

Texas Christian Advocate

Our Postal Cards.

BEAVER CREEK, CLAY COUNTY, February 26, 1879.—I thought I would send you a postal. Farmers are at work preparing to plant their spring crops; and our esteemed preacher in charge is at his work, riding over our new county gathering into our Methodist fold all that are willing to throw their might and efforts with us. I hear that Bro. Pollard, M. E. C., has been sent to organize a mission among us. We pray God to prosper him, if the glory of God and the salvation of sinners are his objects; for our country surely needs all the religious help that it can obtain. I am a Methodist in the broad sense of the term—not a Northern or Southern—and it grieves me to see such sectionalism as is manifested in Bishop H.'s flying wing in Texas, and also truly sorry that the highly esteemed editor of our church organ would let such evil trash move him to a reply. Surely charity endureth all things.—JOHN S. POWERS.

[If our good brother will remember that failure to notice Bishop H. just now would be accepted as a confession that his letters represent real Southern life, he will appreciate the motives which controlled the ADVOCATE in this matter. Could he read all that drops from the "flying wing," he would consider silence treason to his people and his church.—ED.]

GONZALES, GONZALES Co., Feb. 24.—I used to find great consolation in the thought that by and by I will get too big to be boxed, but it seems that the ladies of Gonzales don't think so. You remember about a year ago how an itinerant was boxed, and now they have boxed us again. But I tell you it was not *grievous*, but *joyous*. I can't express our gratitude. Our poor vocabulary is weak and inadequate. Mrs. B. says that she is more grateful than I, but she has not succeeded in getting me to accept the proposition. The box was a large one, well filled with substantial. O we do owe a debt of gratitude to the ladies of Gonzales. They are not only kind to the preacher and family, but in fact, this is only one way in which their zeal for Christianity is shown. They have determined to build a parsonage, and they will do it. They have a large vocabulary, but the word failure is not in it. O, if our men only had their zeal, how the church would prosper! I do not mean to say that our men are not as good as men elsewhere, for they are. We have noble men about Gonzales, but they are like your correspondent, they wonderfully out-married themselves. It is but natural for persons to promise to improve when they get boxed, and we are ready to make that promise and try to keep it.—W. H. H. BIGGS.

DRESDEN, NAVARRO Co., Feb. 26.—A fatal accident occurred in this community a few days ago. Mrs. Coulson accidentally shot and instantly killed her daughter, 15 or 16 years old. This came of carelessly handling a Derringer. The ball took effect just above the left eye. Mad dogs are in the vicinity of Bell Point. One horse and several dogs bitten. The people are considerably alarmed. Excellent Sunday-school at Mount Zion; class and prayer-meetings held regularly. Fifteen accessions at that point since conference. All quiet, and no dancing Methodists on circuit.—G. W. SWOFFORD.

CEDAR HILL, WALKER COUNTY, March 1.—The weather has been disagreeable and my health not good, so I have been out from home but little since conference, and know but little of what is going on outside of my own neighborhood. Our preacher, Bro. C. L. Farrington, has been at all his appointments at our church, but the weather has been so unpleasant that the congregations have been small, until his last, when he had a good congregation, and preached an excellent sermon. He is highly esteemed by the people, and we hope God will bless his labors and make him useful. Weather pleasant, and farmers busy plowing and planting corn.—J. G. JOHNSON.

MARLIN, FALLS Co., March 3.—This evening a difficulty occurred on the streets, the result of which was a man stabbed. Think he will die. Cause—whisky. Oh! when will the evil be remedied? Nearly all the trouble we have arises from this fearful curse—whisky. But it must be sold; remove it and trade is injured, so say the advocates of the traffic. Can we get no relief? Is there no help? Where is the trouble? Is it a want of better laws? If so, can we not have them? Doctor, give them (whisky dealers) a blow.—S. J. FRANKS.

MONTAGUE, MONTAGUE Co., February 26.—Our first quarterly meeting closed last night—a good feeling. Bro. Moss was not able to be here. Bro. Haislip was here in the interest of the Bible cause. Preached an excellent sermon Sunday at 11 o'clock. A northerly this morning. We are needing rain. Some farmers are planting corn. Health of our county improving. One murder case in the county last week; the perpetrators still at liberty.—S. CRITCHFIELD.

CORPUS CHRISTI, NUECES COUNTY, Feb. 28.—I have been to Rockport and Fulton, and I found our friends in good spiritual condition, with a few exceptions, where the wolf has been among that little flock and scattered some of those who were weak in faith. Nevertheless, I am glad to say there are some who have recognized the voice of their Shepherd, and six men received the Christian baptism. I am sorry to say that while I was away from here some of our Catholic friends disturbed our congregation by the throwing of stones at our church windows, breaking a glass.—S. T.

BEEVILLE, BEE COUNTY, Feb. 25.—I have just held the second quarterly meeting for Colito mission, E. G. Duvall preacher in charge. No very marked interest manifested, though there is reason to believe good was done, as two came up for the prayers of the church Sunday night. The people seem to like their preacher, and, as usual, he is faithfully laboring for their good and his Master's glory. Times distressingly hard; no money worth naming; still hopeful, however.—J. B. DENTON.

SEGUIN, GUADALUPE Co., March 3.—Just read Bro. S. W. Turner's "Those Receptions." Best thing I have seen yet on the subject. The Seguin church—I mean the charge—and Mill Creek do just as the Henderson church does. Their donations never cease. They are never weary. "Is there not too much unprofitable complaint of the scanty support of the preacher?" he asks. See ADVOCATE of March 1. I call that a good paper, Bro. Turner. A petition is in circulation here to amend the local option law. Cold and chilly yet, and dry as well.—W. J. JOYCE.

MATAGORDA Co., February 25.—Weather becoming more settled after being changeable and bad for two or three months—though the wind just now seems to be trying to "unsettle" things generally. Been home with sick family for few weeks. Every one on circuit hopeful. Mr. Ben. Sharon lost a little boy from erysipelas and on Sunday his other boy broke his arm as did Mrs. Watkin's little boy, both on Sunday evening. No chance to enforce gambling law here—county attorney "plays" better, longer, and loves it more than any one. Cattle beginning to fatten. People planting.—W. A. BOWEN.

VELASCO, BRAZORIA Co., February 25.—The Velasco circuit is a good one. The ADVOCATE is popular in its bounds, but a number of the people do not take it because of no convenient postoffice. The cry of "hard times" I haven't heard in this section. Cause—whisky is not sold in the circuit. But few goods sold on credit—no cotton raised. The people mostly seem to think they cannot do enough for their pastor. No secular news. We are off the railroad and have no town. So you must not expect us to furnish news sufficiently sensational to be agreeable to average readers.—SAMUEL.

BRYAN, BRAZOS Co., March 3.—Just finished third round on Wellborn mission; six appointments on the work. Considerable interest manifested, especially at two of the appointments. Two accessions to the church. Visiting from house to house, watching, hoping and praying in the inspiration of a living faith. Three houses on the mission, but none of them ours. Two things by the help of God and the people we must have this year: 1. A revival. 2. The building of at least two church houses deeded and out of debt. There is much, very much, to be done here. Organization—establishment—power to prevail. Oh! who is sufficient for this work? Our sufficiency is of God. Bless his holy name! So we go forward and take courage. Doing all in our power for the ADVOCATE. Weather very dry.—J. A. DUNCAN.

BOSTON, BOWIE Co., Feb. 25.—We are getting along smoothly on our work. Congregations good; well behaved, and on the increase all over the work. A collection was raised last Sunday at Dalby Springs church to procure money with which to purchase Sunday-school literature. About \$8.00 was collected, and will be forwarded to Dr. McFerrin at once for the books. We don't intend, Brother John, to let our Sunday-school dry up, if we can avoid it. More anon.—W. W. HORNER.

MISSION VALLEY, VICTORIA Co., Feb. 15.—Many varieties of grapes died back badly last fall. It seems connected with the extreme wet summer preceding. In the upper country it was dry, and opposite results followed. Here the Lenoir did badly, while in the interior it did finely. The Warren has, on the contrary, shown no injury here. The first season, with preceding ones of an extremely opposite character, demonstrated that the Warren is, thus far, our grape, as it seems capable of enduring almost any amount of either extreme of wet or dry.—G. ONDERDONK.

COLD SPRINGS, SAN JACINTO Co., Feb. 25.—Brother Watson believes in preachers having fruit, and hence has put twenty first-class peach trees out at the parsonage for our future pastors. A lady sent some nice shrubbery for the yard, and in a few years we will have as comfortable and beautiful home for our preacher as there is in Texas. If every member in Texas would put out one good fruit tree at the parsonage, how much good would come out of a little tree. How much does a good garden and orchard add to the salary of many of our preachers in Texas.—TOM.

LARISSA, CHEROKEE Co., March 3. My first quarterly meeting is over, which was held at Burk's Chapel. We had a very pleasant meeting. I think we have some of the best people on Larissa circuit I have met in a long time. They take great interest in their preacher and family. Had a full quarterly conference and the stewards did their duty in providing for the preachers and families. I will do all I can for the ADVOCATE. We all love it. May God bless you.—L. C. CROUSE.

EASTLAND CITY, EASTLAND Co., March 1.—Weather dry. Wheat looking badly. Farmers planting corn. Grass nearly all destroyed by fire. Fear much stock will starve. We ought to have a law to protect the range. Some cases of pneumonia in the county—several deaths during the winter. My health has greatly improved since winter broke. Am regularly at my work. Received five into the church on last Sunday by letter. Finances coming up tolerably well. People attend church well and are attentive. We hope and pray for a general revival on Eastland circuit this year. I ask an interest in the prayers of all the readers of the ADVOCATE.—GEO. F. FAIR.

MARSHALL, March 3.—Hallville circuit first quarterly meeting Saturday and Sunday last. Preacher in charge hard at work—noble man—good preacher, but the stewards propose to pay him \$155; has a large family. Oh! ye money loving souls, join the conference to make money. Paid on claim \$8. No Sunday-schools—Union again. When will our people be independent? There are men in our church that could build a church themselves, yet they worship in school houses. They pay the State and county \$50 to \$100 and the preacher \$25 to \$100. What will become of them? Some men they love, but not the church.—R. W. THOMPSON.

FARRSVILLE, NEWTON Co., Jan. 20.—Our first quarterly meeting has passed and no presiding elder; but our preacher, Bro. Brasher, did some of his best preaching, for he brought out of the good treasure of the Lord things both new and old. He has gone about his Master's work with a vim. We had on the night of the 10th inst. a tornado to pass through our county and through our neighborhood and did great damage to the timber, carrying away a great many house-tops, killing no one, but some were bruised. Some stock was killed. On the 14th there was a sound like the firing of a cannon; it was heard for many miles around.—R. M. STEWART.

HILLSBORO, February 26.—A word from Hillsboro may be appreciated by some. Religion seems to be looking up. Prayer-meetings, Sunday-schools, etc., are coming out of winter quarters. The local preachers are all working vigorously and harmoniously. The people are manifesting an interest by attending church meetings, subscribing for and reading the ADVOCATE. Farmers are busy plowing and planting corn, etc. Plenty of provisions in the country and cheap enough for anybody if they have the money. Peace and harmony prevail.—DAVIS.

LEBANON, WARREN Co., OHIO, February 24.—I am delighted with your postal correspondence. I read your paper with great pleasure and profit—could not do without it. I am an itinerant; belong to Cincinnati Conference. Was a college chum of your Rev. Jno. W. DeVilbiss in Augusta, Kentucky, in 1839-40. Have not seen him for nearly 40 years. Hope to meet him in heaven when our work is done. I read every letter in your

postal columns. They give a correct idea of Texas life, Texas Methodism and Texas geography. I judge your noble, self-sacrificing itinerants have the vim and power of all the old heroes of our beloved Methodism. God bless and give them Texas for our God and His spirit. If you ever see my dear old friend Jno. W. DeVilbiss, shake hands with him for me.—S. D. CLAYTON.

WEATHERFORD, PARKER Co., February 24.—I have just made my third round and will send you my report for the first quarter. Accessions to the church 22; three have died, one in ripe old age and two in prime of life. Have had some profitable meetings. The church upon the whole is in a prosperous condition. Have raised the amounts, in full, assessed against this circuit for missions, widows, orphans and bishops' fund. We are trying and expecting to build a nice church soon.—W. L. NELMS.

MATAGORDA Co., February 26.—Don't want to "bore" you with postal, but as a young preacher scarcely ever hears a word of encouragement for fear it will "spoil him," he knows how to appreciate and value such words. He learns with an unshaken philosophy which older ones seem to have forgotten, that more preachers are "spoiled" for want of encouragement than ever were from an "overdose" of the same. Therefore, I may remark, everybody I've heard express themselves are pleased with the improvement, management, ability, usefulness, enterprise and general indispensableness of the ADVOCATE. Am working hard for it, and its religious influence, and not for reward. It is the ablest preacher in Texas.—W. A. BOWEN.

GEORGE'S CREEK, SOMMERVILLE Co., February 21.—Did you know there was such a place as George's Creek? Well, sir, there is and it is a good place too. Good land, good water, good health, and best of all good people. We were late in getting to our work, but found the people waiting for us and ready to give us a hearty welcome. We pray for and expect grand results from this year's work and our hopes will yet be brighter, when we can place the ADVOCATE in every Methodist family in our work. The Lord help the people to see their own interest.—J. B. W.

PITTSVILLE, FORT BEND Co., February 27.—First quarterly meeting and no presiding elder. The second occurrence of the kind in seven years. Disappointed, but tried to make the best of it. Outlook is encouraging, congregations, and the financial prospect also good. We are endeavoring to bring up all the interests of the church. We have nothing of an unusual nature to report from this section, either religious or secular. I think the influence of whisky is abating and it is to be hoped that a salutary reaction will take place. Next quarterly meeting at San Felipe. If the editor will come we will give him a chance to preach, and a very hearty welcome.—HOMO.

BLACK CREEK, MADISON Co., Feb. 25.—Our second quarterly meeting is over. Owing to the inclemency of the weather, there was a very small attendance. No one on Saturday. On Sunday we had two excellent sermons from the presiding elder. Six accessions to the church by letter. Collection small. No money in the country. No rain yet. Farmers are going ahead planting corn. Prospects for farmers very gloomy. Will have to sow in hope. I think stock will die a great deal if it does not rain soon.—T. J. THOMASSON.

SEGUIN, GUADALUPE Co., February 25.—Well done, San Antonio. Thousands for yellow fever sufferers; nothing for Mardi Gras. Well done, merchants of Commerce street "No body wants Mardi Gras." Say it again and forever. May the venerable old city save itself always from this foul blot on Christian civilization.—W. J. JOYCE.

BEEVILLE, BEE COUNTY, Feb. 20, 1879.—I held the quarterly meeting for Goliad and Victoria station last Saturday and Sunday. Considerable interest manifested, and I think the prospect is good for the building of a Methodist church in Victoria this year. Bro. Woolls is just finishing the church in Goliad—a most elegant one, too—and has just had the parsonage grounds enclosed with a neat and substantial fence, and has it all set with fruit trees, grapes and ornamental shrubbery. The charge may be said to be in a flourishing condition, and the preacher and the membership alive and at work.—J. B. DENTON.

SAN ANTONIO, Feb. 21.—I notice in the ADVOCATE that my post office is given as at Corpus Christi, Texas. My P. O. is San Antonio, Bexar Co., Texas.—A. H. SUTHERLAND.

LEESVILLE, GONZALES Co., Feb. 28, 1879.—We are moving on quietly; church hopeful; some evidences of improvement; health is good; weather still dry, and cold northerly; water scarce; farmers all busy preparing for another crop. Our beloved Presiding Elder, A. A. Killough, is gradually recovering from his protracted illness, and will soon be able to enter upon his duties again. May the good Lord bless him. The ADVOCATE highly appreciated by those who take it. Others say they would take it if they had the money. God bless the ADVOCATE.—N. W. KEITH.

GATESVILLE, CORYELL Co., Feb. 28, 1879.—Lectured two nights. Council of Temperance formed with 81 members. J. C. Stone, Esq., W. P., Rev. J. S. Lane, W. C. The cause is booming.—YOUNGE.

CAMERON, MILAM Co., March 1, 1879.—At the second quarterly conference our presiding elder preached with great acceptability. Finances short one-half; Foreign mission collection full and running over; better prospects for the next quarter. We have good houses at all the appointments on Milano circuit; some of them are free school-houses. One of the members, John P. Alderson, died this week.—W. J. McANALLY.

HARRISON COUNTY, February 28, 1879.—So many have written about the bad winter that I despair of anything to fill the cards in my possession, and yet I will say that I have spent ten Sundays on the Harrison circuit since conference, and preached four times. Who can beat that? Weather and roads too bad for the people to get to church in the country.—LACY BOONE.

MISSION VALLEY, VICTORIA Co., Feb. 22, 1879.—The people of Texas are likely to have two valuable additions to their list of thoroughly acclimated grapes. We are making experiments to test the value of the new varieties, and from their qualities, and especially their classification, we think these new grapes will be a treasure to the horticulture of Texas. One of them we have named the "Harwood," and the other the "Dunn." They both belong to the Southern branch of the Austriasis family. No other family of grapes has yet given durable success in Western Texas.—G. ONDERDONK.

SHERMAN, March 5, 1879.—In canvassing for the ADVOCATE I met a strong Methodist, a good steward and a leading citizen where he lives. Said I "Brother, I want you to subscribe for the TEXAS ADVOCATE." His reply was, "I don't want that paper; it has been run in the interest of whisky shops, advertising and puffing them all the time." I told him it was a fact that the ADVOCATE, for some time, had been blowing very hard on whisky shops and gambling halls, and that my understanding was, by the grace of God, it would so continue. I handed him a copy to read, and I have great hope of his conversion, and if so, his subscription. Now, what have you to say?—J. H. JOHNSON.

RICE, NAVARRO Co., Feb. 25.—You inquired of us how we were doing "anyway," or—? We answer, first-rate; are in the care of about 500 Methodists, all in good condition. We mean have plenty of corn, beef, bacon, flour, potatoes, chickens, in short, everything that makes life happy and a Methodist preacher content. We have two good church-houses on the work, and we are glad to say that there are no vacant seats when we meet our appointments in these churches. We have two union houses well filled with people on preaching days. We are pleased with this circuit, and "get on" swimmingly! We have no parsonage here, and our slumbers are not disturbed by squealing swine prowling and rooting under the floor at nights. Cows nor steers don't break down our gates, nip our shrubbery, and brake into the smoke-house to waste our hay, corn, etc. Our "incoming" was large; (this is not an open letter) and we were well received by the good people of this circuit. God bless them. Our presiding elder (beloved dearly) is out somewhere with a magic lantern show (entertainment), and for aught we know is raising money to build a cupola on Marvin College, or buy a bell for it (perhaps a chime.) Mark you, we do not pretend to speak advisedly about the matter, except the presiding elder's gone. We guess that the money will be used on the college. Suppose it be divided thusly: one thousand for repairing the fence that encloses the ranche, two thousand for repairs on the building's cupola, bell (or chime), included. There is a little debt, we believe, on the institution, and we'll just appropriate the other six thousand toward paying the debt. When presiding elder returns, he will be with us, like all

Texas presiding elders, in power. At our first quarterly meeting presiding elder was on hand, but the snow and cold weather kept the people indoors, and we did not hear him preach.

Nothing bad has happened on our circuit; the people are law-abiding and local prohibition prevails. STUMP ASHBY.

VICTORIA, VICTORIA Co., Feb. 23.—This is a village of four thousand inhabitants, composed of Americans, Germans, Jews, and worthless negroes. We have three banks, besides several monte-banks; bar-rooms in abundance; local option is needed badly to save the boys of our city, who are well nigh gone. We have two lumber yards, both doing well. This county will soon be enclosed, which will impoverish it like all counties who have tried fencing. Stock still dying some. We are needing rain. Corn fifty cents per bushel; bacon, seven cents; beef too cheap to price; health good.—NATIVE TEXAN.

WEATHERFORD, PARKER Co., Feb. 24.—Lake City Circuit.—I have just made my third round, and will send you my report for the first quarter: Accessions to the church, 22; three died, one in ripe old age, two in the prime of life; have had some profitable meetings. The church, upon the whole, is in a prosperous condition; have raised the amount in full assessed against this circuit for missions, widows and orphans, and bishop's fund. We are trying and expect to build a new church soon.—W. L. NELMS.

FORT WORTH, TARRANT Co., Feb. 26.—Fort Worth ahead! Allow me to brag a little. The largest marriage "fee" received in Texas by this celebrant has been presented by a Fort Worth bridegroom. "Score it."—M. H. WELLS.

Georgetown District.

The last quarterly meeting for the first round on the Georgetown district was held on the 8th of Feb. It has occurred to me that a brief resume of the work in said bounds would be both interesting and profitable. I found the preachers all at their posts doing faithful and effective service, and all well received. There is, however, one apparent exception to this statement found in the case of the minister appointed to the Sugar Loaf circuit, who, on account of personal affliction and sickness in his family, has been somewhat hindered hitherto. It would certainly be unfair to form a definite conclusion concerning the spiritual state of the church by what has appeared on this round, since the weather has been almost uniformly inclement; so we leave that for future consideration.

The financial condition of the district is far below what it ought to be. While several of the charges have responded favorably to this demand, only two have come up with one-quarter of the assessment (and these not the strongest by far) and some three of the works barely made any report at all. I had thought of making up a statistical table showing exactly what each charge had done for the quarter just ended, but have concluded to reserve this to be submitted for the careful and prayerful inspection of all concerned at the end of the next round. It is believed by the pastors that the collections ordered by the annual conference will be raised in full. It is to be hoped that such will be the case, and that this district will take her proper place in the conference—at the very head of the list. Why not? It comprises the largest territory of any of the interior districts, and is equal to any in the fertility of its soil and the wealth of its members. Besides, it is manned with a corps of leaders at least equal to any in the conference. In addition to all this, the membership are liberal, and hence we think there is little chance for failure, unless it come as the result of refusing to adopt a definite plan of financial operation. May the Lord, by His Spirit arouse the church on this subject, for it is not a small matter for the preacher to go from a work with less than the boards of stewards said was necessary for his support. Now, Mr. Editor, allow me to state an item of personal experience: You have been a presiding elder and traveled your first district. But I doubt if you had stationed therein your former presiding elder. On the round just completed I felt tolerably comfortable only when my thought turned toward Belton, and the nearer the time came, the worse I felt. When I reached the place, however, the considerate kindness of Dr. Connor, his estimable wife and children and other true and tried friends helped greatly in modifying my embarrassment. The Doctor will do much towards unifying Methodist elements in the station and bringing up the church. God bless the district.

J. FRED. COX.

COLLEGE STATION, Feb. 15, 1878.

Texas Christian Advocate

Mexican Border Missions.

BY A. H. SUTHERLAND, SUPERINTENDENT.

After visiting and righting up the missions of San Antonio and vicinity, we turned our face toward the Rio Bravo the latter part of December. Spent watch-night with the brethren in San Antonio. It was rather a novel service for the Mexicans. A prayer-meeting and sermon carried us to half-past ten. Then some of the good sisters had prepared coffee, cakes and tamales. After which another sermon, class-meeting and the Lord's Supper brought us into the new year. It was solemnly appropriate, but not pre-arranged; but so it was, that while in the midst of the prayer of self-sacrifice, in the latter part of the communion service, the clock struck twelve. We had expected the united observance of the watch-night service in all our missions to produce marked advancement along the lines, and we have reason to believe that we shall not be disappointed. Bro. Polly Rodriguez told me of a very affecting incident which occurred at his place on that night:

Antonio is a little Mexican boy, whose mother was killed and he captured by the Indians in Mexico when he was only a few years old. Two years ago he was recaptured from the Indians, and is now in Bro. Polly's family. He has become a member of the church. On watch-night, after a good many had spoken, Antonio came forward, and taking his stand in the centre of the floor, began to tell his experience, saying that they must excuse him, because he could not express himself, as he was only a poor, ignorant boy; that he was so thankful for the goodness of God, which had saved him from so many dangers, and had brought him into a Christian family, where he always heard of God, and where he could sing such beautiful hymns. He is a very interesting child, and has still clear recollection of many startling incidents in his Indian life. He has explained some of their atrocities on this frontier, which they committed while he was with them, which doubtless would have remained a mystery forever had he not been recaptured. How blessed is the Gospel! one is led to exclaim, while contemplating its universal application to the wants and conditions of men.

The first day out from Bandera, we pass McMurray's grave. What solitude reigns around that spot, where a few stones and a little live-oak bush mark the resting place of a man who was killed by the Indians three long years ago! His death was not peculiar, for hundreds have fallen by this merciless foe in all this frontier. Nor are the circumstances of his death unlike those of many others, who, as he became so frightened by the sudden appearance and horrible yells of the cruel savages, that they lose all self-control, trust simply to the fleetness of their steeds, forgetting that they have any arms for their protection. He fell in sight of a wagon camp, not having even drawn his pistol. But such incidents are not those of former years alone. For the next morning we pass the house of a kind friend of ours, who had been raised among the dangers of this neighborhood, and had escaped them all. He had a pleasant home, loving wife, and darling children; was well off, with large flocks of sheep roaming over magnificent pasturage around him. The day following, while out visiting his flocks, the hand of an assassin took his valuable life. It was feared that his own shepherds had done the deed, but on searching for them, they were also found murdered. Such is often the end of life. During the few years of our frontier service, hundred have fallen all around us. We travel on, with the words often ringing in our ears: "It shall not come nigh thee!" We are unworthy; but such cannot be said of our cause. That evening we reach Uvalde, and stop over night with Mr. Archer, a resident lawyer of the place, and an old schoolmate. We have the pleasure of escorting the ladies to the court-house, to hear a temperance lecture by the young junior on that circuit, Bro. Scurlock. Brother S. makes a good address, and secures thirty-two applicants for a charter to organize a temperance society.

Next day, forty-five miles to Brackett (Fort Clark), in a northwesterly direction, with one of the coldest northers that ever sliced poor human flesh. Oh, it was cruel! But did we not reach comfortable quarters and a roaring fire? We did not, and seldom do on the frontier. The Mexicans rarely have chimneys, and if they do, they are in a small back room, only for kitchen purposes, and three or four feet from the ground. The only chances for warming are the walls of the jacal, which often poorly break the wind,

and a few coals of fire thrown down in the middle of the floor. But if calorific is absent, a warm reception awaits us. This is a new mission, receiving at the last conference its first preacher. But we had often visited and preached at the principal points that now constitute it, and had organized two societies, which together number at this time about sixty members. Bro. Palomares, the missionary in charge, is very zealous, faithful and successful in his labors. We remained two weeks in this mission, visiting and preaching at nearly all the dozen appointments he has, and about twenty-five times; so, you see, there is no lack of places and opportunities to declare the Word. The novel and the striking are so frequent in our experience as a border missionary, that we doubtless forget hundreds of incidents that would amuse and interest the majority of the ADVOCATE readers, and as we keep no diary, there are some lost forever; but some things we will never forget. We will never forget the service in Lieut. Bullis' Seminole Scout Camp. The Lieutenant has made a national fame by the vigorous and daring efforts he has put forth to protect this frontier from Indians and raiders. His company is composed of no white troops, with the exception of the commissioned officers. They are a mixture hard to define, and a band who are yet to be defeated. They are called Seminoles because they were formerly (or the oldest ones) pure-blooded African slaves to that tribe of Indians. But for some cause many years ago, under one "Wildcat," an Indian chief, they, in company with many of their tribe, left their distant home in the States, and emigrated to Mexico. There they were free, and lived many years in communities among themselves, until after our civil war, when the majority of them returned to the United States. They speak the three languages, and some of them, I believe, even their ancient African dialect. They are pretty generally mixed with African, Indian and Mexican blood; they are naturally quiet, and are very hardy, and have done immense service in the protection of the frontier. Besides this class, there are some Mexicans and two full-blood Lipan Indians belonging to the company. We make it our practice to preach to all souls, irrespective of color or merely circumstantial differences, and in all the military posts and camps on the frontier, as well as among all classes of citizens. Why, then, should we have neglected these people? We did not neglect them. There was no house, and as no tent would hold the half of them, we preached under the canopy of heaven, sparkling with the stars of night. Around a large "log-heap" fire were arranged a circle of logs for seats. Upon them sat the representatives of three continents, the Lipans present, too, to hear the unsearchable riches of Christ. As is frequently necessary, we preached in the two prevailing languages of the country, the Lipans understanding Spanish. How great the importance of giving no uncertain sound under such circumstances. The truth preached in love always has its echo in the heart of every impartial hearer. What could make those hearers partial? They were anxious to hear the Word. Some had never heard it before. Never did I so realize the real value of the Indian's faith, as in conversation with those two after the services. They had been, until recently, wild savages of the plains, and still go most of the time in their warrior habiliments; but the great outlines of the faith they have. Their faith in God is very correct, and they also have a strong sense of responsibility to Him. I was convinced that mission work among them would succeed, if they did not kill a fellow before he got under way.

I see my communication is growing long, and must try and be briefer. Now we reach Eagle Pass. Here the smallpox has somewhat disarranged matters, but many attended the Word. Also, in Piedras Negras and Villafuentes, all included in this mission. From Piedras Negras to Saltillo, the Capitol of Coahuila, there is a continuation of large towns and villages, which ought to be now incorporated into our mission work. The distance is over three hundred miles, and eight or ten missionaries could be most advantageously stationed along the route. As it is now we have but one, and are making an effort to station another in Zaragosa. I do hope and beseech that next fall every annual conference in the State will contribute a missionary to these inviting and accessible fields. We ought to take possession now. Were we not able, we would be excusable; but we are able, and I think also willing. But all people need opportunity and encouragement. They also want information. They are right in not wishing to give their means to en-

terprises that are doubtful or merely experimental. Let all readers of this know that the work of their church among these people is no longer an experiment, but a success. Wherever we have entered the cause has been established, and we find the encouragements increase with time and our own qualifications for the work. But we are digressing. On the straight road from Eagle Pass to Laredo, a distance of one hundred and thirty miles, but two small ranches of half a dozen houses are passed. Here is nature as she was one hundred, two hundred, years ago. Hundreds of thousands of acres of land stretch out to the horizon, on which are seen nothing but the wild animals of the plains. Millions of sheep and other cattle are yet to find subsistence here. Oh, how vast the plains, how profound the solitude! The first time I ever went over this road I was alone. What a time for meditation, and going over the whole past of one's life. No companions but my ponies, and nothing to do but think. But the end of this is the growing town of Laredo. Here we receive a cordial greeting from Bro. and Sister Norwood, and Bro. and Sister Casanova. This is a town of considerable commercial importance now, and is constantly growing. A good many Americans are directing their attention and steps thither, which will be greatly for the improvement of the place, and the aid of the cause. Let them come—there is room for indefinite expansion, and infinite improvement. Here is where we hope to have an American and Mexican high school in connection with our mission work. Bro. Norwood is working with zeal to that end. Sister N. has quite an interesting little school, which may yet prove the nucleus of a large and flourishing high school. This enterprise is worthy the deep interest and liberal support of the Methodists of Texas and elsewhere. Here, as in nearly all our missions, we suffer greatly for want of church buildings. The reduced circumstances of the Board of Missions do not admit of even the appropriations that it makes from year to year for assisting in church building. It can hardly be expected that the converts should build their own churches so soon. It is financially impossible. According to their means, they are liberal; building churches is beyond their means. With a few hundred dollars, Brother Norwood could at present purchase as many lots as we need, but he cannot raise the full amount required, and his opportunity will soon be lost. Would that some liberal friends or brethren would check him the amount. They would be blessed in the deed. In this place the conduct of the Romish priesthood is scandalous beyond all just forbearance. But it is only their true nature they are manifesting. Where Protestantism prevails, they are compelled, by enlightened public opinion to at least conform to the rules of decency before the public, but where Romanism prevails, a moral pestilence prevails, and the priests are those who inoculate the community. Their corruptions and extortions will also become less and less patent in Laredo as the gospel is introduced. Were Protestant ministers guilty of one-hundredth part of the rascalities that these sons of Cerebus are, all the secular papers in this land of blessed freedom would never cease rejoicing in the opportunity of exposing them, and publishing them to the world. But for the life of them they would not expose the scandalous conduct of the Pope's satellites. They know instinctively that they are the representatives and propagators of a religion that suits exactly their carnal views and tastes; and it is to their interest to keep the people carnal and worldly, that they may relish the dishes served them by the same secular press.

SAN ANTONIO, Feb. 26, 1879.

A Field for the Study of Character.

What a fine field for the study of character is presented in the postal columns of the ADVOCATE. The Savior has said, "Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh." Judging the multitude of communications which appear weekly in your columns, from your many correspondents in the light of this truth announced by Christ, various are the sentiments and motives that fill the minds and hearts of these writers. Some of them show conclusively by their words that their hearts are filled with the great work whereunto the Master has called them. The very spirit of Jesus is manifested in every line. As we read, we at once conclude that they are men of God, whose lives are indeed consecrated to the service of Christ, counting not their lives as dear unto themselves, so that they may finish their course with joy. Evidently they "take heed unto" themselves, "and to all the

flock over which the Holy Ghost hath made them overseers, to feed the church of God." We are strengthened spiritually by reading one of these communications. Again there are others who seem to be cheerful and hopeful, regardless of their surroundings. They confidently believe that they are going to have a very prosperous year, both spiritually and financially, though they tell us that many of their members attend the ball-rooms, the drinking saloons and race track; and at present evince a spirit of indifference with reference to all the interests of the kingdom of Christ, yet they do not take these things to heart. They are confident that the backsliders will be reclaimed, and that the spirit of indifference will melt away before the prosperous era just about to be ushered in. Will these pleasant anticipations be realized during the year? It is to be feared that many of them have not counted the cost. They do not seem to be aware of the vast amount of faithful effort the many spiritual struggles, heart-searching examinations and earnest prayers that are necessary before the rich harvest will be gathered into the garner of the Lord.

Others there are who impress the reader with the idea that they have embraced the sentiment, "blessed are they who blow their own trumpet; for they shall be heard." They appear to be well satisfied with their own labors, but very much dissatisfied with the work of their brethren. They are careful to notify us that when entering upon their new fields of labor, they found them in a very bad condition; and it is strongly hinted that their predecessors greatly neglected their duties. At the same time they inform us that, under the new regime, the church is beginning to prosper greatly. We are led to expect a wonderful change for the better as the year advances. Let us hope that we may not look in vain.

There is another class who almost go into ecstasies over a few presents received off the Christmas tree, or ham of meat, a sack of flour, a little sugar and coffee, a supper, or a new hat, presented by some of the flock, to whom they have been sent as pastors. When we read these articles, we are led to conclude that either these brethren are deluded by the supposition that these are very uncommon occurrences, and that they are more highly favored than the great body of the brethren, or that they themselves are not accustomed to receive these ordinary courtesies, extended by almost all congregations of all denominations to their pastors; or it may be that they imagine that they are of so much importance that it is very desirable the seventy-one thousand Methodists in Texas, together with the many other readers of the ADVOCATE, should be informed that they have been provided with a free supper and enough provisions to last them a month or two in advance.

There are a few who evince quite a talent in the way of fishing for extra attentions when they shall arrive at their new fields of labor, by giving a vivid description of their "leave-taking" from their former charges, and by modestly intimating that they will let the world know how they are received in their new appointments. In this they rival the ingenuity of the Yankee.

Happy are we if they do not impress the church and the world with the thought that they are seeking for the "loaves and fishes," for the honors and treasures of this world, more than for the souls of those over whom the Holy Ghost hath made them overseers.

We shall watch the columns of the ADVOCATE very closely to see if they are as faithful in reporting the spiritual prosperity of their flocks, the return of sinners to Christ, as they are in making known their liberality in temporal things.—M. C. B.

RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCE.

The circulation of religious newspapers in the United States amounts to 4,764,000.

In Calcutta there are 199 Hindoo temples, 117 Mahometan mosques, 31 Christian churches, and 2 Jewish synagogues.

As the result of the temperance work in New York city, led by Mr. Murphy, 25,000 names have been added to the pledge.

It is established beyond question, that fully twenty thousand Israelites have been converted in London, through the labors of the London Society for Promoting Christianity among the Jews, established in 1800.

In the Episcopal Church in Mexico the little company of sixty disciples has become 7,000 with 3,500 communicants. Five hundred children are under instruction in different parts of Mexico, and there are eleven theological students.

In the chief countries of Europe the Jews number as follows: Austria, 1,375,000; Germany, 512,000; Russia, 2,700,000; Great Britain, 46,000; France, 118,000; Holland, 64,000; Belgium, 2,000; Norway and Sweden, 2,000, and Italy, 36,000. It is said that the new Jewish Synagogue, just opened in Warsaw, is one of the finest in Europe, having cost \$200,000.

The bazaar opened by Mr. Spurgeon's friends in London, to raise money for a memorial to the pastor of the Tabernacle, has been very successful. The receipts for four days reached \$13,500, and at the close of the bazaar the gross receipts were found to amount to \$32,000.

It is reported that the sum annually paid for salaries of clergymen in the State of New York is \$5,310,000; of which the Methodists pay \$1,140,000, the Presbyterians \$952,000, and Episcopalians \$811,000. The average yearly pay for the clergymen of the State is \$840 each.

The mission of the Friendly Islands has ceased to be a charge, and has become a contributor to the treasury of the Wesleyan Missionary Society to the amount of from £1,000 to £2,000 a year—a larger sum of money, probably than had ever been seen in the entire group before the introduction of Christianity.

The Executive Committee of the Young Men's Christian Association of the United States and British Provinces has called the next Biennial Convention to meet at Baltimore, May 21. The 125 General Secretaries of over 800 Associations will meet at the same place May 19-21. The occasion is expected to be one of marked interest, as reports will be presented of the progress made in the South and West during the last two years, and of the work done among 800,000 railroad men, 60,000 college students, and 500,000 German youths.

"We may be quite sure of three things—first, that whatever our Lord commands us He really means us to do; secondly, that whatever He commands us is 'for our good always'; and thirdly, that whatever He commands us, He is able and willing to enable us to do, for 'all God's biddings are enablements!'"

Children's Department.

TEXAS, Feb. 24.—Uncle John: I will promise to read the Testament through this year.—COURTNEY STUART SIMONS.

COTTON GIN, Feb. 28, 1878.—Uncle John: My mamma has read me that you are getting up a class to read the Testament. I will try to read it through this year. I like to go to Sunday-school and read my Bible.—LAUSON PATRICK.

BOSQUE CO., TEXAS, Feb. 25, 79.—Dear Uncle John: I will be sure to read the Testament through this year. I am a little boy, only seven years old. I have never gone to school, but mother teaches me at home to read the ADVOCATE and like it. Bro. Stephenson is our pastor. I love him very much. Your nephew—MARCUS BENNETT HARALSON.

Dear Uncle John: We saw in the TEXAS CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE that you wanted to know how many little boys and girls would read the Testament through this year. You may put down my name. I am nine years old. Uncle J. Harvy Tucker gave me one, and I read it through, and will read it through this year again. I live in McCulloch county, Texas.—J. HARVY SPURGIN.

SUN SHINE, Feb. 21, 1878.—Dear Little Children: I am so glad to hear from you and to read your kind little letters, and, also, to see so many coming in from all over the State and entering their names in the good work—to read the Word of God. The good Lord bless you all, and pour down the sunshine of His glorious countenance upon the sacred pages as you read, and bring to light its many hundred thousand loving promises and sacred truths! The good Lord help little Frances, and Percy, and Maurice, and Mary Lee, and Nellie D., and Josie, and Mary, in their good resolutions! Uncle John has written your names down on the list, and will pray for you, and wants you all to pray for him. Thanks to little Mollie for her kind, sweet little letter and loving invitation. Uncle John would be so glad to come to see you all at your coming district conference and visit your papa's home. I am so glad your Sunday-school is doing so well. The good Lord prosper it more abundantly and greatly bless you all! Does little Mollie wish to join our Bible class? She failed to tell us in her little letter. Write again, and again.—UNCLE JOHN.

P. S.—Will try and answer Bro. Shelby's question, in our way, in our next.—U. J.

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Lockett & Edwards, Proprietors, Brenham, Washington Co., Texas.

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The cheapest and most accurate time-piece used in this country.

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All of which are beautifully mounted, and which we offer at reduced prices.

Our stock of FINE JEWELRY (18 carat plain Rings, Charms, etc., in great variety.)

We have opened a complete stock of SOLID SILVER and PLATED WARE, TABLE and POCKET CUTLERY, our stock of BOHEMIAN, BRISTOL and MALAGA CHINAWARE can not be excelled in this country.

We have also opened a fine line of CUT GLASSWARE.

Perhaps not in this State before, and which will dazzle the eyes of an experienced traveler.

Also a complete line of NAUTICAL GOODS.

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All Kinds of Stones & Diamonds Reset. 13-52.

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REV. E. D. PITTS, D. D., Pres't. Friends and patrons are respectfully invited to visit our Institution, examine our arrangements, test our work and judge our merits.

REV. J. MATTHEWS, Pres't. Board Trustees. CHAPEL HILL, JANUARY 14, 1879.

CALANDAR AND CHARGES.

FALL TERM—Sept. 2 to Dec. 20, 1878. TUITION—Per Term, from \$14 00 to \$22 00 MUSIC—Per Term, from \$22 00 to \$26 00

SPRING TERM: DECEMBER 30, 1878, to JUNE 20, 1879. TUITION—Per Term, from \$21 00 to \$33 00 MUSIC—Per Term, from \$33 00 to \$39 00

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SULPHUR SPRINGS, TEXAS.

SPRING TERM—JANUARY 12th to JUNE 25th. FALL TERM—SEPT. 1st to DECEMBER 19th.

Tuition Reduced to Cash Rates to Suit the Times.

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

Send for circulars. MAJ. JOHN M. RICHARDSON, Pres't.

PROF. J. W. DINSMORE, MISS E. B. RICHARDSON, 17-3a MISS KATE ASHBURN.

NOTICE

HEREBY GIVEN THAT I SHALL APPLY to the Legislature now in session to pass a bill appropriating from the State Treasury Four Thousand Dollars to reimburse the estate of Geo. W. Peete, deceased, for losses to property caused by the storm that visited Galveston on the 15th and 16th of September, 1878. ROSA M. D. PEETE, 26-54 Adm'r. of Est. of Geo. W. Peete, dec'd.

Texas Christian Advocate

SHAW & BLAYLOCK - Publishers.

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RETRENCHMENT.

The tenth session of the platform adopted by the Texas Democratic State Convention, at Austin, July 10th, 1879, reads as follows: "We pledge ourselves that no money shall be borrowed or bonds issued to meet the current expenses of the State Government. The rate of taxation shall not be increased, and the current expenses shall be confined within the current revenue."

The report of the comptroller shows a decrease in the public debt, at the close of the fiscal year, September 1st, 1878, of \$123,200. But to offset this, Governor Hubbard, in his message at the opening of the present session of the Legislature, announced that there would probably be a deficiency of over \$100,000 by the close of the year 1879. (See message, page 13.) Governor adds: "It is well to look this danger squarely in the face, for we have reached that point, it is respectfully submitted, in our financial history when the cry of retrenchment and reform becomes no longer, as it too often has been, the cheap watchword of the demagogue, but rather a palpable and imperious necessity to the legislation of Texas from this day henceforth."

The Governor then goes on to suggest measures for the relief of the treasury. Recent developments of the financial situation of our State show that Governor Hubbard's expectations of a deficiency of revenue have been more than realized. On the 24th of February Governor Roberts sent a message to the Legislature, in which he estimated that the deficiency in the revenue at that time amounted to \$424,686, and by the last of August next, it will reach the sum of \$542,013. The Governor thinks it is time to put down the brakes, and curtail unnecessary expenses. So mote it be!

A DETECTED CHEAT.

Dr. Davenport and wife came before a Galveston audience on Sunday evening as first-class spiritualistic performers, and closed the exhibition, in the judgment of the audience, as first-class frauds. The affair went off to the satisfaction of the performers until near the close, a remarkable feat of the spirits was promised. Mrs. Davenport was crammed into a bag, a volunteer assistant tied the bag and sealed it with wax. At this point a voice in the audience protested against the affair as a fraud, saying anybody could get out of the bag if tied in that fashion. Dr. Davenport invited the objector to the stage, and Capt. Sherwood, of the G. & H. R. R., responded and proceeded to examine the knots, Davenport tried to stop him. Not wishing to handle the lady too roughly, Capt. S. consented to let the spirits try their hands on the knots as tied and then tie them himself for a second test. The curtains were drawn and Capt. Sherwood seated himself on the stage amid great excitement in the audience. Suddenly the Captain sprang to the cabinet, drew aside the curtain, and there, deserted of all spirit aid, was Mrs. Davenport making energetic efforts to get out of the sack. The discovery of the fraud was met by roars of laughter, while the efforts of Dr. Davenport to speak were met by the shouts of derision from the audience. Capt. Sherwood, from the stage, pronounced the affair a fraud, and we presume, from expressions we have heard, that not a single person present doubted the justice of the decision. A few men of good sense and firmness, like Capt. Sherwood, in each audience, would lift the veil from these cheats wherever they exhibit.

A Cincinnati engineer has contracted to build a narrow-gauge railroad from Jaffa to Jerusalem.

ANOTHER MISSTATEMENT.

In a recent number of the New York Independent, a letter from Bishop Haven appears, which claims to be a faithful report of outrages inflicted on the colored people of the South by the whites. One scene he locates in Texas. Having very serious doubts respecting Bishop Haven's reliability when the Southern people are involved, we addressed a note to a gentleman of intelligence and high social standing in Marshall, requesting the true version of the affair.

We give Bishop Haven's statement:

"Marshall, a leading town of northeastern Texas, had held an exciting election. The heavy Republican majority of twelve hundred had been intimidated and fraudulently into what was supposed a minority; but, probably, by foolishly allowing one of that party on the board of judges, it was found that, despite all efforts, there was still a majority of three hundred for the county ticket. The district and county judges, sheriff, clerk, collector, and other officers held their seats. They were re-elected. But they must go. So a body of men filed into the court-room and ordered them, in the classic language of that border, to 'git.' And they 'got.' Judges, sheriff, all left their seats and chamber which they held legally, even by the concession of their enemies. What is law worth in that county? The one who should presume to buy land from a sheriff's sale there, on the decision of that court—what is it worth? Or life, or liberty, or any other treasure dear to man."

We now give the report of our friend, in order that our readers may appreciate how recklessly Bishop Haven misrepresents the Southern people. He says:

You and your readers are perhaps aware that this county has been what is termed a Radical county. Until the late election, the Radical majority has been about 1500, and for the reason that the colored people have voted solidly for that ticket. For twelve years the people have submitted to this rule, and all through that period the county offices have been filled by an irresponsible, unscrupulous body of men bent on their own personal gain at the expense of the tax payers. The result has been that, year after year, the county has been getting into debt, until at length it became so large that ruin and bankruptcy were staring our people in the face. At this juncture, the white Republicans connected with the Texas and Pacific railroad said to the citizens of the town and county that they ought to make a determined effort to put an end to this misrule, and that if they would form a citizens' party, based on this issue alone, they would join them. It was done; but so slight were the hopes of success, and so little confidence was entertained of changing the solid negro vote, that the citizens offered a compromise, saying in substance: "You may take all the offices if you will give us the County Commissioners, so that we can watch the finances of the county, to protect us from the ring that for years has been plundering the taxpayers." This the Radicals refused. The issue was made and the campaign opened. Unexpectedly to the whole people, there was a greater degree of intelligence among the blacks than anticipated, and large numbers of them rallied to the citizens' ticket. In one neighborhood, and one alone, the whites made no effort, and they lost that box by a large vote. It was believed that Judge Williamson intended to let the election go by default, and for the officeholders to hold over, by failing to count the vote. With the prospect of two years of misrule staring them in the face, the citizens determined to count the votes themselves, and, if possible, install the officers they had elected, which they did. They procured from the best officers duplicate returns, which were duly certified and sworn to. A great hue and cry had been raised about taking the offices by force; but what are the facts? The men holding these offices thus taken had not been candidates for re-election, and cared very little as to who got them, as they had been "left out in the cold" by their Radical friends. The others were the nominees also of the Radicals as well as the citizens. All the citizens were laboring for the honest government in opposition to a plundering ring anxious to remain in power.

Bishop Haven will find very little comfort in arraying himself with the corrupt element in this county, and particularly when he is confronted with the honest white Republicans, directly from the North, who inaugurated this movement to purify the county. You will bear in mind that it was not a party movement—that it can not be charged on the Democracy—but that he and others are brought face to face with his own Northern Republican friends who were as anxious for a change as any one.

The election, you will perceive, rests upon the validity of the Roy box, which the entire bar concur in declaring to have been illegal.

Was it less excusable for the citizens to take possession of the offices in the way they did than for the Radicals to have organized a voting precinct to control the election, and to proceed to count that illegal box as they proposed doing, or to hold over by rendering the election nugatory?

Advise Bishop Haven to go back to his church and to let politics alone, and, above all, to stick to the truth. Falseness never permanently benefited any cause, and sooner or later overwhelms in shame and confusion those who have employed it to further dishonest ends.

The outrages which he works up in sensational style to intensify sectional feeling in the North are, we presume, as foreign from the real facts as this story about the Marshall election. If the Southern press will take the trouble to follow up his misrepresentations and correct them, either he will have a little caution or his church will become ashamed of their chief representative in the South.

The Wesleyans of Great Britain propose to raise this year a thank offering of one million dollars for their different connectional enterprises. The London district has already raised one hundred and sixty thousand dollars.

Speaking evil of magistrates is one of the practices condemned in the general rules of our church. Finding fault with men in public

stations is one of the crying sins of the times. A few public men prove themselves dishonest and unworthy, and forthwith a hue and cry is raised against all who hold official positions. This is done not only by political opponents, but by disappointed aspirants for the position. Honest men in public life should be esteemed and revered for their good deeds.

We hope all the children and grown-up people will read Bro. Patterson's appeal for aid in his great work. We hope they will respond. Our mission is doing a great work in Mexico. The field is white and ready for the harvest.

The Rev. James S. Woolls.

Ten years ago I happened at a preachers' meeting in Walnut street Church, Louisville, Ky. Among those with whom I became acquainted was the Rev. James S. Woolls. A year afterward, the bishop having appointed me to take charge of Broadway Church, I became most intimately associated with Brother Woolls, who was then city missionary. I found him deeply imbued with the spirit of his mission, and humbly consecrated to his Master's work. He was a constant, patient, and faithful student of the Holy Scriptures. His mind seemed to dwell altogether on sacred themes. His ordinary conversation abounded with apt quotations from the Bible. He was as docile as a child, and yet thoroughly capable and willing to instruct. With the exception of Dr. Winans, I have known no man who read more constantly or studied more thoroughly the word of God. He was an earnest, evangelical, and instructive preacher. He loved to write out his sermons and I suppose he left many as a heritage to his son. His life was checkered. He was a bad financier. He became deeply embarrassed by debt, gave way to despondency, and almost to despair. The records of the Louisville Conference show what heavy sorrows befell him, and what severe penalties he paid. It is not necessary to dwell on this sad side of his life, as from its bright side so much luster has fallen upon the church. If his faults were great, he suffered for them; and as they were venial, his brethren forgave him—restored to him his credentials and their confidence. He filled many important places in the Kentucky and Louisville Conferences. But for two sad parentheses in his ministerial life—each for one year—he would have been a minister of the Methodist Church for thirty-eight years. As it was, he served the church ministerially thirty-six years—from 1840, with two sad years excluded, to 1878. He was born in Delaware, September, 1812; was converted in his nineteenth year, and licensed to exhort soon after the close of his probation. He removed to Louisville, Ky., in 1836, and soon thereafter united with the Brook-street Church, then under the efficient and successful pastorate of the Rev. G. W. Brush. He was licensed to preach, and joined the Kentucky Conference, in 1840. He was thrice married; his last wife and a son of his second wife survive him. Two months before his death he lost his youngest son, a promising young man, bearing the sacred name of Morton. Brother Woolls was appointed to the San Antonio Mission, by Bishop Pierce, in 1875, and continued in connection with that mission as long as he lived. His only surviving son, the Rev. Temple G. Woolls, of West Texas Conference, in a letter to me, written soon after his father's death, gives such information as will gratify your readers to receive from his own classic pen: "It is impossible to describe the Herculean task assigned him, or the labors by which he wrested triumph from predicted hopelessness. Without money, without friends, without active sympathy for the enterprise; a stranger in a city where Protestantism is scarcely a factor, where Romanism overwhelmingly predominates, and the population of which is almost equally divided between Germans, Mexicans, and Americans, with representatives from almost every nationality, with altogether inadequate support for himself and family, he secured an eligible lot, erected a plain but suitable church, and formed the nucleus of an organization whose future promise is beyond estimation. Alone and single-handed, trusting in God, despite pecuniary embarrassment and the dark cloud which hovered over the recent past, from the irreligious and indifferent he secured the means for successfully accomplishing the work which seemed almost beyond human hope. The last three years of his life were signalized by entire consecration to his work and uninterrupted communion with his God. They were the crowning

glory of his career. His faith was almost omnipotent. His mind seemed spiritually electrified, his physical energies revived, and his wonderful facility in the Scriptures was applied with a pathos almost irresistible. God has taken him in the zenith of his spiritual manhood and usefulness. Owing to the distance, the extremely hot weather, and the poor means of transit, he would not consent that I be notified of his illness. Finally, when notified, I responded to the summons, and arrived just one hour before he died. He was then unconscious. A few moments before he expired consciousness returned, his eyes fastened upon mine, a glad smile of recognition lit up his face, then for an instant his eyes turned upward to greet the heavenly throng, and again returned to mine with the reflected light of the glory-work. With this fond look, he passed away so gently we could not tell when the soul departed." Thus lived and thus died a man whom I loved as a brother, and from whom I received in return most grateful affection. He died at his post. He suffered beyond expression from a terrible carbuncle, and a fearful surgical operation, which he bore with heroic and Christian fortitude. His body, followed by loving friends, was born from the little mission church which he had built, to its last resting place in the cemetery of San Antonio. May God bless the mission which is so bereaved! and may He give comfort to all loved and sorrowing ones who loved him while living, and mourn him now dead!

R. H. RIVERS.

Orphans' Home.

Many suggestions have been presented to my mind for doing good in this world, and among them all the following stands prominent: Let every church member who can do so lay by five or ten dollars for the purchase of one thousand acres of land for the purpose of establishing an orphans' home, near the centre of this great State of ours. Let there be a college in connection with it, and let us invite the orphans to a home after the death of their parents. Let this home be under the direction of our church, and any others who may wish to take shelter under her wing. Make it a home at which the rich as well as the poor would be proud to have their children educated. Let this institution send out mechanics, lawyers, doctors, preachers, and every avocation which is promotive of religion and industry. It certainly would be great economy to the church, and secure the orphan a home where they could rest securely in their days of desolation. Are not many orphans raised up in ignorance and with but few, if any, comforts? Think of the scanty contributions to the orphan left by our deceased preachers. They do not receive enough to secure raiment, much less food and education.

Some may object upon the plea that this plan would engender pride and indolence. Let us have it established upon such a basis that such would not be the case. Have competent men and women at the helm who would make it a success. Make it an attractive home—a home of activity, intelligence and refinement. Above all, make it a home of pure religion. If the church would take hold of this matter, parents would die with the assurance that their children would be cared for. If all church members would come up according to their ability, we would soon have enough to endow this institution. Some will plead "hard times." The angel Gabriel will sound the death-trump of time before that much loved phrase will cease to be heard. If we could establish this institution we would achieve a much greater victory than any won by Napoleon. With such an institution we might establish a manufactory which would give employment to the inmates, and probably a handsome revenue to meet the demands for its maintenance. I hope the day is not distant when such an institution will be erected and prosperous. Many hearts would rejoice over its consummation, and it would be a glory and an honor to the church. I hope to hear from others who can do the subject justice. With the Lord's help we can succeed. May every Christian pray over this matter, and their free will offering be as liberal as their prayers should be earnest. M. E. T.

MARSHALL, TEXAS, March 3, 1879.

Surprise.

Wasn't it a surprise that Peter was delivered from prison? Why, says some one, wasn't his case made a subject of special prayer? Were not "many gathered together," all kneeling in "the house of Mary, the mother of John whose surname was Mark," praying for Peter's deliverance? Yes, but who was looking for it. While the iron doors were open-

ing to the right and the left, before the mighty angel, were the disciples confidently expecting his release from prison? They were living in wonderful days. Manifestations of God's power were continually flashing upon them. And yet when Peter reached the house where the disciples were praying, how hard it was to get the door open.

The damsel Rhoda, listening "at the door of the gate," found Peter there, and ran back with the news. The disciples refused to believe that their prayers had been answered. They may have thought it was a ghost. They said, "it is his angel." The disciples prayed, and the blessing was theirs, and they would not accept it.

Poor Peter! He had a harder time getting the doors of the prayer-meeting open than the doors of the prison. It was a night of surprises. He stood at the street corner sometime rubbing his eyes, and wondering if he was really out of prison.

And when he stood at the door, like any luckless tramp, he might well have been surprised at the situation. It was fortunate for Peter that he did not doubt his own identity, but kept on knocking. At last the disciples opened the door. What a scene! If Peter had been a painter instead of a fisherman he might have sketched a picture of interest. Rhoda led the pious band holding a light. Mary was peering over her shoulder, and at her side flocked the disciples with wondering looks; and with uplifted hands they cry, "Why, Peter, is it you?" What a surprise there must have been! And there stood Peter, a real, living Peter—no apparition—waving his hand and hastening them to silence.

He told his story, left a message for the brethren and departed. At that we are not surprised. But now what of all this.

We have commenced a new year. There are many, many souls in prison, and many prayers have been offered up for their deliverance. Yes, let fasting and prayer be the order; and may we have faith in the power of prayer. And when the blessing comes, may we not refuse to accept it. May we not refuse to believe it is a revival and a gracious manifestation of the spirit, and keep Peter at the door shivering in the night air.

Young converts sometimes take a bad cold waiting at the door of the church and they are surprised that the Christians are so slow in inviting them in. Oh, for a great prevailing faith. Let us not be afraid of a ghost. Let us recognize Peter and take him in. Let us not refuse to accept an answer to our own prayers.

Our presiding elder was with us last Sabbath, and the prison doors were opened, and many souls were refreshed. Were not we surprised at the love feast when God's presence was so vividly realized? Yes, we must admit we were surprised; but oh, how glad! Bro. Littlepage has left us, but the "gates are ajar." And we are waiting, hoping, praying. We do not want any to stay out in the cold. May the Lord grant us a glorious revival this year, and the conversion of many souls. NORA.

WILLS, TEXAS, Feb. 10, 1879.

Missions—No. 2.

The first cause we would assign for the meagerness of the missionary contributions of our people is their want of indoctrination in the essential requisition of giving. Coincident with their conversion, they have not been impressed with the obligation of publishing to heathendom what great things God has done for them; and hence we find many hard-shells in Methodism, as well as elsewhere, who do not realize the obligation, stern and unrelenting, of sending the gospel to those who have it not. They are very happy in their first love, and their hearts go out in burning desire for the salvation of men; and if they were indoctrinated in the obligation of laying all upon God's altar, as did the apostles and early disciples, we should have witnessed the same blessed results of the world receiving the gospel in a single generation. But as it has been illustrated in the history of our church, in numberless instances, the pulsation of Christian philanthropy has been evanescent and fruitless of benignant effort commensurate with the inherent energy of awakened conviction of philanthropic obligation. The selfishness and isolation of Christian experience, of suppressing the inborn fires of the love of Christ flowing out to the whole world, has been the greatest bane of Methodism as the synonym of Christianity in earnest. It matters not how great may be the wondrous love of the soul in its natal hour of inauguration into the kingdom of Christ, unless it finds expression in contribution to the advancement of that kingdom in shedding its rays of light athwart the gloom and night of heathendom, the ef-

factual fires of that love will pale, grow dim and die out, and leave the soul dead, destitute of the vitality—the life-giving energy of the live Christian. The conversion of the world is the very object in contemplation in the implantation of the germ of spiritual life in the soul. It can never develop and illumine the Christian life and shed its halo of light upon the world unless its flashes radiate the darkness of the heathen.

Not only is the investment of immaterial power the sequence of the recognition of Christian obligation to the heathen, but all material prosperity stands in juxtaposition with the discharge of this recognized obligation. Let the history of God's people in all the ages proclaim trumpet-tongued these great facts, and let them be photographed upon the heart of the church forever! The church-to-day would be boundless in her resources if they had been consecrated to God in the extension of His kingdom among men.

Will He bless the church in her material interests when her revenues are squandered upon her lusts?

Let the impressive lessons taught upon the historic page in the records of God's Book, and in the whole history of the church, of blight, and mildew, and caterpillar, and drouth, upon the laborers that did not recognize the paramount obligation of contribution for the salvation of men, answer the pertinent query. Then let the church, in all its membership, from the least to the greatest, be ingrained with the significant and pregnant fact that all our interests, material and immaterial are inseparably and indissolubly connected with our contribution, to the extent of our ability, to the extension of Christ's kingdom among men—"whose souls have not been lighted with the rays from on high."

The second great cause of deficiency in missionary contributions is attributable to the spasmodic character of missionary efforts in sending forth a perennial stream of beneficence that shall flow on evermore. We reserve our power for extraordinary occasions, and if the occasion ever comes, no "norther or other impediment intervening, the effort is comparatively ineffectual for the want of previous and continuous and systematized instruction and regular contribution to the vast interest in which is involved the very life of the church. This whole procedure must be abandoned as fatal in its results; and an old tried and well attested system, adequate to the demands and the necessities of the great cause, be universally adopted and carried out by us as ministers and laymen. It has accomplished and will accomplish the most wondrous results. We will indicate it and emphasize it in our next and last. H. M. BOOTH.

WAXAHACHIE, February 18.—The ADVOCATE has my hearty endorsement in its treatment of the St. Louis Republican. I am glad in my heart that we have an editor and an ADVOCATE who will dare to defend the right or expose the wrong in big or little. I am truly glad our editor is not afraid that his subscription list will be diminished if he assails wrong or exposes infidelity, so as to ruin his paper, and consequently his editorship, but one who does not flinch from the task, even if it turns his friends against him. I say, hit them again; and whenever you have the opportunity to expose the "new and advanced steps of science," give us some items, for, up to this time, you are the only one brave enough to dare a word to expose them. I know some will say you have transcended your limits as a religious journal, to exhibit, as you have most honestly, the advances made against our church and Vanderbilt University. But if the religious journal does not tone up and give the proper ailments for a healthy and active and moral sentiment, where is the source from which proceeds this much needed literature in the social circle? I am gratified that the ADVOCATE is so clear in all of these matters. Of all of the large and prosperous family of ADVOCATES, the TEXAS ADVOCATE has the clearest ring—I mean she sounds things to the bottom, without favor, affection or fear.

There is talk that the Waxahachie Tap Railroad will be finished this year. We are proceeding with the collections as ordered by the annual conference, and are happy to announce that to date the prospects are that the whole of those assessments will be brought up. I hereby promise more faithful work than ever for our ADVOCATE. May God bless our editor and pro tem. and ADVOCATE.—AN ENDORSER.

Grave robbery has been made a felony by the New York Legislature.

Texas Christian Advocate

A Grand Spectacle.

The Truckee Republican, describing the mode of getting out logs in the mountains, says: A chute is laid from the river's brink up the steep mountain to the railroad, and while we are telling it, the raoster logs are rushing, thundering, flying, leaping down the declivity. They come with the speed of a thunderbolt, and somewhat of its roar. A track of fire and smoke follows them—fire struck by their friction with the chute logs. They descend the 1,700 feet of the chute in fourteen seconds. In doing so they drop 700 feet perpendicularly.

They strike the deep water of the pond with a report that can be heard a mile distant. Logs fired from a cannon could scarcely have greater velocity than they have at the foot of the chute. Their average velocity is over one hundred feet in a second, throughout the entire distance, and at the instant they leap from the mouth their speed must be fully 200 feet per second. A sugar pine log sometimes weighs ten tons. What a missile! How the water is dashed into the air! Like a grand plume of diamonds and rainbows, the feathery spray is hurled into the air to the height of a hundred feet. It forms the grandest fountain ever beheld. How the waters of the pond foam and seethe and lash against the shore. One log, having spent its force by its mad plunge into the deep waters, has floated so as to be at right angles with the path of the descending monsters. The mouth of the chute is, perhaps, fifteen feet above the surface of the water. A huge log hurled from the chute cleaves the air and alights on the floating log. You know how a bullet glances, but can you imagine a saw-log glancing? The end strikes with a heavy shock, but glides quickly past for a short distance, then a crash like the reverberation of artillery, the falling log springs 150 feet vertically into the air, and with a curve like a rocket, falls into the pond seventy yards from the log it struck.

Dr. Samuel Johnson's Prayer.

O Lord, my Maker and Protector, who hast graciously sent me into this world to work out my salvation, enable me to drive from me all such unquiet and perplexing thoughts as may mislead or hinder me in the practice of those duties which Thou hast required. When I behold the works of Thy hands and consider the course of Thy Providence, give me grace always to remember that Thy thoughts are not my thoughts, nor Thy ways my ways, and while it shall please Thee to continue me in this world, where much is to be done and little to be known, teach me by Thy Holy Spirit to withdraw my mind from unprofitable and dangerous inquiries, from difficulties vainly curious and doubts impossible to be solved. Let me rejoice in the light which Thou hast imparted, let me serve Thee with active zeal and humble confidence, and wait with patient expectation for the time in which the soul whom Thou receivest shall be satisfied with knowledge. Grant this, O Lord, for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

Too Poor to Give.

"Our church is too poor to contribute to Foreign Missions," is a very common assertion. A pastor of one of the smaller and poorer churches relates his experience: As matter of experience, while I have often heard that churches were utterly unable to give, I have never found in one single instance that the ability was wanting—it was always the disposition and desire to give that prevented gifts coming to the missions as to other enterprises. Thus in one little village a church of about forty members sent \$70; another of thirty members, three of whom were males, sent \$60. In the church of which I am at present pastor no contributions had been made to Foreign Missions for five years, the excuse being inability, poverty, etc. Not believing in anything of that sort, I requested every one who was willing to contribute ten cents a month for Foreign Missions to give their names to a young man appointed to receive them. Thirty-three names were received, which gave us a monthly receipt of \$3.30 against nothing. Forty-five dollars has been contributed on this basis from January to June, and the ensuing six months will give a larger sum. My church is very poor as a matter of fact.

"Ma," said a little four year old, "I saw something run across the kitchen floor this morning without any legs. What do you think it was?" The mother guessed various legless worms and things, and then gave it up; when the little fellow said: "Why, ma, it was water."

Neglect.

I was on my way, one Thursday evening, to take tea with a friend. My hurried steps were arrested by little Tommy, a poor boy from a Roman Catholic family.

"Won't you tell me that story?—I never heard it."

My excuses never satisfy him. I could scarcely shake him off. He went home broken-hearted, and the next day was dangerously sick with brain fever. His mother said that he had come in, the evening before, greatly excited, and in the delirium which afterward set in he kept piteously crying, "Wont, somebody tell me of Jesus!" I bent over that little writhing, restless form, and looked into his wild eyes as he repeated the cry, "Somebody, somebody tell me of Jesus!" I remembered neglect was torturing. I fell on my knees, and pleaded that his life might be spared; that at least his reason might be long enough for me to point him to the Lamb of God. All night I stayed and prayed. The next day a change did come; and for one moment a gleam of intelligence beamed in his glaring eyes as he looked lovingly up, and raised his hand, saying:

"I see Him! I see Him! He is coming to take poor Tommy!" Then the curtain of mental darkness fell once more over his heavy eyelids. The fever burned out and the exhaustion of death crept over him. Again all night I prayed for one short hour, at least, to speak of Jesus and to confess my cruel neglect. The answer came. Before he breathed his last, the dear boy knew and talked with me. He passed away, I believe, with some personal knowledge of the Savior he longed to know of; but how often since has that piteous cry wrung in my ears with startling emphasis, "Oh, won't somebody tell me of Jesus!"

Learn About the Pulse.

Every intelligent person should know how to ascertain the state of the pulse in health; then comparing it with what it is when he is ailing, he may have some idea of the urgency of his case. Parents should know the healthy pulse of each child—as now and then a person is born with a peculiarly slow or fast pulse, and the very case in hand may be of that peculiarity. An infant's pulse is 140; a child of 7, about 80; and from 20 to 60 years, it is 70 beats a minute, declining to 60 at fourscore. A healthy grown person's pulse beats 70 times in a minute; there may be good health down to 60; but if the pulse always exceeds 70 there is disease; the machine is working itself out, there is a fever or inflammation somewhere, and the body is feeding on itself; as in consumption; when the pulse is quick, that is, over 70, gradually increasing with decreased chances of cure, until it reaches 110 or 120, when death comes before many days. When the pulse is over 70 for months, and there is a slight cough, the lungs are affected.

LESSONS FOR YOUTH.

NUMBER ELEVEN. ONE LAWGIVER—ONE MEDIATOR—ONE SAVIOR.

Before dismissing this lesson, I offer a few thoughts which may be of some aid to you in understanding some expressions used in reference to our blessed Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, of which expression some skeptics have tried to take advantage. It is this: Some times expressions are used in the Scriptures which have a direct reference to the divinity of Christ, and in other places expressions are used having a direct reference to the humanity of Christ, and for a want of proper discrimination of these two classes of expressions as applicable to Jesus Christ, some have been perplexed. If you have noticed your references as you should have done, you are perhaps satisfied upon that subject. But to give to you a few texts may not be out of place. John i:14. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us."

I Tim. iii:16. "And without controversy, great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory." If you noticed the list of names given in the eighth lesson, with their variety of significations, they would have guided to a knowledge of the Christ character, both as to divinity and humanity. I need not do more here than to ask you to apply your references to those places and let the Scripture satisfy you. I have made these remarks at this place because there is an importance in your knowing and noticing these two kinds of expressions as used in the Scriptures in reference to our Savior in order to the proper understanding of the Scriptures. I may refer to this lesson again in another connection, and for another purpose, and ask

you to remember the prominent features presented in it. I am trying to get you to be a different character to "the sluggard who is wiser in his own conceit than seven men that can render a reason." Prov. xxvi:16. "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee." Hos. iv:6. May these things never be said of you. J. W. B. ALLEN.

so the second six refer to His omnipresence. V. 8. "If I ascend up to heaven Thou art there; if I make my bed in hell, behold, Thou art there." The word here translated "hell," means the grave; but the grave was the state of the dead. Hence the meaning is that God was in the heights above, and in the depths below. Here he possessed extremes. V. 9. "If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea": Could I fly with the beams of morning westward to the most distant parts of the great unknown sea, God would be there. V. 10. "Even there shall Thy hand lead me, and Thy right hand shall hold me." As we stated in commenting on the seventh verse, that David did not express a desire to escape God's presence, so here we have his statement of confidence that God would be with him, God's hand would "lead him," and his "right hand would hold him." To the Christian it is an invaluable assurance, but to the sinner a fearful doom. His watchful, loving eye follows the one, and gives him rest; while His searching eye of truth so troubles the other that he finds no rest. V. 11. "If I say, surely darkness shall cover me; even the night shall be light about me." We can find no cover from the eyes of Him who can see our thoughts. There is no darkness to the all-seeing eye of God. The vast universe lies clearly out before His vision. V. 12. "Yea, the darkness hideth not from Thee; but the night shineth as the day. The darkness and the light are both alike to Thee." Man may conceal his crimes from his fellow-man under a cover of darkness, but not from God. He may cover his crimes with a cloak of secrecy, and his fellow-man may never see them, but God's eye sees them as if uncovered.

Sunday School.

Prepared for the ADVOCATE.

INTERNATIONAL BIBLE LESSONS.

BY R. M. MOORE.

FIRST QUARTER—12TH LESSON—March 23, 79. Psa. cxxxix:1-12; The All-Seeing God; Time between 1053 and 1015 B. C.; Place, Jerusalem; rulers, David, King of Israel; Hiram, King of Tyre; and Eupalos, King of Assyria.

GOLDEN TEXT. Thou God seest me.—Gen. xvi:13.

This is another of David's sublime poems. Israel's royal singer here teaches the perfections of God's attributes—especially His omnipresence and omniscience. The whole psalm is composed in four stanzas of six verses each. Two of these stanzas, or twelve verses, give us the subject of this lesson. Again, half of these treat of God's omnipresence, and the other half of His omniscience. The whole psalm is one of uncommon beauty and grandeur. Each word is like a diamond, radiant with light and beauty. It loses like all translations in its translation. It was Summerfield, we believe, that said, in speaking of translations, "the original is the dew-drop; touch it and its sparkle is gone, while the water remains." There are beauties that cannot be transferred from one language to another, and the Psalms have suffered in this way as much as any more than other originals. It is dedicated to "The Chief Musician," and this indicates David's purpose in composing it. While personalities crop out all through the poem that have reference to the author, it has yet enough of abstract truth to cover every individual man of our race. God's watchful care over man is set forth in such vividness and power that every reader, must feel that His all-seeing eye is on his every act and his very innermost thought. V. 1. "O Lord, thou hast searched me and known me." "Searched;" searched as a miner digs with a pick; "known" would be better knownest. The last me not in the text. Hence it would read: Thou hast searched me and knownest. V. 2. "Thou knowest my down sitting and mine uprising; thou understandest my thought afar off." "Down-sitting" and "uprising" express man's condition at rest and in motion. "Afar off;" may reach at an immense distance, or away back of the conception of thought; but it is more likely that it comprehends both these ideas. God knows us so completely and thoroughly that He comprehends the influences that lie back of all our thought and all actions. Each one will find all these pre-existent causes in his final account. V. 3. "Thou compassest my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways." "Compassest;" winnowest as one separates wheat from the chaff. Another idea is that God carefully examines our paths; hence "my path and my lying down" give us His closest scrutiny into the activities of the day and the unconscious slumber of the night. A more complete statement of man's rest and action, as found in the second verse, "acquainted with," conveys the idea of knowledge that comes from a long residence with, while "ways" represents man's complete life. V. 4. "For there is not a word in my tongue, but lo, O Lord, thou knowest it altogether." The Psalmist had declared that God knew all his acts and thoughts, and the very germs of thoughts; and now he declares that God knows all about the words of his tongue. That is, God knows all in advance that the tongue will utter. V. 5. "Thou hast beset me behind and before, and laid Thine hand upon me." "Beset" means to set by; that is, set a watch, or guard by. "Behind and before" means on all sides. And these expressions show God always near us, but the last statement is, that He is not only always near us, but He lays His hand upon us. He not only guards us, but He guides us. V. 6. "Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high: I cannot attain unto it;" "Knowledge;" the comprehension of God's omniscience; "Wonderful;" past comprehension; "Can not attain unto it;" cannot reach it, as it is so high. V. 7. "Whither shall I go from Thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from Thy presence?" David does not imply that he would go away from God's spirit, or flee from His presence; but he forcibly represents how impossible it is for any to escape from God. As the first six verses refer to God's omnipresence,

the second six refer to His omnipresence. V. 8. "If I ascend up to heaven Thou art there; if I make my bed in hell, behold, Thou art there." The word here translated "hell," means the grave; but the grave was the state of the dead. Hence the meaning is that God was in the heights above, and in the depths below. Here he possessed extremes. V. 9. "If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea": Could I fly with the beams of morning westward to the most distant parts of the great unknown sea, God would be there. V. 10. "Even there shall Thy hand lead me, and Thy right hand shall hold me." As we stated in commenting on the seventh verse, that David did not express a desire to escape God's presence, so here we have his statement of confidence that God would be with him, God's hand would "lead him," and his "right hand would hold him." To the Christian it is an invaluable assurance, but to the sinner a fearful doom. His watchful, loving eye follows the one, and gives him rest; while His searching eye of truth so troubles the other that he finds no rest. V. 11. "If I say, surely darkness shall cover me; even the night shall be light about me." We can find no cover from the eyes of Him who can see our thoughts. There is no darkness to the all-seeing eye of God. The vast universe lies clearly out before His vision. V. 12. "Yea, the darkness hideth not from Thee; but the night shineth as the day. The darkness and the light are both alike to Thee." Man may conceal his crimes from his fellow-man under a cover of darkness, but not from God. He may cover his crimes with a cloak of secrecy, and his fellow-man may never see them, but God's eye sees them as if uncovered.

APPLICATION.

1. God is searching men to-day as he did David when he committed his great sins. They may be too unconcerned to care for it; but when the end comes they will care, and realize that God knows them and has known them all through life. 2. All will be confronted at the judgment bar with every conscious or unconscious act, and with every thought, whether good or bad, and whether it took shape and bore fruit or perished in its birth. 3. We will see, then, how we were never alone; how God in His providence was always with us. 4. Then, too, we will see how God had knowledge of every word and every thought; and how also He took knowledge of all influences back of all thoughts, words and deeds. We will then learn too late the fearful responsibility for influence; how some have thought, said and done what others prompted. 5. Those who love God feel that He is ever about them as a loving Father to succor and save them; and those who do not feel that His judgments pursue them and are ever at their heels. 6. Some plod through the world as the laboring ox, satisfied, if fed; and only unsatisfied when not fed. Again, others are like the eyeless mole that burrows in the earth, and is only alarmed when, by chance, he reaches the light. Little think such as these of God's constant care over them, or of the knowledge that comprehends at all times every act and every thought of every being in His boundless universe. 7. All who would shun God or conceal their thoughts and acts, thus advertise their own alienation from Him. It was in such a state that Jonah thought to flee from God. We may hide while we can. From the vision of man, All the deeds we have done, And the race we have run, Through all kinds of weather: We will meet them at last At the judgment vast— We and they together. 8. The righteous will find God in heaven; and the impenitent will learn in hell that there is a God. There the righteous will rejoice forever, and there the wicked will fall forever. 9. All over the earth men to-day are fleeing, or are attempting to flee, from the presence of accusing men, or from the clutch of the avenging law, and forget that there is an all-seeing eye still on them, and an open, everlasting prison ready and sure to receive them. 10. But he who trusts in God always feels a friendly, unerring hand leading him, and an omnipotent hand upholding him. 11. Such an one fears no darkness that earth's shadow may cast, nor dreads the dark trials that afflict him; aye, he even cheerfully walks down into the dark valley of death—life's night. Christ has thrown a bridge of light across that stream of death, over which all of His walk securely. 12. Darkness is of earth, and for man's convenience; but it casts no shadows about God's throne, and is no barrier to His vision.

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Texas Christian Advocate

News of the Week.

TEXAS LEGISLATURE.

SENATE.—House bill to preserve oyster beds, passed. Amendment to exempt wool in smoke-house tax bill, passed. Bill to better secure mechanics' liens, passed. Bill to secure early determination by the Supreme Court of contested elections, passed. Bill to allow Galveston county to sell her stock in the G., C. and S. F. railway, passed. Bill to validate use of old national seals by those ignorant of the existence of the new seal, passed. Joint resolution to define what school property is exempt from taxation, passed. Bill for the relief of Aransas Road Co., passed. Bill to authorize Commissioner of Insurance and History to co-operate with the I. and G. N. R. R. in displaying geological specimens of industry of Texas, passed; the bill provides for turning over to the road geological specimens in the State museum. House bill to restore records of several counties in the State, and to cede Pelican Island to Galveston, passed. House bill to fix terms of holding court in 8th district, passed. Resolution looking to harmonizing the conflict between city and county authorities over streets and alleys in towns, and report a bill to settle the matter definitely, adopted. Bill for \$25 per section annual rent of school land for pastures, passed.

SENATE AND HOUSE IN JOINT SESSION.—The following directors of Bryan College: Col. E. B. Pickett for 1st congressional district, H. W. Lyday for 2d, J. K. Dickson for 3d, John W. Durant for 4th, Col. A. J. Peeler for 5th, and Geo. Pfeiffer for 6th.

HOUSE.—Bill to regulate assessment of taxes on real estate, passed. Joint resolution to permit the custodian of geological specimens to furnish selections of same to the immigration agent of the International Road for exhibition at fairs in other States, passed. An amendment of law defining lawful fence, that a county or part of a county, by a majority vote, may dispense with the top plank on barbed wire fences of three strands, carried. Bill regulating County Commissioners' Court setting as a board of equalization, passed. Bill for benefit of Bayland's Orphan Home, passed. The Senate bill providing in counties where the constitution consolidated the offices of county and district clerks, being of less population than 8000 inhabitants, basis for estimating population shall be five for every vote for Governor at last election, passed. Bill to authorize counties to levy special tax to complete courthouses or complete payment for those constructed, passed. Bill authorizing the impounding of stock that break into inclosures, passed. Bill to authorize the appointment of county sheep inspectors when desired by owners of sheep, passed. Bill authorizing counties to fund outstanding bonds in bonds of lower interest, passed. Mr. Forster's bill regulating assignments passed. Bill to subject personal property to levy and sale for all taxes, passed. Bill validating land titles of the town of Floresville, passed. Bill to legalize surveyed boundary lines of Duval county and of the adjoining counties, passed.

AUSTIN LETTER.

The Great American Time Consumer.—The Shabby Gentle who Loveth Lucre—And ye Aspiring Youth who Wrestle for a Record.—They who have the Economic Cramps.—Mr. Linn's "Eye-sore-to-lose Bonds"—The Big Printing Office.

The Sixteenth Legislature is not a brilliant success as a dispatcher of business. The Senate seems to be working harmoniously. The House, however, may be termed the champion time-consumer. Its machinery needs lubricating by an oil whose ingredients are judgment and common sense—rather than an ambition to accumulate political capital. Many causes for the slow progress in the House are assigned. As an observer, I have an idea of my own about this thing; like Josh Billings, when an idea strikes me—and that's not often—I always feel like striking back. I think the main fault lies with the voters of the country. They put up their suffrages to be begged for—and the one that begs the most gets the votes. As a consequence, instead of our Legislature being composed of the best talent in the State, it has representatives ranging from the slims and rick-raff of society to the very highest order of merit. It is by no means a rare spectacle to see in our representative halls a number to whom the per diem is positively a financial feast—being so far beyond what they have ever previously earned by a combination of brain and muscle. Of course every hour a legislative session is shortened communicates to this class regretful groans. But there is another class that is a yet greater evil. The "shabby-gentle" generally relate to men of brains the more important matters of legislation, being often guided by them in their votes; the only concern of this class is that their pay be regular. This second element of legislative evil is just the reverse. Money is not the object with them; reputation upon which to build future hopes of preferment is their coveted prize, and you just ought to see them wrestle for it! They generally are comparatively young men; courteous without, yet having a very noticeable don't-you-wish-you-were-a-member-of-the-Legislature bearing about them. They talk to all not members with a condescending and patronizing air; to a fellow-member, however, they are open, frank, familiar—a we-are-on-an-equal-footing style, you know. They mean well, but lack in one important particular

as conservators of the public good: they have neither judgment nor brains. [All of the comparatively young men of the Sixteenth are not of this class, mind you; but there is a sufficient sprinkling of them to greatly delay its work.] After they take their seats and get the "green" slightly rubbed, they begin to hurl in their bills, resolutions, amendments, etc., with a recklessness that would be amusing if it were not so expensive. They are particularly sensitive lest some of the old and experienced members introduce some bill or motion in conflict with the constitution. They volunteer their advice as to the measures of some members; introduce copious amendments to others—and when everything else plays out, graciously assist yet a third element to get things through. What they want is "a record"—and they get it. I am giving the thousands of Texas readers of the ADVOCATE some of it now. We all know the weak point of the average tax-payer. If you want to make him smile, just begin to talk about retrenching governmental expenses and cutting down taxation. These would-be heroes are always in a retrenching boat, but it is generally without rudder or compass. One of their hobbies is to cut down the salaries of State employees—one of the most senseless "cuts" they could make, as to do so cuts down capacity. As I write, I have in view one member in particular. He would be a champion economist. Let anything be introduced having an appropriation in view and he is on his feet in a twinkling. I will give you a sample of his ideas of retrenchment: The Abstract of Patented Lands, lately printed, cost the State \$27.80 per set. This retrenching hero, claiming to be a printer (though I doubt if he know the difference between a hair-space and a bodkin) knew all about the value of books; no use for him to consult the Comptroller or any one else. As a consequence, the committee reported in favor of selling the work at \$15. There may be "method in their madness," however. Most of them are compelled to have the work, and by this means they save \$10 each, and the State loses fifteen thousand dollars. But does not "charity begin at home"? Shall a legislator lose \$10 to save the State \$15,000? But there is another manner in which this class retrench. They must be prepared, in their speeches, when they appear for re-election, to refer to the gerent and gal-lorious benefits derived from the provisions of "my bill." Therefore, each has his hobby and will do anything in the way of vote-trading, etc., to be permitted to ride it through. For example: there is a slight pauper, "Mishner Spwaker," vociferates a member, who appears to have left his false-teeth at the dentist's for repair. "Gentleman from Boreville," says the speaker. The gentleman from Boreville goes through the necessary routine to get bill No. — before the House. "That," says the speaker, "is Mr. Snook's financial bill, is it not?" "Yeth," says Snooks, "that's my bill." He then proceeds to make his fifteenth speech thereupon, and finally says that, at the request of a number of distinguished members (members who make such requests are always distinguished) he had reduced his views on this important question to writing, and would now submit them to the House. He proceeds for the space of about an hour to "mumble"—occasionally indicating that he has finished a page by transferring it to the bottom of the collection of manuscript in hand. During this serio-comic performance, about half the members enjoy a peaceful sleep, while a number of others retire outside the bar and smoke. Almost daily much outside is consumed in this, or a manner equally as absurd.

One extremely economical gentleman now has a bill before the House upon the consideration of which several thousand dollars worth of time has been consumed. It grapples with the financial question, but it is generally conceded the financial question has got the best of it: though from his bearing I conceive the gentleman imagines himself firing a big gun that will gain a permanent victory. I concede that the thing makes a loud noise, but fear it is loaded with a blank. I really think it will be to the party's interest, if it should appear that another furnished him the ammunition. I make no pretensions as a financier, but get my ideas on this subject from others. This bill calls for the issue of four percent bonds, and upon these it is expected to raise revenue to take up outstanding sixes, sevens and tens. It is the opinion of a number of capitalists, as well as the leading members of the House, that a little difficulty will present itself in the fact that no one will invest in them; in fact it is doubted if sufficient will be sold to pay for the engraving of the bonds. This may be put down as a sort of Col. Sellers' venture. The Colonel will be remembered, proposed to manufacture eye-water at seventy-five cents per barrel and retail it to the sore-eyed myriads of Asia at seventy-five cents per bottle. The "millionaire in it" depended upon the apparently insignificant contingency that the water would not cure the sore-eyes, and hence each inhabitant would purchase a large number of bottles. So with Mr. Linn's bill. It is a grand success—from a negative standpoint.

A somewhat less remarkable, and certainly less expensive, bill is one to buy a State printing office, and establish a state daily and weekly paper. It was expected by the friends of this bill—and they were numerous until printers began to "figure" on it—that the revenue arising from it would extinguish the public debt in about three months. It required everybody to advertise everything in the newspaper. However, one difficulty was evolved from printers' calculations. It was ascertained that no mill in the country could manufacture paper large enough, no press of sufficient dimensions could be had, and nothing less than an unorganized county could contain the office it would be necessary to build. It is estimated that the paper would be one and a half miles square. Imagine Gov. Roberts walking six miles around an official organ in search of one of his mes-sages. But this "doc" has grown too long *Adios* for the present. CAR TOON.

FOREIGN.—The British plague commissioners will leave for Astrachan on the 10th. Queen Victoria will embark at Portsmouth March 25 on board the royal yacht Victoria and Albert for Cherbourg. The queen will probably be absent about a month. The majority of the sailors who went on the strike at Liverpool still hold out for higher wages. One thousand striking tin-plate workers, at Cardiff, have resumed work on the masters' terms, a reduction of ten per cent. Three thousand iron workers at Bradford resolved to strike. The Standard and Pall Mall Gazette declare that Lord Chelmsford is incompetent for the post he holds. The Times, after summarizing the full details of the Pandina disaster, which are now at hand, says Lord Chelmsford was both surprised and deceived. List of cardinals created at the next consistory includes Hergenrother, professor of ecclesiastical history at Wurzburg; Dr. Newman, archbishop of Toulouse; bishop of Poitiers; papal nuncios at Paris and Lisbon, and some Italian prelates. Reuter's London dispatch, from Madrid says Gen. Campos and senior Canovas del Castillo today each individually advised the king to intrust the formation of the cabinet to the other. It is believed the new cabinet will include both. The Impereur publishes a report that Gen. Blanco will become governor of Cuba. Gen. Campos has submitted the following

names for new cabinet to the king for approval: Gen. Martinez Campos, minister of war and president of the council; senior Malans, minister of foreign affairs; senior Silcock, minister of interior; senior Ayala, minister of colonies; admiral Pavla, minister of marine; count Tovens, minister of justice; marquis Derriv, minister of finance; senior Arrioles, minister of justice.

The cabinet proposed by Campos has received approval of the king. The new ministers have taken oaths of office, with exception of senior Ayala, who will doubtless decline to serve on account of ill health.

The marquis de Orivivo will take the ministry of colonies ad interim, in addition to the ministry of finance.

Campos has suggested to the king the appointment of Gen. Blanco as governor general of Cuba.

Special dispatches from Berlin mention various rumors of dissensions between the czar and the czarovich.

A Vienna dispatch says the Russian government has discovered a plot for forcibly liberating imprisoned nihilists, and that it has proofs of the revolutionary designs of the prisoners.

A Daily Telegraph St. Petersburg dispatch says there is other more trustworthy testimony to hand than that contained in the official accounts, showing that the plague has not only made no progress, but that it exhibits tendency to disappear altogether.

A Madrid dispatch says the Cortes will be dissolved next week. The composition of a new cabinet has caused the liberals much surprise and disappointment.

A dispatch from Vienna states that Montenegro is reinforcing her southern frontier because of the threatening attitude of the Albanians.

The Threemaiting & Co., merchants of Glasgow, Liverpool and Brazil, have failed. The firm is an old established one.

The parliamentary discipline bill has been rejected in the Reichstag.

A Berlin dispatch to the Standard states that Herr Von Vorkenbeck, president of the Reichstag, was offended at Bismarck's late speech, and resolved to resign. He was only induced to remain by all the party leaders declaring they would immediately re-elect him.

The Germania announces that Bismarck recently sent a reply to representatives of the "Nation." Its tone is conciliatory, although it by no means justifies the expectation of a speedy and favorable issue.

A dispatch from Berlin says the rejection of the parliamentary discipline bill was an ignominious defeat for the government, only the extreme and some of the moderate conservatives voted for it. Bismarck watched the division with indifference. The deputies made no demonstration when the result was declared.

The Times correspondent at Tirnova says telegrams have been received from the vicinity of Adrianople giving the names of the people who were cut in pieces by the Turks in the districts evacuated by the Russians.

A telegram from Taskand states that after the death of Shere Ali at Mazar I Sherif, a bloody conflict broke out among the followers of various pretenders to the Afghan throne, and the followers of Yakob Kahn were victorious. It was reported that Yakob Kahn and two other pretenders had taken refuge at Herat.

The report of repudiating French occupation of the island of Rhodes is contradicted.

The trial of Passante for attempt to assassinate the king, commenced at Naples.

The Khedive has informed the governments of England and France that he will appoint Nubar Pasha foreign minister, if they insist, but that he must decline all responsibility for the consequences.

Severe thunder storm, accompanied in some sections by hail, passed over central and north-west parts this morning. Considerable damage done to buildings by lightning, in Toronto.

Affairs in Bolivia are in very bad condition. Famine is raging in the district of Cochabamba, and persons are dying daily of starvation.

A serious question regarding the right to tax the nitrate works at Antofagasta, and in other parts of the republic, threatens to precipitate the republic into a war with Chile.

From Lima advices have been received that Bolivia is actively preparing for war, and is purchasing arms, etc. The Chilean government has sent the Admiral Cochran, a sister ship of the Blanco in Calada, to Bolivian ports, and so far as the naval part of any possible conflict is concerned Chile can dominate the whole Bolivian coast. In the event of any struggle with the Argentine Republic on the question of boundaries, Bolivia could inflict serious injury on the northern provinces of Chile.

Advices from the City of Mexico, under date of March 1st, state that Minister Romero is actively prosecuting contrabandists. Large stocks of contraband goods have been seized at different points in the republic.

Fidelia Herrera is suspected of preparing for an armed conflict in the state of Oaxaca, the nature of which is unknown. A coalition of the friends of senior Vallarta and those of senior Mendez has been formed, and it is believed will secure the election of senior Vallarta to the presidency.

Diaz is reported to be disgusted with the course of his own friends. His dissatisfaction is so great that he would resign were it not that his sense of duty to his country compels him to remain.

The inauguration of the international exhibition will take place in January next. Large American exhibits are expected.

Small-pox is decimating the population of several towns in Guanajuato.

Considerable increase is reported in the production of coffee, sugar and cotton, particularly on the Gulf slope.

Texas Items.

The Dallas poor farm costs over \$10,000 a year. It is proposed to have a fine stock show early in April.

Lieut. Gov. Sayers' Durham stock farm is valued at \$50,000.

Baylor county is making an attempt to organize.

Houston's assessed valuation is \$5,314,850, and her debt \$2,000,000.

In 1874 Erath county only produced 150 bales of cotton. Last year it raised 5000.

There are 76 sheep-rangers in Webb county, owning from 1,000 to 80,000 head each.

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

State warrants will hereafter be paid, when the Treasurer is in funds, according to their date of presentation at the Treasurer's office.

The fruit growers of Grayson county are to hold a meeting in Sherman on the 8th of March, for the purpose of organizing a Fruit Growers' Association.

The records of Huntsville show that no Texas editor has ever gone to the penitentiary, while three lawyers and fourteen doctors have worn the stripes in that institution.

Collin county boasts of ninety odd public free schools in operation. They are taught from five to nine months, and the Advocate is justly proud of them.

The cattle are looking well on the range of Mason. The stockmen of Mason county will drive between 15,000 and 14,000 head of cattle to market this spring.

Rockdale Messinger says: The shipments of cotton from Rockdale to date this season foot up 16,567 bales; to the same date last year, 9,919

bales, showing an increase this season of 7066 bales.

Four Counties tells of a capitalist who owning some land in our county declares his intention of putting about 5000 acres of fine prairie lands under a substantial fence, sufficient to turn hogs or cattle, and to begin a system of intelligent farming and stock-raising.

Weatherford Express says: There is not a vacant dwelling house in the city, and the demand is constantly increasing. Six daily stage and hack lines will soon be in operation between the terminus and Weatherford, in order to accommodate the rapidly increasing onward move to this city.

Kosse Local is cheerful over the prospects of that town. It says: Several new buildings are going up, and others to follow. Limestone county has one of the neatest court-houses, and one of the most beautiful in design and finish, of any in the state. It is just being finished by Mr. Williamson, the contractor.

Stephensville Enquirer says: Several new buildings going up. The prairies are carpeted with green. Stock water is getting scarce in some localities. Farm hands can find employment. Farmers are all up with planting and plowing. There is a considerable quantity of cotton yet to be marketed. The prospect for a good crop of wheat grows better every day.

The Goliad Guard says: Our stockmen are constantly building new pastures, enlarging old ones, and establishing new ranches. The interior towns are improving as the country becomes gradually settled, which latter fact has caused capitalists to invest in dwelling houses in the towns, to rent.

Gatesville Sun says: Most of our farmers are ahead with their crops this year. The corn which is now planted will make a fine crop if we have no more frost. Turnersville is situated in a rich scope of country on the head waters of the Middle Bosque, about twelve miles from Gatesville. There are four substantial business houses in the place. A large and beautiful spring gushes forth in the very heart of the business portion of the town, forming the source of Middle Bosque, and furnishing an abundant and never-ending supply of cold, delicious water. In the dry seasons ever known this spring has never diminished in the least its steady supply.

The Statesman tells the following. On Saturday last Mrs. Vaughan, living on Onion creek, heard her little four-year-old boy scream, and running out she found an old sow biting it and dragging it about the yard. Mrs. Vaughan caught hold of the child, but the sow gave battle, and once jerked the child away from the mother, who was frantic with grief and fright. A colored man came to her assistance, or she might not have been able to save her child, which was seriously hurt about the face, neck and limbs. This is the second occurrence of the kind that has happened in this county in the last six months. In the first instance a baby's leg had to be amputated. A hog had seized it while the parents (Mexicans) were gathering pecans a short distance away.

The Burnett Bulletin says: Squire Dan Eldridge has been giving considerable attention to growing fine fruits. He has some two hundred apple trees, eight thirty almond trees, and peach trees of every variety. His bed of strawberries will cover one-sixth of an acre, and the vines bear beautifully. A new phase to commerce is opened up. Hundreds and thousands of furs, that of the coon, possum, wild cat, beaver, etc., are being bought and shipped.

A letter from Clifton to the Meridian Herald, Bosque county, says: There is a field for investigation for some of our scientists in this valley. On the farm of Mr. F. M. Kell are several excavations running to the west. One of these has a counterpart of the east bank; timber has grown up in the excavations, but while the two larger ones on the opposite side were evidently used by living persons as a crossing. The valley contiguous to these water ways is a very sepulchre. Many bodies have been found, which on being exposed to the air crumble into ashes or fine dust. Surrounding these bodies is a mixture of burnt stone or charcoal, which crumbles as the bodies. Some thirty acres are embraced in this ancient burying ground. The bodies seem to be laid in trenches, one of which is probably sixty yards long. A small bell, such as is used on sleighs and bakers' wagons, was taken out at a depth of three or three and a half feet, by a reliable man in the vicinity. It was of brass and well finished. Mr. Kell himself, in 1854, found a fine pottery jug on the present site of the Clifton mills. He preserved it for many years, but it was finally broken by an accident.

Gov. Roberts Heard From.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE, STATE OF TEXAS, AUSTIN, March 5, 1879.

MR. I. G. JOHN:

DEAR SIR—I have read your article with pleasure, and thank you for having expressed correctly the motives of my explanation of Col. Sam Roberts, whom I knew to be a good, highly esteemed Christian gentleman; a man of good report wherever he was known. Respectfully yours, etc., O. M. ROBERTS.

Some of our readers may think we give undue importance to Bishop Haven's representations of Texas character and life, but when they reflect that his letters are read by thousands in the North and in Europe, they will appreciate not only the injustice, but the injury which is done the South. They not only dishonor our true character, but are calculated to arrest the kind of immigration which is needed to develop our great State. Silence under these conditions would be treason to our homes.

A WOMAN'S GRIE.—A Michigan correspondent of the Presbyterian tells this good story of a spirited Christian woman, whose indomitable faith saved the church at Quincy, Illinois, in the Presbytery of Monroe: "Some years ago, not very many, this church had \$3 run down that it was considered dead, and the Presbytery sent a committee to disband it. The committee arrived at Quincy and inquired for the church—there was none; for the deacons—there were none; for the male members—there were none; for the female members—there was but one. They searched her out and told her their business. "She fired up, positively refused to be disbanded, and gave them a piece of her mind, somewhat as follows: "This is a pretty piece of business for the Presbytery. I am ashamed of it. You go back and tell the Presbytery I will not be disbanded, and that what it should do is to send a man here to preach and build up the church." They reasoned and expostulated with her, but she was firm, and returned but one answer—"I will not be disbanded."

They returned to Presbytery and reported, and Presbytery had the wisdom to see the hand of the Lord in it, and sent a man to preach. The results were a blessed revival of religion and the reorganization of the church. It is now a self-supporting church, with a settled pastor, and reports one hundred and thirty-three members." Louis XIV., the "Grand Monarque" of France, used to say, "I am the State." That heroic woman could have said more truly, "I am the church." Many a church that has been disbanded might have been saved by one brave soul, trusting in Christ and seizing providential opportunities.

VARIETIES.

Why is a young lady who has just left boarding-school like a building committee? Because she is ready to receive all proposals.

What is the difference between charity and a tailor? The first covers a multitude of sin; the second, a multitude of sinners.

A lady remonstrated with her butcher for his cruel treatment in putting little lambs to death. "Why, madame," said he, "you would not eat them alive; would you?"

At a temperance celebration in Newmarket, a little lad appeared in the procession bearing a flag, on which was inscribed the following:—"All's right when Daddy's sober."

At a funeral in Ireland the clergyman had not been informed of the sex of the deceased. He accordingly leaned over to the sexton and said: "Shall I say 'brother or sister here departed?'" "It's neither, sir," whispered the man; "shure he was only an acquaintance!"

There was an exhibition of tableaux in Fond du Lac, Wis., and the small boy was present. A scene was presented—"The Execution of Mary Queen of Scots": Mary kneeling, her head on the block; the executioner standing, with uplifted ax poised for the death-blow, amid breathless silence. Suddenly, in a loud whisper, the small boy exclaimed: "Pa, why don't he chop?"

A man who, having lost heavily in business, had become morose and ill-natured, one day said to his wife: "We must sell off some of our carriages. Which shall it be?" "My dear," responded the wife, "you may do as you please, so long as you only get rid of the 'sulky' and retain the 'sociable.'"

"How did you come to know her?" asked a mother of her little girl, as she saw her bidding goodbye to a poorly dressed child at the church-door. "Why, you see, mamma, she came into Sunday-school alone; and I made a place for her on my seat, and I smiled, and she smiled, and then we were acquainted."

A little boy, wandering alone in the direction of some crags, tumbled over, but escaped unhurt, though a good deal frightened. When he came home he narrated the misfortune he had met with, and his sister said to him, "An' did ye greet [cry] when ye got up again, Johnny?" to which he replied, "What wad ha been the use 'o greetin' when there was na body there to hear me?"

An English nobleman once sent his stupid son to Rowland Hill, in order that he might be educated. With him, he sent a note saying of his hopeful son, "I am confident he has talents, but they are hidden in a napkin." The eccentric but shrewd divine, after keeping the boy a few weeks under his care, returned him to his father with the following laconic and pointed message: "I have shaken the napkin at all corners, and found nothing in it."—Journal of Education.

The centennial of Georgia Methodism will be celebrated in 1886. In 1786 a conference, held in North Carolina, decided to send two preachers to Georgia. This was the beginning of Methodism in that State.

The "Revised Book of Discipline" of the Southern Presbyterian Church has been rejected by the first Presbytery which has voted upon it. The book has been repeatedly revised, but rejected and sent back for further revision in every instance.

The North Carolina conference of the M. E. Church, was composed of both black and white members. At the recent session at Greensboro, the whites for the third time moved for a division, and succeeded in carrying it. The name of the white portion is Southern Central Conference, and is composed of fifteen stationed preachers. We doubt not there was wisdom in division.

In a recent sermon Dr. Thomas, of Chicago, said: "Intemperance is spreading waste and want and sin and death on every hand. We must unite to arrest this destroyer of our homes and happiness, and I want to see women, our wives and mothers and daughters, have the right to vote for home protection against this giant evil that falls upon them with such crushing weight, and I want to see our own Illinois lead the way to this reform."

Dr. J. G. Holland, talking to the assembled boatmen of Alexandria Bay, the other day, said: "I neither drink wine nor give it to my guests. Strong drink is the curse of the country and the age. Sixty thousand men in America every year lie down in the grave of the drunkard. Drink has murdered my best friends, and I hate it. It burdens me with taxes, and I denounce it

as a nuisance, on which every honest man should put his heel. I do not ask you to put your heel on the drunkard, but to make the spirit of your guild so strict and pure that no man of your number will dare to trifle with your opinions and sentiments on the subject."

No man can force the harp of his own individuality into the people's heart; but every man may play upon the chords of the people's heart, who draws his inspiration from the people's instinct.—Kosuth.

The Lord takes up none but the forsaken; makes none healthy but the sick; gives sight to none but the blind; makes none alive but the dead; sanctifies none but sinners, and to all these He is precious.—Luther.

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

MONDAY, March 10, 1879.

RECEIPTS—Beaves and cows, 316; Calves and yearlings, 52; Sheep, —; Hogs, 155. SALES—Beaves and cows, 266; Calves and Yearlings, 62; Sheep, 433; Hogs, 105.

ON HAND—Beaves and cows, 90; Calves and yearlings, 30; Sheep, 65; Hogs, 54. TOTAL RECEIPTS SINCE JANUARY 1—Beaves and cows, 3270; Calves and yearlings, 642; Sheep, 1756; Hogs, 1405.

PRESENT QUOTATIONS.

Beaves and cows, good to choice, 2 @ 2 1/2. Beaves and cows, common and ordinary, 3 @ 2. Two-year-olds, common to head, 3 @ 2. Yearlings, choice to head, \$8 00 to 10 00. Yearlings, common to head, 8 00 to 9 00. Calves, common to head, 3 @ 3 1/2. Sheep, common to head, 3 @ 3 1/2. Hogs, common to head, 3 @ 4. Corn-fed beaves and cows, choice, 3 @ 3 1/2. Corn-fed beaves and cows, fair to ordinary, 3 @ 3 1/2. Corn-fed beaves and cows, rough to B. gross, 2 1/2 @ 2 1/2.

REMARKS.

Corn-fed Cattle—Advices indicate a fair demand for the coming week. Prices firm at present quotations, and likely to continue so.

Grass Cattle—Useless to ship while there are corn-fed cattle on the market.

Calves—If fat, in good demand.

Sheep—Butchers supplied for ten days.

Hogs—Light hogs in fair demand.

Calendar—March, 1879.

FIVE SUNDAYS—31 DAYS.

Table with columns: Day of Month, Day of Week, Sun Rise, Sun Set, Moon Rise, Moon Set. Rows for days 1 through 31.

MOON'S PHASES. D. H. Min. First quarter, 1 1 58 a. m. Full moon, 8 7 09 a. m. Last quarter, 14 9 41 a. m. New moon, 22 5 4 p. m. First quarter, 30 7 5 p. m.

HISTORICAL EVENTS—MARCH. March 1, 1830—Miss Abbott died. March 2, 1791—John Wesley died. March 4, 1872—Rev. James Nixon died. March 5, 1855—Bishop McKendree died. March 6, 1878—Wesley first preached on justification. March 7, 1867—Bishop Soule buried. March 8, 1748—Wesley's first visit to Dublin. March 10, 1875—Rev. R. B. Waggoner died. March 11, 1741—Whitefield reached England. March 12, 1775—Methodism in the Isle of Man. March 13, 1752—Fletcher ordained priest. March 14, 1820—Robt. Newton in Liverpool. March 19, 1877—Bishop Marvin on the Red Sea. March 20, 1745—Orphan House, Newcastle, open. March 29, 1788—Charles Wesley died. March 31, 1832—Camp-meeting in Africa. March 31, 1815—Bishop Asbury died.

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WORKINGMEN.

Before you begin your heavy spring work after a winter of relaxation, your system needs cleansing and strengthening to prevent an attack of Ague, Bilious, or Spring Fever, or some