

Texas Christian Advocate

Our Postal Cards.

FORESTBURG, MONTAGUE CO., February 4.—I have gone one round on my circuit and started on another. The health of the people is good. The church is in a tolerably good condition. I have received some subscribers for the ADVOCATE, and will work for more. We have prospect of building a parsonage, and, also, a church. We failed to have our first quarterly meeting.—M. W. SHEARER.

SULPHUR SPRINGS, HOPKINS CO., February 3.—Methodism in this city can boast of fourteen resident Methodist preachers; of one District Conference High School; of one Sunday-school, of over two hundred members; of a missionary society that makes its monthly payments; of a band of "Gospel Supporters" numbering about two hundred members, composed principally of children; of a church membership numbering two hundred and forty-five, eleven of which have been added since conference.—M. C. B.

SULPHUR SPRINGS, HOPKINS CO., February 6.—The denizens of this city are anxiously waiting for the completion of the East Line and Red River railroad to this point. Fourteen new business houses are in process of erection. Some of them approaching completion. A man was shot in one of the saloons of this place a few nights past. Cause—whiskey. Spiritual condition of the church far below the scriptural standard. Dr. I. G. John preached for us last night; and procured some eighteen new subscribers and renewals for the ADVOCATE.—M. C. BLACKBURN.

McKINNEY, COLLIN CO., February 7.—Resolved, that we, the members of this quarterly conference (Honey Creek circuit) will try as far as we can consistently with our practice, to use our influence to keep the rising generation from getting into the expensive and filthy habit of using tobacco, and especially in our churches.—J. H. BIGGS, Sec'y.

MADISONVILLE, MADISON CO., February 4.—Had bought furniture at the Penitentiary for our new parsonage at Madisonville, but it was consumed in the fire that occurred on 24th ult., at Huntsville. However, the lessees agreed to replace it, though we had paid for it and had it set aside. The prospects for accomplishing much good on this work are flattering. Money is very scarce, but the people furnish provisions in its stead. Endeavoring to spread the ADVOCATE as much as I can.—G. S. SANDEL.

ATHENS, HENDERSON CO., Feb. 6.—My work (Trinity circuit) embraces a large rough territory, but kind people. It has twelve appointments, ten societies and about 150 church members, with but little church property. Much has been done, but more remains to be done. The ADVOCATE is in high esteem with all who are acquainted with its worth. I hope to send you a good list of renewals and new subscribers, too, soon. County Court is in session at Athens; business men are all astir, and all are awaiting the results. God bless you in your work.—J. R. D. TAYLOR.

FORT WORTH, TARRANT CO., Feb. 4.—There is a distinct movement of the Holy Ghost in our congregation. Signs of a reviving of church interest and spiritual power are manifest. Twenty-four members have been added. Penitents are at our altar. All delighted with our presiding elder, Rev. Horace Bishop.—M. H. WELLS.

GOLIAD, Feb. 1.—This is an evergreen city of 2,000 inhabitants, situated on the east bank of the San Antonio river. Old Town of Lebehamic is about one and a half miles from here. It is fast decaying, and will soon be in ruins. It is remembered as the place where Col. Fannin and several hundred Americans were slaughtered in an early day by Mexicans. We have a fine church here with a membership of 90, and one of the best preachers in the Conference; with a good school, under the management of Professor Brooks, who knows exactly how to handle wild boys. Corn and pork cheap. Health good.—METHODIST.

WAELEDER.—Having noticed in your columns several pieces upon the subject of amending the laws against gambling, allow me to make one suggestion. Let a law be passed by which money lost by gambling may be recovered from the winner by suit, and allow such suit to be instituted by either the party who lost it or by another. I would also hold the house where the money was lost liable for the

amount so lost, provided that gambling in the house was carried on with the knowledge of its owner. I know that there are some who would ridicule such an idea without stopping to weigh its merits. But to such an one let me say that we have a law by which, if I stake my note, say for \$100, upon a game and lose it, I cannot be compelled to pay it; but if I stake \$100 in money upon a game and lose it, it is gone, and I cannot recover it. Now I would ask any man in his sober senses if the same justice which inhibits the collection of the note would not allow me to sue and recover the money so lost? Gamblers claim that they conduct their business upon honor. Be it so. Then let the whole business be left entirely to the honor of both winner and loser. Let such a law be passed, and if it does not accomplish more in the way of suppressing gambling than can be done by any kind of penal statutes, then I have lost my guess.—L. C. CUNNINGHAM.

BLANCO CITY, Feb. 3.—We expect to have an election in this county soon for the removal of the court house to the centre of the county, but we think we can keep it at this place. We will have a paper here in a few days which will be quite an improvement to our town and county. Wish it much success.—JOHN C. C. BLACK.

TYLER, SMITH CO., Feb. 6.—The prolonged inclement weather is having its effect upon many of Tyler and vicinity. Several deaths from pneumonia. Visited to-day four families. Connected with them were five cases of pneumonia. Citizens alarmed at the number of rabid dogs in and around Tyler. A Mr. Cousins, living near here, was bitten a few days ago, and has since died. The marshal of our city has orders to kill all dogs upon the streets.—U. B. PHILLIPS.

CEDAR BAYOU, HARRIS CO., Feb. 4.—My family reached here safely after a delightful trip across the bay. All of us are perfectly satisfied; a good, comfortable parsonage, a new and, wife says, splendid cooking stove, and everything necessary to commence housekeeping on. Our first quarterly conference over, and liberal provision made for preacher and presiding elder. Indications have already manifested themselves of an outpouring of the Holy Spirit. I pray God it may descend.—S. H. B.

CALVERT, ROBERTSON CO., Feb. 5.—Our first quarterly meeting just over. The presiding elder spent several days with us, and has endeared himself to all. He says that Mount Vernon circuit has raised more money for the presiding elder than any other charge in the Waco district, Waco Station not excepted. Missionary collections are ahead of all except Waco. We hope by God's help to do a good work this year. The presiding elder receives many kindnesses (of a substantial nature) from the people on the circuit. He is thankful—for "his lot has fallen in pleasant places."—HAROLD.

GRAHAM, YOUNG CO., Feb. 3.—Religious information is scarce in this section of Texas. I hear of no advancement in the affairs that pertain to eternal salvation. Bro. B. H. Johnson is getting along smoothly. No great awakenings, but a slow, sure progression in Graham. Bro. A. K. Miller says he will make a work out of Belknap mission. May success crown his efforts, and may he reap a rich reward. Times hard and money scarce.—S. W. GOODE.

DAINGERFIELD, MORRIS CO., Feb. 5.—We have received two deeds to church property. Contracts let for the building of a church at Hughes Springs and another at Carson, both stations on the E. L. & R. R. Materials are now being delivered on the ground. These houses are to be finished. There is no parsonage here. I had to rent again, but I have a half block given me for that purpose at this place, and I'll tell you about the parsonage very soon. Success to our ADVOCATE.—R. G. SEWELL.

LIBERTY HILL, WILLIAMSON CO., Feb. 6.—"Take notice!" "Our distressed husband" has been at "Jerico" long enough for his "beard" to grow out. He wants to "emigrate" next fall. Has "plenty" locust-backs to sustain himself.—J. K. LANE.

WALKER STATION, RED RIVER CO., Feb. 3.—All quiet on the east side of Cut Hand; good congregations; some interest, also some dearth. Mormonism is giving out in this part. Walker Station is improving—some prospects for a church house. One saloon, sorry to say, that is doing the community harm. A man was killed on the train a short while back; supposed to be stealing cotton off the train.—L. F. PALMER.]

COLD SPRINGS, SAN JACINTO CO., Feb. 4.—First quarterly meeting over; the presiding elder at his post. A moderate attendance of official members—not as many as ought to have been. Assessed what they thought would be paid, for the pastor the following: Cold Springs, \$165; Camilla, \$40; Big Creek, \$35; Johnson Chappell, \$100; Waverly, \$60. The presiding elder raised \$100 on Sunday for parsonage. The pastor has all hands at work, and our report we expect to be perfect every quarter this year. The stewards have a system this year, and that has been our chief difficulty before. Next quarterly meeting at Waverly Mission.—I. Z. T. MORRIS.

CENTER CITY, HAMILTON CO., Jan. 28.—Our first quarterly conference for Mountain Mission was held on the 25th inst. C. H. Ellis, presiding elder, was present, and did good service. He is the right man in the right place. A few accessions to the church. I hope this meeting is the budding of a gracious revival. One barrier with us is, we have no house of our own for worship. Where we have to use private houses, our social meetings are more or less neglected. We are having fine weather. Wheat is very backward. Farmers talk of planting early this year. More anon.—J. S. TUNNELL.

WHITESBORO, GRAYSON CO., Jan. 3.—A severe attack of kidney complaint confines me to my room. My suffering has been great, but hope I am getting well. Done but little on my district as yet, but the preachers are at their posts. The ADVOCATE is a great comfort to me in my affliction. Sorry to hear complaints against bishops and presiding elders. May the Lord aid you in publishing a paper that will be a terror to evil doers, and that will build up the church in its "most holy faith." Pray for me that I may be able soon to return to my "loved employ."—W. H. MOSS.

GILMER, UPSHUR CO., Feb. 6.—Gilmer Sunday-school raised means last Sunday to replenish its literature. A gentleman in Gilmer has married twice to the same woman in the space of two months; ceremony performed first time by county judge, and therefore illegal. First quarterly meeting is over; was held at the Hopewell; good congregation and preaching on Sunday; but out of a membership of 54, there were only two at the Lord's table.—E. S. BOYD.

ROCKWALL, ROCKWALL CO., Feb. 6.—I hail with pleasure your weekly visits; the postals are an invention truly; news from all over Texas weekly; nothing very strange in R.; a small spit of snow again yesterday; farm interests still pressed; prices unchanged; Bro. McDougald getting on well, and his other half has twin babies—a New Year's present; Farmersville in statu quo; my health improving by hard work.—A. H. BREWER.

FORT GRIFFIN, SHACKELFORD CO., Feb. 4.—I am just recovering from an attack of pneumonia; been very sick; will resume my work in a few days; am well pleased with my new field of labor; will try to put the ADVOCATE in every Methodist family; the ADVOCATE is all that we can desire in the way of a religious paper. The outlook for crop this year is good; wheat looks fine; farmers are busy preparing their lands for planting. All alive on the frontier.—L. W. HARRISON.

MARYSVILLE, COOK CO., Feb. 6.—We like the postal card feature of the ADVOCATE, and are pleased with the general improvement of the paper. We thought the "postals" were intended for news items—not sorry jokes—and suggest that writers send news to the ADVOCATE, and jokes to the New York Mercury. We are among a kind people; have a small, but comfortable parsonage; and the barrel of meal and cruise of oil never get empty. The pastor of this charge organized a church at Burlington last Sabbath, with fifteen members.—MATTIE C. BRIDWELL.

McLENNAN CO.—I thank God I have met all my quarterly conferences the first round. On Waco district preachers all at work successfully. Assessments satisfactory. Support of preacher reasonable. Preceding pastors and P. E. all favorably spoken of. Prayer has been the subject of preaching all round the district. We are laboring for a revival of faithful prayer in private families, and for week night congregations. Mrs. Thor's health very feeble.—THOS. STANFORD.

CHAPPELL HILL, WASHINGTON CO., February 5.—Some of the good people of this village, which has long been held up before the public as a suitable location for an educational centre, not only for its

healthfulness but for the high toned moral sentiment and good society generally, concluded to try local option in the corporation, to do away with the blighting curse of grog-shops. But what a failure: 27 for and 62 against. Twenty-five whites and two freedmen for no grog-shops; 62 for retailing poison. Alas! alas! What next? A village of 500 or 600 person; 3 churches; two schools, one of them one of our best female colleges, 150 pupils in school; one temperance council; and local option voted down by more than two to one. Surely the fine gold has become dim. We have lost our prestige and I cannot tell what more will be lost; we are going backward, and to go into perdition backwards is the worst way we could go. Can't you help us.—ALPHA.

FLORESVILLE, WILSON CO., February 4.—The report came in town to-day that a negro named Bowman had been found in the Cibola dead. It is reported that he was drunk and was thrown off his horse into the river, where he drowned for the want of assistance. Floresville is destined to be one of the finest places in the West. Dirt can be bought in Wilson county for \$2 and \$3 an acre. This is an asylum for the poor who are willing to work.—QUILIP.

COFFEYVILLE, UPSHUR CO., January 31.—Our preacher in charge, Rev. I. N. Crutchfield, is a preacher and a pastor. You may look for a good report from him at conference. This is a piney woods country and poor, though we will try to feed our preacher on plenty of corn-bread and meat. And, what is lucky, he has no wife to starve, but will need one. Corn 50c; meat 5c; cotton 7 to 8c. Times hard and money tight. We have a clever people. Land from \$2 to \$5 per acre—plenty for sale.—COPPAGE.

BENTON CITY, February 3.—We are needing rain here very much. Have had none since November. But notwithstanding the dry ahead the farmers are going ahead preparing for another crop. We had quite a cold spell Saturday and Sunday. Is moderating now. Very little has been done here this year spiritually. Will require a year of hard labor to accomplish much. We are determined to do our best. It was a mistake about the smallpox being at Fritown and of its being quarantined. It is not there. Small grain is up and looking fine.—T. J. THOMASSON.

BUENA VISTA, SHELBY CO., Feb. 3.—Just held the quarterly meeting at this place. Bro. D. S. Watkins, the pastor, not present. From some cause unknown, he has not been on his work since conference. He did a good work here last year, the fruits of which still remain. One case deserves special notice: A little girl, Jessie Johnson, between eight and nine years of age, embraced religion last fall, and up to this time shows evidence of genuine Christianity. She was under no special religious training. Her father is irreligious; her mother has been dead several years. She wished to join the Methodist Church because her mother lived and died a Methodist.—WM. A. SAMPEY.

BURKEVILLE, NEWTON CO., Jan. 29.—I would be glad if the Brethren in Texas would give the name of the county in their postal card writing. I think it will add to the interest of the communications.—E. P. BRASHER.

WINCHESTER, FAYETTE CO., Feb. 4, 1879.—The peace of our community was disturbed last Saturday by a horse race; one of the horses ran over an ox; the horse and rider both fell, hurting the rider severely; but not seriously. We are glad to know that public sentiment is against such conduct. We will have an organ for our Sunday school right soon. We feel encouraged, as we continue our rounds on the circuit. God is good to us.—M. S. HOTCHKISS.

BURKVILLE, NEWTON CO., Jan. 27.—I reached my circuit 18th inst., found the people in good spirits and looking forward for the blessing of God and a prosperous future in things temporal and divine; and although times are hard, the people look cheerful, and seem to forget the things that are behind, and intend to press forward and hope for the better. This is a healthy county generally, but last year was uncommonly sickly for this portion of Texas. Some measles in this county, and a few have died; the disease is still spreading; it seems to spread slower in winter than summer.—E. T. BRASHER.

You cannot tell a man who is contented in the world, merely by looking at him. The nearest fitting boot often covers a raging corn.

The Shorn Lamb. At one time during the frozen term through which we have just passed, the thermometer, in our room, indicated eight degrees above zero, and in the open air two degrees below. During those days we thought of figures of speech; of similitudes and of similes; but no one of them met our notion of the actual situation. We exhausted our stock of adjectives, which we deemed, in any way appropriate, to describe the nature, condition and versatility of the weather, and when we failed we reflected on the poverty of human language.

About this time we thought very compassionately of "that shorn lamb" so often mentioned in sermons, in which it is said, "the Lord tempers the wind to the shorn lamb," and we were satisfied that that lamb must be in some other climate. Indeed, twenty-six years experience of Texas weather convinces us that the Lord does not want that lamb "shorn" in a Texas winter, so as to require Him to make the winds any warmer around that lamb than they are in any other place.

After a mature, thorough and deliberate investigation of the subject we conclude that the Lord does not want that lamb "shorn," and that if any one is simple enough to shear his lamb in a Texas winter that the Lord will let the northers come down and kill that lamb! C. L. SPENCER.

Corsicana District.

I have just completed my first round of quarterly meetings, with very satisfactory results. The people have met us most hospitably, and the ministers on the district seem encouraged and strengthened, and filled with a determination to press forward. I am convinced that, by the grace of God, they will do a grand work this year. I send a list of my second round of quarterly meetings, hoping that the people will bear these dates in mind and will all be prepared to attend. And I hope, especially, that they will begin to feel more deeply than ever the great importance of the mission-work, and will come nobly and generously to the help of the workers. Let our mission-fields, both at home and abroad, feel the effect of this second round of quarterly conferences, in added help and strength sent to those who stand in sore need of both.—JAS. MACKAY, P. E.

SPIRITUAL SONGS, with Music for the Church and Choir, is the title of a superb hymn and tune-book, just issued by Scribner & Co. Edited by Charles S. Robinson, D. D. Price in cloth (red edge), \$1 50; flexible covers for choirs, \$1 50; extra edition (gilt edge), bound in American gros grain silk, \$2 50.

"Time was when a book of hymns was a compilation. This, as its name implies, is a 'selection.' An attempt has been made, while retaining the standard and well-beloved hymns and tunes, to meet the popular taste in the direction of music with a decided melody and hymns accompanied by a refrain, and toward hymns of a more stately character and varied rhythm with tunes constructed on the models of the English and German chorals. While the book is strictly undenominational, designed to furnish a service of song in which Christians of every name can unite, the publishers recognize the fact that churches of different denominations may desire some modifications in the general plan to adapt the book to their taste and needs. With this view, special editions will be issued from time to time under special names."

HENRIETTA, Jan. 30, 1879.—The weather has been very fine for two weeks. A light rain yesterday. Money scarce. The cry of "hard times" is heard on every side. Provisions of all kinds are cheap. Our town is still improving. The county is being rapidly settled up. There is one thing that greatly surprises me. It is this: There are a great many boys from six years old up who seem to be turned loose on the streets night and day to learn and practice wickedness. In all my rounds, I have never seen a place where the boys have so little parental instruction and training. What will be the end of it I can not tell; but from the places these boys visit and the example set them, I very much fear many of them will fill drunkards' and gamblers' graves. If parents will not live right, can there be any consolation in seeing their children going to ruin with them? How long will God suffer wickedness to cover our land as it does now? The M. E. Church (North) has sent a preacher here to labor in this country. I organized a class last Monday night on Red River, near the mouth of Little Wichita. I have more calls to preach in different neighborhoods than I am able to meet at present. There is not a church-house in the county, and

the people are slow about building, or rather are not much disposed to talk about building.—E. S. WILLIAMS.

Children's Department.

GRANDMAMA'S MIRROR.

In this mirror—years ago—May be sixty-five or so, Peeped a maid, Who was young and very fair, Summer eyes and sunny hair—It is said.

She's a little altered now, There are wrinkles on her brow, And her hair Is more silvery in hue, But her eyes are kind and true, As they were.

Only think she saw herself Years ago, a pretty elf, Mirrored here! 'Twould be very nice to know, Where the pretty faces go Year by year.

What a treasure, there must be, Hidden somewhere secretly, In this glass: For I know that pretty girls Always trifle with their curls As they pass.

And I sometime seem to trace There the shadow of a face Not my own; But no sooner do I strive To regard it as alive— It has flown.

Then I fancy I have seen Grandmamma, at seventeen, A delect! Yet it builds me up a dream Of the bluest eyes that seem Mine to meet.

Though I know it is ideal, There is something very real In the face: Heaven bless me, there it is, Coming here with cousin Liz: "Cousin Grace."

["UNCLE JOHN," to whom the children are writing, is not Dr. John, the editor of the ADVOCATE, as many seem to think. "Uncle John," however, is fully as "big" a man as the Doctor, and will doubtless make this department very interesting to the little ones.—Ed.]

TEXANA, February 4.—Uncle John: I will read the Testament through this year.—FRANCIS WELLS SIMONS.

TEXANA, February 3.—I am 8 years old, but I will promise "Uncle John" to try to read the New Testament through this year, if I can.—PERCY SIMONS.

TEXANA, February 3.—I promise "Uncle John" that I will try to read the New Testament through this year, if I live to do it.—MAURICE KAVANAUGH SIMONS.

TEXANA, FEB. 3, 1879.—I promise uncle John that I will try to read the New Testament through this year, if I live. Our teacher told us that he asked, in the CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE, for every child who would read it through to write to you.—MARY LEE SIMONS.

TEXANA, JACKSON COUNTY, FEB. 3.—I am a little girl, and can not read well, but I will try to read a chapter in my Bible every day and will tell other little girls about it.—NELLIE D. HACKER.

BEDIAS, GRIMES CO., TEXAS, February 6.—Uncle John: You ask children to write to you and I will do so. We have a good Sunday-day-school away out here in the woods. Eleven officers and teachers, and 60 pupils; and Mr. Jones, our superintendent, says "we haven't been into winter quarters." Now the Huntsville district conference meets at this place next summer, and we want you to come and talk to us little people. We want to see you and hear you, oh ever so much; and when you come, come right straight to papa's.—MATTIE E. BROOKS.

BLOWOUT, BLANCO CO., February 4.—Uncle John: You say you will answer any question little children may ask. Guess you would answer some for larger ones. In Gen. 4th chapter we read of Cain's wife. The question is, who is Cain's wife; or, of what family is she? The Bible gives no account of any woman up to Gen. 4th chapter except Eve. Please answer through columns of ADVOCATE and oblige.—S. J. SHELLEY.

ROUND ROCK, February 1.—Uncle John: We see in the ADVOCATE that you are making up a class to read the Bible, the Old and New Testaments, this conference year, and thinking that you may have a more profitable plan to suggest than we have followed, we would like to join it. We have made a habit of reading the Bible, but will be glad to receive any assistance or directions in its careful reading or study.—JOSIE AND MARY MUNGGER.

The color of a girl's hair is regulated by the size of her father's pocket-book. If the latter be plenteous, the girl's tresses are golden or Auburn. If the old man's wallet is lean, we hear the girl spoken of as only "that red-headed gal."

The smartest thing about enny man is hiz conscience; he may outarge hiz reason, or stutify hiz faith, but he kant beat hiz conscience.

Texas Christian Advocate

Missions.

Mr. Editor: The old proverb, "speech is silver, silence golden," has been a maxim with me since my sojourn in Texas in respect to your most excellent paper.

Another fact which gives us real joy is the arrival of Rev. Marshall McLhany, A. M., the new President of the Dallas Female College.

But to the point: Are we, in Texas, doing our duty on the subject of missions? It would protract this article unduly to enter upon details; but this I say in a general way, that we are behind all the leading denominations in the United States, in proportion to our numbers and wealth, in missionary contributions.

At the close of the war, when it became evident that the M. E. Church would attempt to organize churches in our territory, I determined the course which I, as an individual, would pursue.

few boys under a haystack, to which they had been driven by a rain storm, founded the Missionary Society for the conversion of Asia.

H. A. BOURLAND.

The M. E. Church, South.

The Nashville Christian Advocate has a communication from B. M. Stephens, headed "Matters of my District," and dated New Middleton.

"Our Northern Methodists have a few members in the bounds of my work. In proportion to the reduction of the missionary money for this field they have decreased in numbers, and will continue to grow less.

The present writer is opposed to controversy, especially with those who agree essentially in doctrines and discipline. Methodists all over the world are in harmony on the great doctrines of the gospel, as expounded by Mr. Wesley.

At the close of the war, when it became evident that the M. E. Church would attempt to organize churches in our territory, I determined the course which I, as an individual, would pursue.

letter in the future, for one, I am willing to forgive him, for confounding Colonel S. A. Roberts and Judge O. M. Roberts, our recently inaugurated Governor.

Bishop Haven and Fraternity.

Bishop Gilbert Haven has been attending the conferences of the M. E. Church in Texas, and is regaling the readers of Northern papers with articles giving an account of his flight through this lost Paradise.

What a terrible state of mind this immaculate Methodist bishop must have been in to have been thus haunted and possessed with devils.

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There is just one more item in this model letter for a Methodist Bishop, that I wish to call attention to, and that is as follows: "A goodly congregation gathered here, the last Sunday I was in Texas, to hear the Word."

I beg pardon for this long letter, but a postal card would not answer in this case.

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VOLUNTARY TESTIMONY.

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

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Texas Christian Advocate

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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."

"Is there anything against Bro. —?" This question which is asked every annual conference respecting each member of that body, whether young or old, marks one of the peculiarities of Methodism. Possibly no body of men pass under such frequent and rigid examination as to moral character or official acts as the Methodist preacher. "Is he blameless in life?" "Is he faithful in the performance of his pastoral work?" "Is he acceptable?" To be useful he must be to some extent acceptable to the people he serves. "Is he studious?" "How does he preach?" "How many conversions does he report?" "How many accessions to the church?" "Has he attended to his collections?" "What amount of missionary money? or what kind of collection for wornout preachers; and the widows and orphans of deceased preachers has he brought up?" In some shape or other these questions are asked and must be answered every year.

We must render our own account before the throne of God, and it is well that we are called to make our reports very often as we pass along. How many men in other vocations could pass if their lives were under such faithful scrutiny?

KNOTT'S QUESTIONS.

A worthy correspondent proposes a series of questions to the ADVOCATE, and asseverates that it is not done though idle curiosity—that they are so interwoven with vital questions in theology that he desires light on them.

The ADVOCATE sets up no claim to authority in such matters—that is to say, our opinion on any theological question is only our opinion, and is entitled to no more consideration than the opinion of any other brother in like circumstances. But, as the ADVOCATE is a medium of thought between preachers, and church people as well, through which they can interchange views tending to unity of sentiment and of the spirit in the bond of peace, we see no reason why it should not respectfully notice any question which may be submitted in candor and with no other design—as in this case—but to elicit light.

These are the questions:

- 1. Did the sin of Adam cause death to animals? Ans. Upon the authority of St. Paul, we conclude that death in all its forms followed as a consequence from sin. See Romans v: 12. If, as the Apostle says, death entered the world by sin, then it follows that it was not in the world prior to the sin of Adam. It could not be truthfully averred that death entered into the world by sin if it had a previous existence in the world in any form. Hence animals were not subject to death prior to the fall of Adam. 2. Was there any change in the construction of animals after the fall of Adam? Ans. We respectfully suggest that this question is more curious than useful. We do not know. 3. If so, when? Ans. As this question is based upon a supposed affirmative answer to the second question, and that answer was not given, it loses its pertinency. 4. If there was no such change since, and no death before, how did carnivorous animals live before the fall? Ans. We suppose, as the first human pair, subsisted—before the fall—not on animal food, as their

posterity has done ever since, but on the delicious fruits of the Garden of Eden so animals feasted in like manner on the natural productions of the earth; for, as yet, violence was unknown in the earth.

5. Did the sin of Adam cause temporal death of man? Ans. It did. "In Adam all die." "Since by man came death," 1st Cor., xv:21-2.

6. If so, what was the tree of life for? Ans. After consulting commentaries and many learned authors in their conflicting conjectures—they are but conjectures—it is but modest in us to confess we do not know.

7. Was man prior to the fall subject to decay? Ans. We cannot think that he was, as being subject to decay would imply a liability to death in the absence of sin, or that he existed in his primeval state of innocence under the law of mortality; to all of which we unhesitatingly withhold our assent.

8. Did man eat prior to the fall? Ans. Certainly he did. See Gen. ii:16.

9. If so, why, unless for the reparation of a wasting nature? Ans. That man was not subject to the same physiological laws of nature before the fall that he has been since, and is now, is clear enough. If he had been, his liability to decay and death would not admit of the slightest doubt. If we knew the full import of the change from immortality to mortality we might give a satisfactory answer to our correspondent; but as we do not—such knowledge being too high for a finite mind—we must leave it where the Bible leaves it, and confine our investigations within the not very well defined limits of religious thought.

We refer our young friend to Richard Watson's Institutes on the fall of Adam, and the extent to which that fall affected his posterity; with this word of caution: the present is an age, not only of inquiry, but of unbridled speculation in the regions of fancy. New theories are forming and new doctrines are being evolved. Infidelity is on the rampage, clad in the costumes of science—so-called. The pulpit, in many places, is catering to the tidal wave, which is from beneath, and one by one the time honored doctrines of Revelation, if not wholly given up, are ignored. That is to say, they are not preached and thundered upon the ears of the wicked world, and a slumbering dreamy church, as they were by our fathers. The times demand that our young preachers, and old ones as well, should drink deeply from the fountains of EVANGELICAL THEOLOGY.

Our correspondent indirectly assumes that carnivorous animals lived before the age of man. From whence did he obtain that information? Not from the Bible we are sure. And as there is no other book which reaches anterior to the flood, much less antedates the origin of the human race, he could not have gotten it from any authorized historical book. From what source then, was this assumed fact derived? Not from facts, but from the vagaries of geological deductions—a science which is not as yet out of its swaddling clothes, though seized upon by infidelity, with the nefarious design of making it tributary to the overthrow of the Mosaic Record.

The want of space will not allow us here and now to elaborate this theme. We only add, that true science and the Bible are found to be in perfect harmony; while the vagaries of science, in the hands of enemies, are beclouding many minds and throwing shadows athwart the paths of good people. But time and the march of learning will soon dispel the last shadow and span in celestial brightness the revelation of God, with the bow of Eternal Truth.

DR. GREENSVILLE DOWELL, the well known physician and surgeon of Galveston, has been exceedingly ill during the past week, but is now fast recovering.

ON OUR CIRCUIT.

As we stepped on the platform at Round Rock we hailed Bro. Munger, who responded by a prompt invitation to look at the new church building. We had an hour before the Georgetown train would start; a horse was secured, and a swift ride brought us to the building. It will be a neat frame house, with seats for 350 worshippers. Its cost, when complete, will be about \$1,500; will be ready for dedication in March. Nehemiah was not a priest, but no son of Aaron had a greater zeal for the temple than did the cup-bearer of Artaxerxes. Each church needs its Nehemiah. As we looked over the appointment of the new house of worship, we caught some of the enthusiasm of the good brother by our side, and felt that building churches was one of the first duties of the Methodists of Texas.

The Georgetown road is completed, and we enjoyed the ride in their neat new coach. Georgetown evidently feels the impulse of the new enterprise. The population has increased fifty per cent since the road was projected; and, notwithstanding the advance in price of lots, new buildings are going up in every direction.

We found Dr. Mood confined to his room suffering from a severe cold, and, we fear, from over work. He was unusually cheerful on the prospects of the University. There are 152 students in attendance. The faculty has been strengthened and the Regent and six professors find full employment for all their time and strength, while two additional professors give a portion of their time to the lecture room. A distinct school of English Language and Literature has been opened, and the school of Natural Science has been made a distinct department. Prof. P. D. Mood, nephew of the Regent, has this school in charge. Prof. N. A. Turner will take charge of the music and vocal culture. Efforts are being made to enclose the college ground in order that trees may be planted the present season. We hope each preacher will respond to the appeal sent out. Bro. Boone, at Marshall, presented the matter to his quarterly conference, and with the co-operation of the P. E., a prompt response was secured. The University is the property of Texas Methodism, and the church should make it worthy of its mission.

We spent some hours in Austin, and give it as our opinion that the stationed preacher who occupies a large and comfortable parsonage is prepared to do at least double the work of the pastor who lives in his "own hired house," and pays the rent out of his meagre salary. We wish every preacher in the state had such a home as our church in the capital of the State has furnished its pastor.

We are hopeful of the action of our legislature. Men of the highest moral worth are found among its members. Legislative reputation has been the target of newspaper wit so long that multitudes associate corruption and dissipation with the name. We believe the present body will relieve the councils of our State from this reproach. Each House has in it members representing the highest standard of moral and social worth; and we believe the laws they will enact will represent the moral sentiment of the best body of their constituents.

We were waiting at Palestine on Saturday night for the east bound train of the International, and were starting from the door of Sterne's Hotel, when the flash and sharp reports of a revolver arrested our steps. Another, then another, until eight shots were fired, and then the rush of rapid steps, and the sharp exclamations of excited men, as the crowd closed around the spot, told that another bloody tragedy had been enacted. The Grayson murder trial was in progress. The action of certain officers and their testimony in the court had aroused the ire of certain men. Threats were aloft, and the officers and witnesses were warned that their lives were in danger. Then followed hot words between the parties; the officer was knocked down and wounded with a knife; and, as we left the town at midnight, we were told his assailant was dying, with four balls in his body. Such were the items we gleaned from the crowd. The sympathy of the citizens were evidently with the officer assailed, and the sentiment was freely expressed that the law must be sustained and the officer and the witness shielded from assault while in discharge of their duty.

The lawless spirit which lead men to seek redress for real or fancied grievances at the muzzle of the revolver is an evil that impera-

tively demands abatement. The lax administration of the laws foster this spirit, and the remedy is found in the prompt and faithful enforcement of law. When the authority of the law is broken down at one point, its power is weakened in every other. The Mayor of Galveston palliates his neglect by a retort of like unfaithfulness on the part of the grand jury; and finds further extenuation of want of fidelity to his sworn obligations in the fact that a similar disregard of official responsibilities marks the administration of other cities and towns. The faithlessness of one officer is employed to cover the neglect of another. The Mayor draws the faults of the jury around him as a shroud, and points to the prostrate laws in other localities as the justification of his own official misconduct. Judicial authority disregarded, and official duty neglected with respect to one offense, weakens the official authority and justifies official unfaithfulness with reference to every other. The law is despised and neglected by sworn officers in our cities, and its power is broken down in our towns and on our frontier. It is time that mayors and the police in our municipalities, as well as sheriffs on our frontier, were taught that it is their business to enforce the law. If they doubt the assertion, let them read the oaths of office they have taken on the open Bible. Let every citizen support the faithful officer.

We had spent a sleepless night in order to change cars at Overton for Henderson, and managed to go to sleep just in time to pass the junction and were aroused by the conductor with news that we were passing into Longview, a score or more of miles beyond our stopping place. But few things try one more than to have no one else to blame for his failures. We looked on the plan of our circuit and decided to spend the Sabbath in Jefferson.

We have learned how to secure a cordial welcome from a preacher in charge. It is this: Come in unexpectedly when his presiding elder is detained at home by a sick family. As the preacher has no sermon ready, he will hail the visitor as joyfully as if he were the very man of all others the preacher most desired to see. Bro. Neely gave us a hearty welcome and made us fill the presiding elder's hour, (Bro. Ellis being detained by a sick family), and also required us to address the Sunday-school mass meeting in the afternoon. The latter was an interesting occasion. Our old friend, Judge Penman, presided, and much interest was displayed by the scholars and the grown up people present.

Jefferson is well supplied with church buildings: The Baptist, Presbyterian, Episcopal, Catholic, and Hebrew congregations have substantial houses of worship. Our church building is one of the largest in North Texas. Its membership has been largely reduced by removals during the past few years, but Bro. Neely, the pastor, spoke encouragingly of the increase and prosperity of his charge since conference.

Though Jefferson has lost largely in population and trade since railroad lines have opened new channels for transportation, yet its leading men have displayed an amount of energy which promises to restore in some measure its former prosperity. The East Line railroad, which is running to Winnsboro—a distance of seventy miles—and is ironed nearly to Carrollton, some twelve miles further, and graded to Sulphur Springs, is proof of their pluck and enterprise.

We left Tuesday, in company with Bro. Neely, on the East Line, for Sulphur Springs. We referred in a former number to the Sabine as the east boundary of our circuit. This was a mistake. It extends beyond the Sabine to Red River on the northeast; and we find it to be a most important portion of the field represented by the TEXAS ADVOCATE.

We passed within hearing of Kelley's foundry, but had not time to stop. We enter here the broad iron belt which reaches from Bowie to Anderson county, and varies from ten to twenty miles in width. The ore is said to equal the best product of the Pennsylvania mines. That worked at Kelley's foundry averages sixty per cent, though he has worked ore which yielded ninety-five per cent. It is said to compare with Swedish iron in toughness and durability. The timber of this region consists chiefly of pine, hickory and oak, and is valuable, not only on account of the lumber which is shipped from the mills in large quantities, but as fuel, with which the furnaces that will one day glow amid these iron-ribbed hills will be fed.

The soil in this region is a gray or mulatto sand, with a red clay foundation. It is very easily cultivated, and, judging by the corn and cotton stalks in the fields through which we passed, is much more productive than its appearance would indicate. The cheapness of building material accounts for the neat houses which appear on many of the farms. Lumber, according to quality, can be had at many of the mills at from \$5 to \$10 per thousand feet. The fields have good fences, chiefly of pine rails. Water is abundant and, even in the iron region, of excellent quality.

At Avinger, about seventeen miles from Jefferson, we had ten minutes to spare, and at the request of Dr. Avinger, the enterprising proprietor of the mills at this place, and of nearly everything in sight, we ran out through a sharp rain to look at the new church the small but liberal society at this point have recently completed. It is painted within and without, furnished with handsome pulpit and altar, and comfortable seats, chandeliers, and a floor covered with an elegant carpet. The pulpit is rather tall for some preachers we have met. A man can never shoot well if he sights from too high a rest. Bating this single item, it is one of the neatest and most complete churches we have found in any rural community in the State. Avinger has set a good example to many other localities.

Hugh's Springs, which are located 27 miles from Jefferson, promise to become one of the popular watering places in Northern Texas. We had no time to visit the Springs, though the neat enclosure around them was in full sight from the train. The water is said to possess fine medicinal qualities, and as the location is said to be one of the most healthy in all this region, it will no doubt be largely visited by health seekers and fagged money makers during the heated season. A hotel and other accommodations are in contemplation, in anticipation of a crowd of Summer guests. We were pleased to learn that a pile of lumber near the springs marked the site of a new church to be built this year.

We next passed through the old town of Daingerfield. We have here a good church building. A parsonage is in process of erection. In addition to this enterprise, the pastor, Bro. Sewell, expects to report three new churches completed at the ensuing conference. Blessed be the man who induces his people to build churches and parsonages. His work will remain when he has gone to his reward. Near the depot, at Daingerfield, we saw an artificial fish pond which supplies its proprietor with an abundance of delicious fish. Trout weighing five or six pounds are often taken from its waters.

Pittsburg, the county seat of Camp county, was the next point of importance. It is said to be surrounded by some of the best farming land in the timbered portion of the State. For miles in every direction the country is almost a solid farm, and the town can only be reached through unbroken lanes.

Leesburg, another town on the road, is not only the center of a prosperous region, but it is said that no liquor saloon nor gambling-hell has ever been permitted in its limits. A school-house and church were in sight from the cars. Blessed be Leesburg!

At every point along the road we were surprised to find the track passing through or along-side of cultivated fields. Our estimate was that two-thirds of the land through which we were traveling was under cultivation. The conductor assured us that the estimate was too small, and that on either side of the road the country was as densely populated as that which we could see from the train.

An appointment was awaiting us at Sulphur Springs on Tuesday night. We reached Winnsboro at 1 P. M., and found neither stage nor hack, as we had been led to expect. Bro. N. and self chartered a buggy. Harness had to be rigged up, and a few minutes before 3 P. M. we started for our appointment, over some of the worst road we have traveled, even the present winter.

There was no top to the buggy; a rickety umbrella was borrowed; and, under a steady drizzling rain, we moved away. We took turns at the reins and a small pole we had substituted for a whip, and imagined that we looked very much like two Methodist preachers of the olden times. Our enthusiasm was lower by several degrees as night drew on, and when darkness settled down on mud and dashing rain, we were glad to accept a hearty welcome at Bro. Elliott's, and

forgot our painful travel, before a glowing fire. Some things work up splendidly in a missionary address; but if a preacher has only a small stock of religion, deep mud and cold rain driven by a sharp north wind, is likely to take the starch out of him before he has traveled very far. There are hundreds of Methodist preachers going every week through greater discomforts to their appointments. They do it without a murmur. They do it with no prospect of pay beyond a bare support. They do it for Christ's sake. After uniting with the family in prayer, we laid down to sleep, with the winds whistling around the house, praying God to bless those men who bear through rain and storm the message of life to the people.

GREER COUNTY.—It is Greer county, named for J. A. Greer, that is in controversy between the United States and Texas, and not Tom Green county, as stated in the report of the legislative proceedings. Greer county lies between the main or north fork of Red river and the middle fork. My recollection is, that when the commissioners running the boundary line reached the junction of the two rivers, the commissioner on the part of the United States agreed that the north fork should become the boundary. It was the broadest stream, and was more directly in the route to the upper line of Texas territory. To make the middle fork the line is to deflect to the southwest and take a strip in the shape of a triangle, of which the north fork of the river forms the hypotenuse. This, too, was in accordance with the instructions of Governor Houston, who was well posted on the subject; so I was informed by Judge Wm. H. Russell, now of Brownsville, the Texas commissioner, to complete the work, after Judge Scurry resigned. Afterward the United States Commissioner contended for the middle fork as the line. To this Mr. Russell never consented, as it would have violated the positive instructions of Governor Houston, and so the boundary was never agreed to. Since that the Secretary of the Interior, at Washington, has made some kind of a purchase of some Indian tribe to this disputed territory. No Indians ever occupied it, or set up any claim to it, and this is a mere fictitious plea, to enforce an unfounded claim. If the United States has any claim to Greer county, the claim is based on the treaty with Denis and John Quincy Adams, of 1810. But we do not think even that claim will hold, as the old maps appear to fix the north fork as the true main fork of Red river. If Secretary Schurz, who puts up the last claim, had pretended that he had bought McLennan county of the Wacos, or Limestone county of the Tehuacanies, there might have been some grounds for the plea. These tribes formerly occupied those counties, but to pretend to buy a strip of country on Red river from the tribes in the Indian Nation, that have no land except that given them by the United States, is a little too preposterous. Let the legislature proceed to survey the land and appropriate it to the use of the state. H. S. T.

(Extract from a Private Letter.) FROM BISHOP KEENER.—New Orleans, Feb. 4, 1879.—I am glad to hear of improvement in the material well-being of our church in Texas. All we need there is plenty of good churches and parsonages to put our Methodism in full working condition. Without prompt and well-sustained effort, we shall not be able to hold the enviable place we now have in your State against that strong tide which is setting in and pouring its thousands from Ohio, Indiana and the whole Northwest. The people of those States have at last woken up to the fact that the Southwest is the best end of the Union. Its climate, its money-yielding products, and its rich and cheap lands are enough to draw settlers from even far better regions; as they have from Georgia, the Carolinas, Alabama and Louisiana. Our preachers are fully equal to the great field we occupy, but they must put forth their full strength. Now is the time. I am glad to hear encouraging accounts.—J. C. KEENER

THAT Bishop Keener has three sons in the traveling ministry we feel fully convinced. We have seen the statement in different religious journals at least twenty-five times in three weeks. There is to us nothing strange or newsworthy about it, either. We might really have been ahead with the item, because we heard the good bishop say so himself during his Texas round; but the fact is we thought it quite a natural consequence that the sons of such a father should be in the ministry.

THE lottery repeal law goes into effect in Louisiana from December ensuing.

Texas Christian Advocate

Gambling from a Legal Standpoint.

Judge Cook, of the Criminal District Court, Galveston, has openly expressed himself to the editor of this paper on more than one occasion as to the non-enforcement and futility of our present gaming laws and laws against houses of bad repute; at the same time urging that they should, and could be so amended as to be of vital effect. It is therefore with peculiar pleasure we give the following as elicited from him in an interview with a reporter of the News:

"The fact is, in my opinion, that the higher crimes, such as killing, highway robbery, etc., and the natural disposition to violence, are matters traceable in a great degree to the war and its consequences. In its results the war had a tendency to make men accustomed and prone to violence and blood. The loss of property in the South rendered desperate and reckless numbers of otherwise inoffensive people. A great proportion of this bloodshed is also directly attributable to the habits and mode of life of stockraisers who live in a wild frontier country. Another thing that panders much to this is an idle and brutal sort of reputation which men acquire by association, and many people encourage this wanton practice by making heroes of these desperate characters. The people of Texas do not sufficiently frown upon crime. By this I mean to say that crime does not degrade a man socially. There is too much public sympathy, too much pardoning, too much pity for the felon and not quite enough of the juggernaut in the administration of law. The law, or rather its administration, should be relentless. The governor of the state should not pardon, except where, if not finally adjudicated, the party would be entitled to a new trial. Public sentiment in the state is largely to blame so far as the administration of law is concerned. I agree with Judge Roberts in this: that there is not enough responsibility placed upon the judiciary. There is too much legislation and not enough left to the discretion of the judge. Where discretion is allowed responsibility attaches, but where strict statutory rules govern, the judge assumes no responsibility whatever, if he can possibly avoid it. Old Hickory himself would hardly go out and hunt up responsibility. Another thing which lies at the basis of crime and which blunts the moral sensibilities of the people, is a craving for speculation, a desire for money without labor. Everybody seems to want a petroleum well or a Comstock lode, without the necessity of digging for it. This produces the gambling mania, a disposition to have wealth without work. What makes men so anxious for the possession of money is the adulation and toadyism which most people have for men of wealth. He who is a conceded blackguard and criminal is suddenly metamorphosed into a gentleman if it is found he has a full purse. Any man, upon the mere suggestion being made to him, can think of a half dozen prominent men in business who would have no position—socially, morally or religiously—if they were to lose their bags of money. Young men see that money makes a hog a gentleman and their heads are turned. A man is frequently allowed to conduct himself in the most disgraceful manner simply because it is necessary not to lose his influence! This fact that money makes the man is evidenced by those who, within the last few years, have fallen from wealth, and who now can find "none so poor as to do them reverence." It reminds me of the argument of Franklin on the property qualification for the right of suffrage. He said that at an election a man came up to vote and was allowed the privilege of franchise upon stating that he owned a mule worth \$200. At a subsequent election he was not allowed to vote because the mule had died. The question asked was who help the right to vote, the man or the jackass? The story applies in this instance when it is asked, who is the gentleman, the person or the purse? If a man has the petroleum well, his vagaries are pleasantly styled eccentricities; his vices wild oats. If the people of the country would be a little more prompt at sustaining the legal authorities, the authorities would be more prompt in the discharge of their duties, and while I admit the present necessity for a force on the border, it is a bad lesson to give those organized counties where there is a sufficient population. The remedy for it all lies in the education of the people themselves to a law-abiding standard and in reforming the machinery of courts. The body of

the law is as good as any state's in the Union, but the machinery needs improvement very much. The whole judiciary system must be re-modeled. As it is now, it can not be successfully operated, and must cost two or three times more than an efficient system should cost. I think we made a great mistake in adopting our new constitution, and under it, as it is now, I am hopeless of any improvement. This district in which I hold court presents an extraordinary condition of things. I do not for a moment attribute it to the existence of the court, but there is certainly less crime in it than ever before in my recollection. It may be attributable in part to the frequent terms of court, which make the law's administration more prompt than anywhere outside the district. It can be said with truth that there is no crime of any noticeable character in the district. At the last term of the Houston court there were only five felonies, while in the present Galveston term there are only three. Felonies having so largely disappeared, attention should now be paid to misdemeanors, so as to drive them also out of the district. About the only lesser offenses we have now are gaming, the pursuit of occupations without license and houses of prostitution. I think that the law upon gaming as well as prostitution can be very much improved. Taking into consideration the difficulty of convicting in more than one or two cases against the same party between the terms of court, the penalties as they now stand amount in effect to a license. The penalties ought to be fixed, and not allowed to slide from less to more. Gambling is gambling, in a preacher as well as in a thief. There are no aggravating circumstances about it. The penalties should be increased to four or five times what they are now, so that a conviction would amount to something and not allow the party to plead guilty and pay the insignificant fine now imposed by law. I look with great hope and confidence to the administration of Gov. Roberts. I am satisfied that the very best administration will be given by him, and he will be bold enough to suggest changes. He is a man of large ambition, but this ambition I believe to be wholly patriotic.

Upon being asked about the recent spat between the mayor and grand jury, Judge Cook said: I am glad it has occurred, for it will serve to stir up both parties, besides exercising the public mind on the subject. He thought there was no personal ill-feeling on the subject and would deprecate anything of the kind. In my opinion it would be very much to the interest of the state if all municipal corporations were abolished. Not only the state but the different communities would be benefited thereby. In all cities and large towns ninety-nine out of the hundred cents of taxes are thrown away on unnecessary government. Worse than this, the existence of municipal governments paralyzes the state government in this way: The city assumes to guard the peace and to detect and prevent crime, and consequently the state or county officers are kept in the background, and they relax their efforts. It is my opinion that the existence of municipal government is the real reason why the laws of the state are not better executed within the municipalities. They are an obstacle to state administration, and why sensible people want to pay \$1000 per day for the maintenance of an "old man of the sea," is something I can not fathom.

PROSPECTIVE CHANGES IN METHODIST ECONOMY.—The time is not distant when a change must take place in the economy of American Episcopal Methodism. It relates to the itinerant general superintendency, or the Episcopal work. In the recent changes which have been effected, the Church, South, led the way. Our church was the first to extend the period of the pastoral term; the first to introduce laymen into annual and general conferences, and to revive district conferences. In the next change it is probable that the M. E. Church will lead off. At present the general superintendency of their bishops is more in name than in reality. One of their bishops will require ten or fifteen years to make a complete round of conferences, and if that body extends its missionary field and multiplies annual conferences for the next ten years, as in the last decade, it will take more than the ordinary lifetime of a bishop, after his election, to make the round. This diffuses Episcopal supervision until its real power is dissipated. It must become merely nominal. The remedy is, divide the work into Episcopal districts, put enough of territory into one district for two bishops, let these bishops remain in that district for life, alternating as at present. They will

then become thoroughly acquainted with the work and workmen, and will be prepared to make appointments intelligently.

In the Church, South, we need about two such districts, with four bishops each. As the church enlarges her missionary territory new districts could be formed, very much in the same way that presiding elders' districts are now formed.

We shall probably have bishop M'Yreire for our next bishop in Texas. He last made a general Episcopal tour here in 1867. What can he now know of the wants and peculiar conditions of the work in Texas, in 1879? He may, it is true, in a short time, hurrying through the State in sleeping palace cars, get a large amount of information. But how much better he would have been prepared to perform the very delicate and responsible duties of the Episcopal office, if he had been here every four years since 1867, and become thoroughly acquainted with our necessities and peculiarities.

A bishop in the Protestant Episcopal Church becomes identified with his diocese, and known to his people. The arrangement we suggest would give our bishops some such interest and influence, and still preserve the features of an itinerant general superintendency. Probably, though this is in the future, the plan we propose might lead to a revival of the famous plan of separation of 1844, and Methodism would become jurisdictional, and quadrennial conferences would be held in each Episcopal district; and a general conference, composed of delegates from the quadrennial conferences, every eight years, and ecumenical conferences of all the Methodisms of the world at stated long periods.

Lesson for Youth.

NUMBER NINE.

How was Christ manifested to the church before his incarnation? I gave some names from the Old Testament by which Christ was spoken of as a part of the answer to the question proposed. A little attention to those names will convince you that they clearly indicate both the divinity and humanity of the Christ character. And attention to the names applied to Christ in the New Testament will confirm the same truth. But as we are talking of the Old Testament teaching about Christ we will only allude to the New Testament at this point. The first name given in the eighth lesson as indicating the Christ character demands thought. Gen. 48:16. "The angel which redeemed them from all evil." No mere angel could redeem. Yet he is called "The angel which redeemed them." There is in this expression a clear intimation of the perfect Christ character both as to divinity and humanity, because it took both these to constitute the Redeemer. If you will notice the expressions used in I Cor. x:1-10, in which Christ is spoken of as actually personally present with Israel at the crossing of the Red Sea, when the Israelites were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and that many of them tempted Christ and fell in the wilderness, and then read the 11th and 12th verses, you will learn a lesson of the Christ character as manifested both in the Old and New Testament. I here remark that Christ is God manifest in the flesh, I. Tim. iii:16; and in his true redeeming character under promise, was as available to the Adamic race from the time of the promise up to the incarnation, as he has been since his incarnation; and also as the Lawgiver to the church prior to, as well as since his incarnation. In a word, the complete Christ character was manifested in all of his saving, mediating, redeeming efficacy from the time that it was said that the seed of the woman should bruise the serpent's head; Gen. iii:15. With this truth admitted, the scriptures form a connected system of truths and church history easily understood. But to deny this truth, involves the whole in mystery and becomes the source of dangerous errors.

It has been said that "it made no difference what men believed so that they were honest in their belief." The devil never told a worse lie than this, except one; that was when he said, "Ye shall not surely die." Gen. iii:4. To deny the divinity of Christ is to contradict the Scriptures, and to make it idolatry to worship him; it is to turn Deist, because there could be no Christ apart from divinity. The exhortation recorded upon this subject is full of importance, I Tim. iv: 16: "Take heed unto thyself and unto this doctrine; continue in them, for in doing this, thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee." It is asserted by those who claim to be ministers of the gospel in this country, that there never was

any Christ, or any one saved through Christ, until after the crucifixion of Christ at Jerusalem. There has been a debate between preachers in this section recently; one contending that the Church was set up on the day of Pentecost; the other contending that the Church was set up by John the Baptist. I regard both of these preachers as denying that there was any Christ prior to the incarnation. To say that there was a Christ in the Old Testament times, and no Church in existence at that time to need a Christ, would be an absurdity. To say that there was no Christ or Church until the days of John the Baptist, or the day of Pentecost, or the crucifixion of Christ, would look to me like nonsense gone to seed, or the folly of falsehood perfected. Yet these doctrinal teachings are common in portions of this country to-day. I assert this proposition: that those who assert that the church was set up by, or commenced with, John the Baptist, virtually deny the existence and manifestation of the Christ up to the date or time of the existence of the Church. I also claim that this error, believed and taught, is the foundation of a multitude of errors; some of which I regard as contradictory of the whole tenor of the Scriptures. The want of a correct knowledge of the Christ character has been the source of more dangerous errors in theology than we would be apt to suppose at first thought. Indeed an error here carries with it a multitude of errors of a kindred cast. An error here is like the man who built his house upon the sand without a foundation. Math. vii: 26, 27. J. W. B. ALLEN.

FROM TEXARKANA.—We wish to say through the Advocate that the preacher's house was filled to overflowing with kind visitors and friends on the evening of the instant. We were not expecting an individual, less so great a crowd; nor did our visitors intend us to know of their coming. Such was foreign to their admirable programme. We were seated reading God's Word when the alarm sounded at the door. Upon attempting to open the door, in rushed the throng. As for myself, we merely stood in amazement, uttering rapidly as possible "Good evening." Mrs. F. also became somewhat bewildered, but added to her "Good evenings," "be seated." But they did not at that time care to sit. "What can it mean?" was amongst our thoughts. The answer was found in the abundance, both of substantial and delicacies, brought to the preacher and his wife by their brethren and sisters. And now, with emotional nature stirred to its profoundest depths, we attempted an expression of thanks. On behalf of those who had brought us under obligations, Dr. Beidler responded in a happy manner. An hour or so was devoted to social and religious enjoyment, and then our friends departed, carrying with them the prayers of the occupants of the itinerant's home. In closing this article, I would add, we have received many expressions of kindness since our arrival; and though Texarkana is said to be a hard place, we cordially thank Bishop Keener for assigning us to labor in the midst of so clever a people.—D. F. F.

FROM COLD SPRINGS CHURCH.—Last night the pastor of our church (Rev. I. Z. T. Morris) called the ladies together for the purpose of organizing a Woman's Missionary Society. After explaining the objects and purposes of the society, the following officers were elected: Mrs. Florence Johnson, president; Mrs. Della Chapman, Mrs. Sarah Hill, Mrs. Susan F. Carnes, Mrs. Faith Slade, vice-presidents; Miss Ida McLanahan, corresponding secretary; Miss Eugenia Butler, treasurer; Mrs. Emma E. Turnley, Miss Mattie Love, Miss Kittie Stocking, Miss Annie Mitchell, Miss Fanny Lovett, Miss Fanny Ellis, Miss Callie Watson, Mrs. Mollie Ross, managers. We have begun at the first of the year to work in earnest for our missions. Our pastor will not have to stand up in the conference room next conference and say, "he put it off until the last Sunday, and it was a bad day, and our people did not come out, and hence I have not all my collections." But if hard work and self-denial will accomplish anything, we will do our part in all departments. The interest in missions is increasing at every meeting, and you know the balance, Mr. Editor. Let every woman in Texas "read up" on this question, and we will soon see the results. Yours truly—HENRY. COLD SPRINGS, January 17, 1879.

"For sale, a monkey, a cat and a parrot. Address, Mr. Bronson Davids, L— square, who, having just married, has no further use for these animals." A truly polite man is one who listens with interest to hear a subject discussed which he knows all about, and which the parties discussing it know nothing about.

SOUTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY, GEORGETOWN, TEXAS.

Spring Term opens the FOURTH MONDAY (27th) in January. Tuition at the rate of \$6 per month. Board, covering all items, twelve and a half to fifteen dollars per month.

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Friends and patrons are respectfully invited to visit our Institution, examine our arrangements, test our work and judge our merits. REV. J. MATTHEWS, Pres. Board Trustees. CHAPPELL HILL, January 14, 1879.

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SPRING TERM—JANUARY 13th to JUNE 25th. FALL TERM—SEPT. 1st to DECEMBER 19th.

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The President resumes charge of the School after temporary absence on account of illness. He, his associates and the Directors send greeting to all friends of education, and earnestly urge their zealous support and co-operation. Send for circulars.

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I offer for sale 10 Jersey (Alderney) cattle, aged from four months to two years, whose sires or dams have taken a First Premium at the following Fairs: Ohio State Fair; North Ohio Fair; Indiana State Fair; St. Louis Fair; Capital State Fair at Austin, Texas; State Fair at Houston. No cattle can show a better milk and butter record—having been selected in Kentucky and Tennessee by myself, with direct reference to a large yield of milk and butter. D. COLLISON, San Antonio. Importer, raiser and dealer in Jersey (Alderney) Cattle. Correspondence solicited. 41-32

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Texas Christian Advocate

Uncle Daniel's Fable.

A great discussion arose in Quogville, concerning the subject of Temperance. With regard to Intemperance there was no question at all.

Ah! there was where the discussion waxed warm. Old Bumblefog insisted that no man could be temperate who ran crazy on one idea.

After a deal of very heated discussion the question became narrowed down to one of two points—Rum or No Rum.

Said Uncle Daniel Smith—"It's only a question of appetite; and in considering that question we have two propositions to work upon: "First—Is rum, as a beverage, of any use in society? Is it conducive to any one condition of good or blessing?"

"Second—Is rum, as a beverage, ever a curse?"

"And then follows the question: If it is a blessing, why should it not be as free as water?"

"And, next: If it is a curse, why should we use it at all?"

And then Uncle Daniel spoke to the people, old and young. He was an old man—full four-score and ten—he lived to be ninety and nine, and he knew whereof he spake.

Once upon a time, he said, the rats were assembled in a large cellar for the purpose of devising some means whereby they might, with safety to themselves, get the bait from a steel trap which lay very near to one of their much used highways.

This was received with acclaim of satisfaction, and thereupon the meeting was adjourned. But, alas! the terrible work of the trap was not stayed, and ere long another convocation was called.

"What is it?" they cried, with united voice. "Do not touch it!"

A Relic.

Permit me in your columns to notice a very fine specimen in the Southwestern University Museum, which has recently been sent to us by Mr. T. H. Sherrard, of Cleburn, Johnson county.

It measures twenty-five inches in circumference. The Mastodon Americanus belongs to the same order of animals as the elephant. There are three genera in this order—the extinct deinotherium, which both appeared and disappeared during the Miocene tertiary period; the mastodon, which is equally extinct, but which has become so more recently, and the elephant, which still has its representatives in the Old World.

The mastodon was the largest of the three, being the largest land animal known. The mastodon, of which this tibia was a part, must have been about ten feet high, and including its tusks, between twenty and twenty-two feet long.

"From scarped cliff and quarred stone... she cries: 'a thousand types are gone'."

In a world where so much that is counterfeit exists, it is well for one to be always upon his guard. It is not well to open your heart to a stranger in the first hours of your contact with him.

The Nineteenth Century pays ten dollars a page for contributions; it paid Mr. Gladstone fifty dollars a page. The Princeton Review pays ten dollars; and the North American Review from five to ten dollars; and the International the same; and the Nation from ten to fifteen dollars per page; Harper pays ten dollars; but most of the other magazines less.

Church Notices.

- COMANCHE DISTRICT.—SECOND ROUND. Comanche cir. at Comanche, February 22. Hamilton mission, at Hamilton, March 1. Plum Creek cir. at Williamson's school-house, March 8.

San Gabriel, at Lawrence's chapel, March 8. 9 West Falls, at West Falls, March 15, 16. Cameron, at Port Sullivan, March 22, 23. Blackland, at County Line, March 29, 30. Bolton, at Cedar Creek, April 5, 6.

MARSHALL DIST.—FIRST ROUND. Harrison cir. at Wiley's Chapel, Feb. 22, 23. Halville cir. at Union Chapel, Mar. 1, 2.

CHAPPELL HILL DISTRICT.—FIRST ROUND. Elbow circuit, February 22, 23. Caldwell circuit, March 1, 2. Lexington mission, March 8, 9.

GALVESTON DISTRICT.—FIRST ROUND. San Felipe, at Ashby chapel, Feb. 22, 23. The district stewards will meet in Shearn church, Houston, December 30, at 7 P. M.

PARIS DISTRICT.—FIRST ROUND. Roxton circuit, March 1, 2. District stewards meet at Paris, December 28, at 2 o'clock P. M.

JEFFERSON DISTRICT.—THIRD ROUND. Daingerfield et. third Sunday in February. Month Pleasant et. first Sunday in March. Coffeyville et. second Sunday in March.

ASTIN DISTRICT.—FIRST ROUND. Elgin et. at Elgin, Feb. 22, 23. La-grange station, March 1, 2, 3. Flatonia et. at Flatonia, March 8, 9.

SHERMAN DISTRICT.—FIRST ROUND. Savoy, at Savoy, third Sunday in February. Pilot Grove at Bluebridge fourth Sunday in Feb.

TERRELL DISTRICT.—FIRST ROUND. Kaufman cir. at Kaufman, Feb. 22, 23. West Fork mis. Feb. 19. Montague cir. Feb. 22, 23.

GAINESVILLE DIST.—FIRST ROUND. White Rock cir. Feb. 22, 23. Sulphur mis. March 1, 2.

DALLAS DISTRICT.—FIRST ROUND. Grapevine mis. third Sunday in February. Bedford cir. fourth Sunday. Christian Mission, at Salt Hill, Feb. 22 and 23.

WEATHERFORD DIST.—FIRST ROUND. Christian Mission, at Salt Hill, Feb. 22 and 23. The district stewards will please meet me at the Methodist Church in weatherford, Jan. 28, 1 A. M.

TEXANA DISTRICT.—SECOND ROUND. Texas, 1st Sunday in March. Boxville cir. 2d Sunday in March. Sandie's mission, 3d Sunday in March.

CORPUS CHRISTI DIST.—SECOND ROUND. Colto cir. at —, Feb. 22, 23. Rockport cir. at Rockport, March 8, 9.

SAN MARCOS DISTRICT.—SECOND ROUND. Blanco et. at Curry's Creek, Feb. 22, 23. Round Mountain mis. at Walnut, March 1, 2.

SAN AUGUSTINE DISTRICT.—FIRST ROUND. Pleasant Grove, February 22, 23. San Augustine, at Pine Grove, March 1, 2. Miami, at McManis Chapel, March 8, 9.

HUNTSVILLE DIST.—FIRST ROUND. Dodge mis. at Union Centre, Feb. 22, 23. Courtney and Plantersville, at Courtney, Mar. 1, 2.

PALESTINE DIST.—FIRST ROUND. Crockett cir. at Wesley Chapel, Feb. 22, 23. Larsoa cir. at Burk's Chapel, Mar. 1, 2. Athens cir. at New York, Mar. 8, 9.

BEAUMONT DIST.—FIRST ROUND. Jasper cir. at Peachtree, 3d Saturday and Sunday in March. Woodville cir. at Woodville, 4th Saturday and Sunday in Feb.

MOBILE DIST.—FIRST ROUND. Crockett cir. at Wesley Chapel, Feb. 22, 23. Larsoa cir. at Burk's Chapel, Mar. 1, 2. Athens cir. at New York, Mar. 8, 9.

BRICKENRIDGE DIST.—FIRST ROUND. Palo Pinto et. at Palo Pinto, 3d Sab in Feb. District stewards will meet me at Breckenridge Saturday before the 1st sabbath in Dec.

WYN'S Eureka Yeast Powder. Its superior merit renders it worthy of universal patronage. On sale among Family Grocers throughout the city, and by South Bros. & Co. Wholesale Grocers, 83, etc., Poydras street, N. O.

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THE KITCHEN receives a full share of attention, and hints, and plans, and recipes of the greatest value to every housekeeper are crowded into the pages devoted to it.

MARKETING.—Directions are given which will enable the most inexperienced to buy meats, fish, vegetables, poultry, etc., to the best advantage—a very valuable department.

CUTTING AND CURING MEATS.—Instructions are given very full and thorough, and of the greatest value, especially to those living in the country.

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

CHILDREN.—Mrs. Elizabeth Gady Stanton's article, "Something about Babies," has attracted special 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.

MEDICAL.—The Medical department has invaluable recipes for the treatment of such diseases as may be safely dealt with without the advice of a physician.

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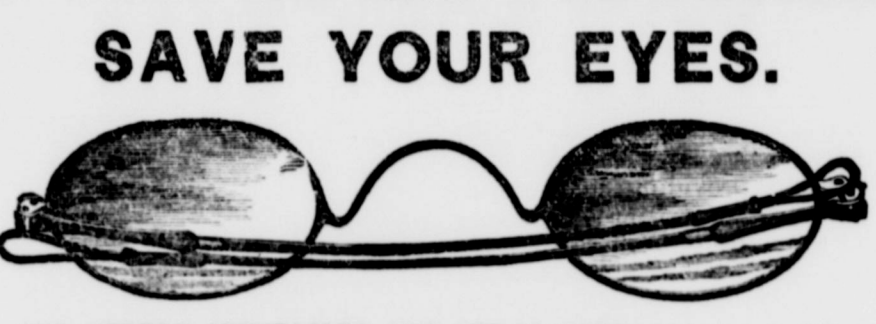
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Texas Christian Advocate

TEXAS LEGISLATURE.

In the Senate, February 8, the following bills were passed: To validate acts of Judge Walker, of Stevens county; to secure just division of estates of debtors; to regulate election of county and district clerks in counties of less than 8,000, and to validate acts of persons holding said offices; to amend act to fix times of courts in 23d district, and bill to repeal dog tax. As the House concurs in the repeal of this tax, every "cullud" person in Texas may have a full corps of canines—Tray, Blanch and Sweetheart, multiplied at liberty.

The following are among bills, resolutions, etc., introduced into the Senate: Bill instructing our Congressional representatives to favor commercial relations with Mexico; to prohibit the sale of liquor to inebriates, and to forbid its sale on Sundays between 8 A. M. to 6 P. M.; bills to provide for trial of criminals, though evading arrest and not present; to encourage boring artesian wells; to provide for paying for school apparatus furnished under school law; to provide for collection of back school taxes due from railways; bills to create the office of State librarian; to provide method of determining what claims and titles to land are forfeited to the State.

The following are among the bills, resolutions, etc., introduced in the House: Bill to authorize county judges to open and count returns of votes as soon as all are received, and to count all in after the tenth day after election; joint resolution providing that a railroad under construction passing within 3 miles of a place of 1,000 inhabitants shall establish a depot unless a river or mountains intervene; bills to amend law creating public weigher—permitting as many deputies as needed; providing that county judges shall designate number of guards to transport convicts to penitentiary, and allowing \$1 a day and expenses; to give aliens the same right as citizens to hold and inherit real estate; to provide mode of detaching a portion of one county and adding it to another; to fix fees of county treasurers at two per cent. for all moneys received and paid out, and one per cent on school funds received and paid out, but to receive nothing on moneys turned over by predecessors; bill to reduce number of days for working roads from ten to six; providing that saw-logs in rafts shall be branded; to provide for surrender of charters of cities and towns by vote of a majority of voters—it provides that the county commissioners court succeed to the assets of the city, with the authority to pay debts and levy tax on property in the city for such purpose, and to regulate the police and government of the same; to repeal the act to punish drunkenness; to regulate rates of freight on Texas railroads, fixing the maximum rates for freight, from one hundred pounds up to one car load, for one mile to 375 miles; to protect church and school houses, masons, odd fellows and grange halls from trespassers; to create the office of county supervisor of roads and bridges; bill to enable claimants of head rights to obtain same without special legislation; to require four-fifths vote to suspend legislative rules; to restrict executive power in granting pardons, reprieves, etc.; to punish carrying concealed weapons by fine of \$50 to \$100 and imprisonment for one year, and the drawing of a weapon by imprisonment in penitentiary five years; resolution asking Congress to refund money paid by Texas for frontier defence, and balance of \$10,000 now to credit of Texas in Federal treasury; to prohibit sale of liquors outside of cities except by permission of majority of neighborhood; to require sale of property under execution to bring two thirds of assessed value of property.

Miscellaneous Legislative Items.
There is talk of a new constitutional convention.
Dr. Sears, of Peabody, fund, will give \$6,000 per annum to a state normal school.

Six hundred copies in pamphlet form of all acts of sixteenth legislature, to take effect from and after passage, ordered printed.
It is proposed to reduce the city limits of Austin, so as to cut off the Robinson Hill settlement, mostly inhabited by negroes.
A proposition is under consideration for certain contractors to take the land appropriated for the purpose and build the capitol.

In the House, February 7, a resolution, asking Congress to fix the value of Mexican coin, passed.
We trust the constituencies of those who oppose the bill for more stringent enforcement of the Sunday law will remember them by a conspicuous absence of votes in their favor in future.

We desire to return the thanks of the State to those members of the legislature who are pressing the various bills looking to the *containing* of the morals of the country. We believe their efforts will ensure a law for the more certain observance of the Sabbath; prohibiting sale of liquor to inebriates and minors; a gambling law so comprehensive that it must be enforced; a certain prohibition against the bearing of deadly weapons; amendments to local option law that will make it efficient in localities that desire to banish the evil of whisky selling. Col. Finlay, of Galveston, is also pressing the merits of the Moffatt-register tax on retail drinks. We know Col. F., and, convinced of a duty, neither money, flattery, nor threats will swerve him. Galveston has cause to be proud of her representatives.

The people along our frontier have cause to thank Governor Roberts for his interest in their protection. He thinks it incumbent upon the general government to protect our exposed borders; but, at the same time, is not willing we should rely solely upon it until certain full protection will be extended. Hence he recommends a force of rangers for the purpose.

We admire the supreme assurance of the Medical Association of Texas, asking a State Board of Health, "with a secretary at a salary of five thousand dollars per annum, and expenses paid." In the same proportion, the magnificent possibilities in the "bill of annual expenses" can only be surmised in a multiplication by infinity. It is evident the doctors appreciate their services.

Mr. Lane wants a constitutional amendment to prevent office-holders appointing relatives to positions—restriction to extend to the third generation.

The nomination of J. T. Goree (Huntsville penitentiary) is confirmed.

Now comes the economical element in the legislature, and propose to cut down salaries of government employees. Gentlemen, do quit such folly. Increase salaries and capacity and decrease the number of employees of the State, and you will then accomplish something. We venture to emphatically assert the State loses more from errors of incompetent employes than from almost any other source.

We are glad to notice that the members in the legislature representing frontier constituencies are determined to have protection—as a right, and not a favor.

The Adjutant General recommends reductions in his department that will save \$90,000 in two years; the Comptroller, pronounces his force insufficient, and salaries low; under a certain contingency, a saving may be made in Land Office of \$2,800 per year; other departments report that no saving can be made.

The legislature proposes to memorialize Congress for aid in the improvement of Aransas pass.

The charges against Rev. Mr. Pattie, chaplain of the House, reported last week, were proved unfounded—being the fabrications of an expelled member of his church.

We note with pleasure that the investigations as to charges against superintendent of Deaf and Dumb Asylums, and others, are to be secret. The final verdict, of course, the public should know, but the secret session will prevent harm being done by sensation mongers.

Rev. John Locke Martin, of the Presbyterian church, at Dennison, has been relieved, on account of intemperate habits.

THE Louisiana conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, Bishop Andrews presiding, closed its session in New Orleans, Monday, February 3.

Rev. C. M. Birdsall, missionary at Aspinwall, died there January 14. His widow has returned to her home in Cleveland, Ohio.

The Maine Legislature is about to inquire into the expediency of abolishing the free high schools of the State.

Rev. R. T. NABORS lectured in Houston Monday evening on the "Ideal Man."

SOUTH CAROLINA leads all the conferences in contributing to missions.

A Miss Mary Sharp goes to Liberia as a missionary, to reinforce Mr. Kellogg, of the M. E. Church.

BISHOP WIGHTMAN is spending his vacation from his Episcopal duties at his home in Charleston.

THE head of the firm of Scribner & Co.—Mr. Jno. Blair Scribner—died recently.

Would you stop a flowing river,
Thinking it would cease to flow?
Onward must it flow forever;
Better teach it where to go.

News of the Week.

WASHINGTON.

Soldiers of the Mexican war will be given three months' pay.
Pinchback appointed revenue agent for Louisiana.

Authority to have troops at polls during elections will be revoked by the new army bill.

The Secretary of War asks an appropriation of \$980,000 to cover deficiency.

After February 12, the third indemnity to the United States by Mexico will be distributed.

The late Bayard Taylor left nothing, and his family are, peculiarly, much embarrassed.

The Edmunds' resolutions passed the Senate on the 5th—all amendments being voted down.

The Catholics are memorializing for more representation in the appointments of army chaplains and Indian agents.

Considerable interest is felt in the discussion in Congress relative to the transfer of the Indian office from the Interior to the War Department.

Ex-Secretary of the Navy Robeson and a number of minor navy officials are accused of gross violations of law, involving speculation and speculation.

The investigating committees are still engaged in their efforts to ascertain which of the political parties has been guilty of the greatest amount of fraud—and the people will pay the expenses.

Pending in Congress is a bill to establish a Board of Public Health, and asking co-operation of other governments, especially Mexico, in sanitary investigations.

The river and harbor bill will contain the following Texas items: Sabine Pass and Blue Buck bar, \$25,000; Galveston Harbor, \$100,000; Galveston Ship Channel, \$80,000; and the Bayou Ship Channel to be turned over to the government; Sabine Pass, above Orange, \$60,000; Trinity river, \$25,000; mouth of Neches, \$50,000; Pass Cavallo and Matagorda Bay, \$25,000; Cypress Bayou, \$60,000; River bank, Fort Brown, \$70,000; Aransas Pass and Bay up to Rockport, and Corpus Christi Pass channel, \$35,000.

MISCELLANEOUS.

A report from the agricultural department, just received, among other items, gives the prices of the cotton crop, concerning which is said: "We are guided by the price received by the planter, which has ruled excessively low this winter, the average for the whole country being about 81 cents per pound. The great value of this crop is founded on the demand for export. Prior to the war, in 1859 and 1860, the amount imported into Great Britain from the United States was 4-5 their whole importation. During the war it fell off to less than 2 per cent. Starting in 1866 at 37 per cent., we find that in 1878 we had regained the position we held prior to 1861, and that 4-5 of the cotton used and manufactured in Great Britain came from the United States. The proportion of our total crop exported to foreign ports was 3,340,000 bales out of a crop of 4,750,000 bales during the year ending Sept. 1, 1878. The production of this great staple seems to be too large, and the result is shown in glutted markets and low prices, the larger crop of 1878 being worth less than that of the preceding year. Basing the calculation on the prices returned by the producer, we find the value of the crop of 1878 to be \$194,700,000, and for 1877, \$240,000,000, while the number of bales was 4,750,000 in 1877, and 5,200,000 in 1878.

One of the most remarkable facts in the world's commerce, is that the United States' exports in the past year exceed its imports. The returns of 1879 will be larger from present indications. \$1,000,000 in gold is now received per week in New York. These facts show conclusively that the bottom has been reached and that we are on the upward tendency, and before the close of the present year we will realize more prosperous times than we have had the past three years. This return to prosperity will be gradual but substantial.

CHICAGO ENTERPRISE.—Chicago with her usual characteristic enterprise instead of waiting for Southern cities to develop the trade of South America, has stepped into the field and one of her wide-awake firms has opened direct trade relations with that Continent via New Orleans and will in the future supply the Northwestern and Western trade with coffee imported directly from Brazil and other South American coffee producing countries. This is a severe rebuke to Southern enterprise and sagacity.

Latest advices are that the English government will not interfere with the American cattle trade unless developments show the presence of the disease. The disease is pleuro-pneumonia, and has been discovered in only one cargo of American cattle, and a few exceptional cases besides.

It is probable that we will have a steamship mail service to Brazil—one from New York via Norfolk; and one from New Orleans via Galveston.

Gen. Ord is before the Military Committee, and advocates Senator Maxey's bill for more certain protection along the Rio Grande border.

A resolution is pending in Congress looking to secure purity in imported wines and liquors.

W. B. Fleming succeeds Hart-ridge (deceased), as Congressman from Georgia.

There will be a U. S. receiver appointed for Memphis.

Illinois enforces its Sunday-law. Trains are not permitted to run.

Ex-Gov. Hartranft is now Philadelphia's postmaster.

FOREIGN.

The definitive treaty between Russia and Turkey provide that all the San Stefano stipulations, which were modified by the treaty of Berlin, shall remain as modified. The remaining stipulations are abandoned in favor of the present treaty, by which the war indemnity is fixed at 300 millions paper roubles, and settlement is deferred. The payment for maintenance of Turkish prisoners will be by twenty-one installments, but it is not to begin immediately. The examination of accounts is expected to last two or three years. Russian evacuation of Turkish territory will be completed forty days after ratification of treaty.

Indications are that France has made a glorious exit from her political complications. The Republicans give promise of not abusing a victory that has put them in absolute control, and the Monarchical party almost powerless. The inaugural address of M. Grevy is conservative in the extreme, as is also the address of Gambetta to the Chambers. The one design seems to be to throw a veil over the past, and to enter upon an organic and creative period.

Present indications are that the Republicans, now in full control, will insist upon a separation of Church and State.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Feb. 8.—England has concluded a convention with Turkey purchasing the State domains in Cyprus, with the exception of the Sultan's private estates.

THE GREAT DEATH.—The plague is not abating. It is said to have been brought from Armenia into Russia by a regiment of returning Cossacks. Its malignant type, and rapid spread are creating general terror in Europe especially. It is reported as now in Turkey; also in South America. This is surmised by some to be the real Asiatic plague, or "Great Death" of the middle ages. We are indebted to an exchange for the following account of this dreadful disease: In the seventh century after the foundation of Rome, that city was visited by a plague epidemic, but we lack all nearer details about it. The first trustworthy account we possess dates back to 542, in the reign of the Emperor Justinian, when the plague desolated all the known world and carried off one-fourth of its entire population. Then, for the first time, poor, trembling humanity found itself confronted with the genuine Asiatic plague, and learned to know the worst of all diseases in the whole extent of its destructive power. Men had never before endured such misery; all the ties of religion, of society, and of state, seemed severed; the disease not only defied art, but kept returning to Europe at longer and shorter intervals for a long period afterward. During the reign of Justinian it swept the known world no less than three times, and then remained through the whole of the middle ages. The epidemics of the twelfth and thirteenth, as well as the "black death" of the fourteenth centuries, every time shook Christendom to its very foundations, and it seemed as if the race was doomed to destruction. The epidemics which ravaged Europe in more modern days were scarcely less fatal, though they lacked the element of superstition which invested them with an additional horror in the middle ages, doubling the despair, and shutting out the chances of a successful defense. The last appearance of the plague in Europe (exclusive of Turkey) was in 1713. The Russo-Turkish campaigns of 1828-1829 were succeeded by epidemics which swept away thousands of those brave soldiers who survived the dangers of the battlefield and the hardships of a Balkan passage in winter. Since that period a few towns on the coast of the Mediterranean have been visited by the plague, but otherwise Europe has been exempt from the scourge. Even at Constantinople no case of the plague is said to have occurred since 1841. Now the dread visitor, who was thought

to have been banished to Asia and Africa, again invades European soil. The enemy, who had been supposed vanquished for all time, stands once more on the threshold in a menacing attitude.

Texas Items.

Gen. J. Warren Bell, who edited *Flake's Bulletin* in Galveston a few years ago, died in Washington January 28.

Ex-Minister Washburne lectured last week in San Antonio on the Paris Commune.

Crocket, according to the *Patron*, is harvesting a lively crop of babies.

"Eagle-quill," Elkhart reporter of the *Palestine New Era*, says a good many people owe him "a grudge." He consoles himself that his debtors are among the class that never pay anything.

"Who invented the onion?" asks the *East Texas Patron*. There is no interest attaching to the inventor of the article that we can see; but the party who perfumes it is calculated to awaken concern.

Brenham, in Washington county, is certainly a thriving little city. It supports two good papers. The *Daily Banner* is up to the times, while the weekly has recently been enlarged and beautified. The *Sentinel* proposes in a short time also to issue a daily.

The Fayette county school fund aggregates \$88,185.07, as follows: Texas pension bonds, bearing 10 per cent. interest, \$22,502; land notes, bearing 8 per cent. interest, \$56,363.94; 1,608½ acres of land, worth \$9,319.13. The statement of the county treasurer of Fayette shows a cash balance on hand of \$8,880.25. A good county for immigrants to settle in.

The dissolution of the Harrison County Fair association was seriously discussed by the stockholders last week. One element thought citizens of the county did not sufficiently appreciate the efforts of the association, and in only exceptional cases seconded its public spirit. Yet another element of opposition (and we trust the more powerful) was from a class who object to its horse-racing and other gambling features. It was resolved to continue its efforts. We are glad to note, however, that the *Marshall Herald*, while giving strong arguments as to the benefit the county derives from the association, yet enters a protest against the above objectionable features.

Bishop Simpson's Lecture.

The sixth Yale lecture of Bishop Simpson was on the delivery of a sermon. He begins:

There are four different methods of delivering a sermon, each of which has in its favor the authority of eminent names and conspicuous examples. First, reading in the pulpit from a copy previously prepared; secondly, reciting from memory a sermon which has been committed; thirdly, using notes, more or less copious, which are read or referred to in the pulpit, and to which may be added such illustrations and amplifications as may occur to the mind at the moment, or which may have been more or less premeditated; fourthly, speaking directly to the audience without relying on any verbal preparation. These various methods may be and frequently are partially intermingled.

The Bishop favors the most thorough preparation for the pulpit and an extemporaneous delivery. You will never attain to full self-possession in the pulpit without thorough self-abnegation. You must lose sight of yourself. You must become absorbed in your glorious work for Christ. You must remember that you are polishing gems for him; that you are building a temple for his glory. This intensity of feeling, this conception of the grandeur of your work, will make your memory more attentive and yourself less prominent.

The question then arises: "Shall not the mind be occupied with choice of words while speaking?" I answer: Not directly. The words will come in the height of your intense feeling; but they will be the result of your previous discipline. If you should chance to stumble, do not go back; but press on, following Whitefield's rule—"never to correct anything unless it was wicked."

The same in regard to gesticulation. Never try to make a gesture. Those only are natural which come of themselves. The man who is full of the subject, whose heart is burning for utterance, if his feelings are not restrained, will generally gesticulate earnestly.

In the composition of a sermon the collection of material evinces the diligent student. Broad and comprehensive thoughts reveal the great thinker; clear, beautiful, and forcible language manifests the cultured writer; but only in the delivery of the sermon does the true preacher appear. His throne is the pulpit; he stands in Christ's stead;

his message is the Work of God; around him are immortal souls; the Saviour unseen is beside him; the Holy Spirit broods over the congregation; angels gaze upon the scene; and heaven and hell await the issue. What associations and what vast responsibility!

The value of earnestness cannot be too strongly stated. St. Augustine says: "It is more by the Christian fervor of his sermons than by any endowment of his intellect that the minister must hope to inform the understanding, reach the affections and bend the will of his hearers." In various ages men have appeared who by their earnestness have aroused whole cities, and even nations, to activity. This earnestness must appear in every step of the sermon—earnestness in reading, earnestness in writing, earnestness in prayer, earnestness in clearness and distinctness and force of enunciation in managing the vocal organs, earnestness in addressing the congregation, earnestness in view of the immense issues at stake. A mother is in earnest when she pleads with her wayward boy. A father is in earnest when from his dying bed he gives his last message to his weeping children. The preachers who have been remarkable for this quality have so influenced their congregations that they have felt and sympathized with their deep earnestness of spirit.

The two great requisites for extempore speaking are a command of language and self-possession.

He closed the sixth as he had some others with a little personal experience:

For myself, I never had any difficulty in finding suitable language to express my thoughts. My great anxiety to reach some hearts early led me to brave, in great measure, the presence of men of superior intellect and commanding position. My voice seemed in every way unfit for public speaking. It was weak and the pitch was high. By close application to study I had become stooped. My lungs were weak and I was troubled with a cough. I wore plasters for years, and many of my friends feared that I was going into consumption. I spoke because I felt that I must speak. At the end of my first year, my physician urged me to desist from preaching. I was junior preacher on a circuit, in which I preached twenty-eight times to the round. I took up also six additional appointments, making thirty four. One of these appointments was in a small village, and was in the sitting-room of a house belonging to an humble widow. It would not seat more than twenty people. On my second and last visit to that place I was informed that a physician there, who was an infidel, desired to see me, as he thought he might be of some service by directing me as to my health. I called, and he said he had heard that I was in feeble health, and gave me some simple suggestions. I was pleased with his general advice, and at the close of the interview I asked him in regard to my continuing to preach. He answered that as to the religious question he had nothing to say; but simply as a physician he would recommend me to ride eight or ten miles and preach once every day. [Laughter.] The suggestion harmonized with my own feelings, and I resolved to follow it; and the only request I ever made for any appointment was that, on account of my weak lungs, I might be placed where I could ride eight or ten miles and preach once every day. My presiding elder promised me his full concurrence and heartiest support; but I was sent to the city of Pittsburgh, with its smoke and dust, right in the midst of the time when the Asiatic cholera was prevailing there. My friends were alarmed at my going there; but I went. My health was preserved by careful attention to food and exercise and by keeping regular hours. My voice gradually strengthened, and, though never musical, I acquired the power to address the largest audiences. My conviction to-day is that if I had not continued to preach I should, in all probability, have fallen an early victim to bronchial or pulmonary disease. Often, when called to face danger, that passage has seemed to ring in my ears: "He that will save his life shall lose it; and he that will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it."

GARRETT'S MILL, TEXAS, Feb. 9, 1879.—Hodge Rayburn is doing as well as could be expected; has three frightful gashes on the side of the neck and throat and on the forehead, made with a sharp instrument. Blood on the bonnet, dress and other goods worn by Mrs. V. J. Nale (Rayburn's sister-in-law, to whom he was engaged to be married), points to her as the would-be murderer. She was living with him at the time, and has been lodged in jail. The razor, the instrument with which it is supposed the work was done, is missing. No comments allowed.—V.L.