



Texas Christian Advocate

Our Postal Cards.

WEATHERFORD, February 8.—The following resolutions were passed by the last session of the Weatherford District Conference:

Be it resolved, That the pastors, for the next conference year, of the various circuits, stations and missions of the Weatherford district, be requested to preach at least once during the year, in their respective charges, on the subject, "of the support of the gospel."

Be it resolved, That the secretary of this conference be requested to furnish the several pastors of the circuits, stations and missions with a copy of foregoing resolution.

In compliance with last resolution, I respectfully request that you publish the foregoing resolution, for the benefit of the pastors of Weatherford District.—W. L. NELMS, Secretary.

GEORGETOWN, Feb. 1.—For the first time in our eleven years sojourn in Texas we had a visit from a relative from the States. We received him with much affection, which sorely puzzled our little five-year old Texas boy. Taking his mother aside he mysteriously and emphatically says, pointing to his cousin: "Ma, who is cousin—, anyhow? He is our wife, ain't he? (Tableaux).—PLINY.

WISDOM, FANNIN Co., Feb. 8.—Our presiding elder is with us, zealous for the cause of our Master and faithfully warning sinners to flee the wrath to come, and exhorting the Christians to be faithful and strong in the service of the Lord and Master. We hope to see a great revival on our mission. We are praying for the power, for it has to come from above, for vain is the help of man. We have a weekly prayer meeting at this appointment, where of a truth Christ, in the person of His spirit, comforteth His humble followers.—R. S., of SULPHUR MISSION.

TRAVIS P. O., AUSTIN Co., Feb. 12.—Nearly every Sabbath since conference has been unfavorable for preaching on my work; consequently congregations have been small. A young man by the name of Stockdale died in this neighborhood a few days since. We are domiciled in our little parsonage at Travis, which is quite an accommodation to the preacher and family. The yard is now being set out in shrubbery.—R. F. BEASLEY.

WESLEY, AUSTIN Co., Feb. 15.—At Wesley, in Austin county, on Saturday night, Feb. 1, the Bohemians and Germans had a wedding party in the town hall, the young American neighbors being invited to attend. It resulted in a "knock-down and drag-out." Several were knocked down and bruised, and some were cut. Of course it broke up in confusion, and it is reasonable to conclude that a little whisky acted as a stimulant. The next day all felt ashamed, except a few sturdy young fellows that still intend to fight a little about it. We hope, however, it will die out, as the foreigners and natives get along finely together.—B. G. BLACKWELL.

INDEPENDENCE, WASHINGTON Co., Feb. 11.—Have been all around the circuit once, and at some points have preached several times. Owing to inclement weather, congregations have been small but attentive. Had a fine audience at Independence last Sunday, and an old-fashioned class-meeting in the evening. This is the second class-meeting we have held in this charge this year. I love old-fashioned Methodism; would that we had more of it, for then we would have more of that "pure and undefiled religion" that is so necessary to keep the church from stagnation. The signs of spirituality at Independence and at other points on this charge are clearly seen. The Lord increase them. Health is good, except a few cases of chills at some points.—B. G. BLACKWELL.

TEXANA, JACKSON Co., Feb. 11.—The weather is now pleasant, and the grass is growing luxuriantly; the stock will soon do well. The farmers are busy breaking up land and planting. Most everything is taking on the aspect of thrift. The new jail is rapidly going on to completion, and we are not asleep over the parsonage; we expect to get in it in a few months.—M. A. BLACK.

SAN MARCOS, Feb. 19.—Much sickness of a mild type prevails here just now; nearly every family down with it. It is a kind of epidemic, leaving the "horses" out; the doctors call it catarrhal fever. A good brother brought 20 dozen eggs to town to sell; tried to do it; couldn't; said he thought he would see if he could give them away. "Then," said the preacher, "I am your man;" and now he has more eggs than he ever had before at once, and that, too, without money and without price.—GILBERT.

SHERMAN, Feb. 12.—There has been a good deal of "house warming" reported from various portions of the State. That is good; but would it not now be in order to have a general heart warming? The first helps the preacher—the second comes powerfully to the assistance of the church; it makes the purse-strings elastic, gives new and broader views of the missionary cause; in fact, it inspires the church to plan and execute for God. Without it the camp-fires will burn low. Hurrah for our ADVOCATE!—J. H. JOHNSON.

GRANBURY, HOOD Co., Feb. 11.—Our pastor, Bro. J. M. Jones, is on his work and doing good. Although the weather has been severe, he has been busy attending the sick and visiting the brethren. May the Lord bless him. Many may not know that our church has a very prosperous district school in Granbury. Still this is a fact. Since September last we have enrolled 209 pupils. Five teachers are busy all the time. Since January 1st, we have made an addition to our building and, bless your time, it was filled in ten days. What will we do? We must not advertise in the TEXAS ADVOCATE. It will not do. Too many will come. Your paper goes all over the State. Let everybody subscribe to it.—J. J. SHURLEY. [You owe us ten subscribers for this advertisement.—Ed.]

DAINGERFIELD, MORRIS Co., Feb. 14.—Weather cold; snowing while I write. Quarterly conference will meet to-morrow. Presiding elder arrived yesterday. Outlook for the circuit good. No flattering reception, but we have a little to eat and plenty of work to do.—R. G. SEWELL.

LIBERTY COUNTY, February 12.—I wonder if our Bishops have taken any alarm at the exposure by some of the dissatisfied preachers of the abuse of their power in putting the wrong man in the right place and the right man in the wrong place? I guess the new Bishop that comes around to hold our conferences will be a little more particular, and consult the preachers themselves in relation to their appointment, and give Mr. Layman to understand that he must lie low. I hold, Mr. Editor, that the preacher who can't submit to godly judgment of the appointing power in in our church ought—

WOODVILLE, TYLER Co., Feb. 19.—We have had much sickness in our county. Several deaths. But little weather suitable for farming. Congregations have been good. Baptized seven children. Received two adults into the church. New church-house in Woodville finished; it is a good house. Money is so scarce have not been able to get one subscriber for the ADVOCATE. Can't even get the old ones to renew. It grieves me, for I dearly love the ADVOCATE.—D. M. STOVALL.

NEWTON, NEWTON Co., Feb. 11.—My first quarterly conference is passed, and our dear presiding elder was not present. I received a letter from him, February 8, stating the reason: The weather being so unfavorable since conference that he could not get about to attend to winding up his business. I felt that although he was absent in body, was present in spirit. I exceedingly regret that Brother Morse was not with us. The business of the conference was attended to and a tolerable good attendance of the official members.—E. T. BRASHER.

POST OAK, CLAY Co., Feb. 14.—My work (West Fork mission) embraces all Jack county north of West Fork; a most excellent and picturesque part of the frontier. We have here an abundance of rock, good range and rich soil; towering hills, lofty peaks, beautiful vales and rolling prairies. The citizens are energetic, enterprising and thoroughgoing. As to intelligence, cultivation and refinement, this part will compare favorably with other parts of North Texas. The above is coupled with great eagerness and an unbounded desire to hear the gospel, which results in perfect attention during divine service.—J. M. LANGSTON.

JONESBORO, CORYELL Co., Feb. 14.—Our first quarterly conference was held at the residence of Rev. F. Weaver on the 1st instant. Presiding elder was present, and occupied the chair and pulpit with his wonted ability. Bro. Weaver was licensed to preach over forty years ago. Since then he has missed but one quarterly conference. Very few soldiers of the cross can say as much. He has always made it a point to do his part toward supporting the institutions of the church, and earnestly contends that a man will lose nothing, even in this life, by so doing. Bro. J. F. Henderson says his people "have learned to spell, read, talk, plead and preach hard

times." Hard Times is with us; we talk and preach to him occasionally. It must have been "hard times" when Hard Times Richardson was a baby. That's the inference I draw.—L. C. STEPHENSON.

BRECKENRIDGE, STEVENSON Co., Feb. 13.—Our presiding elder is with me, and is doing his best to fill his appointments promptly, and has thus far met them all. Times here are very hard, but trust a kind providence will send us the early and latter rain, and that our ministry will be better supported, and churches and parsonages will go up in this western wild. We would be glad to see you at our district conference. May God bless you in your labor of love; and I do hope the ADVOCATE will find its way to our membership in Texas. It is deservedly on the rising ground here.—W. C. MANLY.

SAN ANTONIO, BEXAR Co., Feb. 14.—Have just returned from a trip of over six hundred miles around the smaller half of the Mexican mission district. Considering the many draw-backs of small-pox, bad weather, etc., the work is doing well indeed. In Laredo, alone, it is estimated that from five to seven hundred have died with the small-pox. A week ago, a fine rain fell over the whole country, even as far as the Rio Grande. I hope in a few days to give a more extended account of the missions.—A. H. SUTHERLAND.

MARQUEZ MISSION, February 7.—On the night of the 2d instant a terrible storm visited the southern part of my work, doing great damage; fences, cribs, and dwelling-houses blown down, and the timber for miles broken down and blown up by the roots. Its passage was from the S. W. to N. E., its width about 300 yards. Fortunately no one was hurt. The citizens for miles around turned out, and now all is nearly repaired.—J. R. WAGES.

COLD SPRINGS, February 10.—A young lady who was received into the church at the preacher's last appointment was appointed to raise money to build a church, and at the second appointment this year had the money raised; and now we will have a church at Big Creek. It will not be a "cow shed," nor a "barn," but a church. The ladies on this work take the lead in everything. Poor men! Sorry for them. Can't is their motto.—Tom.

WHITESBORO, February 8.—Bro. W. H. Moss has been quite sick; is improving now. The church conference at Whitesboro revealed the fact that the class-book had not been revised for three years. We found the names of near two hundred on the book, but could not find more than eighty-five members at present. Opposite the names of some we found the following: "Gone to the world;" "turned bad;" "dead;" "in I. T.," etc. Oh, method! thou art charming. I will vow to do better. Will all the brethren vow and pray?—I. S. ASHBURN.

WINSBORO, WOOD Co., Feb. 11.—Sunday morning, February 9, our leader being sick, I was requested to conduct the class-meeting at 9 o'clock. Preached at 11 o'clock to an attentive congregation. Received four into the church at the close of the services—three by letter and one by ritual. Rode to Webster in the evening, a distance of four miles; preached again to an attentive congregation; received two into the church—one by letter and one by ritual. Winsboro circuit is becoming aroused to a sense of her duty on the subject of class-meetings. Brethren, pray for us.—S. W. JONES.

ELYSIAN FIELDS, HARRISON Co., February 12.—It is due you and the many would-be subscribers to the ADVOCATE in the bounds of this charge that you should know that the ADVOCATE does not come regularly, which is the only objection made, except the scarcity of money. All love and highly appreciate the ADVOCATE. This has been and always will be in the way until it is remedied. We have every confidence in your promptness; the evil is along the line somewhere. More anon, if necessary.—J. C. WOOLAM.

February 12.—Written in heaven, not on earth. Many have been the preachers who have gone to good stations and circuits, finding good and well arranged parsonages, abundantly supplied. For these things they have praised their good people to the skies. Verily, their reward is in heaven. Others go forth. They find no parsonage; no kind words; no welcome; poorly received. They work and pray; build church-houses and parsonages; God's love manifested; souls converted; the church revived and blessed. For these things they receive no praise, but go their way. Their record is in heaven.—ASBURY.

POST OAK CIRCUIT, Feb. 13.—Preacher found the parsonage ready for him to fix up, and, when fixed, buy his provisions, bring his family, and preach the gospel and not say a word about money this year. All he has to do is to visit and preach, and all the spare time work on the parsonage. It is his home; let him pay for it; improve it. I have to do more than that to get along. Times are too hard for us to take him any provisions. If we do, he must pay a big price, and take the refusals. He is to raise no missionary money here. We can't pay him if he does. Now, you know that will stop him.—JIM JONES.

WEBBERVILLE, TRAVIS Co., Feb. 12.—There is a great deal of sickness here. Weather still dry, and water scarce. One of your reporters wants to know about the Georgetown road. Tell him that it is the train and not the road that runs. The International is tapped at New Round Rock and terminates at Georgetown. The train, not the road, making two trips a day.—W. G. NELMS.

GRAPEVINE, TARRANT Co., Feb. 9.—First quarterly meeting over. Very short financial collections. Times very hard. Much sickness; but church still hopeful. Have collected up to date \$40 missionary money. Will never go up again with that 31 cents per capita, God being our helper. Plenty to eat, but have not been raided upon. Our people are law-abiding, and think the laborer ought to be worthy of his hire, whether he gets it or not. God bless the ADVOCATE.—L. M. WHITE.

HENDERSON, RUSK Co., Feb. 15.—We are moving along quietly. Health tolerably good. Held church conference this morning. Dropped several names of parties who have been gone over twelve months without letter. Why will not members on removing take their letters? Would not an article in the TEXAS CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE do good? Brought the ADVOCATE before the church conference. But few present; but as the result I send you names of several subscribers.—S. W. TURNER.

HARDIN, HARDIN Co., Feb. 10.—On the 1st and 2d inst., I preached at Knipple's church, to the east of here. The Holy Ghost came down with power. Two were converted and joined the church. The membership was greatly revived. Several still seeking pardon. Preached here yesterday and last night to a large and serious audience. One grocery and ten-penny alley and three dry goods stores here. Much wickedness and but little piety amongst the people.—P. J. WALDRUP.

WEIMAR, Feb. 11.—I am much pleased with "our postals." I love to hear from the preachers, and like brevity. Our winter has been so disagreeable that this "supernumerary" has but seldom left his chimney-corner. He has not preached a sermon nor heard one preached since conference. Our preacher (Rev. U. C. Spencer) I understand is at his post, but I have not seen him. Spring is opening finely. The ADVOCATE comes to hand promptly.—WESLEY SMITH.

LAREDO, WEBB Co., Feb. 7.—The Rev. A. H. Sutherland, Superintendent of the Mexican Border Mission District, left our little city this morning, en route for San Antonio. He reports the mission on the Rio Grande above here in a good condition. He was quite unwell the greater part of the six days that he spent with us. The small-pox is abating very much at present; in proportion to the number of inhabitants, it has been about as fatal as the yellow fever was in New Orleans. A good rain yesterday.—JOSEPH NORWOOD.

LAREDO, WEBB Co., Feb. 7.—A poor Mexican, a member of the Roman Catholic Church (?), who had two little sons, moved from San Antonio to this place while the small-pox was raging, and both children soon fell victims to the awful disease. When the first died the priest refused to bury it without pay in advance. Hence the poor, ignorant man sacrificed his cart, being all his possessions, to pay the fee. The second died the next day, and as he had nothing else to pay with he was compelled to bury the little one in a different place and without any ceremony. This is one of many similar acts of the so-called charitable Christian priesthood during the awful scourge just ending.—JOSEPH NORWOOD.

BUENA VISTA, February 6.—Quarterly conference meeting on the first. Our new P. E., Bro. Sampey, present. He made quite a favorable impression. Bro. D. S. Watkins absent on account of sickness. Wife and son both sick, but improving, and by the help of God, he will be on his work shortly.

Have not seen him since conference. The church is in a thriving condition at this place. We have just bought and put up a church bell. We have a quiet little town; local option in full blast; have majority in the heat, about seventy. Now, Bro. John, when you are traveling around we would be pleased to have you call on us. We will give you the best that we have, and shoe your ponies free of charge. If this is any inducement, come ahead, and you will find us a hospitable people. I like the ADVOCATE and above all like the way you attack vice of every kind and I, for one, will take it as long as I can pay for it.—J. A. JARRATT.

BRECKENRIDGE, STEPHENS Co., January 31.—Activity among the farmers; thinking, planning—some doing. In town, life is found under all the usual aspects. Larger congregation last Sabbath than on any former occasion. Preacher thinks he is master of the situation. Boss saloon is also largely attended. Madam rumor says influential church members occasionally find it convenient to be present. More than one heart is made to weep over such a departure from assumed obligations.—W. M. GOODE.

DALLAS, February 13.—I write only a few lines to tell you of our success in raising the amount due on our parsonage of Lamar street church. The last payment of purchase money was due on the 12th of this month—five hundred and sixty dollars; and by the proceeds of suppers given by our Ladies' Aid Society we were able this week to hand our pastor three hundred and eighty-five dollars, having given previously for the same purpose thirty dollars. He was thus enabled, with help from other kind ones, to settle the debt yesterday, and we now rejoice in a parsonage free from encumbrance. Everything moving on prosperously and harmoniously in our church.—FLORENCE E. HOWELL.

BELTON, February 11.—Please tell Bro. Hoyt that I never tell anything to evertop some person's story, simply, and that he need not commence on that line with me. I am glad to say that Bro. W.'s eyes have righted themselves. If Bro. Hoyt will come here he can see any day a dozen men with one-half of their faces black, and the other—ditto. Weather fine. Eggs 6c. per dozen and country bacon six cents per pound in trade. Money close, but not close enough to reach farmers preparing for the new crop.—J. S. CLOWER.

GILMER, UPSHUR Co., February 12.—Gilmer has a temperance society yet in its infancy. We hope its ministering spirits will not be such as come from whisky barrels and drag so many mortals to hell. We are glad to learn that the White Rock preacher gets light bread, cakes and chicken, and no doubt gladness will be reciprocal when he learns that this "supernumerary" has but seldom left his chimney-corner. He has not preached a sermon nor heard one preached since conference. Our preacher (Rev. U. C. Spencer) I understand is at his post, but I have not seen him. Spring is opening finely. The ADVOCATE comes to hand promptly.—WESLEY SMITH.

MILICAN, HAYS Co., February 12.—Temperance flourishing—81 members; 21 joined after the lecture. Town council of Millican have closed up all saloons on Sunday and when an appeal was taken to a higher court the ordinance of the council was sustained. Well done, little Millican; large towns and cities might well imitate her example.—YOUNGE.

WORTHAM, FREESTONE Co., February 13.—Local option town—all quiet as the Sabbath; lectured to a nice crowd; 12 joined the council. A most wonderful change in the place for the better. It shows what local option will do when fully enforced. Let other places be encouraged to work for and have the law.—YOUNGE.

BEDIAS, GRIMES Co., February 5.—Please inform the readers of the ADVOCATE that "the weather has been very cold,"—if they haven't found it out. Its wrong to let them pass through such a spell without knowing it. "I am on my circuit," of course I am; where else should I be? "I like my circuit," why not? "The dear people seem to be pleased with the new preacher"—why, of course they are! Received four members the 1st round—had first quarterly meeting. "Beloved presiding elder preached a great sermon"—in length!—CHIEF.

MISSION VALLEY, TEXAS.—Similarity of climate between Southern France and Texas has suggested to us that the products of that country and our own can be similar. We imported a couple of olive trees last year for experiment, and are delighted to see them appear perfectly adapted to our climate. I am now importing on a larger scale, and feel confident that the cultivation of the olive is to become a valuable industry in Texas. It grows in the driest and most for-

bidding situations, as well as in the best soils. This is a better country than France, as it has capacity for a greater variety of industries. Peach trees, both of the Spanish and Chinese strains, seem altogether adapted to this part of Texas, and are uniformly productive. But those from the stock in general use in the United States seldom bear a good crop here. I have observed this better class to be less productive after a mild winter and more productive after a cold winter. I suggest to cultivators in Southern Texas that if this theory is correct, then the varieties known as Northern (from the stock in general use among nurserymen) will generally prove comparatively productive this year, unless over-cropped last year. It will be remembered that the winter of 1874-75 was unusually mild, and the previous winter was also mild. None of this better class were productive during either of the summers which followed these winters.—G. OXERDUNK.

CEDAR CREEK, February 10.—One of our good sisters tells me that when she married, her husband was very wicked. She took the ADVOCATE; he began to read; became interested; was soon converted, and is now a pillar in our church. She says his conversion was largely through the influence of the ADVOCATE. This surely is encouraging to you. We love the ADVOCATE. We are at work on a new church; are building at Moss Branch; hope to have a house there soon that will be a credit to the cause. Come to see us and it.—T. F. DIMMITT.

CENTRE POINT, KERR Co.—We continue to have dry weather for this season of the year. Wheat looks badly—injured some by cold weather. Dr. Tucker, our preacher, came immediately after conference to his work; his family have just now arrived, and are in the parsonage. He is working zealously; has eight or ten appointments on outside row.—ALONZO REES.

Do not criticise your preacher in the presence of your children or strangers, or those who are not Christians. You will see many things in his manner which are not according to your ideas. You will disagree with some of his sentiments, and it is proper that you should, and that you should express your opinion to him and to a discreet brother; but remember that he is the pastor of your children and of your church, and is seeking to win souls about you to Christ, and you have a common interest in assisting him.

Questions for the Thoughtful.

The following questions are worth careful consideration by the thoughtful:

How would your life be practically different if there were no God? What amount of careful, intelligent study have you ever given the Bible?

Is God's revelation of Himself, and His dealings with men a subject of as much interest to you as questions of science or literature? Do you ever let sins pass without any effort to check them, thinking it will be easy to repent afterwards?

Do you get real pleasure from your prayers, reading and meditation on holy things; or do you get through them to satisfy the demand of your conscience, and are you secretly glad when they are over?

Is there any practical connection between your prayers and your life? Is your standard of Christian duty higher than when you first began to serve God?

Which do you think you bear most frequently in mind—your trials, which, perhaps, are very small, or your mercies, which are undoubtedly very great?

Do you trust God half as truly as you do a beloved wife, husband, parent or friend?

Do you come up even to the old standard of giving a tenth part of your income to God's service?

In the education of your children, is the first thought: what will train them to serve God, or to take a brilliant position in society?

What have you ever done for the souls of others? Is it pleasanter for you to dwell upon people's faults than on their virtues, or their failures, than on their successes?

Do you speak of the faults of others unnecessarily? How do you bear contradiction or ridicule?

Are you angry when you are proved in the wrong? Do you color and add to events you describe for your ends or amusement, or to be thought clever or witty?

Do you long after something withheld from you, or rebel against loss, misfortune or bereavement?

**Texas Christian Advocate**

**Questions Asked and Answered.**

A brother—Lynn Platt—refers to the action of the Missionary Board of the East Texas Conference touching the assessments of the several districts and appropriations. The assessments amounting to \$900, and only one mission. The foot-note of our editor explains in part, but may not satisfy the brother. Our preachers and people are entitled to all the information which can be given on all subjects pertaining to our church enterprises. I will answer his questions more fully, premising, at the same time, that the lately appointed presiding elders had nothing to do in changing the plan of the work. This, as is known, devolves upon the Bishop and his advisers. In two of the districts, to-wit: San Augustine and Beaumont—missions which have heretofore received appropriations were either raised to circuits, or their boundary enlarged, in order to make them self-sustaining. By reference to our new discipline, page 184, article 12, may be seen the law governing annual conference boards of missions. This board can regulate its own affairs, and, with the consent of the Bishop, the funds raised for the support of home missions. The Bishop and his advisers saw proper to make two of the districts mission work. Hence the board made appropriations to these districts to supplement the salary and traveling expenses of the presiding elders on those districts. When these elders meet their district stewards, the amount of the appropriation will be deducted from their assessment, thereby lessening the claim they otherwise would have in the *pro rata* division with the several circuits and stations. It will, therefore, be seen that the preachers will be better sustained by having appropriations made to the districts. The brother asks: "What shall we say to the people?" If you will allow a suggestion, say to them that our missionary collections have always fallen far below the figures which should have been reached, and that none of our missionaries on our home missions have received anything beyond a bare support, while many of them have been compelled to work in the field a portion of the time which should have been devoted to the ministry in order to procure the necessities of life. The brother who writes over the cover of a *nom de plume*, having his work within the bounds of the San Augustine district, will share in the benefit of having an appropriation made to his presiding elder. Hoping the explanation will be satisfactory to my good brother, "Lynn Platt," and others who, like him, desired information, I subscribe myself fraternally, etc., DAN L. MORSE, Pres. Board Missions, E. T. Conference.

**First Annual Report**

From the M. E. Sunday-School, at Jewell, Eastland county, Texas. We closed our labors for 1878 on the 2d of February. This school was organized by Bro. J. H. Collard, jr., with eight children. We now have seventy-six on our roll, with about forty in regular attendance. The school has recited nearly four thousand Bible verses and read 2644 chapters. We rewarded them the best we could with premiums from the Publishing House. We have organized by an election of officers and teachers, and started on our new year's labors full of zeal. Christians of other denominations are aiding us in the Sunday-school, and we are one in the spirit. There is not an organized Sunday-school in operation within forty miles of us. We stand a little band of soldiers, battling for truth, temperance and holiness. Oh! that every Christian in Texas would aid in the Sunday-school cause, to train up the children in the way they should go. This will be the only means of knocking down mystery, Babylon, and stop confusion.—JAS. DE PAIN.

I read with interest in the ADVOCATE many very encouraging letters from brethren of the various circuits, stations and missions in Texas; of their cordial reception, which is a very strong proof of the fact that our itinerant system is not, as some would have it, a failure, but, in every respect, meets the approbation of the great head of the church, who, according to His Word, says: "Go, and lo I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." While many have been so wonderfully blest and have found green pastures abounding in all the luxuries of life, and a people whose hearts and storied houses have opened wide and so kindly received them. It is, nevertheless, a fact that some of us have not found such good places, and after being on our work six weeks have neither a home nor supplies. But with the consoling

words of our Divine Master: "Lo, I am with you," why should we murmur or be discouraged? The servant is not greater than his Lord; and if the blessed Savior was so poor that He had not where to lay his head, and the apostles themselves had not at all times the necessities of life, but were in rags, persecuted and hungry, yet endured the cross and kept the faith, let us be contented and faint not. There are some excellent people here, but a revival is much needed; the field is large and already white unto the harvest; the Lord give us grace, strength and courage that we may make full proof of our ministry. But few ADVOCATES taken here; think we will be able to send you a list soon. A. C. MOYER, EMORY, RAINS COUNTY, Feb. 28, 1879.

**McCulloch County.**

In passing around on my circuit, I find no place that attracts my attention with such favorable emphasis as McCulloch county, and no where can I find any more genial, social, and withal, moral people, than those of this county. From the time you enter the county until you reach Camp San Saba, a small town situate on the beautiful river of the same name, the country is rolling and of a sandy soil, thickly studded with post-oak timber. Between the San Saba river and Brady creek the country presents an open prairie surface, with here and there fine live oak trees, and considerable mesquite trees; and the ground is at all times carpeted with a rich covering of mesquite grass, making it one of the best ranges for cattle in the State, and in fact the same may be said of the entire county. Brady, the county-seat, is located in a beautiful valley on the creek of the same name. Although a new town, it contains several good dwellings, three stores, one drug store, two saloons, blacksmith shop, etc., and has a population of over three hundred, and has a good school. The town has a splendid court-house built of cut stone, two stories high, having four large offices on the lower floor, and two offices and a court-room up stairs. The clerks' office has a magnificent fire-proof vault to preserve the records; and the lower floor is paved with large sheets of flagging, making the building almost fire-proof of itself. The jail is built of solid blocks of rock, and the rocks are fastened together by cannon balls imbedded between the joints of each rock; the lower floor having rubble masonry four feet thick, upon which another floor of solid granite blocks two feet thick are laid, making it almost impossible to dig out. Each rock in the wall forms the entire thickness of two and one-half feet, and ranges from three to four feet long and two and a half feet high. One feature about the jail is that it is impossible, owing to the shape in which the windows are placed, for any one from the outside to shoot prisoners confined within. Taken altogether, I believe McCulloch has the best jail and as good a court-house as there is in Western Texas. The county is now in a fair way to get out of debt, and has very little script, other than court-venue and jail, floating. The Colorado river forms the northern boundary line, and here many fine farms may be found, while upon the San Saba river you can find elegant farms—in fact, where two years ago was a wilderness, now may be seen the evidences of husbandry all around. The tax rolls for last year show the values of the following property: horses, \$27,660; cattle, \$117,807; sheep, \$29,397. The total taxable value of rendered property for 1878, is \$493,570, being \$50,000 less than 1877, owing, as I am informed, to a decreased value of lands. I may in a future communication advert to this county again. A. J. POTTER.

MARYVILLE, Feb. 10.—Our first quarterly meeting has been held. Rev. W. H. Moss, presiding elder, has been sick, and did not reach us; claims nearly met; one society at Burlington organized. Rev. W. P. Petty, well known to our North Texas brethren as an able preacher and teacher, opens school here this morning. Our circuit extends from Sivell's bend to Burlington. A brother said he had a circuit in the shape of a figure 8. Maryville is in the shape of all the figures. There is some attempt to resume the Calvinistic controversy.—WILLIAM W. BRIDWELL.

BRADY CITY, McCULLOCH CO., February 10.—We are on our fourth round; reached here this evening; met a kind reception at the Gee House. Have had the coldest weather known for many years. Very dry at present. Wheat not good. Corn 60c. per bushel. A great deal of sickness, but little mortality. In a "gambling hell" a few rods from where we now sit a man's brains were blown out over the card table last Friday night.—I. KNIGHT WALLER.

**Sunday School.**

**INTERNATIONAL BIBLE LESSONS.**

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

FIRST QUARTER.—EIGHTH LESSON.—Feb. 23, 1879. Psalm 11:1-2. The King of Zion; Time 10:40 B. C.; Place, Jerusalem; Builders, David, King of Israel; and Hiram, King of Tyre.

GOLDEN TEXT: Therefore, let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus whom ye have crucified both Lord and Christ. Acts 17:36

This psalm begins as the first closed, with a curse; and closes as it began, with a blessing. It has four stanzas of three verses each in the Hebrew, or just double what the first has. The inspired poet gives four vivid pictures, wherein (verses 1-3) the nations of the earth are arrayed in the first against the Lord's anointed in defiant rebellion; in the second (verses 4-6) we see him, who "sitteth in the heavens" looking serenely down upon them in proud "derision;" in the third (verses 7-9) we have "Great David's Greater Son" (Acts. iv:25-28, and Heb. i:5) announcing His own grand triumph over all who "set themselves \* \* \* against Him;" and in the fourth we have David, the author of the psalm, advising all, in view of these visions, to "be wise;" "to serve the Lord with fear," and "to kiss the Son," lest they perish. The reader will find a full history of the times in II Sam. chaps. vii, viii, ix and x. The psalm is a clear prophecy of the Messiah. David had been firmly established on his throne; had defeated his enemies, domestic and foreign; and the faithful prophet, Nathan, had assured him of God's favor and promises to him and his seed after him. (II Sam. vii: 14, 17. He was faithful and devoted, and God lifts him into a broader horizon, wherein he sees the vision which he has left on record for us. He had been hunted like a wild beast by the envious Saul; but he had fallen on Gilboa, and the Philistine, and Moabite, and Syrian, had bowed in submission to the Shepherd King of Bethlehem. The Jebusite had been driven from his stronghold in Jerusalem, and David had made it his capital and home. More than this, he had made it the most wonderful city of the world, the idol of Israel, and the type of a spiritual city, whose MAKER and BUILDER is God.

V. 1. "Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing?" The question "why" implies a failure and a doom. No sane man can tell why a creature should resist his Creator, or for a moment question His wisdom or right to rule. "Heathen;" all nations that rejected or still reject Christ; "rage;" deep, smothered, incipient rebellion; "people;" same as "heathen;" "imagine;" scheme, plot; "a vain thing;" the opposition to Christ; vain; empty, hollow, without substance. The enemies of Christ can succeed as easily as they can stand on emptiness.

V. 2. "The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together against the Lord, and against His anointed, saying, "Kings;" legal rulers, acting and speaking for their subjects; "set themselves;" arrayed themselves; "rulers;" leaders of the people, creators of public opinion; "take counsel \* \* \* against;" plot against the Lord; Jehovah; "annointed;" Messiah, or Christ, the Greek equivalent.

V. 3. "Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us." "Us;" the kings and rulers in rebellion against Christ; "break \* \* \* bands," is a metaphor borrowed from animals that resist man's control over them, and break the cords or ropes that restrain them, and hurl them away with violence. The figure is forcible.

V. 4. "He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh; the Lord shall have them in derision." "He that sitteth in the heavens;" God, whose throne is in heaven; "shall laugh;" is expressive of God's omnipotence; "the Lord;" the sovereign. It is not the word for Jehovah, but it means the ruler, and means, to use a slang phrase, "master of the situation;" "have them in derision;" He smiles at their impotent rage.

V. 5. "Then shall He speak to them in His wrath, and vex them in His sore displeasure." They have had their say; now God has His; "wrath;" intense indignation. God's anger against sin never ceases. "Vex;" carry confusion among them by enthroning His Son as the Lord of the whole earth, to whom every knee must bow; "sore displeasure," is still more expressive of God's purpose than "wrath."

V. 6. "Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion." "Yet;" notwithstanding all opposition to and rebellion against Him; and in addition to His wrath, He has "set" (established) a king over them. "My king;" not a king, or the king, but My king; the only universal king the

earth can or will know. "Upon my holy hill of Zion;" the holy hill included Mount Moriah, where the temple was built, and where the ark rested. It was a fortified hill, and is spoken of as "the joy of the whole earth." Here David ruled; near this Christ was born; here He often taught; and here He was crucified; and here was established His church.

V. 7. "I will declare the decree: the Lord hath said unto me, 'Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten Thee.'" "Declare the decree;" make known His purpose to save man; "the Lord;" Jehovah; "hath said unto me;" addressed me, Christ, the speaker; "Thou art My Son;" henceforth Christ is to be Jehovah as a Son, that He may become the "Son of Man," and so redeem man. "This day have I begotten thee;" henceforth, in the scheme of redemption, thou shalt be a son to me, and I will be a father to thee, as He says of Israel (II Sam. viii: 14); "I will be his father, and he shall be my son." Read God's recognition of His son at His baptism.

V. 8. "Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possessions." Here we have God saying to his Son, "ask." So that Son taught us to ask, that we might receive. "Of me;" of Jehovah; "shall;" will; "the heathen;" the Gentile world; "inheritance;" possessions, subjects; "uttermost;" the regions beyond the known world. Here is God's declaration that He would give His Son the dominion of the entire world.

V. 9. "Thou shalt break them as a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel." "Thou;" Christ; "them;" the nations arrayed against Christ; "rod of iron;" iron is an irresistible instrument; "potter's vessel;" supposed to be a case around potter's ware when burned, and that becomes very brittle.

V. 10. "Be wise now, therefore, O ye kings; be instructed, ye judges of the earth." "Be wise;" become servants of Christ; "now, therefore;" in view of the fact that Christ is to have the entire world for his dominion, and that He is to break in pieces His enemies, as a potter's vessel. Kings and judges are they that govern men. The psalmist advises them to "be instructed," while there is opportunity, by his revelation of the future.

V. 11. "Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling." "With fear;" with reverence; "with trembling;" with excited solicitude; one who feels the momentous issues at stake must feel a trembling solicitude.

V. 12. "Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their faith in Him." A kiss expresses the homage of the heart. "The Son;" the Messiah; He is angry at sin; "perish by the way;" be lost on the way; "when his wrath is kindled but a little," for his wrath has been kindled but a short while, or else in a short while His wrath will soon burn. Happy are they who trust in the Wise Ruler.

APPLICATION. 1. The carnal world is raging against Christ and His church, and vainly imagines or schemes for the overthrow of both. 2. The kings of the earth are arrayed against Christ in deeds, if not in words. 3. And are "saying, let us break their bands," the obligations He lays upon us, and the restrictions which His church throws around us. It were an easy task to convert the world to a Christianity of less self-denial. 4. Man's rebellion only makes Him who "sitteth in the heavens" conscious of his supreme folly. 5. But He cannot endure always this insane opposition. The time must come, it does come with every sinner, when He speaks to him in His wrath, and vexes Him in his sore displeasure. 6. He said to all: "This is my beloved Son; hear ye Him;" and He it is who is King of Zion. 7. He has altered the decree, and manifested Christ to the world. 8. "I will give thee the heathen for thine inheritance," finds a fulfillment to-day in China, Japan and the isles of the sea. 9. Christianity has broken in pieces, as with a rod of iron, many pagan nations; and is sealing the walls of the uttermost parts of the earth now. 10. Kings and judges are learning wisdom from the lips of the missionary, and are being instructed in the ways of life. 11. Better instructions for serving God cannot well be given in more concise words than to serve Him with reverence, and to rejoice with trembling. 12. Submit to Christ ere it is too late, and ere His wrath consume you. They who thus do are here pronounced "blessed."

**Children's Department.**

TAXANA, Feb. 4.—Uncle John: Eight of my schoolmates and I promise "Uncle John" to try to read through the New Testament this year. I am only 8 years old, but I want to try and keep my promise.—ANNIE WOOD.

TAXANA, Feb. 4.—Uncle John: I am a little boy, 8 years old, but cannot read very well or write well, either; but I am willing to make you the promise to read the Testament through in the year. I believe I can do it.—LEUCUS J. SANFORD.

TAXANA, Feb. 6.—Uncle John: I learned through the ADVOCATE that you wished all the little boys and girls to read the Testament through in the year. Now, dear Uncle John, I am willing to try and do so; at any rate, I will do my best.—THOMAS W. SANFORD.

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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 wastebasket.

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 "J. P. Postal."

## CASE OF REV. W. G. VEAL.

Inasmuch as the complaints against the moral character of Rev. W. G. Veal have been widely circulated, we deem it to be our duty to state through the ADVOCATE the results of our investigation. The committee convened in Waxahachie at 2 o'clock P. M. on the 4th day of February, 1879, and after four days of arduous labor, it was decided by the committee that the accused was guilty. Wherefore he was suspended from membership in the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, until the ensuing session of the Northwest Texas Annual Conference.

SAM'L P. WRIGHT,  
 President Committee.  
 JAMES MACKAY,  
 HORACE BISHOP,  
 JAMES D. SHAW,  
 Committee.

As there has been some confusion in the reports of the above decision as they appeared in the secular press, we have been requested to append to the above a brief explanation of our church law in such cases:

If a presiding elder is accused of some crime expressly forbidden in the Word of God during the interval of the annual conference, "three traveling preachers or deacons of his district may inquire into the case, and, if they judge it necessary, report to the Bishop, who shall appoint a committee of at least three elders from within the bounds of the annual conference of which the accused is a member: he shall preside at the investigation, or some traveling elder appointed by him." "If possible, the accused and accuser shall be brought face to face. If the accused be clearly convicted, he shall be suspended till the ensuing annual conference." "An exact record of the investigation, signed by the President and Secretary, shall be transmitted to the annual conference, by which his case shall be fully considered and determined."

The above named case has been carried through these various stages, and the accused now stands suspended from all the rights and privileges of membership until the Northwest Texas Conference shall hold its annual meeting, when the evidence of the committee appointed by the Bishop shall be reported and the case be finally determined.

## ON OUR CIRCUIT.

Sulphur Springs claims, at present, a population of 2500. When the East Line makes it advent there will be a large increase. The location is a beautiful one and is said to be remarkably healthy. We visited the springs which have given the town its name. The incessant rains have freshened the water, but their properties were perceptible in the taste. In the summer, when their sanitary properties are in request by health seekers, they are said to be very strongly impregnated with the mineral indicated by their name.

We made a brief call on Maj. Richardson, President of the Sulphur Springs District High school located at that point. The building does great credit to the liberality and intelligence of the community. It is one of the largest school buildings in the State: being 96x66 in size. The lower story is divided into four recitation rooms and two large study halls; the lecture hall embraces the entire upper floor. Its full capacity is employed in accommodating the audiences which attend the annual examinations. The building cost \$8500. The faculty consists of the President and five assistants, in-

cluding the musical department. Such enterprises are the best answer our people can offer to the aspersions so often cast on the South for the alleged ignorance of its people.

Our church building is one of the largest in the North Texas Conference, having a seating capacity of nearly 800. Bro. Blackburn, the pastor, reports some increase since conference. The present membership is 245. Judging from the attendance at preaching on a dark and bleak week night appointment, we reached the conclusion that Sulphur Springs has a church-going population.

Bro. B. claims to have one of the best Sunday-schools in the conference. Let the other pastors see about this matter at the coming conference. It numbers some 200. Judge Rodgers is the efficient superintendent. We have visited many Sunday-schools and have ever found that good officers and teachers always insure a good Sunday-school. If a school dries up it is never the fault of the children.

Since the Missionary Society connected with this Sunday-school has assumed the collection of the Missionary money assessed this charge, it has never failed to meet the claim both for Foreign and Domestic missions. Their plan is to enroll the names of all the children who unite with the society and the call is made monthly when each member is expected to report ten cents. They can give of their own savings or collect from their family or friends. The teachers and parents are permitted to join. Their enthusiasm in the work has not abated since they assumed this charge. We commend this plan to all the pastoral charges in the State. Interest the Sunday-school children in the mission work; and co-operate with them in their efforts, and deficiencies in this department of Christian enterprise will rarely be a blot on the reports of our preachers.

The "Gospel Supporters" is another institution among the children of Sulphur Springs church which demands more than special mention. Its leading design is to aid in the support of the preacher who labors in this charge, though it embraces other useful and benevolent movements. All the children of the church and Sunday-school are eligible to membership. Each member is expected to pay five cents per quarter. The pastor is *ex-officio* president; one of the leading members acts as secretary and at the regular or called meetings the business is transacted with an amount of decorum and strict adherence to parliamentary rules which might be copied with profit by many more weighty deliberative bodies. When it is decided to raise funds for any specific object, collectors are sent out and many whose purse strings are closed to others are freely opened to the appeals of the children. It is noted that many of the most active among these little workers are children of families not connected with the church and that the interest and activity of their little ones have interested their parents beyond all other influences by which pastor and people have sought to identify them with the church. They elect a delegate to represent them in the quarterly conference, and the records show no single instance of non-attendance of their delegate. When the question "What has been raised for the support of the gospel the present quarter" is asked by the presiding elder, the delegate promptly answers and the contribution of the "Gospel Supporters" is often a surprise and a stimulant to negligent stewards.

During the past year it was suggested that the graveyard should be enclosed. The "Gospel Supporters" took the matter in hand. After due deliberation, their plans were adjusted; their collectors took the field and very soon a sufficient amount was in hand to complete the work. It is a shame that any home of our dead should be exposed to the tread of cattle. Will the children see to it that the

burial place of their relatives and friends is secured by a neat enclosure?

The appeal in behalf of the yellow fever sufferers stirred the sympathies of the "Gospel Supporters." They felt that to relieve human suffering was to spread the principles of the gospel. Collectors were sent out. No one refused to respond to the story of suffering in the Mississippi Valley, told by those earnest-hearted children, and no offering sent to the plague-stricken valley of the Mississippi, we are sure, was more acceptable to "our Father" than the gift sent by the children of this Texas town. In coming days, when sorrow comes to each of them, as come it may, in the wise discipline "our Father" sends on all his children, may none of these who ministered to the sorrow of others in their childhood days ever want in vain for the relief which gentle, loving hearts can give.

One of their company died. A meeting was called; appropriate resolutions were adopted; and after service, on Sunday afternoon, they met at the grave; marched around the resting place of their little companion, singing a hymn she loved to sing while living, and each one deposited sweet flowers on the grave and silently returned to their homes. No wonder all the parents, whether in or out of the church, feel kindly towards these little "Gospel Supporters."

The leading idea which led to the organization of the society was to educate the children in the grace and work of giving. There is no more important department in Christian education and none so systematically neglected.

Another design was to identify the children with all the interests and work of the church of Christ.

Why can we not have a band of "Gospel Supporters" in every pastoral charge in Texas. Give the children the opportunity and they will set their parents a wholesome example in all Christian labor. Interest them in the mission work, and there will not be a preacher from Red River to the Rio Grande who will blush while he makes his annual report at conference. The present race of drones in the church would die out if the children were wisely educated for the great mission to which each one is called. The church of Christ of the coming generation must be trained for the great work the Master is preparing for it and each pastoral charge should be organized into a training school, where they will not only be taught its truths, but be qualified for its glorious work. We would be glad to hear a response from all the charges which will organize a children's band of "Gospel Supporters." If the report we have given of this work kindles the same enthusiasm in other hearts that the account awakened in our own, there will soon be a field opened in every charge. "There is something" on earth as well as "in heaven for children to do."

If the horses which drew the buggy which carried the pastor of Jefferson station and the editor could testify, we could prove that it was not for lack of hard driving that we reached Winsboro just in time to miss the train. We have tried several times to catch up with a train of cars, but with very indifferent success, and have decided that it was useless when the cars have fifteen minutes start; so we tried to make the most of the situation. An appointment was circulated; a good congregation assembled on short notice; and the circuit preacher was able to speak before a congregation he had never faced before. Bro. Jones reports encouraging prospects on his charge.

We are acquainted with no part of the country so well supplied with county lines as this one. About noon of our drive from Sulphur Springs, we passed Cornersville, where the boundaries of Hopkins, Rains and Wood unite. We preached in Wood county, and slept, after a short walk, in Franklin.

We met Bro. Haggard at the depot at Pittsburgh, and would have

gladly remained with him, but an appointment many miles away forbid. Our membership here numbers about 135. We have a good church building—40x60 in size—which, the preacher told us, is out of debt. Our visit in this region, bating rough weather and rougher roads, has been so pleasant that we shall visit it again ere long and fill some engagements we were unable to meet.

At 8 P. M. we reached Jefferson, where we met Bro. Ellis, *en route* for some appointments on the East Line road. He reports his preachers at work, and the outlook on his district encouraging.

Saturday afternoon we parted with Bro. Neely and his kind family, and in the early dusk was with our friends in Kilgore. Through the kind offices of Bro. Wynn, we were well mounted; and, with Bro. Joyner as guide, reached Hickory Grove, where Bros. Thompson and Parks were holding the first quarterly meeting for Bellview circuit. The horses, buggies and wagons, and the waiting throng, recalled the basket-meetings of other days. We have seldom seen in a congregation so large a proportion of young people. They offer to the faithful preacher a field from which he may gather a rich harvest of souls.

After the sermon, the presiding elder closed with some pertinent and pointed remarks respecting the importance of building churches. One we wish to preserve: "No church which neglects to build a house equal to its wants and ability will permanently prosper." We commend that single sentence to all who worship in "old field meeting houses," while they have the ability to build respectable houses in which to worship God. In the afternoon, the presiding elder preached a very effective sermon, and announced preaching by the editor at Bellview at night and at Kilgore Monday night. Though weary with travel and preaching, the "turnout" which the people in this region give to religious service was inspiring. These appointments filled, the "ADVOCATE team" left in the care of Bro. John Davis, who keeps a well-known "preachers' home" near Bellview, and the cars are bearing us toward the coast. A long night's ride in the cars, and the circuit preacher finds himself resting in the editor's chair, with an abundance of work awaiting him. There is rest in a change of work. It rests a weary horse to change his gait, even if the change is from a steady walk to a trot or gallop. The same rule applies to weary brain or muscle.

## THE LIQUOR DEALERS' CARD.

The Liquor Dealers' Association of Galveston, in a card published in the News, protests against the passage of an "Act to provide for the levy and collection of an occupation tax on the sale of spirituous and malt liquors," etc., introduced into the lower house of our State legislature by the chairman of the Judiciary Committee.

There are several significant items in connection with this action. The liquor dealers of Galveston are delinquent to the amount of scores of thousands of dollars due for taxes. Other occupations are compelled to pay. This one is robbing the government of thousands of dollars annually.

This same association takes an active part in the elections. This being so, those who consider the business an evil had better learn a lesson and form an association for the enforcement of the laws and the arrest of this curse. Our readers will remember the plan by which the saloon men, according to their own circular, proposed to control legislation in their interest. Money was to be employed. If the association levies assessments on its members to control the ballot box, it is time the people were aroused. A pure ballot is essential to the public weal. A business which will corrupt votes to advance its interest, is an enemy to society. It should be abated.

Their purpose to evade the law if it is enacted, is plainly hinted in

their protest against the act presented by the chairman of the Judiciary Committee. If it is passed, they suggest that it "will induce the seller and the buyer to band themselves to defeat the law." That they are now defeating the law and robbing the government of its dues, is patent to all who will examine the tax-roll of delinquent liquor dealers of this single city. And now they come before the public with a shameless threat to continue to defraud the State in case this new law shall be enacted. An association which will boldly insinuate such a purpose needs watching. No stronger argument need be offered in favor of stringent legislation and the faithful enforcement of the laws.

They also intimate that if the act is passed many will abandon the business and the State will lose the revenue. "Tis a consummation devoutly to be wished." The business is now an enormous burden to tax-payers. A certain judge in our State recently asserted in his charge to the grand jury, as the result of years of observation in his profession, that nine-tenths of the deeds of violence which occupy the attention of the criminal court originate in the use of whisky. If these dens which breed brawls and murder were closed, the revenue needed to support our army of peace officers would be vastly diminished. If the State has the right to close up its seaports in order to keep out the yellow fever, it has also the right to shield society from a more terrible curse.

Ingersoll denies the being of God. Who is happier by such unbelief? The vicious it may be, who will rejoice that they will have no account to render of their lives, the thief and the murderer who may hope that no retribution will visit them for their deeds. He denies that men have a Savior. Who finds comfort in that denial? The abandoned sinner, it may be, who has no desire to renounce his sins; but not the earnest-hearted man or woman whose moral natures recoil at sin and whose consciences tell them that they and all others have sinned. He has no hope of heaven. Is there comfort in his hopelessness? Every human heart which has sorrowed over the grave of a parent or child, husband or wife, brother or sister feels that a darker gloom gathers over the grave when all hope of the hereafter is shut out by the clouds of unbelief. No heaven? There is no comfort in that to the mother as she closes the eyes of her babe and sees it wrapped in its white shroud; no comfort to the wife as she returns to her cheerless home from the grave of her husband; no comfort to the child as the mother lies down in her tomb. There is not one solitary promise in all of this man's preaching but decay and death for the body and the silence of eternal death for the soul. There is the chill of the grave in such a gospel.

We are sometimes startled by the nearness of death. We parted from a brother a few days since who was hastening to meet the train. It would possibly stop but a moment at the depot and he hurried forward for his baggage which he had left in the sitting room. Crossing the track in front of the train he fell only a few feet in front of the engine. A few seconds only were allowed him to roll off the track and escape a horrible death. The incident is so familiar that it hardly produces a sensation, and the fact that "there is but a step between me and death" is so commonplace that we seldom think about it. It is worthy of thought. How near each one of us are sweeping along fearful possibilities. A false step and our earthly history and that of an entire household may be forever changed. It is wise in man to begin each day with prayer, for he may end it in the grave.

It is said that many of the largest Hindoo temples are cracking and crumbling into ruin, not so much from the influence of time and the elements which have been warring upon their solid walls as from the effects of banyan and peepul trees

whose seed have lodged in and around their stone foundations, and taking root, are lifting up with silent but mighty force the walls consecrated to idolatry. The missionary sees in this the symbol of that force which is steadily uprooting and overthrowing that system of paganism which has been established for ages in the minds of that wonderful people. Silently, yet surely, the seeds of living truth are taking root in the minds of the people, and men of every caste are renouncing the faith which has come down to them through many generations. That deep religious feeling which impels the Hindoo devotee to spend his life in self-torture to secure the dreamless sleep which is all that his faith in Vishnu can offer, will become a mighty moral force when purified and sanctified by the grace which is in Christ Jesus.

"Hold me, mamma." The shades of evening were gathering around the train as it rolled through field and forest and the eyes of the little child, which had been looking with restless eagerness on every object as we passed, were growing weary. Home was far away and the cars, though crowded, had a lonely, cheerless look even to the light-hearted child. The little one knew where its resting place could be found and when it turned wearily to the mother and said "hold me," her arms were opened and though the traces of weariness were on her face, which bore the marks of failing health, there was a loving smile there as the child nestled down in the mother's lap and fondly the little one was held in the tired yet patient arms for many weary hours. "Safe in our Father's arms." If our faith were that of that little one's, how often, and how confidently would we pray, "Hold me, oh my Father, in all the trials of life."

Our sympathies are always on the side of the hospitable housewife when she has a confirmed dyspeptic for her guest. She can cover her table with wholesome and delicious food, but she cannot supply her sickly guest with an appetite. She realizes her failure and is apt to fancy the fault is in her dishes when the entire blame rests with the unhealthy appetite of the dyspeptic.

We have seen a preacher in similar distress. He has prepared with long and diligent study an able sermon. It is full of thought; it is sound in doctrine; it is clearly and elegantly expressed and abounds in apt illustrations, but a thirty minutes sermon is all that many of the religious dyspeptics of our day can endure. The preacher realizes his failure. He has marked the sly glance at the watch or clock, or seen the partially concealed yawn of his hearers. He retires with mortification from the pulpit. The fault is not in the sermon but in spiritual indigestion of the hearer.

In a certain town in Texas, after an able address from a temperance lecturer, the audience called on the prosecuting attorney to address them. He commenced by protesting against the call as unreasonable. He reminded them that he was the prosecuting attorney in that court. He made his living by prosecuting crime. If there were no crimes committed, no criminals to be indicted, no fighting and broils, no shooting nor murder, his occupation would be gone. And then if there was no liquor sold in the saloons and corner groceries, no whisky drunk to drive men into reckless deeds, there would be peace and harmony in society, and the prosecuting attorney would find but few men to prosecute and would have but few fees to collect. The grog-shop furnished him the best practice his office could have. "And now," said he, "you ask me to make a speech against that business which puts money in my pocket." The crowd saw the point and that speech was the most successful of that hour.

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

Texas Christian Advocate

SHAW & BLAYLOCK - Publishers.

PUBLISHERS' NOTICES. AGENTS sending us new subscribers or renewals...

REMIT by Postoffice Money Order, Draft or Registered Letter.

THE date on the address of your paper indicates the expiration of subscription...

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

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

THE ADVOCATE never inserts advertisements known to be of an immoral or swindling character.

IT is to the interest of the publishers of this paper that subscribers receive EVERY NUMBER. We spare neither time nor money in having it properly mailed.

SUBSCRIBERS desiring a change in the direction of the ADVOCATE will always state the name of the postoffice to which the paper is then sent.

WE are almost daily in receipt of requests for renewals, including back numbers of the ADVOCATE.

THAT superb book, BUCKEYE COOKERY AND PRACTICAL HOUSEKEEPING, ought to be in every house.

AN INDUCEMENT TO LADIES. Many of the ladies who have read the advertisement in our columns of the "BUCKEYE COOKERY BOOK," have felt a desire to possess so valuable a household guide.

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

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

J. B. BARTON, Agent for Keep's Celebrated Shirts.

Consumption Cured. An old physician, retired from practice, having placed in his hands by an East India missionary the formula of a simple vegetable remedy...

AYER'S HAIR VIGOR prevents the hair from falling out.

Calendar - February, 1879.

Calendar table showing days of the month, moon phases, and sunrise/sunset times.

February 2 - Fifth Sunday after Epiphany. February 9 - Septuagesima Sunday.

MOON'S PHASES. Full moon, 13 0 54 p. m. New moon, 20 10 3 p. m.

HISTORICAL EVENTS - FEBRUARY. February 1, 1738 - John Wesley's return from Georgia.

MARRIED.

WILKERSON - CULPEPPER and BREUNER - CULPEPPER. By Rev. A. G. Nolan, at the residence of the bride's father in Jackson county, Texas.

ber to have ever been "before behind" - W. B. Kemp, \$2; the price is \$2.50; will send ten months.

Not Platonic, But Poor. The fall and early winter season is the harvest time of hacking coughs and debilitating forms of Catarrh.

Commercial. TEXAS CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE OFFICE. 1 GALVESTON, TEXAS, Feb. 19, 1879.

Exchange - Gold and Silver. Market unchanged, prices quiet for all grades.

LIVE STOCK MARKET. Compiled by Johnson Foster, Live Stock Commission Merchant.

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

Books for the People. SHAW & BLAYLOCK, P. O. DRAWER No. 4, GALVESTON, TEXAS.

The Lord's Land. By Henry B. Ridgway, D.D., author of "The Life of Alfred Cook."

The Standard Bunyan. Embracing the Pilgrim's Progress, with Marginal Index and Synopsis.

BENSON'S CAPSINE POROUS PLASTER. CELEBRATED THE WORLD OVER. The manufacturers were awarded the highest and only medal given rubber plasters, at both the Centennial and Paris Expositions.

FOR PARTICULARS regarding Electric Belts, address PULVERMACHER GALVANIC CO., Cincinnati, Ohio.

At New York, the market opened firm and closed easy. Sales today 275 bales.

At Liverpool, the market for spots opened and closed flat. Middling Uplands, 6 1/2 d. Middling, 6 1/2 d.

At Galveston, the market for spots opened and closed flat. Middling Uplands, 6 1/2 d. Middling, 6 1/2 d.

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Table of market prices for various goods including sugar, coffee, and other commodities.

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SEEDS FREE. The publishers of Farm and Fireside, Springfield, Ohio, give 1 year's subscription to their valuable and interesting paper, and send one dollar's worth of any kind of SEEDS FREE.

PREMIUMS! LIBERAL YET OFFERED. A FINE GOLD WATCH. To Every Conference.

To the member of the West Texas Conference sending us the largest number of subscribers from NOVEMBER 1st, 1878.

To the member of the Northwest Texas Conference sending us the largest number of subscribers from NOVEMBER 1st, 1878.

To the member of the North Texas Conference sending us the largest number of subscribers from DECEMBER 1st, 1878.

To the member of the East Texas Conference sending us the largest number of subscribers from DECEMBER 1st, 1878.

To the member of the Mexican border district, West Texas Conference. This group contains the photographs of Rev. J. H. Thompson and his family.

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

MOODY & JEMISON, COMMISSION MERCHANTS, AND COTTON FACTORS. 129 Strand, Galveston.

Texas Christian Advocate

CENTER POINT, Jan. 23.—I cannot well restrain expressing to my brethren my feelings of delight and joy since they received their last appointments, seeing every number of the ADVOCATE filled with communications from all the conferences in Texas descriptive of their kind receptions, pleasant and cozy homes, store-houses and pantries filled with the substantial and delicacies of this blessed land.

Ministerial Power.

Bishop Simpson's seventh Yale lecture was on ministerial power. It is very long, filling more than ten columns of the New York Methodist; there were no sallies of humor, but it was pervaded with a deep spirituality, and listened to by the immense audience with profound interest.

"Tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem until ye be endued with power from on high." The same word is used in describing the pentecostal scene, and is employed by the apostle to express the spiritual power of the ministry; as, 'God hath not given us the spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind'.

"If I may use the phrase, this ministerial power is a moral dynamite entrusted with the minister and, to a certain extent, with all working Christians. It is super-added to every personal and religious experience. This was emphatically true of the apostles. Three years they had been with Christ. They had seen his Spirit and heard his teaching. Some of them had been with him on the Mount of Transfiguration and had beheld his glory.

In illustration of this ministerial "power" the bishop gives an exposition of Ezekiel's vision of dry bones, and of the scenes enacted on the day of pentecost. We copy again:

"A clear conviction of his divine mission still gives the minister a foundation for his heroism. He hears the voice which said to Abram, 'I am the Almighty God. Walk before me and be thou perfect.' The same conviction of duty which sent the patriarch from Mesopotamia to Canaan, which sent the prophets on holy missions and inspired the heroes of Israel, works in the heart of the minister. He has heard the voice saying, 'Go preach,' and it has been as a fire in his bones. This is usually strongest with the young minister, and especially with those who, under circumstances of great distress and difficulty, go forward in the discharge of duty. Too frequently, as we become accustomed to the ministry and are in comparatively comfortable circumstances, this thought of a divine mission is less prominent and abiding. Hence, says the apostle:

"Stir up the gift of God which is in thee." Uncover the coals which have become imbedded in ashes, that the free air of heaven may make them glow and sparkle. All ministers, in every age and under all circumstances, need this conviction. Every time they ascend the pulpit they should feel that they are sent of God—sent with a divine message and sent to that specific congregation. Among modern ministers, Mr. Spurgeon is one of its strongest illustrations. He is a Calvinist; but his Calvinism seems to me to take one form. He feels that he was predestinated from all eternity to preach the Gospel in his tabernacle—that he was sent to that particular people. He steps upon the platform with this feeling in his heart; he enters upon his work as though he had some thing important to say; he challenges the attention of the congregation by his devout manner and by his own deep interest in the subject which he presents. Without this conviction of a divine mission, why should people gather to hear us? How can we hold their attention and reach their conscience? Another element was a clear conviction of the presence of the Unseen. The apostles had looked up to heaven as Jesus ascended; angels spoke with them; they had seen the tongues of fire; they lived partly in the invisible. The spirit which still dwells in the heart of the minister allies him to the invisible. Its home is in the highest heavens. Its constant tendency is to draw the human heart to the Unseen. The true minister feels that he is compassed about with a cloud of witnesses that ever look upon him from the heavens above; that they are with him in his ministrations. Thus he lives 'as seeing him who is invisible.' Faith is one of its manifestations—the evidence of things not seen.

"There is a beautiful legend of St. Chrysostom. He had been educated carefully; was a man of culture and devoted to his calling; and yet in his earlier ministry he was not remarkable for his success. At one time he had what seemed to be a vision. He thought he was in the pulpit, and in the chancel and round about him were holy angels. In the midst of them and directly before him was the Lord Jesus; and he was to preach to the congregation assembled beyond. The vision or the reverie deeply affected his spirit. The next day as he ascended the pulpit he felt the impression of the scene. He thought of the holy angels as if gathered around him; of the blessed Savior as directly before him—as listening to his words and beholding his spirit. He became intensely earnest; and from that day forward a wonderful power attended his ministrations. Multitudes gathered around him wherever he preached. Though he had the simple name of John while he lived, the ages have called him Chrysostom, the 'golden-mouthed.'"

In answering the question, how this power is to be acquired, he says: "First, there should be an entire consecration of every moment of time and of every power of body and soul to the service of God. Secondly by earnest prayer. Thirdly by fasting." The lecture concluded as follows:

"This spirit also brings before us the most solemn thoughts in reference to our congregations. Immortal souls come to listen for tidings of salvation. God has stirred them by his Holy Spirit and sent them to hear. If they are saved it must be through our words; and upon the issue of the sermon the destiny of immortal souls may be sealed. Who could preach carelessly could he thus seal? Besides, it may be the last sermon that some one shall hear. Almost every sermon is the last that some one does hear. More persons die every week than there are pulpits in the land. Could we single out some one in the assembly who would never hear another sermon, how would we try to preach Jesus! Our eyes are sealed as to destiny; but that person is in the congregation, and we must draw the bow at a venture, trusting that the Divine arm and eye will give to the bow sufficient tension and to the arrow the right direction. Whenever I have heard of some person present in the assembly being called suddenly away by accident or disease I have never felt to regret that my sermon was not more beautiful or more polished; but I have regretted that it was not preached with more demonstration of the Spirit and of power. I cannot conceal my conviction that but for the indolence and negligence in those who occupy the sacred desk this power would be more universal. It seems to me that the possibilities connected with preaching have been only partially realized, and that a brighter and more glorious day will yet dawn upon the church.

If there is one thing above all others that I have desired for myself, and that above all others I

covet for you, young gentlemen, it is this ministerial power, this baptism of fire. Seek for this more than for learning, for wisdom, for oratory; and above all, more than for any thought of your acceptability or popularity. To preach one sermon like Livingstone's would be worth a life of service. I believe you all may have such power that thousands shall be converted under your preaching. If the Bible be true, and if you are divinely called to the ministry, you are lifted out of the common circles of life, and God comes to dwell in you and to use all your powers for himself. Your highest glory will be to appear as living, walking Christs among men; and you will live, with the apostle, "For me to live is Christ."

Pastorate to Preaching.

Bishop Simpson's eighth lecture at Yale was on the relation of the pastorate to preaching. He says: "These two classes of work are so intimately associated that it is impossible perfectly to separate them. The preacher cannot reap the full harvest of his labors without being a diligent pastor; and the pastor can accomplish but little without the truth and power of the pulpit. Pastoral duties are enjoined by the direct command of Christ and are illustrated in his own glorious example. Their character is also exemplified in the labors of the apostles as they visited from house to house and warned them day and night with tears."

After referring to the examples of Christ and the apostles, the Bishop urges the importance of pastoral work both to church members, and those not in the church. He must visit to gain the good will and sympathy of his people—to learn the influence of his sermons and to ascertain accurately the effects which they have produced. The preacher is to be a shepherd:

"Last summer I passed over the great mountains and plains which lie between us and the Pacific Ocean. I frequently watched the shepherds, with their immense flocks, and marked their constant diligence and care. I saw the herders, with their numerous herds of cattle, and was surprised to observe the constant vigilance which they exercised. The herder was always in the saddle; his eyes were continually on the cattle. If one wandered toward a precipice or became separated from the herd, it was immediately followed and brought back in safety. How much more responsible is the office of the Christian pastor! If he expects to gain the affection of all the members of his congregation, if he desires to realize the full fruit of his sermons, his eye must be upon sleepless vigilance.

In this work he will also become informed of the relative fitness of the members of his congregation for such work as he may need in carrying out his plans for church activity. He will thus also gain increasing influence over the hearts of the children. Much of the sermon is necessarily beyond their comprehension; and not being interested, the church services are wearisome. When they do attend it is rather a matter of form. The preacher is too frequently a stranger to them, seems to overlook them, has no word of address directed to them. Being without interest in the services, they sometimes imbibe, not only toward the sanctuary, but often also toward the Sabbath, an aversion which tinges and influences their whole lives. But if children feel that the preacher is their friend; if he has a kind word for them when he visits the family; if he speaks to them by name when he meets them on the street; if he takes an interest in their studies and gives them a word of encouragement, then they will love to attend the church services, delighted to meet him. Their presence will also be an inspiration to him. As he looks into their bright eyes and expectant countenances, and remembers what an influence they may exert for Christ, he will be anxious to speak some word that shall draw them early to the loving Savior. He will think of them in his study when he is preparing his sermon; he will think of them when he bends his knees in prayer and implores a blessing on his congregation. While he prepares to feed the sheep he will think also of the little lambs. His sermons will be more simple in their style, more brief and pointed in their sentences, and some incident will be interwoven which will touch the hearts of the children. That simplicity, that illustration will also touch the hearts of those who are older. Indeed, there is no way by which the good-will of mothers can be gained so readily as by acquaintance with their children, and especially that acquaintance which manifests a deep interest for their mental and moral excellence. Father, also, will unite in this good-will. The preacher who wins the heart of childhood finds

the parents drawn to his church and listening with profit to his ministry. The story of Themistocles is well known. He said once of his little boy: "This child is greater than any man in Greece. For the Athenians command Greece; I command the Athenians; his mother commands me; and he commands his mother."

He thus marks the distinction between pastoral visiting and the fashionable "calls" of the "society" preacher:

Such ministers may be met at almost every funeral, and have time to go to the cemetery, even though it be three or four miles distant. They attend every festival and are found at every public and social gathering. Sometimes young ministers, who behold a radiant glory in Gospel truth, are repelled from visiting by the superficial character of this class of men. Yet they should remember that these men do but little of true pastoral work. They call familiarly in various families, and join in jokes and laughter, set down sometimes and smoke cigars and are ready to take part in any recreation or game, but leave without a word spoken for Jesus or a prayer offered in behalf of the family. Seldom are such men found in the cabins of the poor, by the bedside of the sick, or in conversation with the prodigal young man, who is breaking the hearts of his father and mother and is wandering into paths of sin. Seldom is he found pleading with such an one to reform his life and to turn to the Savior. Seldom is he found in earnest conversation endeavoring to bring comfort and consolation to the suffering widow. Seldom is he found visiting the man of business, who is in deep embarrassment and distress, and whose heart is wrung with agony under the pressure of difficulties and responsibilities. As the result of long observation, I am satisfied that those who are the closest students and are by nature the most timid become the best pastors when they conquer themselves and instruct the faithful from house to house. For they go not to spend the moments in trivial conversation; but they go under the conviction that Christ has sent them as his servants and in his stead, to carry his benediction to the households. They tell of the wonderful love of Christ and of the exhaustless store of spiritual riches in reserve for those who love him. They are quick to extend a helping hand to their brothers, and to lift up the lowly, the discouraged and the sorrowing.

What had the Lord Jesus been to us if we had only the record of his sermons without the record of his going about doing good? We would listen to his words as voices from above; but our hearts are drawn closer to him when we behold him opening the eyes of the blind, and stooping to touch the leper, shut out from society by his loathsome disease. It is then the heavens kissing the earth. It is God in contact with the human soul. In such a record Jesus becomes Immanuel—God with us."

Aspiring young ministers, who are too studious and high minded to attend closely to pastoral duties, are thus encouraged:

"There are a few large churches where the congregations are so immense and the membership is so numerous that it seems impossible for the pastor to know his people. Such is Spurgeon's church, with its five thousand membership; and such are a few large congregations in our principal cities. The pastoral work in such cases is performed by assistants employed by the pastor of the congregation. There are some young men who feel so conscious of their superior power, who have such premonitions of coming greatness, that imitating the example of these distinguished ministers, they resolve to devote themselves wholly to their studies and to preaching, to spend their lives in something more noble than visiting people. Such young men should remember that these eminent ministers began either in country places or with small congregations. So far as I am acquainted with the men who build these mammoth institutions, they began at the bottom of the ladder, studied with the common people, preached and worked with the common people, and in this way gained that knowledge of human nature which enabled them to gather immense congregations around them. Such men as Spurgeon and Beecher began at the bottom of the ladder, in a country place, and climbed up. The young man who begins at the top of the ladder invariably climbs down."

It looks badly for Chicago that thirty thousand of its boys and girls are frequenters of drinking saloons; yet we must take into account the fact of the immense German population there, and that German children there, as in the fatherland, accompany their parents to the beer

halls and gardens, and thus form the habit of drinking in early life. At the same time it is reported that many of the children who frequent places where beer and other drinks are sold in that city, are becoming drunkards, and that no less than nine thousand of these youthful tipplers are arrested annually for disorderly conduct and petty crimes.—Pittsburgh Presbyterian Banner.

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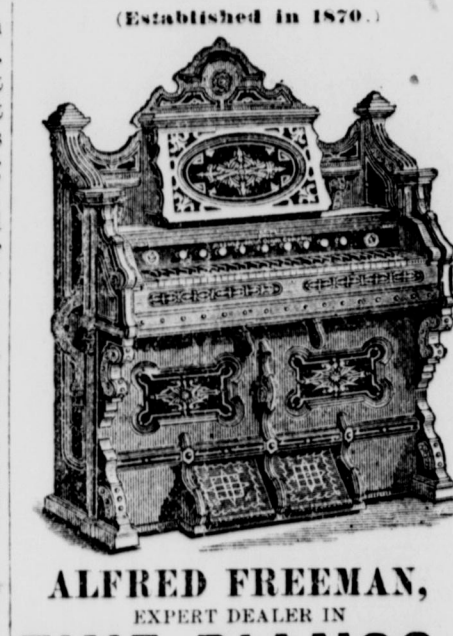
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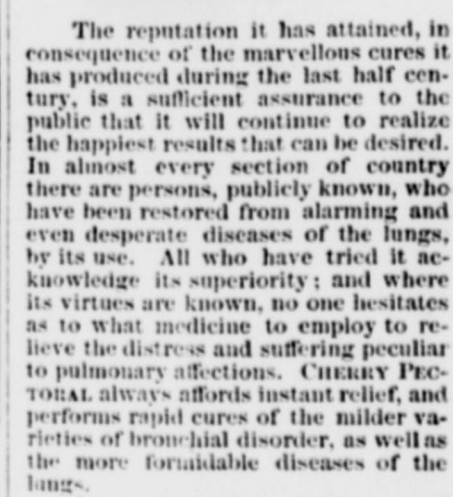
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## Texas Christian Advocate

## News of the Week.

## WASHINGTON.

The Senate adopted a resolution appointing a committee of inquiry respecting late escape and slaughter of Cheyenne Indians. Passed, with amendment, the House bill creating the northern judicial district of Texas. Passed bill to restrict Chinese immigration. A bill was introduced to secure the completion of a railway from San Antonio Texas, to a point at or near Fort Clark, thence to a point near El Paso. It is thought the Brazil mail-subsidy will pass the Senate, but its fate in the House is doubtful.

In the House, Mr. Reagan, of the Committee on Commerce, reported the river and harbor bill which, among others, proposes appropriations. Sabine Pass, \$25,000; Galveston Harbor, \$100,000; Ship Channel, \$80,000; Narrows, Sabine Pass, \$6,000; Pass Cavallo and Matagorda Bay, \$25,000; Cypress Bayou, \$6,000; Aransas Pass, \$35,000; removal raft Red River, \$15,000. Passed under suspension of rules.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

On the 11th, the walls of a perpendicular cut 90 feet in height, on the Chicago and Alton railroad, Kansas City, caved in, burying workmen and their teams in about 600 yards of earth. Six men were killed and a number wounded.

On the 12th, an embankment at Ziegler's ore-bed, Allentown, Penn., caved in, killing one man and injuring four others.

On the 14th, Marie Agurine, a female trapeze performer, at Cincinnati, fell from the rope head foremost, struck a seat with a dull thud, and was fatally injured.

Z. Chandler has been elected U. S. Senator from Michigan, in the place of Mr. Chustancy, resigned.

## FOREIGN.

The British forces in South Africa have met an unexpected and disastrous repulse from the Zulus. On the 23d, the Zulus came down, it is said, 20,000 strong, and overwhelmed five companies. The British loss is set down at 30 officers, and 500 non-commissioned officers, rank and file, of imperial troops, and 70 non-commissioned officers, rank and file, of Colonial troops. The camp, with all its fixtures, was captured, containing 102 wagons, 1,000 oxen, 2 cannon, and 1,000 rifles. It is estimated 1,000 Zulus were killed. The disaster has created great sensation at London. Reinforcements will be sent without delay. Fifteen steamships have been chartered to convey troops.

The labor distress continues in England and strikes are announced in all quarters.

England has asked of Russia permission to send physicians to investigate the plague. Privy council will enforce quarantine if it is believed England is endangered.

On the 12th, it was claimed at St. Petersburg that the plague was abating.

The Cabinet council of Spain has fixed five years as the legal duration of the present Cortes.

Cardinal Parocchi, bishop of Bologna, is transferred to Ancona, in place of Cardinal Antonelli, deceased.

An earthquake at Ariquepa, Panama, the 4th, occasioned much alarm, but did but little damage.

## LEGISLATURE.

The Senate adopted the following, among other bills: a bill to regulate fees of Secretary of the State; to repair executive mansion; to support lunatic asylum for months of January and February; to change name of Grand Lodge; to sell school lands, providing purchases of lands already sold against loss; limiting commissions for sales, to 2 1/2 per cent; making a perpetual fund of the proceeds of sales of school fund from sale and taxes on school lands; authorizing the Governor to impose restrictions on value of school lands; requiring surveyors to make affidavit of value of lands. With other amendments bill was engrossed.

Committees reported as follows: On house report on criminal code and code of procedure, recommending adoption of some of the house amendments.

Favorably on memorial of citizens of Collin county in reference to abolishing ten-pin alleys.

Favorably on proposition for measures to more effectually carry out laws to prevent gambling.

Favorably on bill to prevent taking up and using horses, cows, etc., without consent of owners.

Favorably on bill to punish aiding and abetting convicts in making escape.

Favorably on bill to authorize cities and towns to compromise their debt and issue low rate of interest bearing bonds instead of high-rate bonds.

Favorably on bill to create state

board of health, and recommending bill supplied by the state medical association; 100 copies ordered printed.

Reporting substitute for bill to regulate the management of railroads. Substitute leaves out schedule of class of freights and rates and strikes out provision against discrimination in rates of freight between places.

Favorably on bill to provide for support of schools for year ending August 31, 1871, with amendment so as to insert \$415,000 in place of \$600,000.

Favorably on and amending bill to require persons and corporations to whom patents of land have been granted to pay fees within sixty days of the passage of the act, and to provide penalties.

Favorably on petition from Bowie county to make railroads stop trains at the state line and recommending a law to provide for same.

Favorably on joint resolution asking re-imbursment from congress for expense of Texas in frontier protection.

Favorably on bill for the preservation of fish and for fish-traps.

Favorably on bill for county clerks to issue licenses for the sale of liquor in quantities less than a quart, and with amendment.

Favorably on bill to prevent buffalo killing, and commending joint resolution to ask congress to take the matter in hand.

Favorably on memorial of Waller and Fort Bend counties, with reference to Sunday laws.

Favorably on bill to ask congress to pay Texas senators and representatives elected in 1866.

Bill to prohibit sale of liquor on Sunday. Referred to judiciary committee.

Favorably on bill to require owners of surveys to pay fees before obtaining patents.

The House passed the following: A bill reorganizing the 23d judicial district; a bill requiring persons having patents in land office to pay fees and take same out in 60 days after the law takes effect, or pay 10 per cent. per month penalty; a resolution that committee on internal improvements report whether charges of express company should not be regulated; a resolution asking the judiciary committee to provide against interference with elections on the Rio Grande by citizens of Mexico; smoke-house tax resolution to add to tax article amendment, exempting products of the soil in hand of producer—passed by a vote of 80 to 5; a bill organizing the 4th judicial district out of Trinity, Walker, Grimes, Madison, and Leon counties; a bill fixing fees of office Secretary of State. The probable increase will be \$5,000 per annum.

A resolution that committee on finance inquire and report upon expediency of a State printing office at Bryan, to do State printing. A resolution calling on Comptroller for amount of taxes assessed on property of unorganized counties for the past two years.

Committee reported as follows: Mr. Baker presented report of penitentiary visiting joint committee: Find present management exceptionally good. Prisoners make no complaints, and prison appears neat and healthy. Mention repairs needed. In camps, sergeant and guards guilty of harsh treatment, are promptly discharged.

At Huntsville, cell room for 350, and cell nearly complete for about 200 more. Rusk penitentiary built of soft red sandstone; don't know whether it will stand. The building is of attractive appearance, and up to the contract. The two penitentiaries together have nearly cell room enough to confine all the convicts. That the best interests of the state demand all convicts shall be so confined in prison walls, but the financial condition of the state does not admit of that step now. More prisoners escape from the camps, even under the present improved management, than is necessary under the circumstances. The penitentiary commissions have visited the same monthly, but not each camp, as the law requires.

Mr. Henderson, of Smith, for education, reported a substitute for several other bills amending the school laws. The substitute provides for grading teachers' certificates, changes times for making reports, requiring reports of county judges to be made July 15 instead of September 1 of each year, and providing for county superintendents of education in counties of over 8000 population.

## Texas Items.

The *Observer* reports the wheat crop prospects excellent in Navarro county.

A man in Johnson county mixed carbolic acid by mistake in his whisky. He didn't like the results. He is getting well.

The *Headlight* says the wood-work on the Methodist church at Round Rock is completed, and the plastering nearly done.

There are 1840 children of school age in Williamson county.

The Wortham nursery in Freestone county has been sold to Illinois parties for \$40,000.

Wills' Point *Local* reports 6567 bales of cotton up to the 15th at that point.

The *Commercial* says new houses are going up in East Dallas.

The *Courier* says the Sherman mills have lost but two days in twelve months, and the Magnolia mills but three. An increase of wheat offered indicates that the present will be a more prosperous year than the last.

Peach and plum trees are in bloom in Gonzales county.

The M. E. Church, South, building at Paris is lighted with gas.

The *Advertiser* reports the farmers of Bastrop county pushing their plows and getting ready for heavy planting.

The *Meridian Blade* says Bosque county is one of the most mountainous and best watered counties in Texas; valleys rich and adapted to corn, cotton, wheat and other cereals, vegetables and fruit.

Collin county boasts of ninety odd free schools which are taught from five to nine months in the year.

Kimble county claims to have one of the best cattle ranges in the State. Cattle men are coming in.

The *Mason News Item* says crop prospects in that section are fine.

The *Courier* reports 7000 bales of cotton shipped up to the 15th from Hempstead.

The Masonic Temple at Palestine is approaching completion. It will be one of the best buildings the fraternity has built in the State.

The *Citizen* reports 11,415 bales of cotton at Columbus up to the 15th.

The *Cuero Bulletin* reports a beef slaughtered there that weighed 1650 pounds. The hide weighed 150 pounds.

The *Platonia Argus* says the cattle drive from that region will be unusually large.

A strange hog disease has appeared in Houston county. The hogs suddenly fall dead without symptoms of disease.

A new Methodist church is projected and will be built this summer in Brenham.

On the 14th, a man by the name of Lipscomb, near Jacksboro, became entangled in a rope, and was dragged by his horse until mangled and dead.

Bradley, a negro, at Bryan, has been convicted of the murder of a man named Pollock.

Texas is furnishing lumber to St. Louis. Several car loads recently shipped, per order, to that city from mills near Texarkana.

O'Donnell, saloon keeper in Texarkana, shot some time since by one of his customers, died on the 10th inst. The party who did the shooting is in the Miller county, Arkansas, jail.

## THE DARK DAY.

New England's Black Friday—People Thinking the World Was Coming to an End—Meeting Houses Crowded and a Legislature Terrified—Darkness Lasts Fifteen Hours.

Of all the wonderful stories that my great-grandmother used to tell my mother when she was a little girl, the most wonderful was about the dark day in New England, Friday, May 19, 1780. That was during our Revolution, you will remember, and the same year in which the traitor Benedict Arnold attempted to betray his country to its enemies.

For several days before the 19th the air was full of vapors, as we often see it when the fires are raging in the woods near us, and the sun and moon appeared red, and their usual clear light did not reach us, especially when rising and setting. The winds blew chiefly from the southwest and northeast, and the weather was cool and clear. The morning of the 19th was cloudy, and in many places slight showers fell, sometimes accompanied by thunder and lightning, but as the sun arose it did not increase the light, and the darkness deepened and deepened, until the children standing before the tall clocks could not see to tell the time, and the older people peering over the almanac were unable to distinguish the letters. The birds sang their evening songs and flew to their nests in the woods, the poultry hurried to their roosts, while the cattle in the fields uttered strange cries and leaped the stone fences to gain their stalls, and the sheep all huddled together, bleating piteously.

Color, which you know depends upon the light of the sun, filled many with astonishment by its unusual appearance, for the clouds were in some places of a light red, yellow and brown; the leaves of the trees and the grass in the meadows were of the deepest green,

verging on indigo; the brightest silver seemed tarnished, and everything that is white in the sunlight bore a deep yellow hue.

The shadows, which before noon fall to the westward and afternoon to the eastward, were observed in the darkness to fall in every direction.

The rain, also, was unlike any other rain, and it set all the people to wondering as they dipped it from tubs and barrels, for a scum formed on it, resembling burnt leaves, emitting a sooty smell, and this same substance was seen on rivers, especially the Merrimac, where it lay four or five inches thick for many miles along its shore.

Another peculiarity was the vapor; in many localities it descended to the earth from high in the atmosphere, but at one point a gentleman saw the vapors at 9 o'clock rising from the springs and lowlands; one column he particularly noticed rapidly ascending far above the highest hills, then it spread into a large white cloud and sailed off to the westward; a second cloud formed in the same way from the same springs, but did not rise as high as the first, and a third formed fifteen minutes afterward. At 9:45 the uppermost cloud was of a reddish hue, the second was green, indigo and blue, and the third was almost white.

So unwholesome was this vapor that small birds were suffocated in it, and many of them were so frightened and stupefied that they flew into the houses, adding to the fears of ignorant people, who consider it a bad sign for a bird to enter a dwelling.

The commencement of the darkness was between 10 and 11 in the forenoon (when the men were busy in the fields, and offices, and workshops, the women spinning, weaving and preparing dinner, and the children at school, or helping their fathers and mothers at home), and it continued until the middle of the following night; but the degree of darkness varied, in some places the disk of the sun was seen when the darkness was most heavy.

Lights were seen burning in all the houses, and the people in passing out of doors carried torches and lanterns, which were curiously reflected on the overhanging clouds.

Thousands of people were sure that the end of the world had come, many dropped their work and fell on their knees to pray; others confessed to their fellows the wrongs they had done, and endeavored to make restitution.

The meeting-houses were crowded, and neighborhood prayer-meetings were formed, and the ministers and old church-members prayed and long prayers, mentioning the nations and individuals of Bible times who had been destroyed on account of their sins, and begging that as God spared the great city of Ninevah when it repented, so he would forgive them, cheer them again by the light of the sun, and give victory to their armies.

It is said that the Connecticut Legislature being in session, the members became terrified when they could not see each other's faces, and a motion was made to adjourn, when Mr. Davenport arose and said:

"Mr. Speaker: It is either the day of judgment, or it is not. If it is not, there is no need of adjournment. If it is, I desire to be found doing my duty. I move that candles be brought, and that we proceed to business."

All the shivering, frightened people began now to look forward to evening, hoping that, as the moon rose full at 9 o'clock, her light would penetrate the gloom; but all the children, who coaxed to sit up and see her, grew very sleepy; their strained eyes were not rewarded by her beautiful beams, for at 8 in the evening the darkness was total; one could not distinguish between the earth and the heavens, and it was impossible to see a hand before one's face.

Then all the weary children were sent to bed, after the most honest prayers that they had ever prayed, and the older people sat up to watch for the light that never before had appeared so glorious.

And never dawned a fairer morning than the 20th of May, for the sun that opened the flowers and mirrored itself in the dewdrops, brought the color again to the children's faces, and filled every heart with confidence.

The birds sang joyously, the cattle returned to their pastures, the places of business were opened, and every one went about his work more gentle toward man and more grateful toward God.

After the darkness was passed several persons traveled about to gather all possible information concerning this memorable day, and Dr. Tenny wrote an account of what he learned while on a journey from the East to Pennsylvania. He says the deepest darkness was in Essex County, Massachusetts, the lower part of New Hampshire and the eastern portion of Maine

(where my great-grandmother lived). In Rhode Island and Connecticut it was not so great; in New Jersey peculiar clouds were observed, but the darkness was not uncommon, and in the lower parts of Pennsylvania nothing unusual was observed.

It extended as far north as the American settlements, and westwardly to Albany, but its exact limits could not be ascertained.

In Boston the darkness continued fourteen or fifteen hours, varying in duration at other places.

As it was impossible to attribute the darkness to an eclipse. The wise people formed many theories respecting it; being convinced that it was due to immense fires in the woods, winds blowing in opposite directions, and to the condition of vapors, but Herschel says: "The dark day in North America was one of those wonderful phenomena of nature which will always be read with interest, but which philosophy is at a loss to explain."

## A Texas Incident of the Past.

In Texas, in the year 18—, on Saturday, a young Methodist preacher stopped in the town of Liberty and was invited to preach that night in a vacant house, there being no church house in the place. It so happened that Dr. S. was on a "high-lonesome" that day and had made arrangement with a friend to take a fire-hunt for deer that night—not knowing anything about preaching at this house. He was walking around waiting for his friend. The old Dr. (gun in hand) was passing by this house, and seeing it illuminated, concluded to call in and "see what was up." He walked in and to his surprise there was a crowd of people and the preacher standing facing him with hymn-book in hand. Dr. S. understood at once what it meant and concluded to make the best of it on the easiest terms, so walking to one corner of the house he cried out: "Attention, company; order arms," and placed his double-barrel gun in the corner. The preacher, who was a very young man and not accustomed to seeing guns carried to church, concluded he had got into a foul crowd, told the congregation that they might consider themselves dismissed; and he would try to preach at that place the next morning at eleven o'clock, if the house was not occupied. Dr. S., who felt the need of preaching, walked up to the preacher and turning around announced to the congregation that the house would not be occupied by any one and that there would be preaching there at eleven o'clock next day. About this time old squire B., a nice old bachelor, of English descent, had been bedridden with rheumatism for some time and had been under Dr. S.'s treatment, with the understanding that it was to be kept a profound secret until he (the squire) should get well, as he was anxious to marry a young lady of the place. This squire B. was town constable and had been sent for out of his bed to get up and arrest Dr. S. or he would kill some one. He got up. Tried to dress himself, but did not take time to finish his toilet. He hobbled into the church with one boot on—minus hat and coat—and suspenders dangling about his legs. About the first person he saw was Dr. S. facing him. He called at the top of his voice, "I summon every man in this house to help me arrest Dr. S." The Dr. up to this time was in for peace and preaching, but now the fighting whiskey began to get the best of him. He shook his fist at the squire, exclaiming: "You old rheumatic scoundrel. I have been treating you for gout and keeping it a secret. If you send for me again I'll give you strychnine." After a full free fight, the old Dr. was arrested and tried for disturbing the peace and resisting an officer in the discharge of his duty; was convicted in both cases, which cost him about five hundred dollars. I don't know that the Dr. ever liked fire-hunting after that, though he continued to drink whisky as long as he lived. He committed suicide in Galveston while drunk not twenty years ago, and as no murderer can enter the kingdom of heaven, of course he was lost.

## OLD TEXIAN.

THORNTON, LIMESTONE CO., February 10.—At our first quarterly conference our beloved P. E.

thought it best to divide the Groesbeck circuit and did so, which gives me twelve appointments in what we call the Thornton circuit. I went to work immediately to secure a lot for church and parsonage at Thornton, had some opposition, but succeeded in erecting a neat little parsonage and the preacher has a home. The people are very kind and liberal.—M. K. LITTLE.

Rev. J. H. Wofford, of Tehuacana, proposes to publish a paper called the *Texas Evangelist*, in the interest of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, in Texas.

## Grand Saline Mission.

In the absence of the expected supply (a transfer from the Holston Conference) the writer, a supernumerary, upon application by presiding elder of the Marshall district, consented to become volunteer missionary to this destitute field of labor. For several years he has been satisfied that the line of railroad from Longview to Wills Point has not received the attention it deserved, and so think the people living in that region.

It is a better country, and susceptible of greater progress and development than imagined before a thorough penetration and conception of its resources.

It is the best woodland country on the line of the great railways yet undeveloped. There is the combination of more advantages, good land, well timbered, fine range for cattle and hogs, and not a negro to be found to prey upon the industries of the settler. There begins to be the apprehension and appreciation of this country, hitherto overlooked in the eagerness to advance into the regions beyond. Valuable emigrants of the best families from other portions of the State, where the lands are worn and crowded with a negro population—the greatest incubus upon the progress of any country—are seeking homes in this comparatively virgin soil, where there still roam in herds the deer and wolf. From the most reliable settlers (such men as Judge Ellis, of the M. E. Church, South, and Mr. Jones, of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, and others) the information is received that the past season from 30 to 50 bushels of corn were raised to the acre, and the supply of pork, mutton, and large hogs in excess of the demand—Judge Ellis himself selling some 75 or 80 head that weighed from 150 to 200 pounds; the finest lot of hogs I have seen since the war, all fattened in the most range. The settlers, like all in a new country, are living a pioneer life, subject to the inconveniences and hardships incident to such life, but extend to the missionary a hearty welcome and generous hospitality which is more appreciated than gilded halls and a sumptuous table. No one knows better than the itinerant the luxury of ministering the Word of Life, and the pastoral service to the people in frontier life in their humble cabins, and plain, hospitable fare, mingling his sympathies and prayers and tears with theirs at the family altar. How glorious the itinerant system in its aggressive adaptation to humanity in all its varied phases! The effort will be made to bring all the evangelizing forces into play to develop the material and immaterial interests of this country—the gospel, the Bible, the ADVOCATE.

The country adjacent to Edgewood, a station on the Texas and Pacific railroad, is rather the most desirable yet seen, where Judge Robinson and Col. Herndon, of Tyler, own over a league of land, and will contribute liberally to the erection of a church at Edgewood, that must evidently be a good point for trade when this splendid country is settled, as it certainly will be from all the indications. Grand Saline, a railroad station, is another important point in this fine country, especially distinguished as the location of the most celebrated saline waters in the United States, yielding a larger per cent. of fine, unadulterated salt without admixture of mineral substances. Gen. Birge, a liberal, intelligent and enterprising gentleman, is developing, by increasing facilities, the productive power of these grand salines. One of his furnaces, just erected, yields a car-load of salt daily. An artesian well is being sunk to fathom the strongest saline waters, and other furnaces will be erected to develop the exhaustless resources of this grand saline reservoir. The increase of employes and other immigrants will enhance the interests of this point and make the demand more imperative for religious privileges and church extension in the erection of a house of worship, for which the missionary will labor.

Hereafter will give you postal statistics and items of interest as they may be evolved in the progress of the work, as heaven shall bless the labors of the supernumerary volunteer missionary.

## H. M. BOOTH.

THE late cold snap has been hard on the stock in some parts of Texas. We have heard of instances in which fifty per cent. of a flock of sheep have died. The cattle, too, have suffered, but not to so great an extent. Even in Texas, stockmen should make some provision for protecting and feeding their stock during a hard winter.

## DOCTORS GAVE HIM UP.

"Is it possible that Mr. Geoffrey is up and at work, and cured by so simple a remedy?" "I am sure it is true that he is entirely cured, and with nothing but Hop Bitters, and only ten days ago his doctors gave him up and said he must die!" "Well-a-day! if that is so, I will go this minute and get some for my poor George. I know hops are good."