

Texas Christian Advocate

Our Postal Cards.

MERRILLTOWN, Travis Co., May 8.—In my father's possession is a German Bible printed in 1696, published at Wittenberg, Germany.—H. L. RAVEN.

CORYELL COUNTY, May 5.—Crops are improving rapidly. People are contented. Farmers moving briskly. Finances are improving some. I am well cared for. Organized a new society with eight members; promise of more soon. Four organized Sunday-schools, prospering, on Plum Creek circuit.—W. H. COVE.

CENTER CITY, Hamilton County, April 23.—Fine rain to-day; crop prospects good. Second quarterly conference for Mountain mission was held 19th inst.; eight accessions; about \$6 raised for missions; some talk of building a new church. The people say they are too poor to take the ADVOCATE, but I expect to press its claims.—JAS. S. TUNNELL.

GEORGETOWN, Williamson County, April 28.—Magnificent rain in this section; country saved from ruin. New church dedicated at Round Rock, as per announcement. Fine sermon by Bro. Nabors. Three hundred dollars raised to finish paying for it. Good congregations in it every Sunday. Dr. Mood occupies one Sabbath in each month there.—G. W. G.

DEXTER, Cooke Co., May 1.—For the want of postals I have neglected to thank the good ladies of Cedar and Gordonville for their kindness to their pastor. A good suit of clothes always comes in good time; and none know so well how to appreciate and be thankful as an itinerant. Even a cup of cold water, given in the name of the Lord, is not forgotten, and the good Lord "keeps books" in all these matters.—J. R. CROWDER.

BELTON, Bell Co., May 5.—Last Saturday night I organized a temperance council with twenty-four members in Three Fork. There are ten councils in the county, with about 500 members. Next Saturday week all the councils in the county are to meet in a grand picnic at Belton. Addresses are to be delivered. May the good work go on. The ADVOCATE is of great service in this cause.—J. S. CLOWER.

HIGHLAND, Galveston Co., May 3.—Highland is a very pretty place, twelve miles from Galveston, on the G. H. & H. R. R.; good large settlement. Bro. P. E. Nicholson will have a monthly appointment at this place—first appointment will be on the 11th of May. Would like to start a Sunday-school and singing-school. Plenty of material of all nations—French, Germans, English and Americans.—H. A. A.

WHITESBORO, Grayson Co., May 7.—The Sherman District Conference will convene here on Thursday July 10, and we hope all who expect to attend will drop us a postal so that we can have all things arranged when they come. We will be glad to see all who desire to visit the Chicago of Texas (i. e. in the future). Brethren will please state their conveyance. We expect a good time from the presence of the Lord. More rain. No news.—I. S. ASHBURN.

CALDWELL, Burleson Co., May 5. The third inst. we had a grand temperance picnic. Stirring addresses were made by Senator Homan, Dr. B. H. Carroll, of Waco, and a little talk by your correspondent. Our precinct voted again to-day on local option—which was carried. So you see our people are determined to have a sober community. I have not seen a drunken man on the streets since I have been living here. What county site in Texas can beat that. Plenty of rain. Crops and fruit very fine.—J. L. LEMONS.

JASPER, Jasper Co., May 1.—I subscribed for your paper some time since through Bro. Vaughan, pastor in charge of our circuit. I thank him for asking me to take the ADVOCATE. I find that it has been a good thing for me to read; I receive much satisfaction through its columns. I think every family ought to take it. I hope new names may be attached to its subscription list daily, and the time will eventually come when every fireside may read its columns. I will endeavor to increase the list.—BEN F. HOLT.

BRITON, Bell Co., May 3.—A Shout at a Picnic.—To-day I attended a May-day picnic in the country, given by the Three Forks Sunday-school; and a good sister, the flow of whose pious feelings is not limited by church walls or camp-ground boundaries, became so overjoyed that she shouted aloud and praised God for religion felt and enjoyed even at picnics.

This was looked upon by many as a novelty, a new departure. Why should it be new or rare? Are not the pious to rejoice evermore, and to give thanks; to render praise to God?—J. S. CLOWER.

DODD CITY, May 5.—Had a fine rain; our second quarterly conference came off the 3d and 4th; Bro. McLean, our presiding elder, was with us and preached two excellent sermons, one on "the spirituality of the church," and one on "the resurrection and the judgment." About forty-eight dollars were paid this quarter. Prospects good for a revival in these parts. We have a missionary prayer-meeting in these parts. Times are hard and money scarce. Crops are looking fine. Live in hopes.—J. A. ALLISON.

SPRINGTOWN, Parker Co., May 3. My second quarterly meeting came off last Saturday. Bro. Price, my presiding elder, was not able to be there. We are glad to hear he is getting better; hope that he will soon be able to resume his work; may God bless him in his afflictions. Bro. J. W. Kizzier, of Cartersville circuit, was with us in the spirit and power of the Master.—J. G. PUTMAN.

WILLIAMSBURG, Lavaca Co., May 6.—Heavy hail storm visited portions of the lower part of this county last night, which was very destructive to crops; some cotton crops totally destroyed, and it will be necessary to plant over; some corn head high beaten to a stump. Crop prospects very encouraging where the hail has done no damage. Wheat very good; red chaff Mediterranean and other varieties rust badly. Oats will give a profitable yield. Ribbon cane very promising. Stock range very good. People in fine health.—CONDENSER.

COLD SPRINGS, San Jacinto Co., May 6.—Last Saturday night it is said two of our merchants were hunting each other with double-barrel shot-guns, but could not find each other. We have seen stores in this place, and you know it is a very hard matter to find a man in as large a place as this. These were not dry goods' merchants, though; but they are opposed to local option. Local option is the great question now with this county. A school-house up in Robinson settlement was burned Sunday.—C.

SPRINGTOWN, Parker Co., May 5. We closed our meeting last night. The Lord was there, and He was there in power. We had twenty-two conversions; twenty-one accessions; good many backsliders reclaimed; the church revived and God's name glorified. The last night was the best. Although gentle showers of rain were falling, God poured the rich effusions of His holy spirit upon us until the last mourner was converted. We received nine into the church and extended the right hand of fellowship, and then we joined in with the grand chorus: "All Hail," and went on our way rejoicing.—J. G. PUTMAN.

BURKEVILLE, Newton Co., April 29.—Our second quarterly conference passed; had a good time; the good Lord was with us; baptized half dozen babies; finances good for these hard times; no danger of the preacher being neglected on this circuit; Sunday-school organized; money enough made up to buy library; on the upper tendency over here on the outside row; plenty of rain; crops looking fine where proper attention has been given. O Lord revive Thy work that Thy people may rejoice in Thee.—E. T. BRASHER.

DAVILLA, Milam Co., May 1.—Happy May-day; in new parsonage; five rooms furnished with beds, stands, chairs, dining table and elegant cooking stove by Davilla church; tableware, lamps, towels, etc., by friends at Salado. Glorious gospel success at Salado: twenty-five conversions; nineteen persons united with the church; Christian workers encouraged. The beautiful village greatly blessed by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, and the upbuilding of the kingdom of peace. Collections forthcoming.—H. M. GLASS.

ENNIS, May 6.—Please allow me through the columns of the ADVOCATE to announce that Jesus is mighty to save, and strong to deliver. I was pardoned two years since, and about a year ago I offered my all and Jesus cleansed the temple and made me every whit whole—and now I am able to rejoice and say: I am dead to sin, but alive to God; for whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin, or serving the old man; therefore I am saved, and sanctified wholly.—E. R. REEVES.

FREDERICKSBURG COLLEGE, May 5.—In your last issue, the types made my postal read, "brethren of Lutheran Church," for "brethren of German Methodist Episcopal Church, South." The young men's debating society of college gave a

public debate Saturday evening. A crowded audience favored the young Demosthenes with their presence. This organization has undergone remarkable mental development for the short time in operation. Active preparation is being made for the examination. The Rev. F. Vordenbaumen, of Houston, will deliver the opening address. We are receiving heavy rains at present.—JOS. C. STEPHANS.

KOSSE, Limestone Co., May 12. The camp-meeting for Kosse circuit will convene at Alto Springs on Thursday evening before the fourth Sabbath in July next. We intend making extensive preparations for the occasion, and hereby extend an invitation to all of our brethren in the ministry who may find it convenient to do so to attend the meeting. I will see that they are entertained and their stock cared for.—W. L. ANDREWS.

WEATHERFORD, May 5.—It will be of interest to some to learn that our church here is out of debt. We now have a church with basement hall, and parsonage with room for garden etc., all free of debt. It is still on the commons, but we want to begin the improvement of the grounds soon. The railroad is expected here by the 4th of July. Bro. Price is about to begin work again.—O. HIGHTOWER.

PLEASANT TOWN, May 5.—Suggestions: "Let another man praise thee and not thine own mouth; a stranger and not thine own lips." "He who loveth jesting bringeth himself into many troubles." "A brother offended is harder to be won than a strong city." "It is unbecoming the character of a wise man to commit the fault for which he reproves others."—Cui bono? J. E. W.

AUSTIN, May 5.—A fine shower last night with a little hail. Trains late in consequence we suppose. Rev. G. W. Brown of this city dangerously sick, but happy in God and in hope of glory. Rev. Dr. F. A. Mood preached for us on Sunday. District court, Judge Turner, opened yesterday. Farmers and merchants hopeful from the late refreshing rains. O! for a corresponding shower of grace.—O. FISHER.

HILLSBORO, May 7.—Heavy rains fell the 3rd; streams all swollen. A man by the name of Charles Baker was drowned while trying to cross a stream four miles north of town. Crop prospects better. Religion looking up a little; health good. Fine Sunday-school at H. B., also fine literary school; plenty of mud that will stick; everybody busy trying to keep out of it; much said about the postal cards, especially the super-funny ones; they are simply ridiculous.—DAVIS.

WALKER'S STATION, Red River Co., May 4.—We have a trying time about Shaiony Prairie. A line of horse thieves is said to pass through this prairie and have stopping places; hence a bad state of things. But we have some very good people in this part, and are sorrowing because of the sad state of things. Sunday-schools are doing tolerably well; we are getting them well supplied with literature. L. F. PALMER.

LEESVILLE, Gonzales Co., May 5. We held our annual Sunday-school celebration last Saturday. We had a good turnout, good examination, good order generally, good music, good speaking, a good dinner, plenty of it, and good feeling generally—and even universally, so far as I know; everybody appeared to go off satisfied. Our Sunday-school here is a Methodist school, and has been carried on 13 years without any suspension. Who can beat that in a country neighborhood?—R. M. LEATON.

BOERNE, Kendall Co., May 5. Held services yesterday in our new church at Boerne. Preacher and congregation both felt like rejoicing that they had a place to worship in. The ladies of Boerne got up a festival on May 1st, to raise funds for the church, the net proceeds of which was \$81.50. We design having our church dedicated at our next quarterly meeting, to be held in June. We had a very heavy rain with some hail last night; corn, cotton and grass looking well.—I. KINGSBURY.

CEDAR BAYOU, Harris Co., May 5. Our May celebration is over, fine singing led by Mr. Gurley, who also delivered a short; but instructive address; some two hundred people were present, and all went "merry as a marriage bell." All who were there enjoyed themselves very much. I met a gentleman at a store last week, who "cowed" me quicker than I ever was before: very few words passed; but we both had a full understanding, and on going to his house that evening his words or threats were put into execution by his turning over to

me a very fine cow and calf. Do you not wish you were a preacher among such a people? This is in the Galveston district; send the circuit rider along, we all want to see him.—ENOLA.

CEDAR BAYOU, Harris Co., April 30.—How would it do, Mr. Editor, for you to buy a steamboat; and, in connection with the ADVOCATE boat, run a train of cars or mail riders, so that our ADVOCATE will come, notwithstanding high water and overflows? Some who are not members of any church take it, and if a copy fail to reach a subscriber, whether he is a member of the church or not, he complains. There are now five Sunday-schools in operation on the work. Crops look well; have had refreshing showers of rain. Pray we may have an outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Health good. Send your circuit rider to this appointment; it is in his work.—ENOLA.

CHEROKEE Co., May 1.—Though I write from this county, yet a good part of my work lies in Rusk Co., and embraces a section of excellent land, adapted to growth of anything; all kinds of fruits and vegetables do well. My congregations are improving in size and spiritual interest. I think the future hopeful; yet much remains to be done spiritually and financially. I preached last Sunday evening at Good Springs to a large and attentive congregation. At the close of the service we had a terrible hail storm; many of the stones were as large as a hen's egg; it did much damage to the crops, fruits and gardens. I am doing what I can for the ADVOCATE; but they cry: "hard times! hard times!"—SAMUEL WEAVER.

CALDWELL, Burleson Co., May 6. Once more the faithful devotees of whisky have buckled on the sword—again at the peaceful arena of the election precinct we have met the enemy, and they are ours. For one year more local option is an established fact in the Caldwell beat of Burleson county. Yet one thing is lacking; in the form of prohibition now granted to us, much good is being and has been done, notwithstanding the doleful lament over its failure of those who long for the former days in which they could quzzle to their own satisfaction; but Oh how much more effectual would be the law, could it only devise means to counteract the rapacity of those of your good city, and others, who are flooding the land with vile concoctions called splenic bitters, etc., to aid the devil to the fullest extent, in overturning all good in the law.—M. H. ADDISON.

GEORGE CREEK, May 1.—Second quarterly meeting passed; presiding elder not present; went to a wedding, child got sick, and so did not get back; hope he will be able to get to the next one, for we all love him dearly, and we feel that we need his labors and influence among us; finances panned out badly, but we hope for better things in the future; wheat harvest will begin here next week; will perhaps about turn out a good half crop; we have had plenty of rain; farmers generally in good spirit; corn looks promising; our third quarterly meeting will be at Nolan, eight miles south of Cleburne; we will have a camp-meeting there; can't you so arrange your circuit as to take us in about then, Mr. Editor; our people would like to see and hear the man that dares to tell men in high places that their deeds are evil. We hope that hard times will leave our section soon—then we will send some more subscribers to the ADVOCATE.—J. B. WOMACK.

BELTON, Bell Co., May 1.—Southwestern University.—Last Saturday I attended a union picnic on Cedar creek, given by the temperance council and the grange. Capt. A. M. Keller, the speaker for the grange, in illustrating a certain point in regard to the character of the past and present membership of the order, said that Georgetown, before the location of the Southwestern there, was quite rude and immoral, even wicked. The speaker was formerly a resident of the place. Not long since he met one of the old citizens of Georgetown and asked him about his old home, the people, their moral standing, etc. The reply was that Georgetown was a quiet, orderly and moral community. When asked why the change, was told that it was because of the location of the Southwestern University there. The coming in of that excellent band of Christian educators and a class of population drawn there by the school had such moral influence as to reform the place. Those who could not reform were compelled to leave. Good for the Southwestern. Coming incidentally, as it does, gives this witness the greater influence.—J. S. CLOWER.

WACO, McLennan Co., May 3. Every good man and woman in Texas, who has read S. G. Sander's postal in the ADVOCATE of May 3rd, will heartily endorse it. We have, perform or otherwise, delegated to the press in a large measure, the education of our children. Some of your readers are very careful in their watch over these sleepless teachers which come with their daily or weekly lesson into the family. Let us have the postals, but we can well dispense with the offensively personal, and the vulgarly witty ones. * * * May 6.—Our new church is going right ahead to completion: In two mass-meetings, Bro. Shaw, backed by the building committee, raised nearly the necessary six thousand dollars to complete it, and the contract has been let to finish the whole work in a style that will do credit to the Methodism of our state. Stained glass window, frescoed ceiling, and such things. The Sunday-school intends fitting the basement in a very superior manner. Tremendous rain and thunder storm here yesterday; man killed by lightning.—SAMUEL P. WRIGHT.

BAILEY JUNCTION, Grayson Co., May 5.—Our district quarterly conference for Savoy circuit, held at this place on the 3d and 4th inst., closed its session last night, our beloved presiding elder, Bro. Binckley, being absent on account of sickness. Our meeting commenced Thursday night and closed Sunday night by reason of inclement weather. The Lord was with us in convicting and converting power, there being nine conversions, six additions to the church, and seven infants baptized. We had, indeed, a glorious revival and Christian love feast. May the Lord carry on the work, to whom we ascribe all the glory. This is my second year in charge of Savoy circuit. The outlook is better now than ever before. I have six regularly organized prayer-meetings at different points on my circuit, and visit them every night in the week when I have no opportunity to preach. I find the revival spirit kindling in the hearts of the members at nearly every point. Our God will answer prayer; therefore, with confidence, we look for a glorious time soon. It is now raining, and the prospect for fine corn, cotton, fruit and vegetable crops is flattering, if some of our farmers are a little "in the grass." Water courses are higher than usual, and fears are entertained for the bridges across the streams in this vicinity. We have here a flourishing new railroad town of about 300 people (the junction of the Texas and Pacific and D. & S. E. R. R.), and I am gratified to say that I never lived among a more moral, orderly and God-fearing community in my life.—W. F. CLARK.

WAXAHACHIE CIRCUIT, WAXAHACHIE DISTRICT, N. W. T. C.—We have five appointments, embracing a very fine portion of Ellis county, and no man serves a kinder-hearted, cleverer people. Some fine Sabbath-schools growing in interest. Prayer and class-meetings in favor with most of our people. Our second quarterly meeting for this work was held the first Saturday and Sunday in April, and a good time it was, too. Our presiding elder, Charles E. Brown, was on hand in good time, and well did he attend to every interest of the church. We continued the meeting the following week to Friday night. The result was: twenty-three joined the church by ritual and four by letter, and of course the church enjoyed the occasion much. There have been forty-nine accessions to the church since conference; fifteen adults and twenty-two infants have been baptized. So we conclude that every outlook is hopeful, except the financial part, which has been exceedingly gloomy until recently. We have had a good rain, which was much needed, and which has had a wonderful effect in reviving vegetation, and also the spirits of the people. There are quite a number of ADVOCATES taken in the bounds of the work, but not near so many as would be but for the fact that hard times, in making his grand round, has given us a call that has enabled us to feel his presence very keenly. The ADVOCATE is in favor with our people, and I want to say this preacher and many of his people think you are sending to your readers the best paper in Texas or out of it. Very many have promised to take it so soon as they get the money. May God bless you and the ADVOCATE. Now, Mr. "Circuit Rider," we feel that we are in the bounds of your work, and shall certainly expect you to give us a call during the conference year. I close in doubt as to the fate of this. If it goes into the "w.-b." all right. I am determined to like you, and will write again as soon as I think I can afford to have one of my "grand articles" come out with that pile of rubbish.—JOHN S. DAVIS.

SOUTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

COMMENCEMENT. The commencement occasion this year will be unusually interesting. We send forth our largest graduating class. The patrons, clergy, friends of education and citizens generally are invited to be present. Saturday, June 14th. Annual meeting of the Board of Curators, at 11 o'clock A. M. Sunday, June 15th. Commencement services at 11 o'clock A. M. Mass-meeting of Bible-classes and Sunday-schools at 4 o'clock P. M. Sermon to University Young Men's Christian Association at 8 o'clock P. M. Monday, June 16th. Annual address before the Alamo and San Jacinto Debating Societies, at 10 o'clock A. M. Sophomore prize declamation at 4 o'clock P. M. Public debate of Literary Societies at 8 o'clock P. M. Tuesday, June 17th. Sophomore prize declamation (continued) at 10 o'clock A. M. Meeting of the Alumni, at 4 o'clock P. M. Concert and presentation of diplomas in young ladies' department at 8 P. M. Wednesday, June 18th. Orations by graduating class; conferring degrees, presentation of medals and diplomas at 10 A. M. Social reunion in the chapel at 8 P. M. F. A. MOOD, REGENT.

Southern Methodist Publishing House, NASHVILLE, TENN.

If you are not a subscriber, or have never seen the Christian Advocate, the Central Organ of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, edited by O. P. FITZGERALD, D. D., send for a specimen copy. You will find it an excellent religious journal full of interesting information. A department specially devoted to Missions. Price \$2 per annum; \$1 25 to preachers. Address J. B. McFERRIN, Agent, Nashville, Tenn. The General Conference ordered the publication of our Sunday-school Literature, and elected W. G. E. CURRY, D. D., editor. The supply is complete and attractive, as follows: Sunday-School Magazine, with Expository Notes and one Lesson quarterly, 75 cents. Lesson Quarterly, thirty-two pages, with Music, 15 cents. Our Little People, four pages each Lesson, beautifully illustrated, 11 cents. The Infant Class, a new weekly Lesson, suited to the youngest scholars, 6 cents per annum—one-half cent a month for four Lessons. Weekly Visitor, 5 cents. Semi-Monthly Visitor, 27 cents. Monthly Visitor, 14 cents. Send your orders, or write for specimen copies, to J. B. McFERRIN, Agent, Nashville, Tenn. If you wish to purchase a Pulpit, Family, or Teachers' Bible Testament, Commentary, Bible Dictionary, Concordance, Text, Reference, or miscellaneous Religious Book, send your orders to J. B. McFERRIN, Agent, Nashville, Tenn. We have just published a Sunday-school music-book called "New Life," the latest and best work of Prof. R. M. McISTOSH. Also adapted to prayer-meetings and social occasions issued in three forms—Bound Notes, Patent Notes, and Without Notes—all corresponding in numbers, so as to be used together. Single copies of either Note Edition, by mail, 35 cents; per dozen by mail, \$4; per hundred, by freight or express, \$39. Word Edition, single copy, 12 cents; per dozen, by mail, \$1 50; per hundred, by freight or express, \$19.

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This Rod is based upon a new discovery in electric laws. It receives and throws off the electric current from the top of the building, by which means the electric current is scattered and neutralized and thereby rendered harmless. From his office in Houston, Dr. Kavanaugh will answer all letters of correspondence, and give full information to those who may wish to engage in the sale or erection of these new rods, in such counties or territories as may be desired. This rod is presented under the sanction and approval of Prof. Tice, of St. Louis, and all scientific electricians who have examined it, and is believed to be as near a protection as it is possible to accomplish.

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Texas Christian Advocate

Sunday School.

INTERNATIONAL BIBLE LESSONS. BY R. M. MOORE.

SECOND QUARTER—EIGHTH LESSON—May 25, 79. Joel ii: 28-32; The Holy Spirit Promised; Time—Likely between 810 and 800 B. C.

GOLDEN TEXT. But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you; and ye shall witness unto Me...

The records of Joel are brief; but brief as they are, they are exceedingly bright. His name is faithful testimony, "Jehovah is God," and he was the son of Pethuel, "mouth of God."

APPLICATION. 28. God honored the prophet in the fulfillment of his prophecy, and poured out His spirit; and His promise is to pour it out on all who will seek Him.

29. The Christian religion is pre-eminently a religion for the poor. "The poor in spirit" are they that will gain heaven; and He sent word to John, among other things, when he inquired by his disciples, whether He were the Christ or not, that "the poor have the gospel preached to them."

30. While the gospel has its promises, it has its threatenings; and the latter are as fearful as the former are cheering. Love draws some and fear drives others. Some seek heaven; others shun hell. Every one has his warnings. The question for each one to settle is to be ready before the great and terrible day; as such the day of his death will be if he has not accepted Christ as his.

31. The conditions of salvation are so simple and easy that none need be lost. The usual obstacles to success in worldly affairs do not operate in spiritual affairs. The time is now; the way is through Christ, and the expense is the giving up of sin. The calling on the name of the Lord does not require one to go up to Jerusalem. He is ready to meet us wherever we are. The call may be the unuttered desire of a burdened heart. It is enough. The change from a life of sin to a life of love is a great "deliverance," and one that every one not saved should seek until he finds.

Reply to the Big "Critic." I never intended in any article published over my signature to wound the feelings of any member of the Methodist Church in Fort Worth or their children, neither did I ever have the remotest idea of attempting to ridicule them, or in any way whatever to make any personal allusion to them. In the second place, no one who ever knew me, not even my worst enemy, would entertain the thought of my attempting to ridicule the ritual of the Methodist Church, or religious service of any kind by any class of people. That dodge is evidently the effort of the drowning man to catch at a straw. My only crime is a simple, straightforward narration of an incident, without one word of allusion to any one in Fort Worth. As to the motive, that is my own business; and as to whether it was opportune or not, was a matter for the editor of the ADVOCATE to determine. I am accused of giving "a fresh impetus to a certain nameless (here) passion not at all creditable among preachers and writers." Now, I don't know what that means. If the "here" means the preachers and writers of Fort Worth, or the Northwest Texas Conference, I consider the brethren over there fully competent to defend themselves from such "innuendoes" without any assistance from me. I have had the pleasure of meeting but few of the brethren of that conference, and they certainly impressed me as being Christian gentlemen, capable of attending to their own affairs. If the "here" means the TEXAS CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE, my reply is that I thought

earth was shaken and rocks were rent. And all more than these prodigies were seen at the destruction of Jerusalem, as Josephus tells, who can not be accused of trying to verify this and Christ's predictions?

V. 31. "The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and terrible day of the Lord come." Here one thing is evident, whatever else may be obscure, and that is that we unutterable is to overtake all who reject Christ—Jew and Gentile—before the great and terrible day of the Lord comes. This great and terrible day may find a double interpretation in the destruction of Jerusalem and the final judgment.

V. 32. "And it shall come to pass that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be delivered; for in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the Lord hath said, and in the remnant, whom the Lord shall call." "Whosoever" covers the entire human race; then, too, it is whosoever shall call, not whosoever is permitted to call; "on the name of the Lord;" on the Lord. This is not simply naming Him, but it is earnestly, persistently appealing to Him, and Him alone, for salvation. "Shall be delivered;" delivered from sin. This is not may be delivered, but shall be delivered. There is no lottery in this—a few prizes and many blanks, or many prizes and few blanks—but it is a prize without failure, and the prize is eternal life. In "Zion," in "Jerusalem," Jesus suffered for us, and there was His gospel preached. "Remnant;" only a remnant returned from exile; "shall call;" shall recall from captivity. God invites, man obeys or disobeys.

APPLICATION. 28. God honored the prophet in the fulfillment of his prophecy, and poured out His spirit; and His promise is to pour it out on all who will seek Him.

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30. While the gospel has its promises, it has its threatenings; and the latter are as fearful as the former are cheering. Love draws some and fear drives others. Some seek heaven; others shun hell. Every one has his warnings. The question for each one to settle is to be ready before the great and terrible day; as such the day of his death will be if he has not accepted Christ as his.

31. The conditions of salvation are so simple and easy that none need be lost. The usual obstacles to success in worldly affairs do not operate in spiritual affairs. The time is now; the way is through Christ, and the expense is the giving up of sin. The calling on the name of the Lord does not require one to go up to Jerusalem. He is ready to meet us wherever we are. The call may be the unuttered desire of a burdened heart. It is enough. The change from a life of sin to a life of love is a great "deliverance," and one that every one not saved should seek until he finds.

Reply to the Big "Critic." I never intended in any article published over my signature to wound the feelings of any member of the Methodist Church in Fort Worth or their children, neither did I ever have the remotest idea of attempting to ridicule them, or in any way whatever to make any personal allusion to them. In the second place, no one who ever knew me, not even my worst enemy, would entertain the thought of my attempting to ridicule the ritual of the Methodist Church, or religious service of any kind by any class of people. That dodge is evidently the effort of the drowning man to catch at a straw. My only crime is a simple, straightforward narration of an incident, without one word of allusion to any one in Fort Worth. As to the motive, that is my own business; and as to whether it was opportune or not, was a matter for the editor of the ADVOCATE to determine. I am accused of giving "a fresh impetus to a certain nameless (here) passion not at all creditable among preachers and writers." Now, I don't know what that means. If the "here" means the preachers and writers of Fort Worth, or the Northwest Texas Conference, I consider the brethren over there fully competent to defend themselves from such "innuendoes" without any assistance from me. I have had the pleasure of meeting but few of the brethren of that conference, and they certainly impressed me as being Christian gentlemen, capable of attending to their own affairs. If the "here" means the TEXAS CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE, my reply is that I thought

The General Conference and the Methodist Church in Texas considered Dr. John competent to edit the ADVOCATE, so I am not called upon to defend it either; and if Dr. John lets articles go in the paper with "passions" in them, I suppose the church will call him to account. Now, sir, you can take either horn of the dilemma you please.

Are you the Brother Wells who wrote the open letter to Bishop McTyeire, and divers other articles of your wonderful career in and about Waco at the close of your "quadrennium"? If you are, those of us who preserve the ADVOCATE have your "autobiography," and so enter a solemn protest against a new edition; for life is too short and time too precious to read such a production. If you did write that letter, did you have no other motive but to honor the Master? Where does the honor of the Master come in in that letter? Now, you will dodge again and say it is the cause "nearest your heart" I am after. If that letter and those that followed it represent the cause "nearest your heart," I plead guilty. Keep cool, Bro. Wells, keep cool; for you are "among your peers," remember, in Texas. If I had not been misrepresented as to the "animus" of my production this reply never would have been written, and so far as the ADVOCATE is concerned, I am through with the subject. If Brother Wells will come and see me in my "rural retreat" in Terrell, he will have a real hearty welcome, and the hospitalities that backwoods people usually give a Methodist preacher. R. M. POWERS.

TERRYVILLE, DeWitt County, April 30.—Terryville was founded twenty years ago by J. W. Terry, Esq., who remains one of its most respected citizens, and who from his qualifications might as well have represented us in our State Legislature, but his aspirations were satisfied with the offices of postmaster and justice of the peace. He having but little disposition to ramble, has made himself a beautiful home—having a splendid farm, highly fertilized, in which hang in rich profusion the best varieties of peaches, pears, apples, wild-goose plums, apricots, figs, grapes, and strawberries; while his yard abounds in floral varieties. I merely state this to show what may be done here as well as in other parts of Texas. Terryville never gained a wide celebrity, even in her palmy days; for though there was a vast amount of tangle-foot consumed, card-playing and dancing being the order of the day, with a man shot occasionally to enliven the times and give the old women something to talk about, still she never aspired to rank with such places as Corpus Christi, Galiaud and Helena. Yet when her citizens found demand greater than supply, with an eye to business, they erected a still and boiled their own pizen; and those who tasted the product pronounced it a grand success. There is no way of fully determining what would have been the status of Terryville, commercially and morally considered, had not a change come over the spirit of her dreams. Alas! all human hopes are liable to disappointment, and Terryville's greatness and grandeur, in some respects, are things of the past. The railroad from Indianola to Cuero ruined her trade, and local option stopped the midnight orgies of gay revelers; and now, instead of singing,

"We went home till morning,"—(hic!) they are generally at home by nightfall. After trying local option for nearly two years, our people do not seem to desire to change it for free whisky. When I landed my little all at this place nearly three years ago, the outlook was not at all reassuring. Methodism seemed to exist in name alone; her most enthusiastic devotees acknowledged themselves backslidden; and some of them stole the Lord's day to make out a week's work. The barroom on the Sabbath was kept in full blast with its attendant evils; but now, thank the Lord, a brighter era is begun. The more vicious have moved away, their places being filled with excellent material; while the more conservative have reformed; and we now have a law-abiding, high-toned, moral and Christian community.

"Ye fearful souls, fresh courage take: The clouds ye so much dread Are big with mercy, and shall break in blessings on your head."

We have an excellent school, taught by Mrs. Norton, an experienced and affectionate teacher. Our Sabbath-school is well attended, and we are teaching the young ideas how to shoot in the right direction. Bro. Vest, our circuit preacher, preaches for us once a month—sometimes twice; and, as a vest should, he wraps himself around our hearts and affections, and, di-vest-ing himself of fear or favor, he preaches the gospel in its purity with power. May that garment last a long time and its shadow never grow less, though it be-

come somewhat threadbare. We have had rain enough after a three months' drouth to make a good crop if it were properly divided. There was but little interest taken in the Congressional election at this place. Col. Upson got twenty-one votes out of twenty-two cast. N. W. EASON.

Tobacco.

If those who oppose the use of tobacco would lecture on its abuses, and not assume the exclusive right of judgment in this matter, we would give them the field; but it is the use they are striking at. I do not pretend to say that tobacco is not used, in many instances, excessively; but this is the abuse of it, and does not signify that it can not be used in moderation and decency. The use of tobacco does not prevent a person from being a gentleman, or a Christian; nor if called to preach would it be an insuperable barrier. Persons who use tobacco have about as much prominence in the "thoughts of the people," and exert about as good influence for Christ, and give about as much to the church, as those who are on the high "plane" of non-tobacco use. Tobacco does not render inactive the mind, nor blunt the moral sensibilities, nor interfere with health or shorten life. Many good things are most shamefully abused. If tobacco using is a sin, would not the wide-spread evil cause God to stamp it with disapprobation; but the hearts of many who use it have been warmed by the spirit of Christ. I do not wish any to quit "coffee, pies and jellies," unless their use is sinful and selfish. I presume all have the right to use the good things of this life, let the taste be natural or acquired. I claim to be old enough to decide for myself in this matter. Having been a preacher about ten years, I have not found that it detracted from my usefulness as a minister of Christ. M. A. BLACK.

TEXAS, April 3, 1879.

DOUGLASS, Nacogdoches Co., April 23.—I am truly glad that the war against tobacco has opened in good earnest. Although we can not plead not guilty in all respects, we do hope the war will be waged against the habit until at least the vile practice of defiling the pulpit and floor of the sanctuary shall be driven from our midst. O how many gracious revivals of religion have been arrested and stifled in their incipient and prospective stage simply because it was, as it ever is, impossible for God's people to ask Him in strong and commanding faith to come and dwell in the house we have polluted with the fumes of tobacco! We well remember when, on the holy Sabbath, and at the close of morning service, we have had to kneel down at the Lord's table over great puddles of tobacco juice, with its fumes greeting us in face and nostrils, in order to receive the holy sacrament. If those who are addicted to the habit must and will continue its use, they should certainly, in all reason and candor, have sufficient regard for the house of divine worship to abstain from debauching and besmearing the floor, especially around the altar, the pulpit and front seats, where spiritual-minded people wish to kneel for prayer. If any are disposed to accede to the above suggestions, we will send directions to spell tobacco without letters:

Three-fourths of a cross. (T) Two parallel lines. (P) One upright and two semi-circles meet. (B) A right angled triangle standing on its feet. (A) Two semi-circles. (C) And a circle complete. (O)

Our grief may be guessed from the solace and self-deception we resort to.

Church Notices.

WEATHERFORD DIST.—THIRD ROUND. Weatherford, at Dean's School-house, May 24, 25. Jacksboro and Center sta and Jacksboro mts, at Center, May 31 and June 1. Cantonville, at Central, June 7, 8. Acton, at Long Branch, June 14, 15. Lake City, at Willow Pond, June 21, 22. Eldorado, at Pleasant Grove, June 28, 29. Springtown, at Springtown, July 5, 6. Christian mts, at —, July 12, 13.

The District Conference will be held at Wade's Chapel, commencing on Thursday, before the 5th Sunday in August, at which time we expect to have a self-supporting camp-meeting. We respectfully invite ministerial brethren generally, to attend. We promise to provide for them and their horses. W. PRICE, P. E.

THE TEXAS CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE: SATURDAY, MAY 17, 1879.

Georgetown Dist.—Third Round. Milano, at Milano, May 24, 25. West Falls, at Live Oak, May 31, June 1. Cameron, at Elm Creek, June 7, 8. Blackland, at Little Elm, June 14, 15. Belton, at Rock Church, June 21, 22. Liberty Hill, at Liberty Hill, June 28, 29. Georgetown and Round Rock, at Georgetown, July 5, 6. Sugar Loaf, at Pleasant Hill, July 12, 13. Belton, at —, July 19, 20. Georgetown, at Orgain's Chapel, July 26, 27. Rockdale, at San Gabriel, July 23, 24. Dallas, at Lebanon camp-ground, Aug. 2, 3.

The District Conference will convene at 11 o'clock, on Thursday, before the 5th Sunday in August, at which time we expect to have a self-supporting camp-meeting. We respectfully invite ministerial brethren generally, to attend. We promise to provide for them and their horses. W. PRICE, P. E.

GEORGETOWN DIST.—THIRD ROUND. Milano, at Milano, May 24, 25. West Falls, at Live Oak, May 31, June 1. Cameron, at Elm Creek, June 7, 8. Blackland, at Little Elm, June 14, 15. Belton, at Rock Church, June 21, 22. Liberty Hill, at Liberty Hill, June 28, 29. Georgetown and Round Rock, at Georgetown, July 5, 6. Sugar Loaf, at Pleasant Hill, July 12, 13. Belton, at —, July 19, 20. Georgetown, at Orgain's Chapel, July 26, 27. Rockdale, at San Gabriel, July 23, 24. Dallas, at Lebanon camp-ground, Aug. 2, 3.

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COCORON DIST.—THIRD ROUND. Fairfield, at Fairfield, May 17, 18. Mexico, at Bethel, May 24, 25. Groesbeck, at Central Institute, May 31, June 1. Corsicana, at Story's Chapel, June 7, 8. Wesdon, at Mt. Zion, June 14, 15. Mt. Zion, at Oak Hill, June 21, 22. Marquette, at Tacker's school-house, July 5, 6. Buffalo, at camp-ground, July 12, 13. Thornton, at Thorn Hill, July 19, 20. Centerville, at Leona, Aug. 2, 3. North Leon, at Ringold, Aug. 9, 10. District Conference at Groesbeck, July 16. JAS. MACKAY, P. E.

BRECKENRIDGE DIST.—THIRD ROUND. Breckenridge, at Sandy Creek, 4th Sunday in May. Fort Griffin, at Fort Griffin, 1st Sunday in June. Peacor, at Valley Grove, 2d Sunday in June. Sabanna, at Jewell's, 3d Sunday in June. Eastland, at Allen's school house, 4th Sunday in June. Palo Pinto, 5th Sunday in June. Bell Plains, at south Pecan, 3d Sunday in July. Tatum, at south Pecan, 5d Sunday in July. Coleman, at south Pecan, 3d Sunday in July. District Conference will convene at South Pecan, on Wednesday, July 16, at 9 o'clock. J. G. WARREN, P. E.

DALLAS DIST.—THIRD ROUND. Cochar, May 24, 25. Thornton, at May 21, June 1. Floyd, at —, June 7, 8. Honey Creek, at —, June 14, 15. Bethel, at —, June 21, 22. Grapevine, at —, June 28, 29. Grapevine, at —, July 5, 6. McKinney and Van Alstyne, July 12, 13. District Conference will begin Thursday, at 9 o'clock, at Plano. The opening prayer by Bro. Shea, at 11 o'clock. The camp-meeting at White Rock, Clark & Bryan camp-ground, will begin August 22. The elders are earnestly invited. W. H. HUGHES, P. E.

SAN ANTONIO DIST.—THIRD ROUND. Benton, at Friendship, May 24, 25. Boerne, at Boerne, June 1. Medina, at Oak Island, June 7, 8. Floresville, June 14, 15. San Antonio, at Selma, June 21, 22. San Antonio, at —, June 28, 29. District Conference at Brownboro, July 5, 6. Junction, at —, July 12, 13. Mason and Brady, July 19, 20. District Conference at Center Point, Kerr county, camp-meeting commences on Thursday, before the 4th Sabbath in July, at 9 o'clock. W. T. THORNBERRY, P. E.

SAN MARCOS DIST.—THIRD ROUND. Round Mountain, at Comanche, May 24, 25. Blanco, at Post Oak, May 31, June 1. Lockhart, at Luling, June 7, 8. Gonzales, at Denton's, June 14, 15. Thompsonville, at Hill's school house, July 5, 6. Mountain City, at Wimberly's, July 12, 13. Seguin, at —, July 19, 20. San Marcos, at —, August 2, 3. District Conference will meet at Luling, on Thursday, June 26, at half past seven, p. m. Let every pastor see that the quarterly conference is present for examination as the Discipline direct. O. A. FISHER, P. E.

CORPUS CHRISTI DIST.—THIRD ROUND. Rockport, at Rockport, May 24, 25. Corpus Christi, May 31, June 1. Success, at Barlow's, June 7, 8. Oakville, at Barlow's, June 14, 15. Rancho, at Bundick's, June 21, 22. Brownsville, at —, June 28, 29. District Conference for Corpus Christi District will convene at Beeville Thursday, June 21, at 9 o'clock. Let the brethren all be on hand, and the preachers come in the fulness of the blessing of the gospel of Christ. JOSE B. DESTON, P. E.

STEPHENSVILLE DIST.—THIRD ROUND. Sunday Creek, at Sunday Creek, May 24, 25. Glenrose, at Andrew Chap, May 31, June 1. Rockport, at —, June 7, 8. Clifton, at —, June 14, 15. Carlton, at —, June 21, 22. Gatesville, at —, June 28, 29. Stephensville, at —, July 5, 6. Meridian, at —, July 12, 13. District Conference will convene at Lower Cherokee, in San Sabu county, August 14, at 9 a. m. C. H. ELLIS, P. E. San Sabu, Texas.

COMANCHE DIST.—THIRD ROUND. Pinn Creek, at Sardin, May 31. Henson, at Pope's chapel, June 7. Lamby, at Brock's school-house, June 14. Burnett, at Rockvale, June 21. Llano, at Honey Creek, July 5. San Sabu, at Wallace, July 19. Mountain City, at —, July 26, 27. District Conference at Lower Cherokee, in San Sabu county, August 14, at 9 a. m. C. H. ELLIS, P. E. San Sabu, Texas.

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Established in 1845. M.W. Shaw & Bro. Agents for the Celebrated Waltham Watches. The cheapest and most accurate time-piece used in this country.

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. FINE WATCHES and JEWELRY carefully repaired at short notice and reasonable rates. All Kinds of Stones & Diamonds Reset. 13-52. PIANOS and ORGANS. BEWARE OF BOGUS INSTRUMENTS. Make your purchases from a reliable Home.

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S. J. Hawkins.....North Texas Conference
R. T. Nabors.....Texas Conference

REV. C. D. DONALDSON, of the Louisville Conference, died April 30th.

MRS. SARAH J. J. HALE, editress of Godey's Lady Book, died May 1st.

THE death is briefly announced of Rev. Wm. Harris, in charge of Carthage station, Southwest Missouri Conference.

NOTICE is given of the death of Rev. F. A. Farley, a worthy minister of our church, and a member of the Holston Conference.

REV. ROBERT M. STEWART, local preacher of the North Bossier circuit, Louisiana Conference, died on Saturday, April 11, of typhoid pneumonia.

WE are requested to announce that the examination at Granbury High School will begin June 9, and end June 13.

REV. James E. Cobb, presiding elder of the Delhi district, Louisiana Conference, died recently. He was at one time the editor of the *Western Methodist*—at a later date of the *Arkansas Christian Advocate*.

MR. J. H. MILLER, General Passenger and Ticket Agent, Galveston, showed us a telegram on Wednesday placing through all-rail tickets from Galveston to New York at \$47.10.

IN the days of martyrdom, ten Christians were enclosed within four walls, exposed to the hot summer sun of Egypt. Water was within their reach, and to taste it was the token that they renounced their faith. They sang praises to God until their parched tongues could no longer articulate His name. Under the burning rays of earthly desire, how few of the present day exercise the grace of self-denial?

BUFFALO, May 10.—We have again been made to think of the uncertainty of life and certainty of death, in the death of our beloved brother and pastor, W. F. Compton. After working the greater part of Wednesday, the 7th, on some building improvements at his house, made a pastoral visit. On his return he walked over to town, and while making change for a pair of shoes, instantly fell dead. Oh that we all could say, as he did on last Sunday night, that he was ready to meet death, and it mattered not with him how soon.—H. J. HALE.

LAST week the publishers received a letter inclosing \$2.50, signed "A Friend," and containing instructions to send the *Advocate* to —, another year. "The old man," says the letter, "is an old subscriber, but has not the means to renew this year." This is a deed worthy of emulation. God bless the donor. To what better purpose can spare means be devoted than furnishing a religious paper to some old man or old lady who love to read it, but are too poor to subscribe. May the *Advocate* be a solace to the old man and cheer his loneliness; from its pages may he learn how great will be the riches gained through the merit of Him who became poor for us.

WHEN the Shunamite mother left the still form of her child and started in search of the prophet, who she believed could restore by his prayers the life so precious, she went in haste. She said to her servants: "Drive, and go forward, and slacken not thy pace." Life hung on their footsteps. How fixed her purpose. No sight nor sound could delay her in that journey, which she was making to save her son. The lives of those we love are in peril. Not the lives of their bodies, but their souls. A mightier than Elisha is near. How strange that we should slacken our pace or delay the hour when we seek Him who alone can deliver those we love.

ON OUR CIRCUIT.

The rains having rendered railroad travel uncertain, and being due at the Mission Board at Nashville the 8th of May, we decided to take the Gulf route. Our first act on crossing the bar was to take a berth. We can see no attractions in the ocean's wave. We were tempted by poetic descriptions of the glories of an ocean sunrise to get out on deck in the morning and see how it was done. After a brief stay, we concluded the sun could rise without our help, and crept back to our berth. There is no poetry in a sick stomach.

A friend commended us to a popular house near Canal street, New Orleans. It was kept by a Frenchman. His cordial welcome and affectionate inquiries as to how we had enjoyed ourself led us to think, possibly, he was one of our oldest friends. "What liquor will you have? Cognac?" His peculiar inflection on the last word left no doubt as to his belief that "cognac" was the very thing. We felt sorry to sink in the old gentleman's estimation; but when we declined the glass, all sugared and iced, there was a shrug of his shoulders, which revealed a struggle between his French politeness and his disgust for our miserable taste. To put away a glass of "cognac" was a heathenish act. At the table, the waiter asked us what wine we would take, and was only satisfied that we preferred coffee after we had stated our wish the second time. Our plate was the only one which did not have beside it a bottle of wine or something stronger. We observed the landlord at supper. He ate and drank as though it was the prime business of life. We passed him on our way to our room an hour afterwards still at the table. He was sunk in the sleep of the wine-drinker. It is claimed that the manufacture and use of pure wine will be the surest relief from the curse of drunkenness that overshadows American life. The cellar of this French house was filled with choice wines direct from France. The proprietor was as proud of the purity of each brand on his bottles as the sportsman is of the pedigree of his horse. There was a sleepy, boozey look on each one connected with the house, from the proprietor to the porter, which revealed the influence of their incessant potations. "Strong drink is raging," and "wine is a mocker." It is the snare that turns many into the net from which no earthly power can free them.

When we came from the gallery we stood for some time and observed the devotions of the assembled worshippers. Nearly all present were females, and, with but few exceptions, they were clad in mourning. Burdened by sorrow, they were seeking comfort for their aching hearts in the services of their religion. We might feel but little reverence for rites and symbols which obscured or perverted the truth of our holy Christianity; but we felt a profound respect for these human hearts which were seeking for help and comfort amid the dim and uncertain light of a defective faith. As we noted the air of devotion in every attitude and expression of the different members of that assembly, we felt that there is but one element in their services which Protestant congregations might profitably cultivate. Too often are services an intellectual entertainment, but sadly deficient in the spirit of worship. We could see or hear but little in that Cathedral service calculated to instruct the intellect or broaden its range of thought; and yet so far as outward act is concerned, each one present was a worshiper. We would not have in our religious services less of the intellectual, but we might add much to their deep devotional spirit. We go to church not merely to be entertained or instructed—we should enter the sanctuary to worship God.

Passing along Canal street and other crowded thoroughfares, we wondered how these swarms of people were fed. The next morning we visited the French market, and, as we looked on the piles of bread, the meat, the fish, the cartloads of vegetables and fruit, the question was: will there be people to buy these abundant supplies? Very often as we see the swarms along the thoroughfares of life and trace on their faces the marks of moral and spiritual observation, we wonder how they can be fed. We remember that Christ died for all, and we feel that abundant as are the provisions for our material wants, the supplies for man's moral demands are still more abundant. If the warehouses of this great commercial center were thrown open to the hungry who walk its streets; and if the market, with juicy meats and vegetables and luscious fruits, with the morning dew upon them, were to be had without money and without price, how eagerly the hungry would accept the gift. Yesterday the doors of many churches were open in this great city, but how many empty seats were in those houses of God.

The door of the Cathedral opposite Jackson Square was open as we returned from the market. It was early, and but few were present, and we ascended the gallery that we might examine the building without disturbing the worshippers. The wall above the altar is covered with a painting representing some scene in the life of St. Louis, whose name the building bears. Above, on the ceiling, is a

picture of a lamb on an altar, while a venerable form, with rays of light beaming out in every direction from the face, designed, we presume, to represent the Father, is standing with hands extended, as though accepting or blessing the offering on the altar. Around and above are angels and mortals in adoration. On the walls and ceiling are a number of pictures of saints. The representations on each side of the altar excited our special attention. These were not paintings, but masses of stones piled up to represent rugged mountain sides. Over that, to the left, were the words: "Jesus, Immaculate Conception." Near the summit, in a deep niche in the rocks, was the form of the Virgin Mary standing with folded hands and uplifted face. A crown was on her brow and her feet were encircled by a garland of roses. Beneath, and to her right, kneeling on a ledge in the rock, was a smaller female form, with a taper in her hand and her face uplifted toward the Virgin. On the side next to the altar was a figure of the Virgin with the infant Savior on her left arm, and her right extended as in the act of blessing the multitude. On the opposite side also, is represented a rocky mountain side, on which two figures appear painfully climbing on their knees toward the summit. Both are clad in monkish garb, are barefooted and with knotted girdles around their bodies. The lower form is drawing back his cowl from his uplifted face with one hand, while the other is raised in wonder or despair. The other form is still higher up, his head bare, while he pauses and gazes out, as though realizing in part the approaching consummation of his hopes. Beneath is the door through which the priest approaches to meet the penitent at the confessional. It appears to be the entrance to a grotto in this rocky cliff. We suppose that steep and rugged path and those kneeling figures were designed to represent the painful path of penance which the penitent must climb to be assured of absolution. We are glad there is a better way.

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We attended on Monday, in the basement of Carondelet Street Church, the meeting of the pastors and preachers connected with the several churches in New Orleans, and were delighted with their fraternal spirit and encouraged by tokens of vitality in their work. The class-meeting is a living institution in New Orleans Methodism. Of course, we visited the *Advocate* office and found Dr. Parker resting from the duties of the presiding eldership in the editorial chair. Our old associate, Dr. Walker, is now in charge of Carondelet Street Church. Genial in spirit as in former years and abundant in labor, we fear the incessant strain of unremitting labor will at last tell upon him. Our churches must not work its faithful men to death.

Tuesday morning found us rolling northward. As we passed Grenada and Holly Springs, we recalled the recent scourge, which had filled its homes with mourning, and sent up a prayer, in which thousands in the Mississippi valley will unite, that our Southern land may long escape this fearful visitation.

At Milan, in Tennessee, we changed cars for Nashville; and our loneliness was ended when we found ourself in company with Bishop Paine and wife, and Drs. Winfield, of Arkansas, and Johnson, of the *Western Methodist*. The Bishop seemed more feeble

in body than when we parted with him in Atlanta a year ago; but his spirit is bright and his words are an inspiration to his younger brethren. As we approached Nashville, the scenes of his labors nearly three score years ago, he recalled many of the conflicts and triumphs of those early days. The district then embraced the territory of a modern conference. He told us of his trip with Bishop McKendree across the mountains to the General Conference at Baltimore, in which they traveled nearly as many months as we now employ days in reaching the same point. What changes have transpired since those men of God planted Methodism in these lands! Then their claim to a place in the brotherhood of Christian churches was disputed, and they had to fight for every foot of ground they gained. Now, in this goodly State of Tennessee, Methodism holds the leadership among the churches. Her numerous membership, with their liberality and progressive movement in every department of Christian enterprise, have secured for her a position which we trust no future generation will lightly cast aside.

Thursday evening we reached Nashville, and found a Methodist preacher's welcome in the family of Dr. Sawrie, presiding elder of Murfreesboro district, who resides in the city.

Wednesday morning we visited the Book House, where we found all the Bishops in their room, bringing up the work and preparing the plan for the coming year. We were glad to see Bishop Pierce looking much better than the latest intelligence had led us to expect. The Book Committee was in session, with Dr. McFerrin looking as fresh as though the burden of the General Conference had laid upon him had imparted fresh elasticity to his vigorous frame. Will tell more about Nashville in our next.

BORN AGAIN.

We safely concede the necessity of pardon and purification in view of the divine behest; yet it is true, if not more obviously yet perhaps in a still higher sense, that God requires us to obtain pardon and purification, because they are absolutely essential to our well-being, and His declarative glory.

It is necessary that man should obtain pardon—otherwise he must ever remain under the condemnation of that law which demands that "the soul which sinneth shall die." Without purification man can never become in an eminent sense the subject of divine complacency, which is the basis of harmonious relations between God and man.

He who bears again the impress of righteousness, holiness and knowledge, is restored to primal Eden: walks and talks with God.

Christ was manifested to destroy the works of the devil, and to this all spiritual agencies converge.

Contemplate the vast array of divine agencies: An atonement offered by the Lord Jesus, the Mediator of the new and everlasting covenant. The benign and gracious influences of the Holy Spirit upon the human heart—in conviction, conversion and sanctification. The church of the living God—the ground and pillar of the truth. The sacraments of the church appealing powerfully to human intelligence and pledging the favor of heaven to the believing penitent—all these (and time would fail me to complete the enumeration) re-echo trumpet-tongued the words of Christ to Nicodemus: "Verily, verily, I say unto thee—except a man be born again, he can not see the kingdom of God." H.

The great wall of China is one of the wonders of the world. It is a thousand miles in length, forty feet in height, and wide enough at the top for two carriages to pass each other. It has a parapet along its entire length, and is furnished with staircases, buttresses, and houses for garrisons every quarter of a mile. It spans the valleys, crowns the hills, and penetrates mountain gorges, revealing no single break in its entire length. Its estimated cost would build fifty-five thousand miles of broad-gauge railroad. It was built to protect the nation from the inroads of their enemies. To-day it is utterly useless. It is a monument of human enterprise as splendid as it is valueless. So with many of the defenses over which humanity has

toiled for generations. Man has felt profoundly his moral needs, and has beheld with dread the approach of death—with the unknown and dreaded realities beyond. How magnificent the systems of religion upon which the wealth of his intellect and learning have been wasted; yet how utterly useless do they appear. Buddhism is dying. The crescent in the Mohammedan heavens is waning, and the various systems of paganism bring only gloom to the human heart. Like the walls of China, they but cumber the earth; and man, still conscious there are foes who will assail, must seek for another defense.

We call attention to Bro. Sutherland's report from the border, published in this issue of the *Advocate*. Can it be read without prompting to increased efforts to extend the Gospel? This border work appeals peculiarly to Texas. Can not some one suggest a plan by which the Texas conferences can give distinctive aid to this field. A programme was suggested at the last session of the Northwest Texas Conference, and we think would have resulted in that conference furnishing, at its own expense, an additional laborer—but, for some reason unknown to us, Bishop Keener did not apparently approve of it. We would like to hear from Bro. Sutherland on the subject. Perhaps he can suggest a programme by which *Texas can do what she ought to do in this great work*. In the meantime, we trust he will keep our readers fully posted. To fully co-operate in the great work, we feel it will only be necessary for them to understand its importance.

In this city we have seen several fires sweep away whole blocks of buildings. Each conflagration was a terrific scene, and left nothing but ashes behind. Yet over each block new and nobler buildings have been built. Where once there were low and rickety frame houses, we now see tall brick with iron fronts, which proclaim the increasing opulence of the city. The fiery trials which consume many of our earthly super-structures may only be the process by which the foundation of buildings which will abide forever may be established. Out of earthly ruin the fabric of a nobler character, fashioned after the architecture of heaven, may arise.

WHEN Sir Colen Campbell retreated from Lucknow, one man who had overslept himself was left behind. When he awoke he found himself alone in an open entrenchment surrounded by fifty thousand foes, each one of whom would gladly have shed his blood. No time was lost, but at full speed he followed the retreating army until, wild with excitement and fatigue, he came up with the rear-guard. How lonely that soul will be when the army of redeeming grace is withdrawn, and, exposed to the innumerable forces of evil, it wakes up to find itself abandoned. With what eager steps should man pursue the path which will bring him to the army of the good.

RUSKIN furnishes us a comic idea of the warlike condition of the great powers of the earth by a picture of the residence of two neighbors who were blessed with princely incomes, and who professed to be friends, but wasted their fortunes in steel traps and spring guns to prevent the encroachment of one on the others premises. There were bare walls, uncarpeted floors, unapertured windows and an empty larder, but spring guns and steel traps guarded every avenue of approach to their habitations. Two neighbors exhausting their wealth in efforts to guard against each other is not, after all, more absurd than the enormous standing armies which reveal the weakness of modern civilization. If such neighbors would be set down as lunatics, what about the nations? Is not war moral lunacy?

In this world man does many foolish things, but his folly seldom causes him to fail to watch when

danger threatens his life or his estate. A watchman paces the deck of a vessel while plowing the seas by night, and with the early morning a sailor is stationed at the mast-head. A well drilled army never fails to post its sentinels, even if there is no evidence the enemy is near. The lawyer watches the case of his client, the merchant his accounts and the market, the physician notes carefully every symptom in his patient, and the parent spends long hours in watchfulness by the bedside of his sick child. How many of us are heeding the word of our Master who said: "What I say unto you, I say unto all; watch!"

WE once saw a vessel pounding on the shore amid the breakers. There was no man at the wheel; no sailors at the ropes; no captain issuing his orders from the deck. To save their lives they had taken to the boats, and their noble vessel was driven unguided before the storm. How helpless was the vessel which had been built with so much skill and labor, and how certainly must she be driven by the forces which surrounded her to utter wreck. What would this world be without a God to direct its movements and rule the tremendous forces into whose vortex it is liable to be driven? What a helpless thing is man if left without polar star or pilot! With no Bible, no Savior; how helplessly he drifts to utter ruin!

THERE is a certain tribe among the nations which has no temples nor shrines. They plant a naked sword in the ground, and with barbaric ceremonials worship it as the god of the region where they abide. Their religion is war, their god the sword. Here we have, without any veils or garlands, the religion of unregenerate humanity in its darkest condition. It is the antipode of the gospel of peace. There are many shades in the system which lie between these wide extremes. One is the gospel of hate, the other of love. We are ever tending toward one or the other of these poles.

PIANOS AND ORGANS.—One chance in a lifetime to obtain a first-class piano or organ at bed-rock rates. Such an opportunity is now offered by Messrs. Ludden & Bates, Savannah, Ga., in another column.

THE probability is that your remedy for hard times, dear reader, if so be that times are hard with you, is not in any material change in the financial policy of the government so much as a change in your own financial management. Adopt Franklin's motto, and live within your income. The plain unvarnished truth is, our style of living has been projected upon too extravagant a scale, too many fine clothes; too many luxuries, especially in drinks. Americans are not singular in this respect. A report recently made to the British Parliament gives the following result: A great advance in the treatment of the problem of intemperance has been made in a report of a select committee of the British House of Lords. They have investigated the questions before them with more thoroughness than has ever before been attained by a committee of Parliament. The statistics presented are very important. They show that there is one drinking place to every 238 of the population of England; that in 1872 the consumption of alcoholic liquors was fifty-two per cent. more for each inhabitant than in 1860; and that the convictions for drunkenness have risen from 88,361 in 1860 to 203,789 in 1876. With the increased consumption of alcoholic drinks, there has also been an increased consumption of tea and coffee in the period named. The cost of the liquors consumed has risen from £2 18s. 6d. per inhabitant in 1860 to £4 9s. 0d. per head in 1876.

The managing committee of our *Quarterly Review* has been reduced to a parenthesis. It is now "published by authority of the General Conference, by a committee of ten ministers and laymen." A friend wishes to know "if the *Quarterly* pays for its contributed articles?" Of course—its motto is, "buy the truth and sell it not." According to which, the *Review* ought to be circulated gratuitously; but its terms are "three dollars a year, in advance." No discount to preachers, who are thus raised to an equality with ordinary gentlemen.

Texas Christian Advocate

Tobacco.—A Ballad.

BY J. H. BIGGS.

For the last few years I have been lecturing against the use of tobacco with considerable success, and for the want of a more appropriate song, I have used the following:

Come old and young and hear me tell, How strong tobacco smokers smell, Who love to smoke their pipes so well That for tobacco they will sell—

THEIR RIGHT TO SOCIAL UNION!

And you can tell when they are near, Though not a word from them they hear, They love their pipe so very dear, Their breath grows stronger every year—

WHILE IN THIS SMOKING UNION!

They clean their pipe-stem with a wire, Then fill the bowl and put in fire, And smoke until it does expire, Nor do they ever seem to tire—

IN THIS LABORIOUS UNION!

Sometimes from three to six you see Collected in one company, And every person in full glee, They then must have a smoking spree—

A FORTH SMOKING UNION!

Sometimes within their neighbor's door, They there will tell of pleasures o'er, And spit upon the hearth or floor, Until it spreads a foot or more—

AND STILL THEY'RE LACKING UNION!

When they feel sad they'll chew much more, Than they have ever done before, And yet their troubles are not o'er, Tobacco makes their tongue so sore—

THEY CANNOT SING GOOD UNION!

The quid is oft so large within, The juice runs out and down the chin, And there we see the fifth again, The mouth's too full to hold it in—

AND SING A PRETTY UNION!

Sometimes within the church we view The slobbers run a foot or two, For persons there will spit and chew Enough to make a buzzard swoop—

AND SING OF HEAVENLY UNION!

Some ladies dip tobacco snuff, While others have a pipe and puff, And others chew the nasty stuff, And of their mouths look bad enough—

TO SING OF FILTHY UNION!

If people had the money lent, That for tobacco they have spent, So many need not have to rent, But live of home with much content—

AND SING IN LOVELY UNION!

They then could pay their preacher well, And hear the truths that he might tell, To sinners on their way to hell, Inviting them with God to dwell—

AND LIVE WITH CHRIST IN UNION!

The preacher too might quit the weed; From such expense be always freed, And much less money then he'd need, And still in nicer things could lead—

AND TALK TO US OF UNION!

We'd not then see him in the stand, There acting like a filthy man, Who spits upon the desk as grand, As though he owned all Canaan's land—

BEFORE HE PREACHES UNION!

His lady too might quit the stuff, Lay down her pipe and all her snuff, Their path would then not be so rough, And still their children have enough—

WITHOUT TOBACCO UNION!

Come one and all and quit the trade, And try to be of nicer grade, And read your bible in the shade, And then you'll see you're better paid—

THAN IN SUCH COSTLY UNION!

WESTON, Collins Co., TEXAS April 24, 1879. (The above is printed by special request.—P. M.)

Geology and the Bible.

The science of geology teaches that the earth has been countless ages reaching its present form, and that in the interior it has undergone many and mighty changes. It has divided the material of which the earth is composed into different parts, or stratas, and given them names with reference to their condition, arrangement, contents and the time of their supposed formation. The Bible teaches that: "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth," and that He prepared it for man's abode in less than seven days, and makes its age not quite six thousand years. Now, which of these two accounts are we to believe? We hold, with all due respect to geology, that the Biblical account is the correct one. But, if we accept this, how are we to dispose of the evidences that geology has placed before us to sustain its position? How are we to explain the different geological stratas; the evidences of mighty changes, and the great upheavals that have certainly taken place? We read that 1653 years after the creation, God determined to destroy all flesh, and with them the earth. To do this he sent the waters of the flood, and they came not only from heaven, but from the "fountains of the great deep." At the end of forty days the water had risen over 30,000 feet, or at the rate of over 750 feet each day. It was this great and wonderful volume of water that created many of the evidences of mighty changes and upheavals we see in the world, and put all the foundations of the earth out of course. Volcanic action has had very little to do with forming or changing our world, save in the immediate neighborhood of the volcanoes themselves. They are, comparatively, a modern institution, notwithstanding geology places the igneous formation at a much earlier date than the aqueous. The earth was destroyed during the flood and held in solution, and during the time, nearly twelve months, that the waters were subsiding, the earth settled and formed the different geological stratas according to their chemical affinities and specific gravity. Powerful drift currents prevented these stratas from being deposited in

uniform succession, and at times and places did not permit the deposit of certain of them at all; hence, the missing stratas and the unconformability of them found everywhere. Certain of these stratas, as they settled amid the general wreck, caught and by their peculiar chemical properties preserved the remains of all kinds of animals. Buried in these stratas are found the remains of hideous monsters and enormous reptiles. They were destroyed during the flood. There were giants on the earth in those days, and they too were totally destroyed. The human family was reduced to eight persons, and it was wise that the more powerful of the animal kingdom be utterly destroyed. The less powerful and most easily controlled of animals, "after their kind," were preserved; and all the animals that existed before the flood have their kind, or genera living to-day. This applied to the human family as well as to the animal kingdom, for the giants were annihilated. Geology teaches that a great part of the earth—i. e., the rocks—owe their origin to the action of fire. When did these fires occur? The aqueous formations are considered the most recent. Did volcanoes exist before the flood? Have we any evidence that they did exist; or if they had existed, would not the flood have totally extinguished them? Were they not formed after the flood by accumulations of drift composed of the debris of a wrecked world becoming entangled and confined in such a way that spontaneous combustion took place, creating immense pressure that finally broke through the weakest part of the deposit that had accumulated over the drift? Where these drifts have been small they have burned out, and the volcanoes have become extinct. These drifts are composed of different kinds of material. At times the volcanoes eject nothing but dry ashes, at other times the same volcano will eject vast quantities of mud and large stones; again they will eject vast quantities of melted lava. When these drifts were composed of certain kinds of material, of great trees and plants of a certain variety, and were not covered as deeply as others, combustion did not take place, but instead they underwent a change, and now form our coal-fields. We hold that the volcanic fires are merely local, and after so long a time will become extinct. We do not believe the centre of the earth is a mass of fiery heat. It may not be amiss to say that we believe in a veritable hell, and that it has a location, but not within or upon the earth. At some future time we will give you our ideas as to its whereabouts. HARD BRICK.

Assessments for Presiding Elders.

I find from the statistics of the five annual conferences of Texas for the year 1878, there was assessed for the presiding elders \$25,055.26, and there was paid to them \$15,916.60, leaving a deficit of \$9,138.66. The Mexican mission district is not included in this tabular statement; in that I find the presiding elder was paid in full, and as a matter of course, by the conference. Now, Bro. District Stewards, let me ask you to look at these figures, to weigh them well, and then ask yourselves what effect did these figures have, and what will be the result if such is perpetuated? I take it for granted you are all men of experience, and have nearly always, in the first of the year, estimated your probable income, and the current expenses likely to be incurred during the year in such a way that the end of the year would find you the possessor of at least a marginal profit. But at times, when the year closed on your labors, you have found mother earth and the seasons guilty of some short-comings, and at times values had shrunk beyond your expectations, with an occasional empty promise passing in review, upon which you had previously based some expectation. No doubt but some have been beguiled by the gilded notes in the siren song of expected income, and led into small extravagancies; hence at the end of the year found themselves sharply in debt, instead of the promised profit. This invariably brought bad, unpleasant feelings; but still they have been enabled to draw some consolation from a charge against themselves for having carried on a flirtation with Dame Fortune. But, brethren, where is the consolation your presiding elder can draw? Another point: You do violence to the steward at home on your circuits, and also to the preachers in charge. The circuit stewards make an allowance for their preacher in charge, assessing the various societies as heavily as they can bear, and present the aggregate assessment to the preacher in charge in the shape of a promise, for him to see if it will be sufficient to sustain him. Perhaps he thinks

it will, when presently here comes a heavy assessment for the presiding elder, both of which must be paid pro rata. The societies feel they are burdened by an assessment that is too heavy. Unpleasant feelings spring up between members and their stewards, and between stewards and their preachers, and sometimes between preachers and their creditors; and the whole body of Christ suffers. Last year was, financially, a hard year, and most of the societies failed to meet the assessments on them. This year is evidently worse in the prospective. Deficiencies will be greater, especially when we see assessments for presiding elders are so much greater than they were the previous year. Last year we promised our presiding elder \$50, and paid only three-fourths of that; preacher in charge accordingly. This year I see our circuit is assessed for presiding elder, \$125; mission fund augmented in proportion. For presiding elder in Galveston district this year, \$1400; havior assessment than was made in any district of all five of the conferences last year. All this, with the lights before them, of the previous year. But you will say the preacher must be paid, the laborer is worthy of his hire, etc. All very correct; but men can not accomplish impossibilities. Brethren, I must believe these empty promises errors, and perhaps the same kind of which Napoleon spoke when he said: "To let sympathy get the better of our judgment was a fatal error." It certainly is an error to excite the imagination of our preachers by holding before them a gilded picture of expectation as it passes through the lens of the magic lantern, to be followed by one of sad disappointment. Think you, brethren, that your preachers can sit, then, like patience upon a monument, and smile at grief? Ah, no! having been promised a nice little sum, he builds upon that expectation, and frequently becomes involved, and his moral character and standing as a minister, is greatly impaired. Brethren, this must be wrong; it is a game of delusion, in which too many of our ministers are the dupes, to the great detriment of our church.

D. J. PARKER, Recording and District Steward, San Felipe Co.

COLTHARP, Houston Co., April 27.—Rain in abundance. Farms and roads washed more than I have ever seen before in this county. Considerable damage done to the growing crops. Heavy hail in some places. A tornado passed over this country the 23d instant, prostrating houses in places; nobody killed that I have heard of. The grapes are reviving some. Farmers hopeful and plenty of work to do. School-teachers nearly idle; children at home working on the farms. Religious interest, as heretofore, low. Some Sabbath-schools in operation, also a few prayer-meetings. Strange things occur among us: A preacher of the order of Latter Day Saints passed through the country a few days ago. One of our Methodist brethren bolted from us and joined his church. I wish that Bro. John or some other posted man would favor us with an article on the principles of Mormonism, as he will come back again.—LOCAL PREACHER. (The editor is absent. The pro tem. is not among the "posted men" on this Mormon business. However, we venture to say there is no principle involved, except the principle of evil—and the devil manufactures that. As a mild measure, we would recommend that if the Latter-day man comes back, you have him arrested as a peace disturber. Would suggest a suit of tar and feathers, but fear Dr. John would expel us from the corps editorial when he returns.—PRO TEM.]

Children's Department.

THE BEST THAT I CAN. "I can not do much," said a little star, To make the dark world bright; My silvery beams can't struggle far, Through the folding gloom of night; But I'm only part of God's great plan, And I'll cheerfully do the best I can. What is the use, said a fleecy cloud, Of these few drops that I hold? They will hardly bend the lily, proud, Though caught in her cup of gold! Yet I'm a part of God's great plan, So my treasures I'll give as well as I can. A child went merrily forth to play, But a thought, like a silver thread, Kept winding in and out all day, Through the happy golden head. Mother said: darling, do all you can, For you are a part of God's great plan. She knew no more than the glancing star, Nor the cloud with its chalice full; Now, why, and for what all strange things were? She was only a child at school! But thought it is part of God's great plan, That even I should do all I can. So she helped a younger child along, And she sang from the heart a little song, And she all thought passing sweet; And her father, a weary, toll-worn man, Said: I too will do the best I can. Our best! oh, children, the best of us, Must hide our faces away, When the Lord of the vineyard come to look At our book at the close of the day; But for strength from above—'tis the Master's plan, We'll pray and we'll do the best that we can. (Selected.)

Uncle John's Letter.

SUNSHINE, April 17, 1879. Dear Little Children: How glad we are to get our paper now, since

so many are writing to us from so many different parts of the world; and since our good editor has so kindly given us a place in his columns for all the little letters that may come; the Good Lord bless him forever for sending out to the world so good a paper, and especially for his kindness and love for all the little children. The little letters from Macedonia, Goliad, Comanche, Helena and Belton received, and the names enrolled. Bless the Lord for inclining so many to read his holy word; already the number is many, and every week others are coming in and joining us from all over the land. Some little letters to us from beyond the Mississippi; some who used to write to uncle Bob. Lord bless the little children and help them to be good, and to begin early to walk in wisdom's ways and seek after "wisdom and knowledge." "For the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold." "She is more precious than rubies; and all the things thou canst desire are not to be compared unto her; length of days is in her right hand, and in her left hand riches and honor." "Her ways are ways of pleasantness and all her paths are peace; she is a tree of life to them that lay hold upon her, and happy is every one that retaineth her." (Proverbs iii: 14-18.)

UNCLE JOHN.

SUNSHINE, May 3, 1879.

Dear Little Children: The little letters appearing in the ADVOCATE of April 26 received, and all your names on the class-books. The good Lord bless you all, and help you to understand more and more of the Divine glory that shines in every page of His Holy Word, and catch the joyful inspiration that leads to heaven and to God. Oh! let the Bible be a lamp to our feet; a light in our path; and let us take the testimonial of the Lord as our heritage forever, and incline our hearts to perform His statutes always, even unto the end.

Little Archy wants to know who was the woman that killed the king with a nail, and the king's name, and what caused the deed, and also if it was a religious act, etc. Read Judges, fourth chapter. Sisera, the captain of Jabin's army, was the man slain. Jael, the wife of Heber, smote the nail into his temples and fastened it in the ground, while he was asleep and weary, and so he died. "So God subdued on that day Jabin, the King of Canaan, before the children of Israel."—Judges iv: 23.

"Blessed above women shall Jael, the wife of Heber, be; blessed shall she be above women in the tent."—Judges v: 24. "So let all thine enemies perish, O Lord; but let them that love Him be as the sun when he goeth forth in his might."—Judges v: 31. In this song of Deborah and Barak (Judges v) they bless the Lord for so wonderful a deliverance from so mighty an enemy, even from Jabin the King of Canaan, and Sisera with his 900 chariots of iron. The reason of all this will appear plain when we remember that Canaan and its inhabitants were cursed, the cup of their iniquity was full, and God's chosen Israel were the people elect to execute God's vengeance and wrath. Again, Israel, the chosen, only lived in the dawn of religious light and glory—the more perfect way being not yet in its fulness revealed. An "eye for an eye," and "a tooth for a tooth," seemed to be as high as Israel reached in the actual tide-lines of religious knowledge. But we, living in the sunlit blaze of gospel day, through the more glorious light of clearer revelation, by the example of Christ, "love our enemies," "pray for them that despitefully use us and abuse us," "turn the left cheek when smitten on the right," "when compelled to go a mile, go twain," and from him that would borrow of us turn not away," that we may be the children of our Father which is in heaven. Read what the Savior thought of greatness. (St. Matt. xx: 20-30.)

Uncle John is glad little Lizzie has taken the prizes, the Bible and the picture, in her Sunday-school, and that there are so many other Sunday-schools where the little children may go and learn the truth as it is in Jesus—"the way of everlasting life." The good Lord send the sunshine and be present with His glory in all your meetings.

Little Mahala has done well to read the Testament so soon. Uncle John is glad she won the prize of which she speaks, and that she is going to read again. Let us read slowly and try and understand what we read. The Lord bless you all.—UNCLE JOHN.

MAGNOLIA, Jasper Co., April 16. Dear Uncle John: I will promise to read the New Testament through this year. I am ten years old.—CHARLEY N. POWELL.

HOLLY SPRINGS, Newton County, April 16.—Dear Uncle John: You may enroll my name on your list as one who will promise to read the Testament through this year.—MATTIE ADAMS.

HOLLY SPRINGS, Newton County, April 17.—Dear Uncle John: I am a little girl eleven years old and will promise to read the Testament through this year.—ALICE ADAMS.

DAILEYVILLE, April 20.—Dear Uncle John: I see that a great many little children, some of my own little friends, have joined your Bible-class. I am reading the New Testament, and I would like to join also. I am seven years old.—EDNA MARTIN.

KAUFMAN, Kaufman Co., April 27.—Dear Uncle John: I wish to join your class. My sisters, Ellen and Fannie, aged eight and ten years, also wish their names enrolled. I am an only son twelve years old.—GARLAND C. DOUGLASS.

MAGNOLIA, Jasper Co., April 15. Dear Uncle John: I am a little boy thirteen years of age, I will promise you to read the New Testament through this year. We organized a Sabbath-school at Magnolia a few weeks ago and I love to attend.—WILLIE H. POWELL.

DAILEYVILLE, Karnes Co., April 20.—Dear Uncle John: I am seven years old. I have commenced to read the New Testament through this year with my cousin. I am living with my auntie, and would like to join your Bible class and want to be a good little girl and meet my mamma, who is in heaven.—MAUD McLANE.

BLANCO, April 24.—Dear Uncle John: You will please enroll my name as one that will read the Testament through this year. Please instruct me on I John 1: 8; and also the third chapter, first verse, of the same book. Pa takes the ADVOCATE; no family should be without it.—CLARENCE S. YORK.

CORPUS CHRISTI, April 5.—Dear Uncle John: I live in the country four miles from town. We go to the county school; we have a very good Sunday-school. I love to go school and Sunday-school, too. I will try to read the Bible through this year. Bro. Thrall preached at the school-house last week. Pa takes the CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE. I like to read the letters and postal cards. I am twelve years old.—MARY GARRETT.

OENAVILLE, Bell Co., April 23.—Dear Uncle John: I am a little girl eleven years old. I promise you I will read the Bible through this year. Bro. Farmer, my pastor, told me you had a great many little girls to promise you they would read the Bible through this year. I thought I would try and be as smart as any of them. Pa takes the ADVOCATE, and I love to read it so much. My sister, Rebecca, says she will read the New Testament through this year.—GEORGIA BELL NELSON.

ARLINGTON, Tarrant Co., May 2.—Dear Uncle John: I have commenced to read the Testament; am just seven years old; going to school and Sabbath-school. I am just getting over an attack of diphtheria. I tell you it is pretty severe on a little boy. We are to have a Sunday-school picnic next Saturday, but I fear I shall not be able to attend. I love to read the little letters, Uncle John, and your kind answers; think they are very interesting. I am like Hattie W: I want to get a peep at you.—CHARLIE ANNIS.

GONZALES, Gonzales Co., April 20.—Dear Uncle John: Mamma takes the ADVOCATE, and I have been reading the letters from some of the little children. I am a little girl ten years old; am a Bible reader. I intend to read the Testament through this year. I attend Sunday-school regularly. Year before last I missed but one question the whole year. My class were contending for a prize. I think I did as well last year, and have never failed to get the prize. I do love the Sabbath-school and my teacher.—EDNA BETTIE BASS.

CHRISTIAN, Palo Pinto Co., April 15.—Dear Uncle John: We read the ADVOCATE, and see in its columns the names of a great many promising to read the Bible through. Happy to learn of so many Bible students. We wish you to enroll our names in your Bible-class. We have one question to ask you: Is Dr. and Uncle John appellations of the same man?—SARAH AND IDA ARMSTRONG. ["Doctor" and "Uncle" John are not the same. One is "bigger" than the other; and one is better looking than the other. Now, little ones, you can send to each for his picture, and then determine "which is which."—PRO TEM.]

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Texas Christian Advocate

Calendar—May, 1879.

FOUR SUNDAYS—31 DAYS.

Calendar table with columns: Day of Month, Day of Week, Sun Rises, Moon Sets, Sun Sets, Moon Rises.

May 4—Third Sunday after Easter. May 11—Fourth Sunday after Easter. May 18—Rogation Sunday. May 25—First Sunday after ascension.

MOON'S PHASES table with columns: Day, H. Min., P. M.

HISTORICAL EVENTS—APRIL. May 1, 1745—Stainforth killed. May 2, 1739—Wesley's first field preaching. May 3, 1814—Coke died. May 4, 1824—Revs. Reece and Hannah, British fraternal messengers. May 9, 1787—Perronet died. May 10, 1820—McKendree's funeral. May 11, 1824—Summerfield in Baltimore. May 12, 1729—First corner stone of a Methodist chapel, Bristol. May 13, 1820—Bishop Soule elected. May 14, 1738—Wesley converted. May 15, 1816—Bishop Roberts and George elected. May 16, 1820—Bacon elected bishop. May 17, 1857—Mrs. Bishop Early died. May 18, 1808—McKendree ordained bishop. May 19, 1828—Canada Conference set off. May 20, 1823—Bishop Emory and Andrew elected. May 22, 1854—Eleventh Conference, London. May 23, 1828—B. R. Grief born. May 25, 1774—Second American Conference, Philadelphia. May 27, 1766—Bacon born. May 28, 1820—Bacon elected bishop. May 29, 1824—Bishops Soule and Hedding ordained. May 30, 1844—Famous slavery debate closes.

THE RIVER OF LIFE.

The more we live, more brief appear our life's succeeding stages. A day to childhood seems a year. And years like passing ages.

The gladness current of our youth, Ere passion yet disorders, Stenils lingering like a river smooth Along its grassy borders.

But as the careworn cheek grows wan, And sorrow's shafts fly thicker, Ye start, that measure life to man, Why seem your courses quicker?

When joys have lost their bloom and breath, And life itself is rapid, Why, as we near the Falls of Death, Feel we its tide more rapid?

It may be strange, yet who would change Time's course to slower speeding, When one by one our friends have gone And left our bosoms bleeding?

Heaven gives our years of fading strength Indemnifying distresses, And those of youth, a seeming length Proportioned to their sweetness.

(Thomas Campbell.)

Ministerial Support—The Other Side.

I will nothing extenuate, Nor ought set down in malice.

It has become popular of late to write on the delinquencies of stewards and the neglect of the church to pay its preachers. As there are generally two sides to a question, and as the clergy hitherto have had the discussion pretty much their own way, the time has come, perhaps, to inquire at least if there be not some good reasons for the alleged insufficient support received by some preachers.

I venture the double assumption that Methodists value the services of their pastors as highly as any other class of Christians; and that the man who fully meets his pastoral delegations, will receive from his people an adequate supply of his temporal wants.

It is nothing against these propositions that a set of self-complacent preachers call them in question on the ground that their own experience proves them false, for it may be safely affirmed of all such that their standard of ministerial fidelity is far below the mark. Their pulpits may be regularly filled, and the people, after a manner, visited, but so perfunctorily as to leave no attendant blessing—the visits are more in the interest of sociability than of spirituality, and the preaching has in it too little of the Holy Ghost to make it effective. Not unfrequently, what little good the preaching might produce is neutralized by light and chaffy conversation in the social circle. These men have taken character from the defective examples of older preachers, and are, in their time, to become models for the younger pastors growing up under their influence. Their failure to receive a liberal support is the least of the evils attaching to their ministry.

To one alive to the responsibilities of the pastoral office, it is a matter of astonishment and grief to witness on the part of men called to this position a growing neglect of the duties so essential to ministerial fidelity and success. In some cases, so little interest is felt in behalf of the people to whom he is sent that a month or two of the conference year passes before

the new pastor reports for duty; and when he comes, and plans his work, we are forced to the conclusion that the prominent idea in his arrangements is to secure the largest share of time at home. On Saturday morning, the labors of the week are suspended, and the pastor sets out on his round of weekly appointments. It is only ten miles to Shiloh, and a pleasant ride takes him there by the usual hour for worship. But as his time-saving plan requires him to preach at Sardis at night, involving another ride of ten miles in the afternoon, there is no time for a class-meeting, church conference, or pastoral work at Shiloh; so, after preaching, he merely tells the brethren who stop to speak to him, "howdy," and rides off to dinner with some brother living near his line of travel to the next appointment. As the night is short, and he has been too busy to study his sermon, he thinks it best not to keep the people together for class or conference, after his long rambling preach. The Sabbath comes, and a ride of eight miles takes him to Bethel. Here is a large membership, some of whom, from former pastoral neglect, have strayed into neglect of Christian duty, and the indulgence of bad habits; but Rehobeth must be reached by three o'clock, and a sermon preached there; so, of course, there is no time at Bethel for anything more than the usual "preach," "howdy," and hasty dinner. At the close of the afternoon sermon the people go home to supper, and as the pastor did not get his corn-patch quite planted or "worked out" last week, he improves the remaining part of the Sabbath by riding a reasonable distance towards home to be ready for work on Monday. The next Saturday and Sunday the same routine is gone through at a different point on the circuit—and so on, until the "round" is completed; and so on to the end of the year.

Now, what part of a pastor's duty have those men performed, and what claim have they on the church for a support above that of the local preacher who keeps up his regular weekly appointment and makes his own living?

The commonness of this state of things is attracting attention and the people are waking up to the fact that they are the neglected party. A lazy pastor may croak about want of liberality, and his presiding elder berate the quarterly conference for deficient finances, but until there is a return to faithfulness on the part of the preachers all will be in vain.

It may be said that many pastors are compelled to throw their appointments together on Saturday and Sunday to secure the attendance of the people. This is by no means a fact, yet were it the case, what hinders the pastor from returning to his preaching places during the week and bestowing on his people the pastoral oversight which they so much need, and which he is under such solemn delegation to render?

How many young and un instructed members are never spoken to privately by the pastor? What must become of the flock if the lambs are neglected?

Those perfunctory pastors that take no time to visit and instruct their people, propose to make it all up by holding protracted meetings when the "revival season" sets in. This may all do very well in its place, but is insufficient to meet the demands of the case. Each time the circuit preacher meets his monthly appointments imposes on him duties that must then be attended to, and he can no more make amends for this neglect by a protracted meeting in the fall than can the farmer save a neglected crop by a little vigorous labor on the eve of harvest.

Let us have done with complaints against the church for neglect of the pastor, until he, on his part, shall show some concern for his flock. If the indifference of the class of pastors of whom I write has its cause in the fact that they entered the ministry to obtain an easy and decent living, the sooner they are starved out the better for the church.

It is a pleasure to remember that there are many faithful pastors to be found, and that while God blesses their labors, the people care and provide for them. Such men—while it is true they must live—are not continually whining about a support. They feel that God has called them to the ministry and their faith can trust God for the means of living, although it may come through the people they serve. It was a remark of the sainted Marvin: "As long as God gives me bread and water to eat and drink, and home-spun clothes to wear, I will stick to the ministry." Were such devotedness more common there would be less complaint of insufficient ministerial support.

METHODIST. April 29, 1879. The tongue has no bones, but the tongue breaks bones.

"Latter Day Saints."

The above is the name of a sect that is now besieging us with rather strange doctrine for this the 19th century of gospel light. They seem to have come to call the righteous "to repentance" instead of the "sinner," judging from their unwarranted attacks upon other churches. They accept and profess the power to perform miracles, yet they languish and die. "It is appointed unto man to die, and then the judgment." This declaration has been verified in every age of the world, and coupled with it is the triumphs of a Christian faith and the glorious resurrection. One of their preachers said the other night that the doors of heaven was locked at the death of Peter, as he only was entrusted with the keys, and the only way of attaining them was through prophesy and revelation. I suppose we will learn in the next sermon that Joe Smith was the prophet to whom the transfer was made. Some unstable members of different churches are "halting between two opinions." But no sinners convicted.

Let a furor, or a panic, or a craze, or a fanatical stir of any sort, once take hold of the community, and all the teachings of experience will be ignored, and all the counsels of the wise and prudent disregarded, all the operations of the reason suspended, and society soon be turned to a Bedlam. It is a terrible calamity when the wily demagogue, or the crazy preacher gets control of the battery and galvanizes the people into frenzy. The evil is greatly aggravated, if the press also breaks loose to intensify the fanaticism. This kind of a moral epidemic is more to be dreaded than plague or pestilence. It is amazing to see how it affects not merely the rabble, but also those who ordinarily seem to carry some ballast and show some little discretion. And the evil is aggravated by the fact that, in this state of general delirium, even those who retain their senses and might do something to restrain the tornado, do not dare to utter their convictions. I thank God for our conservative Methodism—it is the daughter of reason and mother of power in the hands of the Father. We have both the Law (Bro. Law) and the Gospel this year, and look for seasons of refreshing.

J. McTHOMSON.

OSAGEVILLE, Bell Co., April 21.

While in Coleman City

I saw a great deal that I did not like to see and some few things that gave me pleasure. I did not like to see so many saloons and other places of wickedness and no place in which to worship God. I left an appointment to preach, but when the men with whom I left the appointment went to get the house—which, by the way, is the upper story of a livery stable and is used for a court-room, lecture-room, show-room, ball-room, and worshiping-room—they told him that the preaching would have to be put off, as they were going to have a ball that night and could not be disappointed. So, when I came back and found how things were, I refused to preach in a house that was used for all such worldly amusements. Now, Mr. Editor, did I do right. I proposed to preach in any other house where there was no such worldly wickedness practiced, but there was no such house found, and so I did not preach. I attended a Sabbath-school, which is carried on by the school teacher of the place, a Mr. Blair. May God bless him in his noble effort to save the little people of Coleman from following in the way that many of their parents are going. There was some twenty scholars, but only one teacher besides the heroic Blair. The school is quite young and has but few advantages as yet, so far as the library is concerned. There was some ten in the Bible class, but I am sorry to say that one of them was drunk. While the school was in session I saw two men at two different times pass through the room with their six-shooters and cartridge-belts buckled on; I also saw one little boy, I suppose about five years old, who had a wooden six-shooter stuck in his belt, and every now and then would pull it out and level it at some boy, and go through the whole maneuver of shooting. In the same room, but not the same day, I saw three little fellows have a long plank for a ten-pin alley, with some pegs set up for pins and they used marbles for balls. So you see how fast the little ones are following in the tracks their fathers make. God help the Sunday-school teacher to reclaim these precious ones. After seeing all this, and finding that our preacher in charge of the mission (Bro. Carson) has no other place to preach but this house, I went to the County Judge (Judge Reid) and asked in the name of the Methodist Church, South, for a lot to be donated, on which to build a house for the use of the church. He answered readily that the county would give the ground, and that just as soon as the Board of Trust-

tees could be appointed by the proper authority he would get an order from the Commissioner's court and make the deed. Judge Reid is a good man; may the Lord prosper him and make him very useful to the people of Coleman county. There are but few Methodists in Coleman, and it is doubtful if they could now build a house; but let us, before all choice and convenient places for a church-house are taken, secure the lot for a house. The Judge told me they would give any unappropriated lot the preacher in charge would select. On Monday night we had a fine rain; also, on Wednesday it rained nearly all day. The main traveled roads are lined with immigrant wagons. J. H. SHERRARD.

April 24, 1879.

[Of course, it is always best to have "our own house of worship"—but, in emergencies, the Advocate favors the preaching of the gospel to all manners and conditions of peoples, and in any and every place. Hence, we think, Bro. S. ought to have preached when invited.—Ed.]

RICE, Navarro Co., May 5.—The farming part of this community are on the war path. Their armies are scattered over their fields—consisting of old hats, old bonnets, old pants, old shirts, boots, socks—old anything—that will make a scare-crow. The wheat and rice-birds are here in such numberless myriads that there is danger of destruction to small grain crops. Some farmers have really abandoned hope of wheat. The constant bang-bang! of guns reminds one of a "serimmage" in war times. This has been adopted as a means to scare them away; there is no hope to kill off the millions of them. One hope left—send us some of your scary postals; or, perhaps, if the anti-tobacco men would come here and raid on these consumers of wheat instead of wasting time on consumers of mere "weed," they might do some good.—STUMPPA.

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 other spring sickness that will unfit you for a season's work. You will save time, much sickness and great expense if you will use one bottle of Hop Bitters in your family this month. Don't wait. See other column.

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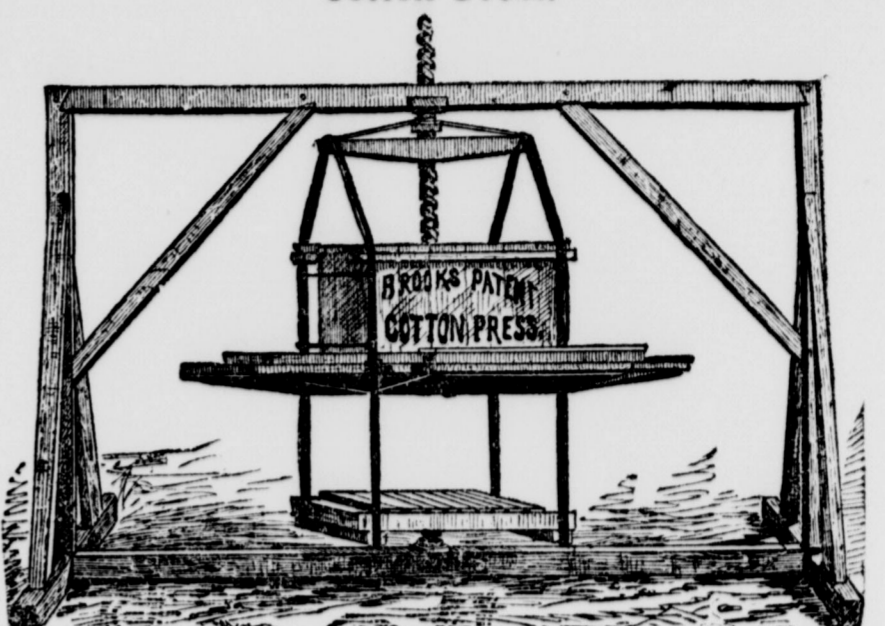
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WASHINGTON LETTER.

Personalities in Congress—Gen. Chalmers Explains his Action at Fort Pillow—The Kellogg Case in the Senate—Lively Interchanges Between Senators Saulsbury and Logan, Blaine and Voorhees—Amusing Incident in the House—A Bill that not even a Greenbacker will Advocate—The Paris Exposition Medals—Etc.—Etc.

[From our Regular Correspondent.]

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 8, 1879. Yesterday was what is generally called a "lively day" in Congress. This phrase has been used to characterize all debate or oratory of a personal nature, and it has always, directly or indirectly, some relation to questions growing out of the war. Mr. Chalmers was on his feet to explain his action at Fort Pillow; and the senate had under consideration the Kellogg-Spofford case. The resolution authorizing an inquiry into the manner of Kellogg's election was adopted by the Senate by a party vote. In order to dispose of the matter the session was extended until after 7 o'clock, and the debate stirred up party feeling considerably. Senator Ben Hill claimed the floor at first in order to settle a distinct issue he had raised with Mr. August Cameron the day before. The latter had stated, in a very positive manner, that the charge of bribery was made against Kellogg in the former contest, and thoroughly investigated by the Committee on Elections. Senator Hill denied this and made that issue at once. Yesterday, he said he had examined the record of the proceedings, and he endeavored to show by it and by the papers of Spofford, that Mr. Cameron had made a mistake. Senator Morgan produced the record to show that, upon the admission of Kellogg, he submitted an amendment to the resolution reserving to the Senate the right to subsequently make a thorough inquiry; that he was assured by the Republican leaders that this was not necessary, as that right belonged to the Senate anyhow. This he considered due notice of a purpose to make a subsequent investigation. The Republicans submitted a number of amendments; and one directing a thorough investigation of allegations against Spofford was adopted. After about a dozen had been voted down, Mr. Logan tried his hand. He wanted to direct the committee to investigate the disintegration of the Packard legislature, and had a good deal to say about illegal means resorted to for that purpose. Senator Hill, of Georgia, said "that would involve an investigation of 'Hayes' as he was the man who planned and carried out the overthrow of Packard's legislature;" that he (Hill) would have no objection to voting for a separate proposition to investigate Hayes' conduct in that matter, but he didn't care to impose that on the Committee on Elections. Senator Logan denied having intended any reference to President Hayes. In his remarks he had criticized the Committee on Elections, charging them with partisan motives, etc., to which Mr. Saulsbury replied that nothing the Senator could say would compliment the committee or offend it. Mr. Logan retorted that no such disrespectful language had ever before been applied to a senator on the floor. This aroused Senator Blaine, and he came to the assistance of Logan. In making light of Mr. Logan's amendment, he said the gentlemen on the other side were shirking the point; "yes; shirking is the word," he concluded. Mr. Voorhees wanted to remind Senator Blaine that his "plantation manners" all went for naught; it was all sound, and frightened nobody on the Democratic side. Mr. Voorhees thought the Senator from Maine had adopted his usual style, which was simply "pettifogging." Mr. Blaine retorted, and a sharp and spicy discussion ensued between him and Mr. Voorhees.

The House opened yesterday with rather a funny scene. It appears that on Monday Representative Kitchin, of North Carolina, requested Hendric B. Wright, the Pennsylvania Greenbacker, to introduce a bill for him. Without looking at the title, Mr. Wright complied with his request. It turned out to be a bill to reduce the tax on whisky. To-day Mr. Wright made a personal explanation, saying that he repudiated

the bill, as he did not favor cheap whisky. He called upon Mr. Kitchin to explain why he had imposed upon him, and said, laughingly, that if he did not so explain he would hold him personally responsible here or elsewhere. Mr. Kitchin said that he thought a greenbacker was willing to be responsible for anything; but inasmuch as Mr. Wright felt a disposition to repudiate, he would "daddy the bill."

The Gold Medals awarded to the United States' exhibitors at the recent universal exposition at Paris have been received by Commissioner General McCormick, and will be distributed during the week. The medals weigh three ounces each, and have upon one side a beautiful female head, intended to represent the Republic of France, and upon the other a figure of peace, hovering over the exposition buildings. Each medal bears the name of the exhibitor to whom it was awarded, and an accompanying diploma. The medals are 106 in number, and there are 23 "diplomas of honor," considered equal to a gold medal, and chiefly given for exhibits made by the government or by public institutions.

News of the Week.

CONGRESSIONAL.

The leading event of the week is the veto by President Hayes of the act to prohibit military interference at elections. The substance of this bill was given in the ADVOCATE last week. In his veto message, the President says: "The true rule as to the employment of military force at elections is not doubtful. No intimidation or coercion should be allowed to control or influence citizens in their rights to vote, whether it appears in the shape of combinations or evil-disposed persons, or of armed bodies of the militia of a State, or of a military force of the United States. The elections should be free from all forcible interference, and as far as practicable, from all apprehension of such interference. No soldiers, either of the union or of State militia, should be present at the polls to take the place or perform any of the duties of the ordinary civil police force. There has been and will be no violation of this rule under orders from me during this administration. But there should be no denial of the right of the national government to employ its military force on any day at any place in case such employment is necessary to enforce the Constitution and laws of the United States." In further justification of his disapproval of the bill, he cites the approval of his predecessors—Washington, Jefferson and Lincoln—of laws to use the military power in cases of emergency to execute the laws of the country. He urges also that the bill discriminates in favor of State over national authority. The Republicans, of course, endorse the President's views. The Democrats hold that they are not so much the views of the President as the dictum of the party he serves. It is alleged that the President has laid aside all appearance of fairness and liberality, and undertaken the role of an intense partisan. Mr. Reagan, of Texas, says the defect in the President's reasoning is in placing the law of 1861, signed by Lincoln, in the same category with the ante-bellum laws of Washington and Jefferson. The latter, he holds, authorized the use of the army and navy to enforce the laws only on requisition of States, while the Lincoln law authorized the same, regardless of the wishes of the States. The bill vetoed does not alter ante-bellum laws, and herein consists the President's sophistry. Mr. Mills says the message is wholly partisan, and shows that Hayes has gone over to the stalwarts hopelessly. He thinks it means no money for the army. Senator Coke says the message is the device of a demagogue. As far as he is concerned he would vote forever against the supplies for the army except upon the condition proposed. Senator Maxey says the government can get along without the army. Mr. Jones thinks the President should have approved the bill, but finds an excuse for the veto in the disrespectful attitude of the Democrats.

The House has refused to pass the army appropriation bill—without the "riders" prohibiting military influence with elections. It is, therefore, now probable that no appropriation will be made for the army. The Democrats seem dogged and determined; Republicans jubilant. Each party claim the victory. The people look on—and pay the expenses. We are forced to the conclusion that in our nation statesmanship is fast giving way to partisanship.

On Tuesday the military interference bill was called up for passage over the President's veto—and, failing to receive a two-thirds vote, the bill was lost. All the Democrats voted aye; the Repub-

licans, no. The Greenbackers—except, Balow, Forsyth and Russell, who did not vote at all—voted with the Democrats.

Congress will give no relief to the colored refugees in Kansas.

One hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars have been appropriated, and a commission appointed who shall direct and complete the surveys of the Mississippi river and report the result to the Secretary of War, together with such plans and estimates as will improve the navigation of the river and prevent destructive floods.

WASHINGTON, May 12.—The official report of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, detailing the operations of that office in suppression of illicit distillation, shows that from July, 1866, to the present time, 2638 stills have been seized, 5422 persons been arrested for illicit distillings; \$109,135 been expended for special deputies employed for the purpose of suppressing illicit distillations; nineteen killed and thirty-five wounded while thus engaged. Operations have been carried on principally in Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee, Kentucky, South Carolina, North Carolina and Virginia, in which seven States the seizures numbered 2283, and the arrests 4915. Commissioner Raum says that since March 1, 1877, in several of the districts of the Southern States, while operations for the suppression of illicit distillation were being vigorously prosecuted, many of the illicit distillers against whom warrants had been issued expressed an earnest desire to abandon their fraudulent practices, and by direction of the Attorney-General, with the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury, were permitted to come into court, plead guilty, and have their sentences suspended during good behavior. Secretary Sherman, endorsing Raum's communication, says: "The efforts made to suppress the illicit manufacture of spirits and tobacco demonstrate that in many districts this evil has become chronic, and the laws can not be enforced against offenders without the presence of an armed force adequate to overcome and persistently intimidate persons disposed to violate the law." The Secretary recommends additional legislation for better protection of internal revenue service.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The forest fires are raging very destructively in Pike county Pa., according to Scranton and New York dispatches of May 11.

Freeman and his wife (of Mass.) have been committed for trial. We gave an account last week of the killing, by Freeman, of his little daughter—under an insane idea that he was commanded by God so to do. He still maintains that he was justified, and promises an astounding revelation on the 21st. His wife, however, appears greatly crushed under the growing conviction in her mind that she aided in the perpetration of this great crime.

ATLANTA, May 12.—Four thousand dollars were collected in cash and pledges in the Southern Baptist convention to-day, for a theological seminary at Louisville, Ky.

The convention instructed the home mission board to commence a manual labor school among the Creeks in the Indian Territory by October, and approve the appointment of Rev. G. B. Hartwell as missionary among the Chinese in California. The convention will next meet in Lexington, Ky., May 1880. The report of committee on co-operation with the Northern Baptists was discussed the entire day and finally adopted unanimously as follows:

Resolved, that five brethren be appointed by the convention to bear to Baptist brethren of the Northern states, at their approaching anniversaries, the expressions of our fraternal regard, and assurances that while holding to the wisdom and policy of preserving our separate organization, we are ready, as in the past, to co-operate cordially with them in promoting the cause of Christianity in our own and foreign lands. Many eloquent and touching speeches were made, and \$1200 were collected for home missions.

Gen. Douglas H. Cooper, brother of the late U. S. Adjt. Gen. Samuel Cooper, died at Fort Wachita a few days since.

INDIANAPOLIS, May 12.—An agreement for consolidation of the Toledo and Maunee Narrow Gauge road; the Toledo, Delphos and Indianapolis; the Delphos, Bluffton and Frankford road; and the Delphos and Kokomo road, has been filed with the secretary of state. The combination will be known as the Toledo, Delphos and Burlington railroad company.

ATLANTA, Ga., May 9.—The American Medical association adjourned to-day, to meet in New York the first Tuesday in June of next year. Resolutions of thanks to the people of Atlanta were passed.

The woman suffragists in session at St. Louis make a point that while men should make common cause with the women—because, according to the decisions of the Supreme Court, every male African is the only citizen who holds a ballot in every State.

THE EXODUS.—The national colored convention met in Nashville May 8. They have adopted measures favoring emigration from the South, and asking for a half million dollars for the purpose. In some of the Republican strongholds, and in Washington city, the colored people are holding meetings to encourage exodus; but their encouragement consists mainly in inflammatory unbecoming speeches, there being in all their efforts a conspicuous absence of greenbacks—the item of greatest interest to the discontented "cullud pusson" who wants to exode. The entire movement is, without doubt, the result of partisan design—looking to the manufacture of political capital for the coming presidential campaign. The poor negro, we fear, will be the great sufferer in the long run. Already movements are afoot to supply the demands for agricultural labor from the European markets. The "exodus" had abated to a great extent—but the matter will doubtless be so agitated as to revive the migration fever. We advise our readers to be prepared for it even to invade Texas. We trust it may not—but it is best to be prepared for the emergency.

FOREIGN.

LONDON, May 10.—The Times financial article this morning says: "The value of money remains at about 1 1/2 per cent. Attention is being drawn to probable effects of the continuance of cold northerly winds upon agricultural prospects, which are already sufficiently unfavorable. Unless a change occurs soon in the temperature there can be little or no fruit, and there may probably be a serious deficiency in cereal crops, which means larger payments than usual to foreign growers, and eventually dearer money. Prominent among other prospective deficient yields on the continent is that of silk, cold winds keeping back the mulberry leaves, upon which the silk worms feed. The flow of silver to China and Japan will probably be increased from this cause.

Circumstances seem to indicate that the Turks have completely espoused the views of Russia in regard to Eastern Roumelia, viz: that Turkish troops should remain outside, leaving the insurance of tranquillity and the subsequent re-establishment of Turkish authority to the Russians.

The Times' correspondent at Bucharest says private accounts reaching here from Russia represent the situation all over that country as being beyond description; that the tendency of the so-called repressive measures is toward revolution rather than peace, as the present annoyances and outrageous oppression of all classes of the population are rapidly spreading a feeling that anything is preferable to the existing state of affairs. It is asserted that the government is really playing the game of nihilists instead of crushing out the spirit of discontent in the empire.

The Times' leading editorial article says the government has no intention of dissolving Parliament this year. When the present ministry ask the judgment of constituencies on their conduct they will be able to give a complete account of the policy and its results. At present it is in process of execution, alike in Europe and Asia, and its bearings can not be fully estimated. A few months more will show what has been the real value of the Berlin treaty and measures taken in Afghanistan. Russia, moreover, will know that the English government will remain unaltered for at least a long enough time to ensure the execution of the treaty, and she will not be tempted to evade it by hopes of our policy being altered by a change in the ministry or by appeal to constituencies.

The regular steamer line from Vera Cruz to New Orleans suspended running until the fever season is passed.

HAVANA, May 13.—The Spanish mail steamer brought several royal orders. One is relative to the extinction of the Cuban treasury bonds. Another approves conversion of the 30 per cent. contributions into quarterly installments of 61 per cent. on the net profits of commerce, industry, the arts and the professions, and 4 per cent. on the profits of rural produce and rural property, which were exempt from contribution. For the last quarter of the fiscal year perfect tranquillity has prevailed throughout the island. The drought continues.

PROCLAMATION.

For a Special Session of the Legislature. By the Governor of Texas.

We give the Governor's proclamation in full, conveying the Legislature in extra session. It enumerates twenty-nine specific subjects of legislation; but action on almost any subject can be comprehended under some one of the enumerated heads. We may, therefore, expect a prolonged session, and a repetition of the last session's wrangles that characterized the last. We can not regret that the Governor is not more limited in his demands, and less diffuse in his specifications—not that legislation on the subjects enumerated is not needed, but because the body of men convened is, unhappily, ill adapted to the task of evolving order from chaos.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE, AUSTIN, MAY 12, 1879.

Whereas, the legislature which convened on the 14th of January, 1879, adjourned sine die on the 24th of April, A. D. 1879, without passing any law in force to make annual appropriations for the support of the free common schools, for the payment of the interest and sinking fund of the bonded public debt of this State, and for other objects necessary for the successful operation of the State government, and without passing any effective laws for the more rapid disposition of business in the supreme court, and in the court of appeals, both of which courts are, and have long been, so overburdened with accumulated and accumulating cases as to impose an onerous delay upon the courts, and almost a denial of justice to many of the litigants; and without passing some other laws of an original remedial or reformatory character, that would facilitate the carrying on of the government; and an extraordinary occasion has now arisen, which it is deemed sufficient by the chief executive to convene the legislature at the seat of government, in special session, to take such action as they may think proper under and in accordance with section 60 of article 3 of the constitution of this State:

Now, therefore, I, Oran M. Roberts, governor of the State of Texas, by authority conferred upon me by the constitution, do hereby call a special session of the sixteenth legislature, to convene at the capitol at Austin, at 12 o'clock noon of Tuesday, the 10th day of June, A. D. 1879, to pass such laws as they may deem for the public good upon the following subjects of legislation, to wit:

First—To make appropriations for the annual payment of the interest on the public bonded debt of the State and for a sinking fund for the ultimate discharge of said debt if not otherwise provided.

Second—To provide for the sale of the public lands, now amounting to over 15,000,000 of acres, in order to pay off the public debt, and to provide a means for the collection of taxes, and to save the necessity of imposing on the people, as soon as practicable, taxes to pay the interest on it, now amounting annually to nearly \$3,000,000.

Third—To make an appropriation of a specific amount for the annual support of the free common schools, out of the interest of the State and railroad bonds, now over \$3,000,000 in amount, and so much more out of the general revenue as can be spared therefrom after providing for the prompt payment of the necessary expenses of an efficient and economical State government, and to repeal all laws or parts of laws that undertake to set apart and designate the amount of said annual appropriation for said purpose, in advance of or differently from the said specific appropriation now to be made, in order that hereafter each recurring appropriation may be left entirely free to determine the amount that can be safely appropriated specifically for said purpose under the then existing financial condition of the State.

Fourth—To provide for the sale more expeditiously of the lands belonging to and set apart to the free common school permanent fund, amounting now in surveyed and unsurveyed lands to about thirty-five millions of acres, and to raise a large fund in the shape of interest-bearing bonds to enable this State, as soon as possible, to establish and make suitable provision for the support and maintenance of an efficient system of public free schools, which is required by the constitution, which has not yet been done, or even approximated by any very large appropriation of one-fourth of the entire revenue raised by taxation annually added by the interest of \$3,000,000 of State and railroad bonds belonging to its fund, and to be paid by a direct State tax without the aid of a large fund yielding interest, and it may be not then without the aid of a voluntary local taxation as is done in other States.

Fifth—To provide for the sale of the university lands more expeditiously and the investment of the proceeds thereof in the purchase of bonds, money and notes belonging to said fund something less than one-half a million of dollars, and of lands, surveyed and unsurveyed, one million and over two hundred acres, in order that in some reasonable time in the future a State university may be established, which has already been deferred forty years since the donation of fifty leagues of land to it, and may be deferred forty more under the present mode of selling and not selling its lands.

Sixth—To provide for the sale and investment of the proceeds of the lands belonging to the funds of the lunatic asylum, of the blind and deaf and dumb institutions, and of the orphan asylum, now consisting of over four hundred thousand acres, to aid in the support of those institutions, which now cost over \$75,000 annually out of the general revenue of the State from taxation, and should be enlarged as soon as practicable to receive double the number of inmates, if all were received that should be received.

Seventh—To provide for appropriation out of the general revenue for defraying incidental expenses of the board of education, in the management of the free common schools, and for the expenses of the normal schools at Huntsville and Prairie View, instead of drawing them from the fund set apart for the support of the free common schools, which the constitution requires to be distributed to the counties according to their scholastic population, and to repeal or amend all laws that require that appropriations from the general revenue as here indicated.

Eighth—To amend the law establishing the Agricultural and Mechanical college at Bryan, so as to allow the board of directors to devote and apply the interest of its fund or a part of it to other purposes than to pay "stipends, professors and officers," so that it may be made more conformable to the design of said institution, for the education of skilled labor in agriculture and the mechanic arts.

Ninth—To make an appropriation and amendments for prompt execution of the laws passed at the late session of the legislature for the collection of back taxes and for the collection of taxes from non-residents in the unorganized counties.

Tenth—To provide more efficient laws to regulate the organization of new counties and to amend the laws for the appointment of officers in the unorganized counties.

Eleventh—To make additional appropriation upon various subjects in the public service, that upon examination may be found wanting or deficient, so that warrants can be issued for all necessary expenses.

Twelfth—To provide by law for the return to the comptroller's office before the opening of each regular session of the legislature of all sheriffs' attorneys or other valid claims against the State for which warrants may not have been issued, so that correct estimates may be made of any deficiencies in the appropriations, and to provide against the issuance of "O. K." certificates.

Thirteenth—To provide adequate penalties for the embezzlement of the funds collected for the lunatic asylum, and for the return of such according to law to the State treasury, and to authorize the prosecutions to be maintained in the county court by original jurisdiction or by the change of venue in such cases.

Fourteenth—To amend the law letting out on contract the conveying of convicts to the penitentiary, so as to permit the sheriff to carry them in one week after adjournment of the court, if the contractor does not apply for them.

Fifteenth—To provide for the appointment of a financial agent to act in aid of our members of congress in prosecuting and collecting our claims against the United States, to be paid out of what may be collected.

Sixteenth—To make appropriations and provisions that may be necessary to receive and accommodate in the lunatic asylum, and in the blind and dumb institutions, all such persons in the State as are entitled under the laws to have the benefit of said charities, many of whom cannot now be received and accommodated in such institutions.

Seventeenth—To amend the laws relating to the Adjutant-General's department, so as to authorize the purchase of a lot for the erection of the arsenal provided for, outside of the capitol grounds; to equalize the compensation and arming of the police and frontier force, and to equalize the salary of the clerk with other clerks of the same grade.

Eighteenth—To provide for the appointment of a board or boards, when necessary, to inspect

and condemn for the sale, exchange or destruction of useless or defective property, belonging or pertaining to any of the executive departments or State institutions, or State boards.

Nineteenth—To make a contingent appropriation, to be used, if necessary, in the purchase of the lease of the penitentiary is abandoned, or its control is resumed for any cause by the Governor, which appropriation should be though not used, it should be repeated for the interest of the State.

Twentieth—To amend the law so as to allow indigent convicts who are placed out of the penitentiary to be furnished with clothing and transportation, the same as other discharged convicts are by law.

Twenty-first—To provide for sheriffs', clerks', attorneys' accounts against the State, in criminal cases, to be made out separately, under oath, and to be allowed by the judge and recorded in the minutes of the court at the term in which said cases are tried, and to require the judge to disallow said accounts for the trial or conviction of each party when several are tried together, and to disallow a repetition of said accounts when the same party or parties are tried or convicted on several indictments founded on the same transaction.

Twenty-second—To provide for a commission or other tribunal, or some remedy in aid of the supreme court and the court of appeals in the dispatch of the business that has accumulated in said courts beyond their capacity to decide; the said courts being now almost choked with cases behind in their business from year to year.

Twenty-third—To provide for a change or transfer of the civil jurisdiction of the different county courts, or any one or more of them, and a corresponding change in the jurisdiction of other courts under the provisions of the constitution allowing it, so as to relieve the courts of appeals, as far as practicable, from the trial of any other than criminal cases.

Twenty-fourth—To provide for the protection of the interests of the State in the sale of the passage of such laws as may be necessary in relation to the Mercer Colony claim, and any suit or suits that have been or may be brought concerning it, or any claim against the State or department or officer thereof.

Twenty-fifth—To provide for a State Board of Health to examine and report on the sanitary condition of the State, and to have authority to attorneys and agents of the State to bid for and buy in for the State, lands sold under execution issued upon judgments in favor of the State, or any county, or any person, so as to collect the money due the State, and the same authority to the attorneys and agents of the counties to collect money in similar cases coming to the counties.

Twenty-eighth—To amend the tax law making a discrimination in favor of sleeping cars owned by persons or companies in this State, and impose such tax upon all sleeping cars as the Legislature may deem proper.

Twenty-ninth—To re-enact the law of 1876 for the collection of taxes on delinquent lists, repealed as is supposed by mistake, in the passage of a law for the collection of taxes on lands which had not been returned to the State, subjects to which the attention of the Legislature may be called during its special session by messages from the Chief Executive of the State.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my name and cause the seal of the State to be affixed, at the city of Austin, this 12th day of May, A. D. 1879.

By the Governor: O. M. ROBERTS, Governor.

J. M. TEMPLETON, Secretary of State.

ABOUT CHURCH CHOIRS.—A writer in the Occident tells of a church choir in San Francisco where the leading soprano sings, "Jesus, Lover of my Soul," and "Salvation, O, the Joyful Sound," in a way to thrill the hearts of the people and bring tears to their eyes. And then, the hymns being finished, the sweet Gentle singer "crouches behind the curtain of the organ gallery, takes a novel from her pocket, and reads it all through the sermon." The Christian Intelligencer, on commenting on this, says: "But, bad as this is, it isn't quite as bad as for an organ to go off for a string of hours, hymns, and we have known such things in this city Brooklyn, and elsewhere."

BISHOP EDWARD R. AMES, LL. D., who died April 25, was born in Amesville, Adams Co., Ohio, May 20, 1806. In 1827, while a student in Ohio Wesleyan University, he was soundly converted to God, and, we believe, had the comfort of leading his father to the same Savior. He entered the Illinois Conference in 1830, and when Indiana Conference was formed in 1832, became a member of it. In 1840 he was elected Missionary secretary for the West, filling the office in an able manner for four years. He was then preacher and Presiding Elder until 1852. Was elected to, but did not accept, the presidency of Indiana Asbury University. He was a member of General Conference in '30, '44 and '52. At the latter conference he was elected Moderator. His life has thus been an important part of the history of this Church.

DEATH RATE.

Table with columns: AMERICAN CITIES, POPULATION, DEATH RATE PER 1,000. Lists cities like New York, Philadelphia, Chicago, St. Louis, Boston, Baltimore, San Francisco, Cincinnati, New Orleans, Washington, Pittsburgh, Providence, Charleston, London, Berlin, Vienna, Glasgow, Liverpool, Birmingham, Manchester, Belfast, Turin, Venice, Copenhagen, Calcutta, Havana, Melbourne, Alexandria.

Plan of Episcopal Visitation, 1879.

Table with columns: FIRST DISTRICT—BISHOP DOUGLASS, WESTERN VA. CONF.—Sept. 3—Charleburg, Kentucky Conf.—Oct. 12—Danville, Louisville Conf.—Oct. 1—Madisonville, North Georgia Conf.—Nov. 26—Augusta, South Georgia Conf.—Dec. 22—Fayette, Florida Conf.—Dec. 17—Tallahassee. SECOND DISTRICT—BISHOP WRIGHTMAN, Illinois Conf.—Sept. 3—Kinnandy, Missouri Conf.—Sept. 19—Louisiana, W. Missouri Conf.—Sept. 23—Kansas, Virginia Conf.—Nov. 19—Norfolk, North Carolina Conf.—Dec. 3—Wilson, South Carolina Conf.—Dec. 17—Charleston. THIRD DISTRICT—BISHOP KAYANAGUB, Indiana Conf.—Sept. 24—Evansport, Memphis Conf.—Nov. 19—Mayfield, North Mississippi Conf.—Dec. 3—Water Valley, Mississippi Conf.—Dec. 17—Meridian. FOURTH DISTRICT—BISHOP N. TYLER, W. Texas Conf.—Oct. 13—Bonrad, German Miss'n Conf.—Oct. 22—Hillsboro, N. W. Texas Conf.—Oct. 29—Fort Worth, North Texas Conf.—Nov. 5—Sherman, East Texas Conf.—Dec. 23—Palestine, Texas Conf.—Dec. 10—Austin. FIFTH DISTRICT—BISHOP PIERCE, Indian Miss'n Conf.—Sept. 10—Double Springs, St. Louis Conf.—Sept. 24—Fredericktown, Louisiana Conf.—Oct. 22—Abingdon, Arkansas Conf.—Nov. 12—Fayette, White River Conf.—Nov. 26—Forest City, Little Rock Conf.—Dec. 10—Camden. SIXTH DISTRICT—BISHOP FAIRBANK, Tennessee Conf.—Oct. 28—Murfreesboro, North Alabama Conf.—Nov. 25—Tuscumbia, Alabama Conf.—Dec. 17—Tuskegee. SEVENTH DISTRICT—BISHOP KEENER, Western Conf.—Aug. 20—Council Grove, Denver Conf.—Aug. 27—Denver, Montana Conf.—Sept. 11—Willow Creek, Columbia Conf.—Sept. 17—Abilene, Pacific Conf.—Oct. 8—Sacramento, Los Angeles Conf.—Oct. 22—Los Angeles, Louisiana Conf.—Nov. 19—Baton Rouge, Baltimore Conf.—Mar. 5—Front Royal. Bishop McTear has charge of the Mission in China. Bishop Keener has charge of the Mission in Brazil and Mexico.