Mar 8, 9. Trinity cir, at Meredith'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. Moscow cir, at Moscow, 4th Saturday and Sunday in March. Homer cir, at Homer, 5th Saturday and Sunday in March. The district stewards will please meet me at Woodville on Saturday, 22d of Feb, next, at 10 o'clock A. M., in the Methodist church, to attend to the business entrusted to them. See new Discipline chapter III, section 15, page 116. The names of the following brethren have been furnished me by my worthy professor, viz: B. Z. Powell, J. J. Caraway, J. C. Bell, H. Henry Stegall, G. W. O'Brien and Y. I. McNeal. Others elected, but not named, will consider themselves notified. It is to be hoped that those brethren will feel it their bounden duty to meet at the specified time and place for the purpose indicated. DANIEL MORSE, P. E.

BILKENCIRIDGE DIST.—FIRST ROUND.

Sabah mis, at Center Point, 2d Sab in Feb. Palo Pinto cir, at Palo Pinto, 3d Sab in Feb. District stewards will meet me at Bilkenciridge Saturday before the 1st Sabbath in Dec. J. G. WARREN.

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MARSHALL DIST.—FIRST ROUND.

Bellview cir, at Kilgore, Feb 8, 9. Longview cir, at Longview, Feb 15, 16. Harrison cir, at Wiley's Chapel, Feb 22, 23. Bellview cir, at Union Chapel, Mar 1, 2. Starrville cir, at Antioch, Mar 8, 9. Garden valley cir, Mar 15, 16. Mineola cir, at Mineola, Mar 22, 23. Grand saline, Apr 5, 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. Elgin 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 Aubrey chapel, Feb 22, 23. The district stewards will meet in Shearn church, Houston, December 30, at 7 P. M. R. D. DASHIEL, P. E.

PARIS DISTRICT—FIRST ROUND.

Ladonia circuit, Feb 8, 9. Clarksville circuit, Feb 15, 16. Wyaland circuit, Feb 22, 23. Boston 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. Ingersoll cir, third Sunday in February. Mount Pleasant cir, first Sunday in March. Coffeyville cir, second Sunday in March. L. B. ELIAS, P. E.

AUSTIN DISTRICT—FIRST ROUND.

Winchester cir, at Winchester, Feb 8, 9. West Point mis, at West Point, Feb 15, 16. Elgin cir, at Elgin, Feb 22, 23. Lagrange station, March 1, 2. Flatonia cir, at Flatonia, March 8, 9. Winmar circuit, at Winmar, March 15, 16. Columbia cir, at Columbia, March 22, 23. The quarterly conference of Columbus mission will be held at the same time with that of Columbus station. 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.

Collinsville, at Tipton's, second Sunday in Feb. Christian Mission, at Salt Hill, Feb. 22 and 23. Ploof Grove at Blewbridge, fourth Sunday in Feb. J. M. BISKLEY, P. E.

TERRELL DISTRICT—FIRST ROUND.

Rockwall cir, at Rockwall, Feb 8, 9. Farmersville cir, at Bear 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 mis, Feb 15, 16. West Fork mis, Feb 22, 23. Montague cir, Feb 22, 23. W. H. MOSS, 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. LANE, P. E.

STEPHENSVILLE DIST.—FIRST ROUND.

Gatesville, at Gatesville, Feb 8, 9. The following district stewards, J. N. Groesbeck, L. L. Mills, Z. L. Myers, J. T. Knowles, Oswald Wilson, D. M. Rumbold, C. McDonald, W. J. Moore, R. A. Shirley, B. M. Kiker, W. J. Morton, J. H. F. Skipper, will meet me at Merid on January 10th, at 11 o'clock. J. P. MESSITT, P. E.

DALLAS DISTRICT—FIRST ROUND.

Grapevine cir, second Sunday in February. Grapevine mis, third Sunday in February. Beloit cir, fourth Sunday in February. W. H. HUGHES, P. E.

WACO DISTRICT—FIRST ROUND.

Wheeler cir, 2d Sab in Feb. District Stewards will please meet me at the quarterly conference of their respective charges. THOMAS STANDFORD, P. E.

WEATHERFORD DISTRICT—FIRST ROUND.

Eldorado cir, at Garretts Creek, Feb. 8 and 9. Weatherford cir, at Spring Creek, Feb. 15 and 16. Christian Mission, at Salt Hill, Feb. 22 and 23. The district stewards will please meet me at the Methodist Church in weatherford, Jan 8th, 11 a.m. W. PRICE, 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, renouncing stains, etc., are of the greatest value.

CHILDREN.—Mrs. Elizabeth Cary 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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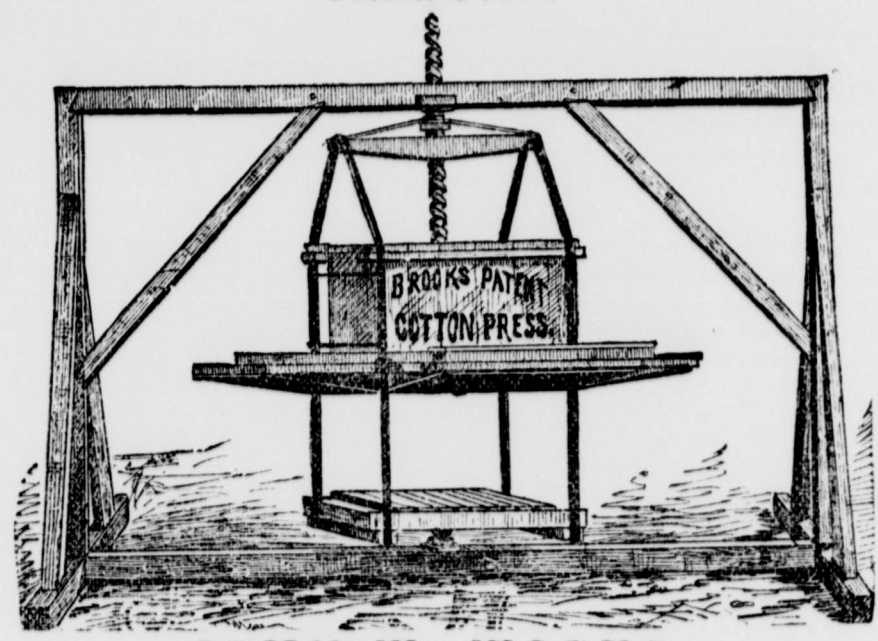
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EDITOR'S NOTICES. WHEN articles are rejected, we must decline to give reasons therefor. In preparing articles for publication write on but one side of the paper; otherwise your communications may be thrown into the waste basket. ARTICLES refused publication 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."

News of the Week.

TEXAS LEGISLATURE.

HOUSE, Feb. 1.—Resolution was adopted calling for a committee to see what public employes could be dispensed with without injuring the public service.

SENATE, Feb. 1.—Bill appropriating 3,050,000 acres of land to erect public buildings, passed; farming lands to be sold at not less than 50 cents per acre; grazing lands not less than 25 cents.

The Senate amendments to code of criminal procedure makes drunkenness an offense; inserting the forgery act of 1876; making an indictment for murder without limitation as to expiration.

Bill providing for working and designating streets and sidewalks in incorporated towns, passed.

Thirty thousand dollars appropriated for contingent fund.

Bills introduced into the Senate: Bill to extend liens for rent to owners of buildings; giving to each unorganized county four leagues of land, and providing for its location and survey.

Bills introduced in House: To repeal local option law; a new homestead law exempting it from forced sale except for purchase money, taxes, and work and material used in construction—in cases where a family have no homestead, \$2500 worth of property being likewise exempt; provided, that when a homestead is worth more than \$2500, it may be sold and the excess given to creditors; to repeal the law allowing stockmen to fence in large quantities of land; bill requiring mere registration instead of record of mortgages; to repeal the law granting land subsidies to railroads; to transfer authority for granting marriage license to district clerk; to provide for the inspection of sheep; bill to adopt the Moffatt-register occupation tax on retail whisky dealers; to provide for a superintendent of the deaf and dumb asylum who is educated in the sign language, and a board of supervisors who shall elect or dismiss superintendents at will; to establish liens on live stock; to provide for issue of patents to confirm land claims lying south and west of Nueces river; to relieve parties taking appeals from justices' courts from giving bonds; to make thirty pupils constitute a school community; that tax committee ascertain if the Pulman palace car company pays taxes; to remove limitation as to number of notaries, the Governor to be guided by the necessities of the case; to permit a tract of land lying in two counties to be listed and tax paid in either county; to protect fish in running streams; to provide for uniformity of text books in public schools; to repeal law granting pensions to indigent veterans; creating a special supreme court to dispose of accumulation of business.

Miscellaneous Legislative Items. Rev. Mr. Pattie, chaplain of the House, is accused of unchristian language and conduct, and immorality.

Gen. McCulloch, Superintendent of the Deaf and Dumb Asylum, is accused by an ex-teacher of incapacity, cruelty and dishonesty; and by some of the pupils with ill-treatment. It will require the clearest proof to convince the many friends of Gen. McCulloch that he is either cruel or dishonest. Some of his friends believe it is an endeavor on the part of interested parties to prevent the further enlargement of the State printing office, which he is supposed to advocate.

The Comptroller's report shows about one-fourth the tax paid on lands in unorganized counties.

TERMS amicable have been reached between Bismarck and the Vatican.

The Emir of Afghanistan has arrived at the Russian frontier.

WASHINGTON.

Senators Hoar, Mitchell, and Cameron, of Wisconsin, want a sixteenth amendment prohibiting States from disfranchising persons on account of sex.

A United States survey, based upon astronomical determination, including all the States admitted prior to 1860, except Texas, California and Oregon, will cost (estimated) \$48,000; or \$168,000 for a thorough cadastral survey.

The debt statement shows a decrease for January of \$251,980,66. Secretary of the Treasury issued a call on the 1st for \$20,000,000 5-20 bonds.

That investigating committee is still Potter-ing along—sub-committee sent to New York.

At the end of this quarter all local agencies for sale of postage stamps are discontinued.

Mr. Coke submitted a resolution requesting the committee on railroads to consider the Senate bill to aid in the construction of a railroad from San Antonio to Laredo on the Rio Grande, and to authorize the Secretary of War to contract with the Galveston and Camargo railroad company for the immediate construction of its road to Rio Grand City, opposite Camargo, Mexico, as a coast defense, and for the purpose of establishing a commercial and military rail highway to the Rio Grande. Laid on the table to be called up hereafter.

The time of House on 1st was consumed in debate over Southern war claims.

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FOREIGN.

Accounts from upper Egypt give heartrending details of the famine there.

Much of the Pope Leo's encyclical gives reason to believe that there are to be great changes from Pius IX's policy. The socialists, communists and nihilists are anathematized as a death-dealing plague that is creeping into the fibers of human society.

The plague has appeared in Russia. It has been decided to burn the bodies of all who die. A commission will be sent to the stricken districts. It will be clothed with extraordinary powers—even to the burning of infected towns.

The City of Para brought to New York from Para 100 destitute Americans who had come down to Amazon from San Antonio, the port on the Maderi where Collins & Co. have been engaged in building a railroad. They were found in Para in a most wretched condition. One hundred and twenty yet remain, and will probably be brought on the next steamer.

The complications in French politics, it is hoped, have an end. M. Grevy succeeds McMahon as President of the republic. Gambetta has been elected president of the chamber of deputies by 314 votes out of 405. We append the text of McMahon's letter of resignation:

Being in disagreement with the ministry, being hopeless of forming another cabinet, and unwilling to assent to measures which he regards contrary to good army organization, he withdraws from power. "At the opening of this session of the chambers, the ministry presented to you a programme which, while affording satisfaction to public opinion, appeared to the cabinet such as might be voted without danger to the security or good administration of the country. Putting aside all personal views, I had given the programme my approbation, for I was sacrificing no principle to which conscience commanded me to remain faithful. To-day the ministry, thinking to respond to the opinion of the majority in the two chambers, proposes to me, in regard to the high military commands, some general measures which I consider contrary to the interests of the army, and consequently to those of the country. I cannot subscribe to them. Any other ministry taken from the majority would impose on me the same conditions. I consider myself, therefore, bound to shorten the duration of the mandate which the national assembly confided to me, and I therefore tender my resignation. In quitting power, I have the consolation of thinking that during fifty-three years devoted to the service of my country, either as soldier or citizen, I have never been guided by sentiments other than honor and duty, and absolute devotion to my country. I request you to communicate my decision to the chambers."

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The first gentleman we called upon was Mr. R. S. Willis, of P. J. Willis & Bro., prominent wholesale merchants on the Strand, who convinced us by his manner of reception that we were treading forbidden ground. He read just three lines of our circular, and remarked: "I don't want anything to do with it. Newspaper men and newspaper enterprises are all humbugs and frauds."

While we admit Mr. Willis' success as a business man (having grown from a wood-chopper in the Brazos bottom, in 1840, to a Galveston wholesale merchant, quoted worth over a million dollars), obtained "without an investment of a dollar in advertising," or any enterprise that was calculated to advance and build up Galveston and the country and trade tributary thereto, at the same time we take issue with him on his argument, and will not do him the injustice to say that we believe him honest in his opinions; for if we did, we would say he was a fool. On the contrary, we believe him a sharp, shrewd business man, well acquainted with the benefits derived by Galveston and Texas from the labors of enterprising men, and only advances his lame argument to keep from investing himself, being confident that the more enterprising men, who take a broader view of the vital interests of Galveston, will take firm hold of any measure presented for her advancement; and while they are engaged in pushing it to a successful issue, he will re-

ceive in dignified composure in his office and keenly plan how to take advantage of the labors and expenditures of his more enterprising fellow-citizens for his own profit and advancement. This has been the policy throughout Mr. Willis' business career, and by following it closely he has been enabled to build up the large and extensive business over which he presides with such a lordly and arrogant air. Take from Galveston and the interior of Texas, whence Galveston (and Mr. Willis) gets her trade, all the enterprises that have been inaugurated by clear-sighted, sagacious men, and any sane person will admit that Mr. Willis would still be mauling rails in the Brazos bottoms. It is to the men of enterprise that Texas is indebted for her wonderful and unequalled system of railroads, cotton compresses, manufactories, thriving cities, and the thousands of industrious immigrants who are to-day producing by their labors the cotton, sugar, corn and wheat, from the handling of which, directly and indirectly, such men as Mr. Willis have accumulated their immense wealth. As further evidence of our correctness, we cite the following: In 1874 the enterprising men of Galveston were making a desperate effort to open up commercial relations with the Northwest, by which Galveston would handle the grain and other products of that section, and in return supply them with their coffee, staple groceries, and such other tropical productions as were tributary to Galveston. When Mr. Willis was called upon to aid this movement he refused, advancing the argument that Galveston had more trade than it could take care of, without going beyond the borders of Texas. But when a rate of \$100 per car on coffee was secured between Galveston and Kansas City, Mr. Willis was one of the first to dispatch a man to Kansas City to make sales, from which he received a benefit, through the labors of more enterprising men, without giving them any encouragement, or even a grateful recognition.

Now the question arises in our mind, can the enterprising men of Texas continue their patronage to men of such narrow-minded ideas? Would it not be better to patronize men of more generous and liberal ideas—men who at all times enlist their labor and capital to advance and build up the commerce of our great State? We have the foolish arguments in detail, advanced by many more of Galveston's prominent citizens, which we will file away for future use; want of space only admitting quotations as follows:

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From a merchant: "Galveston is an old town, and everybody knows all about her importance and advantages." But when we asked him if he was posted—how many bales of cotton handled; advantage of location compared with other ports of entry; amount of State and county tax on the \$100; area and population of county, he got mad and ordered us out of his store.

From a cotton merchant: "The Sun is a Houston enterprise; am opposed to building up Houston; you can't do Galveston any good; and in almost the same sentence agreed that "there is no prejudice existing against Houston by Galveston people; their interests are identical."

From a superintendent of a compress company, with a capital of a million dollars, solely dependent upon cotton shipped to Galveston from the interior: "We have no interest in the progress of Galveston or the interior. Our business is local; we only compress for the cotton merchant or the ships desiring cargo; immigration is of no benefit to our business." Oh, foolish man! Go get a school boy to prepare an argument of some sense and reason for your future use against newspaper enterprises, which desire to devote their columns for the advancement of a city in which you seem to take such a small interest.

From a grocery merchant: "We have all the business we want; newspapers do the country more harm than good; immigration agents ought to be hung to the first tree." And these very immigration agents are selling for this man \$50,000 worth of goods annually.

An Italian image maker was recently given a Bible by a missionary. He was first converted, and afterwards, by the same influence, eighty others.

DR. HENRY R. LINDERMAN, director of all the mints and assay offices, died in Washington on Monday, the 27th inst.

It is, we think, perfectly in order just now to remind men who may be in positions prominent before the public, that sneers, jeers, taunts and attempted ridicule are not arguments; neither do they refute arguments; nor yet will they destroy the force of testimony in regard to facts. The common-sense feeling of mankind requires that charges against the reputation or good name of a man be proven, or that their falsehood be shown. No mere effort at common place or low wit will meet the case at all. If a charge of immorality be made, he who makes it is bound by all principles of justice and fairness, as well as by all the demands of gentlemanly propriety, to prove or retract. If he adduce testimony to establish the charge, that testimony must be refuted or accepted, and no witticism nor ridicule in regard to the person of the witness can be accepted as against the testimony itself. All attempts of the kind are unmanly, offensive to good taste, and contrary to the character of a true gentleman, to say nothing of the high and sacred obligations of the Christian.—St. Louis Christian Advocate.

"The revelation of God in Christ has done too much for the world to be put aside at the behest of science. If science is right, then Christianity is a falsehood; but did falsehood ever do such work as Christianity has done? Can a lie transform a base and cruel life into one that is pure and brotherly? Can a lie inspire the heroisms and the sacrifices of self which have illustrated the path and progress of Christianity from the earliest times? Can a lie sweeten sorrow, strengthen weakness, make soft the pillow of death, and irradiate the spirit, shutting his eyes upon this world with a joy too great for utterance? This is what Christianity has done in millions and millions of instances. It is busy in its beneficent work of transforming character all over the world to-day."—January Number Scribner's Monthly.

AMBERGRIS.—Perhaps the most complete metamorphosis of the character and associations connected with any substance in nature is found in the delicate toilet perfume, ambergris, which naturalists tell us is nothing else than the result of a fit of indigestion on the part of the sperm-whale, being, in fact, a kind of intestinal calculus or portion of the food of the whale imperfectly digested. Foxes have a great partiality for ambergris, and congregate on the sea-coast in search of it. They eat it, and return in exactly the same state as it was swallowed, in respect to perfume, though changed and in color. This is the white ambergris so highly valued. Thus, after passing through the digestive organs of two animals, it retains its delicate and subtle perfume, which rivals that of the fairest flowers, and also retains its value for the toilet.—J. C. Beard, in Harper's Magazine for February.

News-gatherers and others have curious notions of the relative importance of events. The telegraphic dispatches from day to day tell how a woman is progressing in an attempt to walk 2700 miles in 2700 quarter hours. The late Dr. Duncan and one of Budd Doble's horses died the same day. The news of the death of the race-horse was flashed over the wires to California the day it took place, while the sad news of the death of the gifted orator, the man of genius, the devoted servant of God, reached us in due time by the mails. The purveyors of news know what suits the million.—N. O. Advocate.

THE New York Tribune is responsible for the following: Bishop Simpson was about to begin his lecture before the Yale theological students the other day, when he was seen to pause and look for something. "Young gentlemen," he said, "I find myself in the position of the preacher who was informed by a lady that thirdly had flown out the window." A part of his MS. was missing, and while Professor Fisher went away to search for it, the Bishop entertained his audience with a half-hour's talk on President Lincoln. Then the MS. appeared, and the lecture began.

On New Year's evening, in New York, the newspapers say that fifty "ladies," who had drunk so much that they could not go home alone, had to be escorted to their several places of abode by the police officers.

The Chicago city treasurer received six million one hundred thousand dollars the past year, and paid out five million eight hundred thousand dollars.

The collections on passengers' baggage in the customs department last year were larger than for any preceding year. The amount was \$142,530.

eldest son (20 years) is 6 feet 8 inches; and his second son (18 years) is fully 7 feet.

The growing of ribbon cane and manufacture of sorghum sugar is being discussed in many parts of the State. The crop is pronounced as an unusually profitable one. Will not some one thoroughly posted give the ADVOCATE a good article on the subject—facts and figures.

The condition of the Huntsville penitentiary is pronounced by the legislative investigating committee as entirely satisfactory.

Mrs. Pauline Webb is confirmed as postmistress at Corsicana, Tex.

J. E. Santeo, clerk of Brazoria county, was assassinated by unknown parties on the 25th.

A DESERVED COMPLIMENT.—Dr. Greenville Dowell, the well-known and popular surgeon of Galveston, has been presented with a gold medal by the Howard Association of Memphis, Tenn. This is a recognition of the invaluable services of Dr. D. during the yellow fever scourge. The medal consists of a circular ground suspended from a bar. On the latter is, "Dr. G. Dowell," while on the ground appears, "Howard Medical Corps." Awarded for services during the yellow fever epidemic in Memphis, 1878, A. D. Langstaff, President Howard Association; R. W. Mitchell, Medical Director, is engraved on the reverse side of the ground.

Suggestive.

[The following article, taken from the Texas Sun, contains some very suggestive thoughts, which we submit many of the business men of Galveston would do well to ponder. Stripped of its personal thrusts, it is an eminently fit photograph of that element in every business community whose one idea is to selfishly utilize every advantage, and yet to spend nothing in promoting the public weal.—PRO TEM. OF ADVOCATE.]

GALVESTON.

HER "MOSS BACKS"—HOW THEY RECEIVED US AND WHAT THEY HAD TO SAY.

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