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## Texas Christian Advocate

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

Written and compiled for the ADVOCATE, CHRISTMAS.

### A Holy Commemoration and a Cheerful Festival—Ancient and Modern Observances of the Day—The Legend of Santa Claus—Little Dick's Christmas: A Holiday Story.

#### THE FESTIVAL OF CHRISTMAS.

When Christmas morning comes, they say, The whole world knows it's Christmas Day; The very cattle in the stalls Kneel when the blessed midnight falls. And all the night the heavens shine With lustre of a light divine. Long ere the dawn the children leap With "merry Christmas!" in their sleep; And dream about the Christmas tree Or rise, their stockings filled, to see. Swift come the hours of joy and cheer, Of loving friends and kindred dear; Of gifts and bounties in the air, Sped by the "merry Christmas" prayer. While through it all, so sweet and strong, Is heard the holy angels' song: "Glory be to God above! On earth be peace and helpful love!" And on the street or hearts within, The Christmas carolings begin: "Waken, Christian children, Up and let us sing With glad voice the praises Of our new-born King. "Come, nor fear to seek Him, Children though we be; Once He said of children: Let them come to Me. "Haste we then to welcome, With a joyous lay Christ, the king of glory, Born for us to-day."

Christmas is a festival of the Christian Church, observed on the 25th of December in commemoration of the birth of the Savior. Its institution dates back to the time of Telesphorus, who died A. D. 128, and throughout the subsequent history of the church it has been one of the most noted of Christian solemnities. Christmas has always been regarded in the double light of a holy commemoration and a cheerful festival, and was accordingly distinguished by devotion, by vacation from business and by merriment. During the middle ages it was celebrated by the gay, fantastic spectacle of dramatic mysteries and moralities, performed by personages in grotesque masks and singular costumes, the scenery usually representing an infant in a cradle, surrounded by the Virgin Mary and St. Joseph, by bulls' heads, cherubs, Eastern magi and manifold ornaments. The custom of singing canticles at Christmas, called carols, which recalls the songs of the shepherds at the birth of Christ, dates from the time when the common people ceased to understand Latin. The bishops of the lower clergy often joined with the populace in carolling, and the songs were embellished with dances and by the music of tambours, guitars, violins and organs. Many of the games and ceremonies of Christmas have entirely disappeared, and like the sherries and sack of old Falstaff, are becoming matters of speculation and dispute among commentators. Shorn, however, as it is of its ancient and festive honors, Christmas is still a period of delightful excitement in both England and America. The old ceremony of setting up the boar's head on Christmas day is still observed in the hall of Queen's College, Oxford, in England. The peacock was an important dish for the Christmas feast; and Massinger in his "City Madam" gives some idea of the extravagance with which this, as well as other dishes, was prepared for the gorgeous revels of the olden time. The yule clog, a great log of wood, was laid in the fire-place on Christmas Eve with great ceremony and lighted with the brand of last year's clog. It was to burn all night; if it went out, it was considered a sign of ill-luck. The mistletoe is still hung up in farm houses and kitchens throughout England at Christmas; and the young men have the privilege of kissing the girls under it, plucking each time a berry from the bush; when the berries are all plucked, the privilege ceases. The mistletoe is a parasite, which fastens its roots and tendrils so firmly and closely to the tree over which it grows, that it is often difficult to tell where the tree leaves off and the parasite begins. Its leaves are of a dull green color, and it bears white, wax-like berries. It has boughs and branches, and long, tough leaves, and it looks like other and more honest plants, which do not steal their support. It sucks the life from the fruit trees, which, after a while, droop, wither and die, forming a mere support for the plant. There is a story of an Englishman who was so attached to the Christmas customs of his country that when he removed his home to California he carried with him some of the mistletoe and set it upon apple trees. But the transplanted parasite did not seem to care for the apple trees of America when it could

have richer food. So it left these and fastened itself to the wild plum trees, which grew profusely in that region. So strong did the mistletoe become in that fruitful climate that it finally sapped out the life of the wild plum trees of the neighborhood far and wide. And that was not all. A tribe of debased Indians, called "Diggers," had always depended on the wild plum trees for a living. The mistletoe killed the plum trees, and the failure of the plum harvest caused famine, distress and death among the hapless "Diggers." Amidst the general call to happiness, the bustle of the spirits and stir of the affections which prevail at Christmas, what bosom can remain insensible? It is, indeed, the season of regenerated feeling—the season for kindling, not merely the fire of hospitality in the hall, but the genial beam of charity in the heart. The scene of early love again rises green to memory beyond the sterile waste of years; the idea of home, fraught with the fragrance of home-dwelling joys, reanimates the drooping spirits—as the Arabian breeze will sometimes waft the freshness of the distant fields to the weary pilgrim of the desert.

#### THE LEGEND OF SANTA CLAUS.

"He comes in the night! He comes in the night! He softly, silently comes— While the little brown hats on the pillows so white Are dreaming of bugles and drums, He cuts through the snow like a ship through the foam, While the white flakes around him whirl; Who tells him I know not, but he findeth the home Of each good little boy and girl.

"His sleigh it is long, and deep and wide; It will carry a host of things, While dozens of drums hang round on his sides. With the sticks sticking under the strings, And yet not the sound of a drum is heard. Not a bugle blast is blown, As he mounts to the chimney top like a bird And drops to the hearth like a stone.

"The little red stockings he silently fills, Till the stockings will hold no more; The bright little sleds for the great snow hills Are quickly set down on the floor. Then Santa Claus mounts the roof like a bird, And glides to his seat in the sleigh; Not the sound of a bugle or drum is heard, As he noiselessly glides away.

"He rides to the West, he rides to the East, Of his goodies he touches not one; He catches the crumbs of the Christmas feast When the dear little folks are done; Old Santa Claus doeth all that he can— This beautiful mission is his— Then, children, be good to the little old man When you find who the little man is."

It is a beautiful legend, and so ancient that the "memory of man runneth not to the contrary." German in its origin, poetical in its nature, and dear to the hearts of each succeeding generation, this pleasing story will long continue to brighten the faces of the little ones. Being of a devout disposition and vowed to celibacy, he constructed a small hut just within the edge of a thick wood, furnished it with the rude necessities of a celibate's home, and for occupation cultivated a small garden in the summer, and in the winter he gave his time to the children of the neighborhood. He acknowledged but one purpose in life, and that was in securing the happiness of the little ones. Every one within a great circuit knew him familiarly, and the children loved him with a devotion only born of the tenderest care and attention to their wants. Every year the attachment between Uncle Nick—as he was called—and the children grew stronger, and his love, which he reverently regarded as duty, became so strong that when death came to summon him, he appealed to the gods to grant him a new lease on life. His entreaties delayed the impending stroke of death, and finally brought to him a celestial messenger, to whom he related his story of love for children and begged that he might be allowed to live, blessing them until all the little ones of the world were grown to full estate. So pure and devout had been the life of Uncle Nick, that his entreaties were considered by the court of heaven, and Death was ordered to pass over the house of the good celibate; but, as the law was inexorable that all souls shall return to Him who gave them, he was carried up in a whirlwind of flame to the great white throne. The Lord made him a saint without submitting him to the crucible of death, and as a reward for his piety gave him a commission to visit the earth once every year, on the evening preceding the anniversary of Christ's birth, that he might again carry joy to the hearts of all children, and in the continued manifestation of his loving care remind them of his existence and home behind the stars. During the winter season in South Germany red shadows are often seen against the sky, seeing which, the little ones run to their parents exclaiming: "Der peitschichl kommt, den ich sehe das Licht weiches von Sinnen wachsen rock der flammen scheint." (Uncle Nick is coming, for I see the light which shines from his great coat of flame.) The origin of the different appellations by which Uncle Nick is known is readily seen in the foregoing legend; St. Nicholas, Santa Claus, or the Saint of Cloughs, and Christian Kringle, or Chris. Crinkle—all derived from his saintship, real name, and the town near which he lived.

#### LITTLE DICK'S CHRISTMAS.

Hang up the baby's stocking, Be sure you don't forget— The dear little dimpled darling! she's never saw Christmas yet; But I've told her all about it, And she opened her big blue eyes, And I'm sure she understands it, She looks so funny and wise.

Dear! what a tiny stocking, It doesn't take much to hold Such pink toes as baby's Away from the frost and cold. But then, for the baby's Christmas It will never do at all; Why Santa wouldn't be looking For anything half so small!

I know what we'll do for the baby— I've thought of the very best plan— I'll borrow a stocking of grandma. The longest that ever I can; And you'll hang it by mine, dear mother, Right here in the corner, so, And write a letter to santa, And fasten it on the toe.

Write: "This is the baby's stocking That hangs in the corner here; You never have seen her, Santa, For she only came this year; But she's just the blessedest baby— And now before you go, Just cran her stockings with goodies, From the top clean down to the toe."

All over the land, in palatial residences and humble cottages, on Christmas Eve, just before the bright-eyed, prattling babies are cosily tucked up in their little beds, such scenes as above described by the poet may be witnessed. Still, however, it would seem that there are clouds without silver linings. The writer saw, accidentally, some years ago a memorandum given by a lady to her husband for Christmas gifts to be purchased in another city. It described by name what was wanted for the older children and the baby-boy of the family; and at the bottom was this line: "And a trifle for John. He has no father." And how many little Johns there are in this wide world who will have no father on this Christmas of 1879! Santa Claus will be a stranger to many little Johns. Many a pale-faced mother will sit over the scanty embers furnished by the hand of charity, and look out upon the bleak world, while tears of sorrow will sparkle in her sunken and saddened eyes as she beholds the empty hands of her darling child! It was Christmas Eve, and little Dick Hall, as he sat eating his course bread and milk, looked up at his mother's care-worn face and said: "Mother, do you think I'll get any presents to-morrow?"

Mrs. Hall was a widow, whose husband had been dead several years, and who, dying, had left her nothing but the little house in which she lived, and it was only by the greatest self-denial and hard work that she managed to make a living for herself and child. And yet, such as it was, she was thankful. She placed all her trust in Him who "heareth the sparrows when they cry," and she never doubted but that in His own good time all would be well; and in answer to Dick's question she asked: "How old are you, Richard?" Pushing aside his now empty bowl, and drawing his thin, meagre little figure to its utmost height, Dick said, proudly: "Why, mamma, I was eight last Monday. See! I am almost a man."

The widow smiled at his boyish eagerness to be a man, and calling him to her, she placed her arm around him and said: "Yes, my dear, you are quite a man, and your mother is sorry that she can not get you any presents this year; but she has been too poor to buy you anything. But to-morrow you shall carry this sewing home to Mrs. Morris, and you may have half the money to buy anything you wish. I tried hard to have it done in time to deliver to-night, but failed. I wished to get you something."

For answer to this, the boy threw his arms tenderly about his mother's neck, saying: "Oh! mother, how good and kind you are."

They did not burn two fires at the widow Hall's, as fuel was too dear to be unnecessarily wasted, although many a night after her boy was asleep, the poor woman would sit and sew until the gray dawn of morning. So Dick got his little Bible and, after reading his chapter and saying his prayers, went to bed, while his mother sat diligently sewing until the city bell rang out the midnight hour, and then, her work being finished, she folded and laid it away, and retired to her rest.

Although poor, Mrs. Hall had not always been so, her father having been a prosperous merchant, but subsequently losing all during a financial panic. After her marriage with Mr. Hall, her only brother started for the gold fields in search of a fortune, and although she had written many letters to him, she had never received any word from him, and had long regarded him as dead.

Christmas morning dawned clear and beautiful, and little Dick Hall rising early and kindling a fire, soon had the kettle singing merrily. Then, after placing two bowls on the little pine table, putting the milk to warm on the stove, and getting the corn-bread and salt from the cupboard, he went to the door of his mother's room and knocking gently, cried:

"Merry Christmas, mamma! Breakfast's ready."

We wonder how many children who read this story in the CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE ever sit down to such a scanty breakfast as that prepared by little Dick Hall. After breakfast Dick set out with the sewing for Mrs. Morris, who promptly paid for the work and gave him besides a nice red apple, which he put into his pocket to keep for his mother, and then started joyfully to secure his Christmas present. Having received fifty cents from Mrs. Morris, Dick had twenty-five cents as his own. He had already made up his mind what he should buy. And what do you think it was? A pair of warm gloves for his mother. He never once thought how cold his own fingers were; but he remembered how red his mother's looked when she came home from her errands.

As he entered the store, a gentleman stood talking with the proprietor; but when Dick drew near the counter, he at once received attention. Dick very timidly asked if he had any two-bit gloves. The store-keeper said "no;" but struck by the look of disappointment on the boy's face, added:

"Let me see. Here is a pair with a small hole in them, which you can have at that price. Your mother can easily mend it."

Dick thanked him, and handing him the money went out. As he reached the sidewalk, he was startled by a hand being laid upon his shoulder, and turning, saw before him the gentleman he had left standing in the store, who placed his hand upon his head and said kindly:

"My lad, will you tell me your name?" The boy politely answered: "My name, sir, is Richard Hall."

At the name the gentleman started, his hand fell from the boy's head, and he asked hurriedly:

"Is your mother living, my boy?" Being answered in the affirmative, the gentleman requested Dick to lead him to his home, and on the way revealed the fact that he was Mrs. Hall's long lost brother and Dick's uncle.

It is scarcely necessary to add that it turned out a joyous Christmas for the Halls. In the evening Dick's uncle narrated the story of his adventures. How he had never gone to the gold diggings, but went to sea instead; how he had written to his sister, but had never received anything from her. And lastly, that he had become rich and had purchased their dear old home, which he found, on visiting it, was for sale; and how he had almost despaired of finding his sister, whom chance at last had thrown in his way.

Perhaps, you have read something like this in story-books? Well, we won't undertake to deny it; for the most remarkable coincidences do occur from time to time. But we won't admit that any reader of the ADVOCATE ever saw or even heard of a happier boy than little Dick Hall on and after that memorable Christmas. By New Years he was in his new home, and you may be sure that he did not then want for presents. And he never, to his credit be it said, forgot the poor. He had tasted the cup of poverty and knew its bitterness. He would spread before them all the pocket money given him by his uncle; and here, with the wish that his Christmases may be merry and many, we must leave him.

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## Texas Christian Advocate

KATHLEEN DOUGLAS.

BY JULIA PHIFER TRUITT.

## CHAPTER IV.

To the spirit its splendid conjunctures,  
To the flesh its sweet despair,  
Its tears o'er the time-worn locket  
With its beauty of deathless hair."

—JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL.

I did not go the old church again. My mother kept me with her the next evening, and I read to her poem after poem. At last she called for "Thanatopsis," and made me read over and over again those last solemn lines:

— sustained and soothed

By an unflinching trust, approach thy grave  
Like one who wraps the drapery of his couch  
About him and lies down to pleasant dreams."

Afterwards I read other things—the tender utterances of the holy Nazarene in that last week of His earthly existence. My mother sat in the window, with her eyes fixed on the flame-colored sunset, where it shone on some lofty church-spire; for we could not see the sun go down now as we used to see it on the hills. Silence fell upon us, and following the direction of the eyes, I could see the shadow steadily creeping up the spire, drowning out the sunlight as it went. It glistened last of all on the golden vane, and as the light faded from it, too, I began musingly repeating from memory:

"The day of life is done!  
And set the sun.  
Eyes dim to fairest sights that earth can show  
Bars heedless, though entrancing music flow:

And marble brow  
Unwrinkled now,  
Indeed, the day is done!"

"But is the day yet done?  
And set the sun?"

When seas of amber light transfigure the air,  
And paradisaical flowers bloom everywhere?  
O'er purple hills  
The sunrise thrills—  
Heaven's day is just begun."

"But this day is gone," said my mother, with a tender solemnity that had become habitual with her. "Can you tell what has become of it, child? Will it be waiting for us on the other side, I wonder? Will it stand up accusingly before the bar of God and show how we have soiled its purity, or desecrated its holiness, or nailed it to the cross of sin and worldliness? Will it tell how we went to its teeming harvest-fields and came back empty-handed? Will it tell how we trampled down the precious gifts it offered us, while we held up our hands and begged for more? Child, make it the aim of your life never to send an accusing day to God!"

I partly understood her meaning, even then; and crept closer to her in the gathering shadows. We were sitting thus when Gretchen came in, and close behind her, Mr. Kingsley.

My mother had sent for him, then. Ah! that explained Gretchen's absence. I flew to meet him with a cry of rapture, and his arm clasped me tenderly. When I looked at my mother again, she leaned back in the invalid chair, and was smiling, with her hand pressed on her heart.

Gretchen brought lights and dropped the curtains; and then, to my intense surprise and disappointment, my mother sent me to my room. The interview was not a very long one. I never knew all that passed—years afterward I learned something of those solemn utterances. When they called me back after awhile, Mr. Kingsley quietly drew me to his side and kissed me, softly and tenderly. It made me love him then far more than I had thought of doing. I am sure, now, that my mother read in it the sign that he accepted her last bequest.

This was not the meeting that I had expected. For more than a year I had looked forward to something very different; but now that I saw Mr. Kingsley, I was too frightened by a certain strangeness in my mother's manner and in his, to think of the many things I had stored away to say to him. He sat for a few moments with his arm around me, and then, as he rose to depart, asked my mother, gently and quietly:

"Have you told her yet?"

"Not yet. It is hard to do, and she will learn soon enough."

"Let me tell her to-morrow?" he said, in the same tone; and my mother replied:

"Very well; to-morrow."

I saw him go away, and my heart grew heavy with dread. But though I wearied my mind with conjectures, I could not tell what the mystery was. Why were they all so sad? Why did Mr. Kingsley speak in that way? Why did our landlady and her daughter cease talking when I came near them, and turn to look after me as I went away? Since they all knew it, had not I a right to know it, too, as well as the rest? I was to hear it to-morrow, it seemed. But to-morrow was long in coming. I lay on my bed, tossing restlessly, and wondering why the nights seemed so much longer than the days.

Away in the night, the thought came that it might be something about me. Perhaps I had done something wrong—something very wrong—and Mr. Kingsley was going to tell me of it. The thought smote my childish heart with sudden horror. I could bear reproach from my mother, but not from him. Terrified at the idea, I slipped from my bed and ran into my mother's room. The light was burning dimly, and I saw that she was still awake. She held out her

arms toward me, when she saw me, and I threw myself into them with a bitter cry.

"Mamma! Tell me what is the matter? Is it about me? Have I done anything wrong?"

"You!" she said, kissing me tenderly. "Ah! no, Kathleen. You are a good child. You always were a good child. You have been my only comfort, dear, in all these weary years."

"Have I? Oh, mamma!" I cried, delighted with her praise. "But I'll try to be better hereafter—indeed, I will—and I'll make you so happy, mamma."

My mother's face grew paler in the uncertain light, but she answered steadily:

"I hope you will grow up to be a noble woman, tender and true. And remember this, Kathleen: If I should die, it remains to you alone to defend your mother's memory. Defend it by believing in her; defend it by a pure, earnest womanhood of your own. Now go back to your sleep, child. It will soon be day, and we must watch the sunrise."

I went quietly back to bed, and slept until sunrise was tingling all the roofs and turning the church spires to gold. Then I arose and dressed, and went softly into my mother's room. Something in her sleeping face made me hasten to the window and look at the dawn. A long shaft of sunrise pierced between the houses, entered the silent room, and falling upon my mother's face, and glorified it, as though it had just come down from some Mount of Transfiguration. Perhaps it had, indeed; for my mother was sleeping very quietly, and would not open her eyes again through all the rising and setting of suns.

This was what it meant, then. This was what they were to tell me—to-morrow! The morrow had come, and told its own story; and I stood there, a little, trembling child, alone with Death, not crying out nor moaning, but crushed under a universe of grief. That golden glimpse of sunrise turned paler, and slipped from her face down upon the bed, and so crept down to the floor. Then Gretchen came to the door and opened it, and forthwith uttered a shriek and ran screaming down stairs. In a moment, it seemed, there were low voices everywhere, full of alarm; and people came into the room, and I heard them crying. Our landlady came and knelt down by me, and talked to me, with streaming eyes; and I heard her, and looked quietly beyond her to the still, white face that would not light up again, though I should break my heart with crying. Why could they not have told me before? That was the thought that made me feel fierce and bitter, in that first awful hour. What was the good of all their crying now? She was gone beyond their reach, or mine—snatched away without time to say goodbye. The mournfulness of an awful truth forced itself upon me then, young as I was—the truth that

"Death quiet unfellows us,  
sets dreadful odds betwixt the live and dead,  
And makes us part as those at Babel did,  
Thro' sudden ignorance of a common tongue."

The doctor came, and a sudden wild hope that fluttered up in my heart sank down and died when I saw his face. I went away to my room and shut myself up. I wished the walls were stone, thick enough to shut out every sound; for though I buried my face in the pillow and pressed my hands upon my ears, I seemed to hear every whisper, and every muffled footstep in the other room, and I knew that they were preparing that lovely, placid form for its eternal repose.

Some of them opened the door, after awhile, and looked at me; but they came no further. I heard one of the women say:

"She ought to be roused, some way. She had better cry, like any other child, than keep so still."

But Gretchen interposed: "She is best let alone," she said. "She has her own way of doing and thinking, and people that don't understand had better not meddle."

So they left me to my own way, and I wondered vaguely what it was, and if it was different from other people's way. And while I wondered on and on, the morning dragged away, and then the afternoon began dragging out its cruel length. Why this was worse than death. It would be better for me to be found, like her, with that deathless smile upon my face. Why could it not come to me, as it did to her?

My thinking became confused. I could not hold a thought long enough to see what it was like, before it waved its wings and was gone. When I looked up, the familiar objects in the room were changing, shifting places, swelling, decreasing. Then I dreamed that Mr. Kingsley came in, with a divine compassion in his face, and that he took me in his arms tenderly. Then I thought I was dying, too, and felt the world whirling away into darkness and silence, taking me with it.

I seemed to lie with closed eyes, feeling the earth swing round and round in space. Sometimes it took me near the sun—so close that I could feel its scorching rays drinking up my life—and sometimes we swung far away, and the chill wind from glaciers and icebergs swept over us, and I was dying with cold. I climbed a dreary mountain, where I would have fainted by the way but for some unseen hand that was always grasping mine; and when I reached the summit I found Prometheus chained—and suddenly I was in his place, and when I tried to scream I could make no sound, and the vultures came and flapped their wings in my face. Then I fell down immeasurable heights, into a green valley that was musical with tinkling waterfalls; but even while I paused to listen to the plashing sound, I was suddenly on the outer borders

of the gray old world again, and we were whirling round in giddy revolutions. There were hours when I talked unceasingly—when I was back at the old home, or walking along the hills, or sitting in the little room, gazing into the fire and telling what I saw there. Sometimes, too, I sat in the church porch, and watched the faces of the passers-by.

But wherever I was, in all that restless time, I was conscious of that strong hand always holding mine. I think it was all that held me back from death. I think I stood just on the borders of eternity, with the gates ajar to let me pass, but that clasping hand would not release its hold; and so, slowly it drew me back from the perilous brink, and I awoke to find that the hand was Mr. Kingsley's, and that he had grown pale with watching.

Life dawned back upon me slowly. I lay for days, too weak to move, too indifferent to care for anything. My faculties all seemed torpid and benumbed. I heard them when they talked to me, but I could not answer. I went to sleep when they told me. I did everything they required of me, without any interest. But at last a slow wonder dawned upon me as to who "they" were, and where I was.

By degrees I learned all—learned that my mother had been three weeks in her grave, while I lay there so near the realms of death; learned that Max was here, and Malcolm, and their guardian, Mr. McDonald, and that this was Mr. McDonald's house, and the stately lady who scarcely ever left my bedside was his sister.

Afterwards I began speculating gravely about Mr. McDonald's splendid face, and the calm brown eyes that were so pleasant to look at, and the silvery hair that had grown white long before its time. Then a wonder rose why they should all be so kind to me—and at last my spirit struggled wholly back into the world again, and I was pronounced convalescent. One day Mr. Kingsley lifted me to a great easy chair, and Miss McDonald folded innumerable shawls around me, though it was mid-summer—and Max came in to see me. He was not changed much from the dear old Max. He was very slight, and he carried his crutches still. Mingled with the merry light in his beautiful eyes was a new expression that I had not seen there before—a look of infinite longing, sad as Tantalus. Perhaps the look was there in the old time—so long ago—but I had only lately learned to read sorrow's manifold hieroglyphics.

Max's thin hand, clasping mine, gave me a new hold upon the world. He and Mr. Kingsley alone seemed saved to me from the wreck of that old life. I clung to him, in a tearless, despairing way, and it was a comfort, after awhile, that these were saved.

"I felt sure that we would meet again some day, little girl," said Max, after a little. "It has been long waiting—but I have been learning to wait for years and years. And are you really glad to see me again?"

"Very, very glad, Max. I always remembered you."

"I knew that you would," he said, with a smile flashing into his eyes. "I told Mr. Kingsley that I was sure you would not forget."

Then he talked of them all—Mr. and Miss McDonald, Malcolm, Desir, and Mr. Kingsley—most of all, Mr. Kingsley. I saw that the boy's whole soul was bound up in this one friend, and that his love for him amounted to a kind of idolatry. I did not wonder at it afterwards. When I saw that proud, imperious nature unbend to Max as it never did to any one else, except sometimes to me, I could understand Max's love. It seemed to me when I watched the two together, that Mr. Kingsley's tenderness made divine amends for the great misfortune that had fallen upon the boy's life. I thought sometimes that even physical helplessness would have been bearable, if Mr. Kingsley could be near.

The day after my interview with Max, Malcolm followed Miss McDonald into the room.

"I tried to keep him out," she said, trying to look severe, and smiling forgiveness at the handsome, careless face; "but he will have his own way."

"Now, Aunt Marjorie," he retorted, with a laugh that was strangely innocent and boyish, "you know that I have waylaid this door every day for a week, having my pockets filled with biscuits for Cerberus, and the biscuits weren't accepted, and this is the first time Cerberus has been off guard. Do let me stay a little while. I promise to be a model of good behavior."

"You are incorrigible, Malcolm," returned Aunt Marjorie, skeptically. "I doubt your being a very good companion in a sick-room."

Malcolm sat down on the edge of the table, swinging one foot carelessly.

"Aunt Marjorie, I am perfectly convinced that I have a genius for nursing—a genius which has never been allowed to develop itself, owing to the extraordinary selfishness of this family. I have offered my services, again and again, to such members of the family as were sick, and those services have been uniformly declined. Now, what am I to do? Aunt Marjorie, if you will let me practice on Kathleen, I promise you solemnly that in two weeks she shall be able to quarrel actively with Desir; in three, to gain the day in a pitched battle with that young lady; and in four, the two together will make some governess' life a hollow mockery for her."

"Malcolm!" exclaimed Miss McDonald, reprovingly.

"Don't scold, Aunt Marjorie. The agonies of that poor little Miss Wilson are fresh in

my mind yet—the tortures Desir made her suffer ought to exempt her from much punishment hereafter, unless she has done something very bad. Dear me! I can see the poor little woman now—her curls that never would stay pinned on, her little black eyes which were a perpetually gushing fountain of tears, and the lap-dog that usually became lachrymose whenever she did. And how that lady 'adored' Byron and 'detested' Milton. Aunt Marjorie, do you remember the day I recommended 'Peter Bell' to her respectful attention, and she said she had read it and was 'perfectly charmed' with it—admired it 'more than any of Moore's other works'?"

"Malcolm, I am afraid Mr. Kingsley is coming," said Miss McDonald, uneasily.

"What! Cerberus returning? Then it's about time for me to beat a retreat," he said, getting down from the table and sauntering lazily out. When he was gone, I found a dainty little bouquet in my lap. It was only a cluster of heliotrope laid against a rose-geranium leaf—but how it went to my heart! I kept it until it faded—I kept it longer. It is in that book on the shelf, pressed against the words:

"It is in vain for thee to rise up early, to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows; for so, he giveth his beloved sleep."

I thought of it many times, though it seemed such a trifling thing; wondering if Malcolm dropped the flowers on purpose. If he did, why it was a kind thing to do. That would make some slight tie between his soul and mine—that little, subtle thrill of sympathy. But I could not ask, and I never knew.

"Malcolm is a graceless boy," said Miss McDonald, with tolerant pride; "but I cannot help liking him, somehow."

"Has Malcolm been in this room?" said Mr. Kingsley, entering soon after Malcolm's departure; and when Miss McDonald admitted that Malcolm had just left, Mr. Kingsley's face darkened, and it was long before he was himself again. Some perplexing questions began to present themselves to my mind in connection with these new friends of mine.

There was one I had not seen yet—the Desir of whom they talked. She was a year older than I was, Max had said when I asked him. I looked forward to seeing her with the keenest interest; for I had never associated with any one so near my own age, and I was curious to see what it was like. But when day after day passed, and there was no sign of Desir being admitted, I ventured to suggest it to Mr. Kingsley. He opposed quickly and sternly.

"Never mind—let Desir alone," he said. "When we get ready for a whirlwind in the sick-room, we'll unbar the door to that young termagant."

I was afraid to say any more, for the very thought of Mr. Kingsley's anger made me cowardly. But the next morning Desir introduced herself, in a very unexpected way. When I awoke, late in the morning, a face was bent down, peering into mine, so near that it almost touched me, and the face was very much discomposed, as the owner of it started back, exclaiming abruptly:

"Good gracious! How you startled me. Do you always open your eyes so suddenly?"

"I suppose I do," I said gravely. "I am sorry I frightened you, but—what were you doing?"

"Doing! Looking at you, to be sure. They've kept me out of the room as if I were an ogre and would eat you; and so this morning while they were at breakfast, I just slipped in to have a good look at you. You'll kill yourself lying here. Why don't you get up and walk around?"

I looked at her in amazement. "Why, I ought not, ought I? Do you think they would like it?"

"Who cares whether they like it or not? Don't ask them. When I had the yellow fever they wanted to keep me in bed with blankets around me, but the first time they left me alone I got up and opened the window. You should have seen how horrified they looked!"—and she laughed with glee.

"I don't think that was right," I said in grave disapproval. "I'll not get up without asking Mr. Kingsley."

"That's right, little preacher—go to Mr. Kingsley. Everybody does. How I would like to torment him to death. I think I could do it, only it worries me so that I haven't patience to go on with it."

"I love Mr. Kingsley," I said.

"I don't. I hate him. He needn't think he can rule me with that contemptuous air of his. If ever I can hang his scalp at my belt, I shall have accomplished my desire."

"Is your name Desir?"

She had been whirling around the room, light as a butterfly in June; but she stopped suddenly and looked at me. "I am Desir Arlington," she said. Then she came and sat down, with her elbows on the bed and her chin on her hands.

"What made you ask that? I called it my desire, but don't you suppose I have another 'Desir' than that? Do you know what it is I want? I wish you would find out and tell me. I want SOMETHING—I have looked for it all my life, and never found it yet. What makes you look at me so?"

"You are so strange. Or at least," I added, apologetically, "you seem strange to me, for I have never been with any girl before."

"I don't like girls," said Desir, sharply. "They're a ridiculous set, and have to be petted like babies, and are never taught anything worth knowing, for fear it will upset their little minds. I'd as soon be a Chinese as a girl."

I pondered over this problem, while Desir sat still and looked in my face. At last I saw the muscles around her mouth begin to twitch, and the pretty dimple in her chin deepened ominously.

"Solemn grey eyes," she said, without changing her position, "you have held me still for three or four minutes, and made me tell you something I didn't mean to tell. But some one is coming. I hear a step on the stairs. I shall be scolded for coming here, and you will hear the old Adam answer. The door opens. Now watch the bolt fall!"

It was stately Miss McDonald that came in, and the kind expression of her face changed instantly when she saw Desir. She came forward, looking angry in an instant.

"Desir!"

"Ma'am."

"Have I not expressly commanded you to keep out of this room?"

"Yes, ma'am."

"Why have you disobeyed me?"

"Because I wanted to see if she was made of glass, or anything that would break," returned Desir, with eyes cast down, meekly, but with malice sparkling under her lashes.

"Return to your own room instantly, Desir."

"Yes, ma'am. What must I do there?"

"Copy three pages of your French exercise."

"I did that yesterday; but I drew little dogs all over the margin afterwards. The funniest dogs!—each one with a bushy tail and a snub nose."

"Then copy them again."

"Certainly. Will you punish Kathleen with French when she begins studying?"

"Desir, go to your room instantly."

"I'm going. I wish you hadn't sent away that poor Miss Wilson. I used to have such delightful times worrying her little life out. I don't enjoy my studies, now that she has gone." And Desir sauntered leisurely out.

And this was Desir—this wild, spiteful little beauty, who would as soon be a Chinese as a girl. Miss McDonald, catching my wondering, troubled glance, said directly:

"Desir is very obstinate. None of us can do anything with her when she once determines. She is a sore trial to me."

"Is her mother dead?" I asked after awhile, and Miss McDonald looked up in surprise.

"Desir's mother! Oh, yes. She died when Desir was but six years old."

Poor Desir, I thought. No wonder she had gone wrong, growing up from that small six years without a mother. I looked away from Miss McDonald to hide some bitter tears that would come.

That evening I begged the lady to let Desir come in with the others, and after much persuasion she was induced to yield. But Desir seemed possessed with the very spirit of obstinacy; for while Malcolm and Max and Mr. Kingsley were gathered close around me, looking with me over a book of engravings they had laid in my lap, she stood aloof, and pretended to be analyzing the flowers she pulled down from the Bohemian vases. She turned the pretty face away persistently, and in doing so she turned toward me the dusky bronze hair, just the color of her eyes, which covered her head with short, heavy, boyish rings. She was so pretty, except for that determined, wicked look.

"Desir," I called. She looked at me and laughed—a laugh with all the music jarred out of it.

"No, no," she said. "It isn't me you want. You have there your heart's desire."

She pointed to the group around my chair, and left the room—merely because she had permission to stay, Malcolm said; but then he never spoke in earnest.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

## Fraternity—A Good Example.

Hamilton Harmon, Esq., was a Northern man by birth, education, and long association. He was born in Floyd county, Indiana. At the age of sixteen he joined the M. E. Church (North) and continued in that communion for twenty-two years. A few years since, he moved to Texas and settled in the city of Terrell. On the 2d day of December, 1879, an unusually large procession followed his corpse to its place of burial. Though a Northern man in a Southern community, he inspired universal confidence and enjoyed the warm esteem of many personal friends. There was good reason for the high estimation set upon his character. He came not to the South to disturb the peace either of society or of the church. Intelligent and observing as he was, he soon discovered that Southern society was at least as well organized, cultivated, and high-toned as that to which he had been accustomed, and that the M. E. Church, South, was promulgating the gospel of the Son of God in its purity and saving power. A truthful and honest man, he at once acknowledged what he saw to be the state of things among us, socially and religiously. Hence he disdained to affect the character of a reformer, or of a missionary among heathens, and promptly took his proper place in society, and cheerfully identified himself with the work of the M. E. Church, South. His was a good example; his relations were all pleasant and

peaceful; his influence was conservative; his life useful and his death triumphant. Such an instance of mutual good-will, friendship and brotherly love, surely will do good, North and South. Why was not Hamilton Harmon treated with coolness, or distrust, or contempt? Why was it that in about two short years, everybody could talk with him, transact business with him, and worship with him without even thinking of his being a Northern man? The answer is ready. He came among us to do no harm, to create no discord or divisions. He laid all his prejudices down at the foot of the cross, gave to his Southern brethren the right hand of fellowship, and a cheerful co-operation in the work of the church. He was accordingly honored, trusted, and loved. Such are the results of true fraternity—the only fraternity worth a thought or word.

W. F. EASTERLING.

ONE phase of the Sunday question in England has been settled by the refusal of the London Court of Common Council to allow the Guildhall library to be opened on Sunday afternoons. The petition was supported by 557 signatures of persons, most of whom gave their addresses in the city, but was met by counter petitions more numerous signed. It was defeated by a vote of 104 to 34. The Times, commenting on the result, remarks that the popular instinct seems to be singularly indifferent, even if it is not decidedly opposed, to any extensive change, and that the "people of the country in general are very well satisfied with Sunday as it is, and have so far shown no very keen sympathy with the desire to change it."

## Dallas Business Directory.

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Agents and Dealers in all kinds of agricultural implements and farm machinery.

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Hardware, iron, steel, nails, wagon, carriage and buggy material, smooth and barbed fence wire, etc., Dallas, Texas.

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Importers and dealers in doors, sash, blinds, mixed paints and shingles, lime, cement, builders hardware, etc., Dallas, Texas.

**MANGET & RICE,**  
Railroad ticket brokers, St. George Hotel, R. R. tickets bought and sold at reduced rates to all points.

**SCHOELLKOPF & CO.,**  
Wholesale dealers in leather, shoe findings, saddlery hardware, saws, files, colliers, hames chains, etc., Dallas, Texas.

**STONE & KEATING,**  
DALLAS, TEXAS.  
—MANUFACTURERS' AGENTS—  
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DALLAS, TEXAS.

**MRS. E. CHESTNUT,**  
Dealer in Millinery, Fancy Goods and Notions, Dallas, Texas.

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Wholesale and retail Furniture, Office and saleroom, 629 Elm Street, Dallas, Texas.

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Cotton Factor, agent Millburn Wagons, Engines, Steam Engines, Farm Implements and the renowned Tucker Sulky and Fire Plow, guaranteed to shed the stickiest land in the U. S.

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S. J. ADAMS, J. L. LEONARD.  
Bankers, Dallas, Texas. Draw exchange on the principal cities in Europe.

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**W. J. SHONE,**  
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Managers of the "New Home Sewing Machine" for the State of Texas. General office, 709 Main Street, Dallas, Texas. Agents wanted in every county.

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Carrriages, Phaetons, Buggies,  
AND SPRING WAGONS,  
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Wholesale dealers in Drugs, Patent Medicines, Pains, Oils, Window Glass, Stationery, Violin Springs, Garden and Flower Seeds.



Texas Christian Advocate

EUROPEAN LETTER.

[From our Regular Correspondent.] MADRID, Spain, Dec. 2, 1879.

The Royal marriage was favored by brilliant sunshine, and the town, decorated with flags and garlands, presented a gay aspect of bright and various colors. At eight o'clock the Archduchess arrived from the Pardo Palace at the Ministry of Marine to put on her bridal array.

The King left the Palace at one o'clock. The Royal cortege was composed of a mounted drummer in mediæval costume, a company of trumpeters, a squadron of cavalry, and the heralds at arms, with the arms of Spain on their banners, and twenty saddle-horses with magnificent Charles Quint trappings.

At the same hour the Archduchess Christine left the Ministry of Marine, passed over almost the same route and arrived at the Church at the same time. Triumphant arches were erected along the streets through which the cortege passed, and the windows were decorated with the colors of Spain and Austria.

The church was filled with brilliant uniforms of all colors, but there were few people there, except the members of the diplomatic body and official personages. The King, who was dressed in the uniform of a captain-general, and who appeared pale and anxious, was received on the steps of the church by Cardinal Benavides, patriarch of the Indies, and by the high dignitaries of the church.

AUSTIN LETTER.

The Moral Temperance and Religious Factors in our State Government and their Great (?) Influence! AUSTIN, December, 1879.

I have been here several days; have been reflecting on the political, moral, temperate and religious situation in Texas. The readers of the ADVOCATE (that is most of them) have been kind enough not to protest against my letters being printed—hence I take the liberty to inflict upon them the net result of my reflections:

Texas, as a whole, may be pronounced a Christian State. The different Protestant denominations aggregate several hundred thousand adult members. The potency of these hosts, if properly and dutifully utilized in secular affairs, would insure the elevation to positions of public trust and honor of moral and temperate men; and, per consequence, a leaven of religious influence in our State affairs would not appear anomalous. In-

deed it may be stated as a logical proposition that religious, moral and temperance sentiments are so largely represented in the suffrage constituency of Texas, that these interests should find an exponent in every elective or appointive officer. To ascertain how near an exemplification of this proposition is reached in the present condition of State governmental affairs, let us glance at our official directory. I desire, however, to assure the gentlemen criticised that I do not write this for the purpose of wounding them, but to contribute my share toward the remedy of what I conceive to be great evils. Indeed, if I desired to give personal offense, I am in possession of ample facts for the purpose. As I hold that the moral, temperance and religious habits (or the reverse) of public officials are legitimate subjects of criticism, I would not deem it out of place to state all facts in my possession, if necessary for the purpose in view. Only a few points, however, and those as delicately presented as possible, are here utilized.

Our Governor has gained golden opinions from all classes for the bold and upright administration of his office. Yet even he has not thought it inconsistent with the dignity of his high station to participate in bibulous banquets—to inferentially ally himself with anti-Sabbatarians, and in other ways to cater to the vicious elements in society. It will be remembered that a great furor was created by the investigation (?) of charges against Gen. McCulloch. I am sincerely of opinion that his only crime (?) was in being a consistent church member. The appointing power has been careful in selecting the present incumbent to avoid this feature—and, according to my humble opinion, every other attribute fitting a man for the proper guidance of youth. But by the appointment is gained the support of a powerful newspaper as well as that of a considerable foreign element. This is only mentioned to show the tendency of all men in public place to cater to powerful elements—however vicious. The Governor is not a member of any church.

There is not a more courteous gentleman anywhere than Colonel Darden, the comptroller. While he is not an excessive drinker, yet he has in his employ men who frequently fill up to the very muzzle. He has a faculty of allowing his clerks great liberty in this and other respects. He is a member of no church.

It is enough to remark of the treasurer that he impresses your correspondent as one who is, by consanguinity, an office-seeker; is by affinity, a Catholic. He is extremely profane, and of course is a member of no church.

The commissioner of the land-office is doing good work. When nominated, friends of other candidates urged that it was because he was a disabled Confederate soldier and not because of merit. He disappoints them, however, in discharging the duties of his office faithfully and efficiently. Yet candor compels the admission that he would not be a burning and shining light as a temperance reformer. He is a member of no church.

The Attorney General is sometimes courteous and polite. Your readers will remember that he classes the Methodist as the church of his fathers. I am informed that the Attorney-General is a skeptic, if not an infidel; that he does not eschew wine, and is a member of no church.

Thus could I continue, but enough has been said to establish this proposition: Strictly speaking, neither religion nor temperance has a representative in our State governmental affairs. And no wonder! Whisky rules as well as ruins Texas! Time was when our public men, if they drank, did so in private—but now it is positively to their political interest for it to be notorious. They take pains to advertise their bibulous proclivities. Take for example the convention that nominated the present incumbents. The only wonder is that as good men were put forward. There were more whisky-selling delegates in that body than can be computed by any reasonable imagination; but when compared with the number of whisky drinkers, they dwindle to utter insignificance. The convention at times resembled a drunken mob! It is a notorious fact that all the prominent candidates' headquarters were at bar-rooms, and many of the leading delegations were similarly blessed. "Free whisky," was a popular cry. Is it strange that drinkers are elevated to office? Indeed would it not be natural, under this condition of things, for a sober man with office-itch to tip glasses with the drinkers, and slyly toss the contents over his shoulder rather than be accused of temperance? Is it not certain that to gain the disapproval of these is to array

active opposition—while, alas, too often, the censures of the religious, moral and temperate, have only passive expression, void of practical results. Office-seekers act as though escape from political slaughter depends upon a catering to the vicious elements in society. Occasionally a legislature may play a religious, temperance or moral card, so to speak. Experience proves that the timidity of these factors in political government have been easily satisfied. Numerically, strong; in political generalship, lamentably weak! This is why German, Bohemian, Mexican—and especially whisky—appeals meet so ready and liberal responses at official and legislative hands, while those of temperance, morality, and religion are often totally ignored! The former wring thousands from the treasury annually, while schemes are ever afoot to sap the strength and privileges of the latter.

It is doubtless fresh in the minds of the readers of this paper what ridicule is bestowed by many legislators upon the chaplaincy of the House and Senate, some even openly declaring such an office a waste of money. If the religious people of the State were supposed to be a factor of any potency in political matters, would this be the case? Professional politicians recognize how lax are moral and religious people in demanding their political rights—how easily they are "outgeneraled"—and hence insult them with impunity. No worldly-wise Texas politician (however much he may respect religion) has failed to show, ostensibly, his approval of such insults. As another example of the weakness of the moral and temperate in matters political, I mention this fact: Quite a number of church members are generally among our legislators. They are always, however, in the minority. It has been a matter of comment and surprise that many of these have yielded to the temptations surrounding them at the capital, some even going so far as to "get on sprees." I charge the fault not so much upon these men as upon the moral, temperance and religious voters of Texas. Such men in a Texas legislature have been at sad disadvantage. Their professions have been ridiculed—which any man could endure. But, in addition, the interests of their constituents are jeopardized. Measures which they deem of vital import must suffer if they do not gain the co-operation of the dissolute element; and, to gain this, moral concessions must be made. They actually, in many cases, sacrifice morality for the good of their constituents. I say, again, the greater fault is with voters. The purely moral are in the majority. Let them so exercise their right of suffrage as to insure only pure and moral men in office.

Many other evils could be mentioned here that demand a cure. Let us inquire their cause. It has already been indicated: "the little interest and lack of unity manifested in our political affairs by the moral, temperance, and religious elements. The religious press—and the pure and clean among the secular papers—have too long failed to demand a change. Though late, the demand will yet be heeded. To whatever party you belong, let this one motive take precedence in bestowing your suffrage: "temperance men, and moral men—and men who at least respect religion—shall fill our offices." See that whisky-advocates and anti-Sabbatarians be kept out of political conventions. Do not dismiss this as absurd. It is time the moral, temperance and religious people were being aroused to their danger. Let them acknowledge past faults, and make amends by future conduct. If the ten thousand and two-hundred readers of the ADVOCATE think these matters worthy of advertisement, let them be impressed upon every friend of temperance, morality or religion who may come under their influence; let them induce the religious press of Texas, and the pure and clean among the secular, to co-operate with the ADVOCATE in a general purification of our political affairs. Let us give party managers to understand that there must be a change, wherein the substantial and law and order conserving elements shall have full representation. They must understand that the party which inaugurates this change will live; and that the demagoguery which protests against it shall cause the moral atmosphere to fairly hiss with imprecations of good people, irrespective of creed or party. Let there be at the proper time a grand rally to fill our legislative halls with men of brains; men who are moral and temperance advocates; and who, if not religious themselves, will not insult those who are. Let our State offices—appointive and elective—seek the men to fill them; and not, as is now in many instances the case, be filled by men who make no other claim to them

than that the offices are necessary as a means of livelihood! Men who can not manage successfully their private affairs, will not be brilliant successes in the management of the State's business. It is time for the public to lay all chronic office-seekers, superannuated political hacks and public plunderers on the political block and, with the guillotine of popular indignation, mercilessly lopp off their useless polls; then lay them away in graves of political disgrace, and trace upon their headboards, in delicate characters, this epitaph:

"The State owed a living to such as I; To pay its debt it didn't choose; Hence is writ on this shingle, placed at my head, He wore himself out collecting his dues."

In closing, I have one request to make of those who may imagine they have cause for offense in what is here said: If you condescend to answer it, pray do not waste time telling people what *morale* has prompted me; do not abuse me, either, please. People do not want to know who I am, as I am no office-seeker; and, besides, the chances are that nothing bad can be said of me that I can not tell of something much worse. As to motive, that is my own affair, and does not affect the truth or falsity of these statements. If you desire to say anything, confine yourself to a discussion of this proposition:

Intemperance, immorality, obscenity, and all accompanying evils, are represented in our present State government. Neither temperance nor religion has a representative there; or, if so, it is an isolated case of which we would be pleased to hear.

As ever, CAR TOON.

Our Postal Cards.

FORNEY, Kaufman County, Dec. 12.—Next Sabbath I will have finished my first round on the "Forney Mission." Thus far I am well pleased both with the country and people. Through the kindness of Bro. W. F. Jones, class leader at Gray's Prairie, I have secured a home for my little family. The people at Forney speak of building a parsonage; they ought to, for their cotton crop has indeed been fine: one crop near Forney yielded 800 pounds of lint per acre. I think I will be able to send you several sub-soothers very soon. Health of the country good; doctors giving up their practice and working in cotton gins.—J. T. STANLEY.

ROUND ROCK, Williamson County, Dec. 16.—I am indefinitely detained at this place by the sickness of my wife. She has been down for fourteen days, but we think is convalescent now. I hope to be on my way by the last of next week. No local news at this place. Business fine considering the drought through which they have passed. The stewards of Velasco circuit will meet me at parsonage the appointed time.—SAMUEL H. WILLIAMS.

PREMIERVILLE, Kaufman County, Dec. 12.—Am now in southern part of Kaufman county. Have had two considerable storms; one on the 14th and the other on the 9th inst.; some hail, but not much rain. Still too dry for grain crops. On the night of the 25th ult. Alf. Board was dangerously cut in a gambling house in Terrell—hardly-corn on board. A short time since, Board stabbed another man in a like place. So the whisky trade wages on, to "hold up" towards Better try Local Option.—A. H. BREWER.

HALLETSVILLE, Lavaca Co., December 13.—The farmers have been very busy killing their pork during the winter. Pork, mutton, is selling at three cents per pound, and is very plentiful.—A. G. NOLAN.

BOSTON, Bowie County, December 16.—I have just completed my first round on the Boston circuit since conference. Have preached at the regular appointments and have had good congregations at every place. My people were glad to receive me back, and I feel determined to labor for them and for the Master with renewed zeal and energy. The conference at Sherman was a great blessing to me. Our country is improving rapidly; new settlements being made all over the county.—W. W. HOESNER.

MARSHALL, Harrison County, Dec. 17.—Rev. E. F. Boone has entered regularly upon his labors for the new conference year. The stewards have promptly made their assessments, and the whole machinery moves off in Methodist style. The Sunday-school, reorganized under the supervision of J. R. Hearstill, is moving off in good order. The Rev. R. W. Thompson, the "model" presiding elder, is spending a holiday in Dallas, with his old parishioners. Business is better than it has been for some time past in Marshall; merchants and farmers are prospering.—J. H. JOHNSON.

ST. JO, Montague County, Dec. 16.—Our little town is on the improve. Dr. Briscoe, of Burlington, and our excellent presiding elder, Bro. L. P. Lively, have recently become citizens of it. The people seem to be in good spirits since the excellent rain. I think there will be a great deal of cotton planted next year from what I can learn from most of the farmers. The corn crop was cut short in this county, but the Lord has blessed the people by giving them an excellent mast, so that the hogs are all fat. I heard a man say yesterday, that he would have seven or eight thousand pounds of pork that that it was all fattened on the mast.—J. O. SHANKS.

GRAND RANCHO, Palo Pinto County, Dec. 15.—Our first quarterly conference is over. Our new presiding elder, Bro. J. K. Lane, was with us and a splendid elder too does he make both in the chair and in the pulpit. Our mission is, we think, in good working condition. As a people we are poor, so far as this world's goods are concerned, but as a church rich in grace; so, Doctor, please come and preach some for us; my people deserve and could appreciate good preaching. Weather cold but very dry; very little wheat sowed yet; provisions scarce. I am working for the ADVOCATE.—T. J. BLACKBURN.

SOMEWHERE IN TEXAS, Last Month of 1879.—WHEREAS, Some folks like to see their names in print, and—WHEREAS, Perhaps some write communications to this end: Therefore, Resolved, 1. That when you write, write something (for the waste basket). Resolved, 2. That no one write a greater number of posts than he sends subscribers for the ADVOCATE. Resolved, 3. That these resolutions are not worth publication, but that a copy of them be sent to the W. B.—E. B.

WHICH IS CHEAPEST.

A package of DUKES'S Durham, containing twenty pipe-fulls of the best smoking tobacco made, or one common cigar? Each costs ten cents.

HOUSTON ADVERTISEMENTS.

BERNARD H. SCHMIDT, BROKER IN—

Iron and Steel Rails, Merchant Ba Iron and Nails, Railroad Equipments and Supplies

Scrap Iron and Old Metals. PURCHASING AGENT IN

Rathbone, Sarg & Co. Stoves & Ranges, ALBANY, N. Y.

EUREKA FIRE HOSE CO., "EUREKA," "PARAGON" and "RED CROSS" HOSE, N. Y.

Office and Salesroom 24 Main Street, HOUSTON, TEXAS.

T. W. HOUSE, Banker, Cotton Factor

Commission Merchant, 23 & 25 Main St., Houston, Texas.

F. W. HEITMANN & CO., HOUSTON, TEXAS.

Iron, Tin and Steel Plate, Wagon-makers' supplies and Heavy Hardware.

THE DIEBOLD Safe & Lock Co., MANUFACTURERS OF

Safes, Locks, Bank and Safe Deposit Work.

OVER 60,000 of these UNRIVALED SAFES NOW IN USE.

The Safe with an unbroken record, although tested thousands of times. Having the

Largest Safe Manufactory in the World

We are enabled to furnish Fire-proof Safe, a Fire and Burglar-proof Safes combined, in quantities to meet the rapidly increasing demand

and we have immediate facilities for constructing Vault Linings, either fire-proof or burglar-proof, Vault Doors, Large Bank Safes, etc., and especially safe deposit Vault Work.

We invite correspondence from parties desiring work of this description, and pledge ourselves to maintain and support the above positions, and to demonstrate to the satisfaction of all that—1st. Our factory being the largest, we have abundant room, aid and light, and facilities for handling heavy work. 2d. We employ more skilled workmen than any other safe manufactory. 3d. We use a higher grade of material, which embraces the latest scientific discoveries, without regard to cost. Upon these grounds, therefore, we base our claims for superiority over our competitors, and only ask an opportunity to substantiate their truthfulness.

Testimonials innumerable can be exhibited to prove the faithfulness of these Safes in the past, and with all our MODERN IMPROVEMENTS we can vouch for them in the future. For diagrams, estimates, etc., address

L. T. NOYES, General Agent Diebold Safe and Lock Co. And for sargents and Yale Time Locks, American Powder Co., Howe's Scales. Also dealer in Guns, Hardware and sporting supplies.

HOUSTON, TEXAS.

C. C. WIGGIN, B. C. SIMPSON,

WIGGIN & SIMPSON, PHENIX IRON WORKS, Preston Street, Houston, Texas.

ENGINEERS, FOUNDERS AND MACHINISTS, MANUFACTURERS OF

Engines, Boilers, Sugar Mills, Saw Mills, Steam Cotton Presses, Etc., Etc.

Prices given on application. Prompt attention given to repairing.

ENCOURAGE HOME MANUFACTURE!

J. W. ROSE & CO., MANUFACTURERS OF—

Victoria Phaetons, Side Spring Buggies, Heavy Concord Buggies, Rockaway Spring Wagons, AMBULANCES, OMNIBUSES, HEARSE, ETC., ETC.

We have on hand the largest stock of home-made Buggies in Texas, which we are selling at reduced prices. We also make to order, on the shortest notice, any style of vehicle. Also dealers in Harness, Whips, Dusters, Children's Carriages, at lowest prices. Livery trade particularly solicited. Repairing in all branches, Blacksmithing, Woodworking, Painting and Trimming done in a workmanlike manner at lowest cash prices.

E. MATHER & CO., General Commission Merchants

Cotton Factors

On hand KANSAS FLOUR, made by water power, of all grades; OLD and NEW WHEAT FLOUR; and to arrive, BACON, PRODUCE, etc.

FLOUR A SPECIALTY.

No. 20 Main Street, HOUSTON, TEXAS.

C. S. LONGCOPE, S. A. MASHAN,

LONGCOPE & CO., COTTON FACTORS

Commission Merchants, NO. 22 MAIN STREET, HOUSTON, TEXAS.

LIBERAL ADVANCES MADE ON COTTON.

IMPORTANT TO LAND OWNERS.

J. E. Foster, the oldest Land Agent in Houston, Texas, has perfected a system of paying taxes for non-resident owners, on lands in every city and county in Texas, for a mere nominal fee. Try him.

H. SCHERFFIUS, Houston, Texas.

Steam Engines and Boilers, GULLET COTTON GINS, GULLET COTTON GIN CONDENSERS,

Coleman's Cotton Press for Steam Power, Coleman's Cotton Press for Horse Power, BROOKS' Cotton Press for Horse Power,

STRAUB'S CORN & WHEAT MILLS, Coleman's Corn and Wheat Mills,

HORSE-POWERS, BUCKEYE MOWERS AND REAPERS, SILKY HAY-RAKE, CANE MILLS, CORN-SHRELLERS, FLOWS AND CULTIVATORS,

BARBED FENCE WIRE, Etc., Etc. Write for full particulars.—33

J. R. MORRIS, Dealer in—

Stoves, Hardware and Tinware, ALSO DEALER IN—

Railroad and Mill Supplies, GAS FITTING and PLUMBING.

AGENT FOR— Charter Oak Stoves, Avery Plows

HOWE CELEBRATED SCALES, 69 Main Street, HOUSTON, TEXAS.

H. F. HURD, Wagon & Carriage Manufactory, HOUSTON, TEXAS.

Blacksmithing, Wagon and Carriage Making or repairing done in all branches.

Horse-Shoeing a Specialty.

JAS. F. DUMBLE, HOUSTON, TEXAS.

Solicits your inspection of his large and varied assortment of

DECORATED CHINA, MAJOLICA, Japanese and Wedgwood,

TETE-TETE, TEA, DESSERT AND DINNER SETS, BACCARAT AND BRIDESMENT.

Service and Fancy Glassware, TOYS AND VASES,

TOILET, and SMOKE SETS, FINE CUTLERY

PLATED WARE, LAMPS AND CHANDELIERS.

MRS. A. BENTLEY, 93 Main St., HOUSTON, TEXAS.

Has received her FALL STOCK of

Millinery & Fancy Goods, The largest and finest assortment ever offered in the City of Houston.

She invites the public to call and examine her Stock. Orders from the interior respectfully solicited.



Texas Christian Advocate

SHAW & BLAYLOCK - Publishers.

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Associate Editors.

- R. S. Finley, East Texas Conference
H. S. Thrall, West Texas Conference
W. G. Connor, D. D., N.W. Texas Conference
S. J. Hawkins, North Texas Conference
R. T. Nabors, Texas Conference

REVIEW OF THE PAST YEAR.

It is well that we should pause for a moment by the last shadows of the dying year and count over the profits and losses it has given to us. The past is always a good teacher if it be approached with the proper spirit and an honest desire to collect and utilize the experiences it has furnished to us.

Eighteen hundred and seventy-nine has left much that is good upon its record. It has left much that may be regretted also. It has smiled upon many, and upon many more it has fixed its signs of sorrow.

In public affairs many things have been accomplished that auger well for the morality of the State and that have a ring of the right sort in the spirit and intention of their general signification. The Sabbath has been recognized by the law-making powers as a day of rest, and by legal enactment it has been guarded against public desecration.

The crack of the sixshooter and the announcement that another murder has been committed, are still among the current transactions that furnish spicy matter for the secular papers of the land, but these things are growing fewer in number as the State grows older, and the civilizing influences, that always aid in the elevation of a progressive people, grow stronger.

A bounteous harvest has been garnered in many sections of the State, while in others long continued drouths have left their blight on the fallow fields that have heretofore given forth their well-matured crops.

The cause of religion holds its own, and during the year thousands have found joy in their conversion, and are now hopefully and prayerfully advancing onward to reap the rewards that are freely bestowed upon all who will seek them and find them in the Savior's love.

In conclusion, it may be safely asserted that Texas has much to rejoice over, as the results of the labors that were performed during the closing year. The people of this great State have much to be grateful for; and as all things emanate from the Giver of all, the Ruler of the Universe, the bless-

ings of 1879 should be made the foundation of loftier aims and nobler endeavors in the labors that are to solve the results of the coming year.

A WORD ABOUT THE SERIAL.

There is not a department of the ADVOCATE that has not been the occasion of complaint from some quarter. One brother objects to the "news" column; he wants nothing but religion in his church paper. Another can take but one paper, and he would have long essays cut down, so that we can furnish him and his family with a fresh summary of passing events.

There is large diversity of talent among writers and speakers, and equal diversity of taste is likewise found among readers and hearers. One preferred Paul, with his logic; and another Apollon, with his glowing imagination; and others Peter, with his strong, practical, common sense.

One brother objects to what he styles "fiction" in any shape. He leans in the right direction, but he leans too far. What about the parables of Christ? They were not narratives of actual events, yet there never fell from human lips lessons of profounder wisdom.

ly nauseating to all but the parties afflicted with the malady. And yet our young people are going to fall in love and wander through the delightful realms of romance which were trodden with equal delight in the days of yore by their fathers and mothers, and uncles and aunts, and all the rest of their relatives that have experienced matrimony, and settled down to the solid realities of life.

THE POWER OF THE PRESS AND THE PULPIT.

There can be no denying of the fact that the most powerful agents that are employed in the dissemination and perpetuation of knowledge and in the defense of virtuous principles and true morality, are the press and the pulpit. The one is a speechless visitor that goes to the hearthstone and appeals to both the thoughts and feelings of millions of men and women, influencing and controlling their emotions and their acts for good or for evil in proportion to the true merits and correct judgment of the journalistic mind.

pathy whatever and against the arguments of which they entertain the strongest convictions. With the pulpit the case is different. There the advocate appears face to face with those whom he would either edify or convince. There the earnestness of personal sincerity is sustained both by word and expression. The speaker may enact the part of a dissembler, but his life must be an open record and such instances must sooner or later yield to the inevitability of detection and the resultant disgrace that the hypocrite always merits.

NEW YEAR'S SALUTATORY.

The ADVOCATE having entered the 29th volume of its publication, goes forth with its best wishes for the health and happiness of its friends and patrons. It is no longer an infant enterprise, struggling with adversities, and held down by the calamities that attend nearly all the first endeavors of human undertaking. It is advancing onward in its mission, and is daily widening the sweep of its usefulness as a teacher of morality and a medium of instruction in the current transactions of the country.

commercial transactions of the country, will find its reports correct and its columns a most valuable medium for giving publicity to those features that every successful "struggler" in "life's toiling scenes" sends forth to the world at large. From time to time, as changes come and go, as new requirements may appear and new improvements be demanded, the publishers promise that they shall be made; and now, having saluted their friends, with the greetings of the season they again wish one and all

A HAPPY, HAPPY NEW YEAR!

CHRISTMAS.

Christmas is observed in the Catholic Church, the Lutheran Church and the Church of England, but is rejected by the Church of Scotland and the Dissenters in England, and those churches which have sprung from them—though some, like the Wesleyans, observe it by having religious services at some hour of the day.

There is no statement of the day nor the month of Christ's nativity to be found in either of the gospels. The fact that the shepherds were watching their flocks by night would suggest spring or mid-summer, rather than mid-winter when the flocks were more likely in their folds than on the bleak hill-sides, as the more probable period when these events transpired. That the nativity of Christ was observed before the days of Constantine is made clear by the fact that during the persecution under Diocletian while that tyrant was holding his court in Nicomedia he learned on one occasion of a congregation assembled in their church celebrating Christ's nativity, and he ordered the door to be closed and the building set on fire, and burned with the multitude of Christians within.

In the Catholic Church three masses are performed: one at midnight, one at day-break, and one in the morning. The Romish and the Greek Church have introduced many representations of the events in the life of Christ, or of legends accepted by them as true, which deeply impress the ignorant and superstitious, but are calculated to disgust intelligent and thoughtful Christians. It was the observance of extravagances in connection with the day which led the stern Puritans to hold it in utter abomination.

The custom of giving presents is derived from an old heathen usage rather than from its Christian origin and observance. The northern nations of Europe observed the feast of the birth of Sol, which they observed on the 25th of December. To this the yule log, which is yet placed in the fire-place on Christmas eve in many English homes, may be traced. Yule, which is derived from a word signifying wheel, has reference to the return of the sun from the south and the lengthening of the days. The observance of the day as a season of rivalry must be traced to this heathen and not to its Christian origin. In Scotland, in former times, the presiding genius of the day was styled the Abbot of Unnasia, and in England the Abbot or Lord of Misrule.

While we find in the Bible no authority for the observance of a day commemorating the nativity of Christ, yet it was an event which was celebrated by the songs of angels and should be sacred in the hearts of all who rejoice in the salvation the incarnate Messiah came to bring upon our world. If its celebration, as a Christian service, recalls with gratitude the gifts of the Son of God, it may be observed with spiritual profit. Those who transform it into a revel, place themselves in the succession of its pagan origin, and can gather from it only evil. The custom of presenting gifts in that day set apart in memory of God's greatest gift to man, has in it something more than beautiful, and the fact that it is the children's day, will always make it a delight to the children and to all who love them. Those who celebrate it in the foaming bowls of egg-nog, are bowing at the shrine of sensual indulgence and are rendering homage at a pagan shrine.

It may be a strain of boyishness in our nature, but we welcome the return of Christmas with even a deeper joy than ever welcomed it in the days of our childhood when Santa Claus and his gifts were realities and the ceremony of hanging up the stocking was one that was not to be forgotten. We confess to a feeling of disappointment when Christmas comes if there is no gift for us; but in the joy the day gives to our little ones we find a purer pleasure than we ever experienced in our boyhood as we revel over the contents of the largest stocking we ever found well filled on Christmas morning. We trust every father and mother who reads the ADVOCATE have remembered God's gift on this

Christmas day, and have made it a day of grateful joy in their homes. We trust that the dolls, and the horns, the trumpets and drums which have filled the stockings the little ones have hung up beside the chimney have not made them forgetful of Him who was born in Bethlehem and cradled in the manger.

THE TENDENCY OF THE LITERATURE OF THE AGE.

The ADVOCATE takes no pleasure whatever in parading before its readers references to immoral and disgusting subjects, but when they need a blow, it never shrinks from the duty of giving it. Whenever a festering ulcer appears on the body of public morals, it never refuses to use the scalpel freely, and this must be the excuse for the appearance of this article in its columns. It seems to the close observer of passing events that the tastes of the people are undergoing a wonderful change for the worse in these later days, when books and periodicals are about the cheapest commodities to be found in any market. Let an observing man wander along the thoroughfares of the leading cities or the narrow lanes of the smallest village, and his eyes will turn from one to another placard or poster announcing the publication, by responsible firms, of some startling novel, replete with "hair-breadth escapes," and overflowing with a thrilling sentiment of romance that can only be appreciated when the book is attentively read. And either to commend these fulsome, foolish, and in many instances immoral publications, or to attract a certain degree of curiosity to them, they adorn them with the most abominable titles that the mind of man can conceive. One book-seller displays in the list of his literary attractions a new novel by a nameless author, entitled: "Dead man's Gulch;" another glories over the arrival of the "Bloody Boot-jack, or the Chambermaid's Revenge;" while further on "The Rack-sack Renegade" explains the meaning of the blue rider of the red horse that is pictured below the title. It is a lamentable thing when such works can find their way into decent households and be read by people who ought to know that they are utterly worthless and often supply the pabulum for nourishing a good boy into a very bad man.

The tastes of the age seem to crave something wild, something ferocious and horrible, and the nearer the author can keep the "thread of his narrative" to the impossible the closer will his readers study his work. The elite of society is attracted to the theater to see "Buffalo Bill," who figures as the central star of his combination, when in fact such names are usually conferred upon blackguards, and are merited on account of some barbarous deed committed against humanity, or some contemptible act of cruelty against animals of lower degree. Fathers and mothers see their sons and daughters poring over these disgusting periodicals and raise no word of protestation against it. They encourage them to attend the theater, where a whole lifetime of scandal has been boiled down to a melodrama that can be acted through in two hours, and in which the ways and means by which sin is made respectable and crime commendable, are painted with all the gorgeous embellishments that a fertile imagination can devise and that a superabundance of alliterative adjectives can confer. These things are all wrong, and the sooner men and women turn their faces against them and return to the elegancies of literature, the sooner will be closed one of the widest avenues through which thousands of people are annually passing to disgrace and shame.

M. Strickland.

The establishment presided over by the above named gentleman has for years enjoyed the enviable reputation of doing all kinds of Lithographing work in style and finish equal to the oldest established houses in New York, Chicago, or St. Louis.

Mr. Strickland makes a specialty of lithographing, wedding invitations and cards, party invitations, visiting cards, etc., etc., and in every instance the most artistic handiwork, and superiority in material is guaranteed.

This house has a large interior patronage, from the fact that satisfaction is given both in work and price. Specimens will be furnished.

A GOOD ACCOUNT.

"To sum it up, six long years of bed-ridden sickness and suffering, costing \$200 per year, total, \$1200—all of which was stopped by three bottles of Hop Bitters, taken by my wife, who has done her own housework for a year since without the loss of a day, and I want everybody to know it for their benefit."

JOHN WEEKS, Butler, N. Y.



Texas Christian Advocate

ADVERTISING RATES:

Table with 6 columns: Space, 1 Mo, 2 Mos, 3 Mos, 6 Mos, 1 Year. Lists rates for various ad sizes and durations.

CHANGES.—Any advertisement may be changed monthly free, except on advertisements 10 per cent added to the regular rates.

Our readers will find the card of J. Seeligman & Co., interesting. We invite attention to the card of Messrs. McCormack & Wardright.

The readers of the ADVOCATE know that it is seldom that we notice editorially the merits of any new remedy—particularly when it is classed under the head of "Patents."

We invite the attention of our readers to the advertisement of Messrs. Bridgeford & Co., manufacturers of stoves, ranges, tinware, also importers and dealers in tinplate, sheet iron, copper, zinc, wire, tinner's tools, and machines of great variety.

PLEASE notice the card of Albert Ball, (agent), fashionable hatter of Galveston.

ATTENTION is called to the card of Messrs. Bridgman Bros., who offer the public great inducements in holiday goods.

ATTENTION is called to the patent wire sign advertisement of Mr. Blair, of Chicago. Wire signs, now so universally popular at the North, are not only the most durable of any made, but unique and attractive.

Messrs. Laue & Hughes represent the best known and most popular insurance companies of Europe and America. Friends of the ADVOCATE will find Messrs. L. & H. a firm that give their patrons prompt and satisfactory attention.

T. E. THOMPSON.—The jewelry establishment of T. E. Thompson, corner Market and Tremont streets, Galveston, is daily thronged with the elite of Galveston, who find amongst the splendid stock of jewelry, silverware and precious goods, everything they desire in this line.

SEE card of J. P. Lyon, dealer in pianos, organs, sheet music, etc., Binkley House, Sherman, Texas. This enterprising business man has such facilities at his command that he is enabled to sell pianos, organs, and other musical instruments, at same prices as are asked at the factories.

8500 REWARD. They cure all diseases of the stomach, bowels, blood, liver, nerves, kidneys, and urinary organs, and \$500 will be paid for a case they will not cure or help, or for anything impure or injurious found in them—Hop Bitters. Test it. See "Truths" or "Proverbs" in another column.

ATTENTION is invited to card of C. M. Pearce. Mr. Pearce is one of the most energetic and reliable business men of Galveston.

A FAVORITE COUGH REMEDY.—For colds, sore throat, asthma, catarrh, and other diseases of the bronchial tubes, no more useful article can be found than the well known "Broom's Broudhild Troches."

Dr. Harter, Dear Sir: I had the chills and fever—nothing did me any good; I took quinine until I was nearly dead; as a last resort, I purchased a bottle of Dr. HARTER'S FEVER AND AGUE SPECIFIC for seventy-five cents; I used only half the bottle, and it completely cured me.

UNDER head of Houston advertisements will be found the card of James F. Dumble, one of the leading crockery and fancy goods dealers of our State.

ATTENTION is called to the advertisement of the Ditchell Safe and Lock Company. The interests in Texas of this company are watched after by the well known and enterprising Houston hardware dealer, Mr. L. T. Noyes.

ATTENTION is called to the card of J. J. Collins, Denton, Texas, wholesale and retail dealer in groceries, provisions, cigars, tobacco, and all the fine brands of flour.

SEE advertisement of Messrs. J. S. Brown & Co., dealers in hardware, Galveston. This firm is so well known to our readers that more than a passing notice from us is unnecessary.

An Invaluable Remedy. Waco, April 9, 1879. My mother has suffered for years with neuralgia and other diseases, being frequently confined to her bed.

THE advertisement of Messrs. A. R. Collins & Co., general land agents, Denton and Galveston, Texas, will be found in another column.

CONSUMPTION CURED. An old physician retired from practice having placed in his hands by an East India missionary the formula of a simple vegetable remedy for the speedy and permanent cure of Consumption, Bronchitis, Catarrh, Asthma, and Whooping Cough, also a positive and radical cure for Nervous Debility and all Nervous complaints, after having tested its wonderful curative powers in thousands of cases, has felt it his duty to make it known to his suffering fellow-men.

WONDERFUL.—It is wonderful, but nevertheless true, that to judge from the business going on at J. E. Mason's parlor book-store on Market street, hard times have become a thing of the past.

Ladies', Misses' and Children's Bonnets. Of the latest and most fashionable styles Made to Order.

Gentlemen's Silk Handkerchiefs and Scarfs. At prices to suit the times.

\$500 Partner Wanted. On account of excessive express charges from here in small quantities, I want a good square business man, at a central point (preacher preferred), with above amount, to act as GENERAL STATE AGENT for the sale of the most popular and WONDERFUL BLOOD PURIFIER of the AGE—DR. DUTTON'S VEGETABLE DISCOVERY.

They cure all diseases of the stomach, bowels, blood, liver, nerves, kidneys, and urinary organs, and \$500 will be paid for a case they will not cure or help, or for anything impure or injurious found in them—Hop Bitters. Test it. See "Truths" or "Proverbs" in another column.

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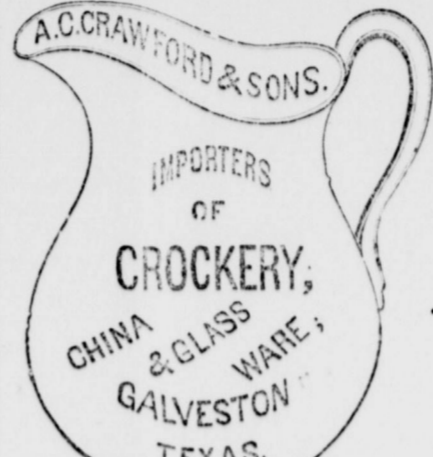
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Texas Christian Advocate

RED-HOT SHOT.

A Keen Diagnosis of the Blighting Plague—Political Methodism.

The Preachers Who Have Renounced Christianity to Set Up the Devil's Kingdom.

Northern Methodism the Dagger Hanging Over the Republic's Heart.

THE SOUTH AND CATHOLICISM.

[To the Editor of the Courier-Journal.]

VICKSBURG, MISS., Dec. 3.—From my standpoint, and with the convictions I cherish, the future of this continent will be—aside from its material growth and magnificent development—anything but cheering to the church. And this to my view springs out of the unnatural, violent and abusive pursuit of the South by the pulpit and Protestant press of the Northern and Eastern States.

Consider, then, for a moment, the alarming change that has come over those States within forty or fifty years. Then their pulpits dared not preach political-partisan sermons. "Christ and Him crucified" was constant theme of almost every clergyman in the land. Now sermons are tolerated in which the name of Christ never enters, even by indirection. They may be rank and bitter party discourses on elections, candidates and the accursed South—the inevitable negro—the grossest misrepresentations of his real and true condition—wicked exaggerations of facts, distortions of crime, and whatever engenders hate, to fan the fires of discord, rouse the animosities, awaken the resentments of their audiences. Consequently, in traveling, Southern people rarely attend public worship in those States. They do not care to listen to political speeches with a text hung loosely at one end; to exodus harangues, and the incredible stories of negro wrongs; to hectorings on ferocious Kukulx or the dead issues of Know-nothingism; Grant for the third term, or Gen. Butler for Governor. Of course they would be compelled to hear the outrageous perversions of the Yazoo affairs, and listed to the shocking tragedy of Kemper county, of which they get a surfeit through the political press, and care not for the unseasoned pulpit rehash on Sunday.

Political sermons are not tolerated in the South. The millions outside the church see these demonstrations of un-Christliness, I might say diabolism, and break out in profane objurgations of all such preaching and preachers as wolves in sheep's clothing, and the deluded claqueurs of ambitious, self-seeking political partisans. The Northern pulpit and protestant press are, to our Southern people, a source of profound aversion. The political press is savage enough, but it is always seasoned with a little Pickwickian grace that makes apologies and explanations a facile and becoming thing. But church journals, great religious organs, denominational oracles, official advocates, out-herod Herod in relentless, uncharitableness and readiness to present the worst side of every error, blunder, misstep, crime, miscarriage or misfortune of Southern people. They speak and write as if they dwelt in a sinless paradise, and we in the South were damned, and it was part of their celestial duty and pleasure to keep on damning us—outcasts from heaven, branded as pariahs; shut out as lepers, a hopeless mass of moral putrescence, which it would bankrupt the fountains of mercy, as they measure it, to save.

Dr. C. H. Fowler, D. D., LL. D., the editor of the Christian Advocate, New York, expresses it mildly thus:

"The cruelties and ferocities of some sections of the South start the question whether it has not been cut off from probation, towed down stream, and anchored fast to doom."

I wonder if the Doctor teaches that the souls of the lost simply migrate South when Northern sinners die.

Hell is a feeble picture in the eyes of such divines compared to society in the South. Not long since, in a large Northern city, I sojourned over the Sabbath in one of the most estimable and widely-known families in the place. At breakfast I was asked if I would attend church that day. I said:

"I would like to, but South it was never permitted to preach politics or negroes."

The excellent lady of the house begged me to hear her minister, who was free from all such improprieties. I went; and, as luck would have it, that day he unsheathed his sword, and marched through the South with an open

commission from God, as he thought.

"To deal denunciation round the land On each he judged a foe."

The rapidly growing infidelity of the American continent is due to the gross outrages of the pulpit and press of the Protestant Church North. Christ is too tame a subject. Love is suited for nurseries. Pity becomes the breasts of the weak. But stalwart piety demands the arrest, indictment, arraignment, trial, conviction and crucifixion of the South.

I well remember the day when the Christian Advocate was a messenger of Christian truth, a promoter of piety and a source of real instruction and comfort. Now it seems to be a politico-religious and purely partisan journal, with an ambition that Grant shall be the next President, and the Methodist Episcopal Church become the National Church.

Out of no little material, I ask your readers to say what must be the feelings of Southern people who read the following sweet token of Calvary's thrilling compassion, from Dr. Fowler's pen:

There has been an election in Ohio. The verdict of the jury in Kemper county, Miss., has been reversed. Gully goes free, but the murderous spirit that demanded the release of this Barabbas has been sentenced by the ballot of Ohio. Sherman, who has condensed much of the property of the poor into the coffers of the rich, need not claim the honor. Blaine, who gave away the record of his life in striking the Chinese, need not claim the honor. Cornelia Chisholm's soul, by the side of the soul of John Brown, is marching on. It made its presence felt in Ohio, the 14th. It may be expected to report at every Northern election till murder shall be an outlaw in every State of the Union.

The Doctor is, I think, a little wrong in companionship of Mrs. Chisholm. The latest intelligence that she had met Mrs. Suratt on her journey, and the good and sainted old lady congratulated Miss Cornelia on having been accidentally shot, while she had been murdered officially, without a word of evidence against her, by the best government on which the sun has ever shined.

Now, is that the way to "spread Scriptural holiness over these lands?" Is that in keeping with the olive branch the Doctor waved over the Southern General Conference at Louisville so recently? And yet this is only one of almost innumerable sparks of infernal fire fanned by this eminent wholesale slanderer of the South. Of course he feels the pulse of his patrons and ministers agreeably to his diagnosis of their demands, and that only proves the greater peril.

The outcome of all this (and this is but one journal of hundreds just as violent, unjust and cruel) is hatred, contempt, distrust, avoidance. It feeds infidelity, it emboldens and propagates it. It makes it respectable and gives value to its sympathy.

Suppose, now, a Southern gentleman were sick in New York, and needed a kind and gentle friend to sit by him through his last night, and send his last words to his family, close his eyes, cross his hands, and lay over his cold face a veil, and so conclude his kind offices.

Suppose only two men could be found who might perform such a service. One, a Christian minister by profession—and an editor of some semi-religious, politico-partisan paper—the other, Colonel Robert G. Ingersoll. One, Job-like, who with honeyed words or salutation, inquires, "Art thou in health, my brother?" and with a stiletto thrusts through his brother's heart like a savage—the other, a straight-forward hater of hypocrisy and shams—a man of an ugly, but honestly-accepted creed—sympathetic, kind, generous, brave, consistent to his convictions and above persecution.

Which of these men would the sick man be likely to select? Col. Ingersoll, of course. Any body would; even a Southern clergyman assuredly would.

From our standpoint the rabidness of the Northern and Eastern Protestant Church, by its downright injustice, uncharitableness, malignity and violence—by its departure from sacred things, its political ambition, its violent and indiscriminate pursuit of the South and its purpose to crush us out—has laid the broad foundation for agrarianism, communism, infidelity and other nameless isms in their own midst, that will make their hearts ache some day if they have sensibility left to feel.

An honest, outspoken Eastern periodical, gives utterance to the following words in confirmation of my theory:

We believe it to be susceptible of demonstration that the late extraordinary and deplorable increase of crime, an increase more palpable every day, crowding with its record

the columns of the public prints, and sickening the soul with its endless detail and novelty of horror, is largely due to the growth of materialism, or what is termed infidelity, and that mainly in reaction from the skeptical drift of the time lies the path of wholesome reform. The fruit of unbelief among the upper or wealthy classes is sensuality. Those classes get to worship instead of their Maker the pleasures of the moment. Among the poorer and less educated ranks of society the cant and poison of living only for the day is even more directly disastrous. The rich can gratify their passions without, as a rule, and in the legal sense, coming in conflict with the rights of others. But the needy, unrestrained by any fear of future account, and thinking only to eat and drink since to-morrow they die, drive straight on to crime. That this is no idle assertion can be abundantly proved. A careful survey of the murders, suicides and other great felonies committed in the chief cities of the United States during the last ten years shows that a heavy fraction of the perpetrators were atheists or free-thinkers.

It has long been the desire of some of the chiefs of the church outside our borders, to ally itself with the government, and "run the machine" in the interests of demagogicalism. The proposition has been made to me.

Since writing the above a weekly just out of the mail brings the following:

"Bishop Haven is the initiator of Jesus," referred to, and is indorsed, of course, by several millions of Northern Methodists.

He was lecturing in Walla Walla, and uttered the following sentiments:

The Bishop took pains to say that those in their church who made apologies for the sentiments uttered in their papers, were doing a work to their injury, as that all their editors were chosen by the church to do just what they are doing in heralding the sentiment of the M. E. Church on all questions whatsoever. He claimed theirs to be the NATIONAL CHURCH, and that the editors of their papers were elected to carry out the national idea of politics—a centralized government and a conquering and crushing of the South, which believes in the doctrine of State rights.

And now, as I write, comes the New York Christian Advocate, of November 6, with an editorial on the South that flows along its many columns like the red lava of a volcano.

The editor says: (The Methodist Episcopal Church) claim the South, because the republic, which we have recently saved by Methodist conscience and Methodist bayonets (?), now demands at our hands another salvation by Methodist faith. Born with the republic, the Methodist Episcopal Church has become the guardian of American liberties.

What will other churches and non-church communities say to that? Is not that what Bishop Haven claims also, and that the church will follow its leaders? Very significant!

Listen again: We claim the South because it is trampled by sin. (No sin in New York!) Its coarse and bloody despotisms are too public to need illustration. While the Gullys go unhung and Dixon is unavenged (the other day he said Ohio's vote had avenged Dixon), and Hamburg Butler has a seat in the United States Senate, and Dr. Blackburn, who fought women and children with small-pox virus, occupies a Governor's chair, and the hero of Fort Pillow, who buried prisoners alive, has a seat in Congress, the crimes of this bloody land can not be hid.

Would Jesus have said it in that way? Tell us, Doctor.

To the South such views and plans are utterly repugnant. Still, the influence of the church in the South, as a whole, is inadequate to resist the outgrowth of impiety, contempt of sacred things, neglect of public worship and violation of the Lord's day, which grows apace in the North and East. For one, I believe the age of skepticism, gross irreligion, communism, agrarianism, hatred, violence, and the reign of philosophic materialism in the higher walks of society has set in, and is daily asserting itself by strides of aggressiveness full of fearful presage to all true lovers of God.

And for this advancing cataclysm the Protestant pulpit and press, North and East, are mainly responsible. Think of a Protestant pulpit devoting its discourses to the election of Gen. Butler in the orthodox city of Boston. Then think of the thousands of sermons preached to elect a President and twice ten thousand to inflame the sensitive passions of eager listeners against the South on every Sabbath for years together. How precious

are the glad tidings of GALL!

There is another epoch—another upheaval rapidly advancing, if Protestant church periodicals can be regarded as reliable authority.

IT IS THE ROMAN CATHOLIC QUESTION.

Over and again the church journals have told us that Romanism is laying broad its foundations, and adroitly adjusting its plans to obtain the government of this continent. Of course they are. That is, and ever has been, a chief aim of its zeal. And are not the wicked perversions of the pulpit and press of Protestantism to the persecution of the South, and its ambition to have, in some of its branches, "a national church," doing the same thing?

I well remember when political sermons would not, for a moment, have been tolerated in Protestant pulpits. Now, to a fearful degree, without them the pulpit is deemed "stale, not up to the age"—"not abreast with the times."

Meantime Romanism is silent, but not idle. She has no curses for the South. She sees it as it is, and hopes for a better day. Her pulpits never ring with heartless denunciations of Southern people *per se*. From her Cardinal down to the humblest priest, only words of sympathy for our faintness, weariness and woe, or grief and pity for our sins and short comings, are heard. Her church journals utter no maledictions against us, as the South. What a damaging contrast!

But now, mark my words. When the hour comes for the Romish Church to assert herself and strike for the mastery—as she must do, if true to herself—and every pulpit and press she owns, and all she can purchase and control, with the billions of gold that will flow from over the seas and from over the hills, and from over all the world, into her coffers; then Protestants, having set the example, will be dumb—then some seven-by-eight act of political jugglery may close the contest; the Government become quite another thing, (perchance an empire—a Papal empire!) and prostituted Protestantism stand aghast in the paralyzing shadow of a lost opportunity! She may struggle; so did Laocoon. She may rise, as was her wont, to go forth; so did Samson.

She may call to the South. Alas! for the South! The Catholic was her only friend in the day of her impoverishment and grief—the only church that did not belie her own mother's son—the only people that did not help the outgrowth of contempt for the Sabbath and sanctuaries—that stood off and stood still till the maniacs of the political pulpit had run the old ship of State hard upon the breakers, and then came and called at the hour of imminent peril to prevent utter wreck and annihilation! Call to the South!

The solid South—solid like a flock of sheep trembling under the cry of the wolves that encircle them!

Why, the South would accept anybody or anything for the sake of peace that did not require it to abjure manhood, and principle, and laws, and constitutions, and the Government as our fathers gave it to us.

When the wrongs and slanders of the South shall have achieved their purpose and infidelity shall have torn up the foundations of our religion, and the iconoclast and communist have overridden the rights of property, the South will be powerless to speak, and if she speaks she will politically speak for the party, or power, no matter who or what, that will deliver her from the eternal floods of slander, recrimination and abuse which for ages have been lavished upon her head.

These presages will, I am aware, be set at naught and treated as all things from Nazareth must be, but time will tell. Good and foreseeing men, North and East, tremble for the future.

I know, also, religious journals will, by a thousand skillful periods, "Try to make the worse, Appear the better reason," and deny their treason and hatred against the people of the South; but facts are facts, in spite of words. And yet they may tell me of the boundless generosity of their people when we were perishing with the great epidemic.

And I will tell them, as a witness of it all, that thousands of stout-hearted prayerless men wept for joy and thankfulness, chiefly because they felt that the affliction on the one hand, and the generous, unparalleled liberality and compassion on the other, had cemented both sections of the country into a brotherhood of everlasting affection.

But, because Southern Democratic Congressmen took up and contended for States Rights as laid down in the Republican platform of 1860 and in 1877, and defended by Edmunds and Hoar and Evarts and Garfield and hundreds of their journals, the entire Republican

party, and nearly the whole church outside of the South have set up a cry of the fiercest tone, "Down with the South! Down with the South!" Everything we do is distorted; all our best efforts for the restoration of the country to industry and religion, to peace and good will, are travestied and turned against us, until the Old World must regard us as barbarians of the most vulgar, degraded and shocking characters.

It seems to me that a Southern gentleman traveling in Europe or England must be regarded (if people believe our American periodicals, Christian and political), as a leper—an out-law—a cut-throat—a shameless pariah—a human ghoul. Hence the North is called "God's country."

They must esteem him an incarnated concentration of all the over seventy exquisite odors of the city of Cologne, from whose presence all gentility would shrink, with whom no gentleman would fraternize, and to whose hospitality the meanest ragpicker would not admit him.

Either this must be true, or thoughtful people over the seas must regard the American Christian press, in its endless traduction of the South, as a gigantic falsifier, totally incapable of doing justice to a people without whose annual products the world would become a commercial and moral chaos in less time than the sun can sweep through the zodiac.

Now, do the Northern people reflect on the effect of these proceedings? It was this very course of misrepresentation, slander and vituperation that forced thousands of the truest patriots into the army of the Confederacy. And though the South can never unsheathe another sword, she may lose her interest in a people whose religion of hate has poured the chalice of wormwood into her palid and trembling lips.

Before I close, I ask again whence all this turmoil, strife and babble, these untruths and gross falsehoods, stories of refugees from Kansas, returning for their furniture, being arrested and mutilated—having their hands cut off in one case and their arms in another, and maltreated as no inquisition ever punished its victims? What is the foundation of it all? Many causes—chiefly this: the presence of the colored man in the South. This is the prolific source of all our woes, our weakness, our poverty, our future ruin. For more than seventy years the negro has been a bone of contention—a theme of animadversion, political wrangling, bitterness and finally war.

Had there been no colored men in the South war would never have been dreamed of.

The war cost more than the price of the 4,000,000 slaves at \$800 per head.

More first-class young men perished in freeing the slave than there were able-bodied colored men in bondage.

As a voter he is a commercial article, and white men condescend to grossly repulsive familiarities with him in order to secure his ballot, and thus the negro is not only not elevated himself, but he brings the miserable white man down to his own plane.

As a jurymen he is the reliance for acquittal in all murder cases, and no criminal fears the penalty of the law when Africa rules the panel.

Then, over all, stands the roaring cataract—the sectional strife, the "accursed South," the "murderous South," the South and specially my own gallant State, Mississippi, "cutting off the arms of poor negroes," "chopping off the hands of returned refugees," when not one pin has really scratched the nebulous and undiscovered victims.

But one hope remains for the South: deliverance from the wards of other and antagonistic people.

The colored man is capable, under proper tutelage, of noble things. I am his fast friend. He don't design mischief to the South. He is used by the sworn, implacable enemies of Southern white men, Southern churches, Southern patriots, Southern sinners!

Hence, as I love the South, as I have bestowed a half century of toil upon her citizens and faithfully served her colored people, and as I am ready to spend the remainder of my life for the mutual well-being of the two races, I will do my utmost to remove the colored man into the bosom of his guardians, counselors and friends, and I desire to thank Senator Windom and all his coadjutors for the noble work they have undertaken, and pray that they may not cease until the colored man can be eliminated from the South, at least two-thirds of them, and scattered all over the United States, or colonized in St. Domingo or planted in Africa, where he may become the grand regenerator of millions of his race. Not until then will the South stand erect. C. K. MARSHALL.

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F. W. KERSTING, (Successor to BLESSING & BRO.), The old Established and Reliable Photographers of Texas, At the old stand, 174 Tremont Street, Galveston, where he will be pleased to see the friends and patrons of Blessing & Bro. All kinds of pictures executed in the finest style of the art and at reasonable prices. CARBONS a specialty. S. S. HULL, artist, with F. W. KERSTING.

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M. L. GEE & CO., Commission Merchants, Receiving and Forwarding Agents, GALVESTON, TEXAS. Consignments of all kinds of country produce, eggs, chickens, etc., respectfully solicited. SEND TO Shaw & Halylock, For estimates on all kinds of Printing, 73 Strand, Galveston, Texas.







Texas Christian Advocate

LETTER FROM CHICAGO.

Chicago—Its Marvellous Growth and Commercial Importance—The Tunnels, Streets, and Bridges—The Exposition Building, the Water-Works, and Other Public Improvements.

[From our Regular Correspondent.] Chicago, December 18, 1879.

The growth of Chicago, the New York of the West, has been marvellous. From a little Indian trading point, forty years ago, it has become a city of perhaps over half a million souls, the greatest railroad center in the world, one of the greatest manufacturing places on the continent, and also the greatest market in the world for grain, lumber and live stock, while it is high up in the scale of very many other essential commodities of commerce. For magnificent buildings, fine streets and sidewalks, Chicago can vie with any other American city, New York and Boston not excepted. Her hotels and daily newspapers are the equal of those of New York, and in everything that tends to make up a great and really attractive city, Chicago is first-class. The city is situated at the mouths of the Chicago and Calumet rivers, and on the west shore of Lake Michigan. Originally the site of Chicago was but a foot or two above the lake, but it has been raised twelve to fourteen feet. From 1835 to 1860 hundreds of houses, some of them large brick and stone structures, were raised by the use of jackscrews to the level of the streets, and in many instances they were even conveyed to new locations. On the south, west, and north the city is bounded by a rich prairie country, very fertile, well checked over with railroads and generally dotted with well cultivated farms. Much money has been spent dredging out the Chicago river and erecting docks. The river has a frontage of about thirty-five miles. The Illinois and Michigan canal, which extends to La Salle, connects with the south branch of the river. The canal does not cut as much of a figure in the commerce of the town now as it did years ago, when railroads were few and far between, but still it is a helper. Now, since the improvements three or four years ago, the flow is from the lake through the river into the canal and thence into the Illinois and the Mississippi rivers. Thus the current of one American river has been reversed, but it took Chicago enterprise and much money to do it. The city has a frontage north and south along the lake of about ten miles, and reaches out from the lake west five or six miles. The river and its branches divide the city into three distinct parts, called north, west, and south divisions, which are connected by two stone tunnels, that pass under the river, and by thirty bridges. The city is level and beautifully laid out; the sidewalks are generally wide, and the streets are from eighty to one hundred feet wide, and many of them are adorned with beautiful shade trees, now loaded with ice and snow instead of green leaves and blossoms. State street, which runs north and south, is the Broadway of Chicago, and the handsomest, and I think the widest of the several very beautiful thoroughfares that Chicago boasts of. The streets are mostly paved with wooden blocks, and many of them, in the residence portion of the city, are lined with maple and other trees on either side. Many thoughtful people conscientiously believe that Chicago is destined to become in a very few years the largest and greatest of American cities. Her geographical position at the head of the lake regions, her forty railroads, her canal and her manufactures, certainly give her a great advantage. Statistics state that Chicago's increase of population from the time she was incorporated in 1837, has been at the rate of ten and a-half per cent per annum. The great fires of October 8, 1871, and July 14, 1874, seemed to prove a blessing in disguise, for a few short years saw the burnt districts covered with imposing buildings far finer than those that had so suddenly been swept away by the flames. The first fire laid waste everything for an area of a little over three square miles, there being over seventeen thousand houses destroyed, and over ninety-five thousand people made homeless. It is estimated that the total loss was \$190,000,000, and that two hundred lives were sacrificed by the conflagration. The last fire destroyed eighteen blocks in the business center of the city, about \$4,000,000 worth of property.

The exposition building occupies the lake front from Monroe to Jackson street. The main structure has a frontage of eight hundred feet and a depth of two hundred feet. In its centre is a dome sixty feet in diameter by one hundred and sixty feet in height. The Chicago postoffice is only second in size in this country to the New York postoffice, and it is truly an imposing building. It is three hundred and forty-two feet wide and two hundred feet deep, and the interior court is eighty-three by a hundred and ninety-eight feet. Chicago is well supplied with hospitals and benevolent institutions, schools, and churches. The "news-boys' home" is a very imposing building and well managed. There the news vendors are lodged for a nickel and fed at a corresponding low rate. The boot-blacks, I believe, are cared for there also. In numbers, and perhaps in membership, the Methodist and Presbyterian churches are far ahead of other denominations.

The present year 1700 houses were erected in this city, and it is estimated that from 2000 to 3000 will be built during 1880. There is a good deal of rivalry between Chicago and St. Louis, the population of which are about the same. In 1870, St. Louis had, I believe, about 11,000, the advantage; but Chicagoans believe they will come out ahead when the census is taken next year.

Chicago has now over twenty elevators, with a storage capacity of 18,000,000 bushels of grain. In one year over 160,000 cars and 1000 vessels have arrived in this city with grain, and it is estimated that the grain receipts for this season, ending next October, will be about ten per cent larger than any previous year. Chicago's water-works' system is the wonder of the world. The water is brought from the lake, a distance of two miles from the shore, through a tunnel built under the lake into a great well under the water-works' building on shore, and from there it is raised by means of a great pump and conveyed and forced throughout the entire city. The "crib" at the lake end of the tunnel was built on shore and launched in the same manner as vessels are. It is made of immense timbers and tons of iron. It is about 40 feet high and about 100 feet in diameter. The walls are caulked and tarred. The entire water-works cost \$8,000,000. The two tunnels under the river, affording passage way for teams and pedestrians, cost about \$1,000,000, and are about 1200 feet long and made of solid masonry. They are lighted with gas, and feel damp and cold to those who pass through. The bridges are not much to boast of, but they answer very well for the purposes they are intended. Chicago has over 300 churches and between 50 and 60 large and costly public schools, heated by steam and supplied with other modern appliances. The school property belonging to the city is estimated to be worth nearly \$3,000,000, and the number of teachers is now near 1000. Chicago has several very beautiful parks and boulevards. Lincoln, Douglas and Central are, I believe, the finest parks in the city. In 1850 Chicago had but 12 houses and 100 inhabitants; in 1837 her population had increased to 4,100, and in 1850, 29,963. In 1860 it was 112,172, and in 1870 it was 298,977.

There are quite a number of the earlier settlers of Chicago still living, and a few are now doing business in this city. One of them is Mr. A. Pelton, a native of Massachusetts, and now 64 years old, but an active business man. He has been forty years a Methodist, and has never used spirits or tobacco or sworn an oath. He is in business up to his arm-pits, being the head man of a leading piano and organ establishment, the proprietor of the mill advertised in this issue of the Advocate, and a half owner of a silver mine in Arizona. He put \$12,000 in machinery to work this mine a few months ago. Mr. Pelton showed your representative some very rich specimens of ore that were taken from his mine. Mr. P. has accumulated a large fortune, and I learn that he and his good lady are very liberal in giving to the poor and in aiding churches. If all wealthy people were like them, how much better the world would be, and much suffering would be alleviated.

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"The snow, the beautiful snow!" Well, its very pretty to look at when it is falling, but I don't like so much of it in my face, ears and collar as I have had this week. The cold has been quite severe for several days past, and the streets and sidewalks have been slippery with ice. But this is the season for cold weather, and it must be expected. Up to a week ago, the winter had been quite open and mild, and much rain fell.

Washington. Advice from Washington, under date of the 20th, inform us that the Texas delegation have had a meeting to discuss measures looking to frontier defense and the improvement of the harbors on the Texas coast. Coke, Maxey, Upson

and Jones, were appointed a committee to wait on the Secretary of the Interior respecting frontier affairs. Mr. Schurz manifested a disposition to comply with their request to aid in securing the needed legislation. They interviewed Gen. Sherman as to the necessity of sending troops north of Fort Griffin. He will take the suggestion under consideration.

Maxey and Jones called on Gen. Wright, Chief of the Bureau of Engineers, to confer respecting the improvement of Texas harbors. Gen. Gilmore will possibly be assigned to the coast of Texas and will have exclusive charge of its improvements. Gen. Wright said there was no question as to the possibility of getting deep water at Galveston. The principle of the present plan he thinks is all right; the only question is as to the strength of the gabions.

Gen. Gilmore's estimate for deepening the water at the bar at Galveston is almost equal to the entire river and harbor bill of the past year or two. The more prosperous times it is thought will encourage more liberal improvements. The true policy is to make appropriations which will ensure the completion of the work and not leave it unfinished at the mercy of the elements.

The Afghan war drags on. Gen. Roberts says he is able to hold his position and commence offensive operations at first opportunity. Reinforcements are going forward as rapidly as they are needed.

Attention is called to the advertisement of B. R. Davis & Bro., who have opened to the public at their new stand, 58 and 60 Market street, Galveston. They have a splendid stock of goods.

Please note advertisement of Mrs. M. Thompson, millinery and dress-making establishment, Tremont street, Galveston.

Attention is called to J. B. Barton's advertisement. Our readers will be sure to find the best bargains by dealing with this house. Goods guaranteed to be all that is represented.

We invite particular attention to the advertisement of P. H. Rose, the prince of photographers. A visit to his gallery will prove a treat. Our readers will observe from the advertisement of J. B. Womack that he is offering the public an elaborate variety of dry-goods, fancy goods and specialties at the very lowest prices.

HOLIDAY PRESENTS.—Mr. T. Ratto, the well-known manufacturing confectioner of Galveston, has been actively engaged during the past three weeks importing and manufacturing the choicest varieties of candies for the holidays. It is a well known fact that all candies manufactured or imported by Mr. Ratto are made of the purest and best material, and sold by him at such prices that enables the poorest of the poor to enjoy these luxuries. Those who contemplate giving parties or making presents to their friends, will save money by sending their orders for confectionery to T. Ratto, Strand, Galveston, Texas.

Mr. E. D. BURKE, representing the marble yard of A. Allen & Co., Galveston, arrived here Sunday and is engaged to-day erecting a monument in our cemetery over the grave of the late Judge William Gambel. It is an octagonal monument, thirteen feet high, and weighs seven thousand two hundred pounds. On the front are engraved a Bible, square and compass, the name, William Gambel, a star, and the words, "A Soldier of the Texas Revolution." On the left of this his birth, and on the right his death. On the left of the monument are a hand and a plumb-bob and opposite is a keystone with Masonic emblems. The monument is of the best Italian marble highly polished, costing over seven hundred dollars. Mr. Burke tells us this is the finest one in Western Texas, and that it has been put up to the memory of the late Judge by order of our fellow townsman, Mr. James W. Ward.

The above meritorious notice, given a handsome piece of workmanship made at the marble yard of Messrs. A. Allen & Co. comes from a recent issue of the Corpus Christi Free Press. We take pleasure in saying that all work turned out by the artistic workmen in the employ of A. Allen & Co., is equal to any found in the United States.

Mr. P. H. Rose, the photographer, has remodeled and renovated his establishment, No. 159 Market street. We called upon Mr. R. a few days ago, and it gave us pleasure to observe the good taste he has displayed in furnishing and decorating his gallery. Mr. Rose informs us that he has gone to great expense in supplying his rooms with the newest and most improved apparatus for photographing. It should be remembered that he makes a specialty of copying and enlarging old pictures.

LETTER LIST.

Dec. 12.—H. A. Graves, in remitting register specimen sent, J. S. Gillett, sub., J. O. Slanks, your postal, in pencil, cannot be read; completely obliterated. J. Joyce, sub., J. O. Slanks, your postal, subscribers, J. G. Woods, while it would be acceptable, we do not require it. J. W. Blackburn, subscribers, J. C. Weaver, subscribers, R. C. G. sub., W. Jones, sub., J. A. Gillett, sub., Julia Phifer, J. A. Allison, W. R. D. Stockton, two lists of sub., Col. Moore, communication received, Ed. Mottice, sub., J. S. May, subscriber, books will be sent as directed. F. C. Stephenson, sub., Oscar Hightower, sub., W. A. Parks, John T. Genger, changes as requested. A. G. Noland, sub., O. A. Medlicott, J. A. Gillett, subscription and cash. Josephi Norwood, Uncle John, N. W. Keith, M. H. Wells, money order, 50, P. H. Harris, postal money order, \$12. S. Ashby, J. C. Baird, will be looked into. J. W. Vest, sub., S. Tatola, J. S. C., L. F. Palmer.

December 15.—M. J. Black, Chas. E. Brown, W. M. Moore, J. A. Wyatt, J. W. Carson, J. F. Denton, sub., W. S. May, N. F. Law, sub., C. H. Ellis, sub., Jas. Campbell, sub., Jas. Tunnell, have intended to be sent direct from Publishing House, R. G. Sewell, sub., Julia Phifer, fruit, three postals with sub., D. M. Proctor, E. A. Bailey, sub., J. G. Warren, will cancel order, J. P. Taylor, sub., J. W. Mottice, sub., J. S. May, sub., December 16.—W. C. Lane, will look into the matter, S. B. Jones, sub., J. W. B. Allen, all has intended to be sent direct from Publishing House, R. G. Sewell, sub., Julia Phifer, fruit, three postals with sub., D. M. Proctor, E. A. Bailey, sub., J. G. Warren, will cancel order, J. P. Taylor, sub., J. W. Mottice, sub., J. S. May, sub., Wallace, A. H. Brewer, W. V. Jones (will try to remedy, books sent), Geo. H. Stovall, J. H. D. Taylor, H. V. Phillips, can not make arrangements indicated, J. B. Hall, all, O. T. S. Garrett, E. W. Alderson, L. M. Fowler, Elias Robertson (two postals and 25c).

December 17.—W. H. Killough, two lists, F. A. Rosser, J. H. Crowder, D. M. Proctor, J. Weaver, J. M. Binney, J. P. T. Fruit, A. L. C. R., D. M. Proctor, O. M. Addison, C. G. Spurr, J. G. Putnam, J. W. Blackburn, J. F. Swafford, W. M. Goode (must have been a mistake), W. C. Haislip, J. W. Lively, Noland, J. G. Hill, received, J. A. Gillett, John A. Wallace, A. H. Brewer, W. V. Jones (will try to remedy, books sent), Geo. H. Stovall, J. H. D. Taylor, H. V. Phillips, can not make arrangements indicated, J. B. Hall, all, O. T. S. Garrett, E. W. Alderson, L. M. Fowler, Elias Robertson (two postals and 25c).

December 18.—J. P. Phillips (will send books when received), J. A. Allison, J. C. Weaver (will make lost time good), Julia P. Fruit, J. A. Allison (books), J. W. Hill, J. F. Sherwood (two lists), M. C. Blackburn (\$2).

December 19.—B. A. Taylor (\$2), B. A. Thomson (\$5), would be pleased to grant any amount of such privilege, J. L. Palmer, can not make arrangements indicated, J. B. Hall, all, O. T. S. Garrett, E. W. Alderson, L. M. Fowler, Elias Robertson (two postals and 25c).

December 20.—M. H. Wells, G. W. Owens, James E. Verrier, J. F. Cook, T. A. Garrison, G. T. Freeman, J. W. Mottice, can not make arrangements indicated, J. B. Hall, all, O. T. S. Garrett, E. W. Alderson, L. M. Fowler, Elias Robertson (two postals and 25c).

December 21.—S. C. Cratchfield, E. F. Boone (5c), A. W. Boston, sub., J. W. Wells, E. S. Smith, G. S. Snelled, C. L. Wilson (others are delighted), H. T. Hays (ten per cent), C. E. Lamb, L. F. Palmer, J. C. Weaver (all rights), J. L. Lemmons (will give the information), J. W. Hill, J. F. Sherwood (two lists), T. G. Gilmore, H. M. Glass, J. Mackey, D. M. Young (all you have recovered), J. J. A. Ronch (\$3.15), J. Deaton (\$5).

December 22.—Oswald Wilson, (who sent J. Zipper's name, Mt. Olive? He forgot to sign card), J. A. Allison, L. Z. T. Morris (\$30), J. A. Murphy (all, A. S. paper will be sent, your statement of case correct), M. A. Black, A. D. Gaskill (\$4), J. N. Reeves, R. C. Armstrong, J. H. Shaw, T. E. Simpson, G. W. Swafford, J. P. Mussett, J. Campbell.

The readers of the Advocate in North Texas will favor us by noticing the advertisements inserted under the heading of DALLAS BUSINESS DIRECTORY. These advertisers are among the leading and most enterprising business men of Ball's. Having direct railway communication with all points North and East, the merchants of Dallas get their supplies from the best markets at such prices as enable them to compete favorably with New Orleans, St. Louis and other cities. More especially do we call attention to the advertisements of the following houses:

KNOWLES & NANN are managers of the "New Home Sewing Machine" for the state of Texas. This machine is a recent invention, and is said to possess many new and invaluable improvements, and will become an indispensable acquisition to all dress-making establishments and a welcome friend in every family circle.

TRINITY CIGAR FACTORY is now supplying the trade throughout Texas with brands of superior cigars manufactured from genuine Havana tobacco, and from the best domestic leaf. The proprietors are live and go-ahead business men who have succeeded in firmly establishing themselves in Dallas, and have built up already a large and profitable trade in their line. Many of our friends who have tried cigars made by this manufactory pronounce them very excellent and the price, that of every reasonable. We take pleasure in recommending the Trinity Cigar Factory to our readers.

W. W. ORR is successor to the old-established house of Sechler & Orr, manufacturers and dealers in carriages, phaetons, buggies and spring wagons, 725 and 736 Main street, Dallas, Texas. Mr. Orr keeps only the very best manufactured vehicles in his repository, which he guarantees to be equal in every respect to any turned out by the best manufacturers of the North and East. He sells the very best for a reasonable price, and is making large sales in consequence.

W. H. HOWELL & BRO. This firm is composed of thorough business men, whose aim has ever been to give satisfaction to their patrons in every instance. Their stock of goods embraces drugs, patent medicines, paints, oils, window-glass, stationery, violin strings, garden and flower seeds. Having been engaged in this line for many years, and being familiar with the desires of their customers, they purchase their stock with the view of meeting the demand made upon them, and invariably sell at very low prices.

MARRIED. WILLIAMS—HUNT.—By the Rev. A. G. Nolen, on the morning of the 14th of December, at the residence of the bride in Lavaca county, Mr. A. J. Williams, of Gonzales county, and Miss Maggie F. Hunt, of Lavaca county.

Another silk in the bath would two willing hearts. They have the best wishes of many of their kind friends that their lives may be as happy as the auspicious beginning promises.

A REMEDY FOR HARD TIMES. Stop spending so much on fine clothes, rich food and style. Buy good, healthy food, cheaper and better clothing; get more real and substantial things of life every way, and especially stop the foolish habit of running after expensive and quack doctors or using so much of the vile humbug medicine that does you only harm, and makes the proprietors rich, but put your trust in the greatest of all simple, pure remedies, Hop Bitters, that cures always at a trifling cost, and you will see better times and good health. Try it once. Read of it in another column.

Hutchinson House. This well known hotel is now under a new management. It has recently been refitted, and may be now considered one of the best furnished and most popular hotels in the West or Southwest. The new proprietor, Mr. William Ginnath, has displayed great taste in re-equiping and refurbishing the rooms of his hotel and supplying his patrons with a bill of fare that can not be excelled by any hotel in the Southern States. Commercial travelers will find at this hotel large sample rooms, and both they and tourists in general may be assured of receiving special attention. Mr. Ginnath desires it understood by the traveling public that he has rooms on suite for families, and ample accommodations for large parties, excursions, etc.

Mr. M. STRICKLAND, of this city, so long and favorably known as one of the leading blank book manufacturers and lithographers in the southwest, and also dealer in all kinds of stationery, has just finished renovating and re-stocking his large establishment on the Strand. We desire to inform our readers that Mr. Strickland has gone to considerable expense in fitting up his lithography department with the latest improvements in machinery, and he is now enabled to do all kinds of lithography at very low prices.

Special Notice. Hard times compels the most extravagant of us to economize. Many of our friends in Galveston, instead of purchasing several suits of heavy clothing for autumn and winter wear, have had their old clothing cleaned or dyed by Mr. H. Habine, at 116 Postoffice street, near Tremont street, Galveston. Mr. Habine has had considerable patronage from the staff of our office we have always found his work first-class and his charges very low. Connected with his dyeing and cleaning house, Mr. Habine has a first-class tailoring department, where he makes clothing of all kinds, from Scotch, English, French and domestic cloths, at prices to suit the hard times. Mr. Habine desires us to state to our readers that he buys his cloths direct from importers and home-manufacturers for cash, and he is enabled to make clothing in the most fashionable styles and from the best quality of goods at surprisingly low figures.

If you are a man of business, weakened by the strain of your duties, avoid stimulants and take HOP BITTERS. If you are a man of letters, tolling over your midnight work, to restore your brain and nerve waste, take HOP BITTERS. If you are young, and suffering from any indiscretion or dissipation, take HOP BITTERS. If you are married or single, old or young, suffering from poor health, or languishing on a bed of sickness, take HOP BITTERS. Whoever you are, wherever you are, whenever you feel that your system needs cleansing, toning or stimulating, without intoxicating, take HOP BITTERS. Have you dyspepsia, indigestion, biliousness, or any of the ailments of the stomach, bowels, liver, or nerves? You will be cured if you take HOP BITTERS. If you are simply ailing, are weak and low spirited, try it. Buy it, insist upon it. Your druggist keeps it. HOP BITTERS. It may save your life. It has saved hundreds.

(ESTABLISHED 1872.) A. R. COLLINS & CO., General Land Agents, DENISON and GAINESVILLE, TEXAS. Land scrip bought, sold, or located. Taxes paid for non residents. Maps, plats, abstracts, furnished. Lands in Northern Texas a specialty. Land paper free. Office: Alamo Hotel, Denison.

R. P. SHERWOOD, Opera House Cigar Store. Imported and Domestic CIGARS AND TOBACCO. The largest assortment of Cigarettes and Fancy Smoking Tobacco in the State. A full line of RICHMOND CIGARS on hand.

C. M. PEARRE, COTTON FACTOR AND— Commission Merchant — STRAND— GALVESTON, TEXAS. Liberal Cash Advances Made on Consignments. DRAYAGE—STORAGE. R. P. SARGENT & CO., GENERAL— Transfer & Forwarding Agents And WAREHOUSEMEN. Office—63 Mechanic Street, bet Tremont and Twenty-fourth streets. GALVESTON, TEXAS. Having the best facilities, are prepared to transfer or store all kinds of Light and Heavy Merchandise, Wool, Grain, Furniture, etc. Moving Safes, Boilers, Engines, and all kinds of Heavy Machinery, in and out of buildings, a specialty.

J. T. ASHTON & CO., IMPORTERS OF TEA, COFFEE ROASTERS AND SPICE MERCHANTS. 215 Market street, GALVESTON. Begin the New Prayer Meeting Manual Year with The Prayer Meeting Manual containing a Tract with References, Thoughts, and an appropriate Hymn for each week in the year. 72 Pages. Price, 10 cents, or \$1 per doz. Mailed free. P. GARRETT & CO., 708 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, Pa. CHEAP WATER. We have now perfected arrangements whereby we can sell our First-Class Cisterns manufactured of the very best heart Alabama Cypress at the following unprecedented low prices: 100 Gallons, \$18.00 1500 " " " 25.00 2000 " " " 32.00 2500 " " " 37.50 3000 " " " 42.50 3500 " " " 47.50 4000 " " " 52.00 4500 " " " 57.00 5000 " " " 60.00 Each Cistern Sold Under a Strict Guarantee. Packed in bundles ready for shipping, and each stove marked so that anyone can set it up. 21 additional added to each cistern for drayage and packing. Respectfully, R. H. GARNETT, 106 and 108 Church St., opposite Tremont Hotel, Galveston.

C. H. HUGHES, LAUVE & HUGHES, FIRE AND MARINE INSURANCE, Office—Cotton Exchange Building, Galveston, Texas.

Insurance Co. of North America, London Assurance Corporation, New York Underwriters Agency, Hamburg-Bremen Fire Insurance Co., American Central Insurance Co., Fire Insurance Co. of Liverpool, Commercial Union Assurance Co., London and Lancashire Fire Insurance Co., Connecticut Fire Ins. Co., Northwestern National Ins. Co., Shawmut Ins. Co.

Marine Certificates of Insurance, covering Cotton by rail and water, from any point in the State to port of destination. Loss, if any, payable at the option of the assured in London, Paris, Antwerp, Bremen and Hamburg.

Special Notice. Hard times compels the most extravagant of us to economize. Many of our friends in Galveston, instead of purchasing several suits of heavy clothing for autumn and winter wear, have had their old clothing cleaned or dyed by Mr. H. Habine, at 116 Postoffice street, near Tremont street, Galveston. Mr. Habine has had considerable patronage from the staff of our office we have always found his work first-class and his charges very low. Connected with his dyeing and cleaning house, Mr. Habine has a first-class tailoring department, where he makes clothing of all kinds, from Scotch, English, French and domestic cloths, at prices to suit the hard times. Mr. Habine desires us to state to our readers that he buys his cloths direct from importers and home-manufacturers for cash, and he is enabled to make clothing in the most fashionable styles and from the best quality of goods at surprisingly low figures.

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# The Texas Christian Advocate

TRIPLE SHEET.

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GALVESTON, TEXAS, DECEMBER 27, 1879.

NO. 16.

## Texas Christian Advocate Sunday School.

Prepared for the Advocate.  
INTERNATIONAL BIBLE LESSONS.  
BY R. M. MOORE.

FOURTH QUARTER—FIRST LESSON—JAN. 4, 1880.

Matt. II: 1-12; The Infant Messiah; Time—B. C. 4; Place—Bethlehem of Judea; Rulers—Augustus Caesar, Emperor of Rome, and Herod, the Great, King of Judea, Galilee, and Perea.

### GOLDEN TEXT.

For unto us a child is born; unto us a Son is given and the Government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.—Isa. IX: 6.

We begin with this lesson the second seven years' course of International Lessons; and we hardly need urge the importance of every one studying these lessons—not our comments on them, but the lessons themselves, as they will teach us God's will and the life of His Son. In this series the old order of the lessons is reversed. We begin with the New Testament and close with the Old. And if we would place ourselves in sympathy with the age whence we have our lesson, we must go back over almost nineteen centuries, when there was no Messiah; and we must mingle with the nations wearily waiting the coming of a purer teacher, a greater than any they had yet seen, to point them to better paths, and relieve them of their burdens. We must gather with the Magi to the city of David, the royal city of Melchizedek, and must ask, with them, the mis-called Herod the great, "Where is He that is born King of the Jews?" Then we must wait until we can hear Him teaching by the way-side; see Him healing the sick and raising the dead. We must follow Him and realize in our hearts that He is the Prince of Peace.

V. 1. "Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem." "Now when;" at the time; "Jesus;" the Greek name for Joshua, Savior; "Bethlehem of Judea;" a village six miles south of Jerusalem. It has now about 4000 inhabitants. There Ruth, the charming Moabitess, the great grand-mother of David, gleaned barley and wrought her name into history; there David was born, and there, too, was born Jesus. "In the days of Herod the king;" in Herod's reign; Herod, called the great, to distinguish him from his less talented and somewhat less inhuman sons and grand sons. He had ten wives, five of whom were in some way connected with Bible history. The first was Doris, like himself, an Idumean. He executed her son Antipater just before his own death. His second wife was the last of the illustrious line of the Maccabean princes, Mariamne. He executed her and her sons, Aristobulus and Alexander. Herod Agrippa was a son of Aristobulus, and Herodias was his daughter. And, again, King Agrippa, before whom Paul pleaded, was a son of Herod Agrippa, and Drusilla and Berenice his sisters. Herod's third wife was Mariamne, the daughter of Simon, the High Priest, and her son Herod Philip married his own niece Herodias, daughter of Aristobulus, but she left him for another uncle, Herod Antipas, son of Herod the Great's fourth wife, Malthace, who was also the mother of Archelaus. His fifth wife was Cleopatra, the mother of Philip, the Tetrarch of Iturea. The Magi of the East were doubtless Persian priests in the regular line of succession from Daniel.

V. 2. "Saying where is He that is born King of the Jews?" For we have seen His star in the East, and are come to worship Him." "Born King;" the one born a king, unlike Herod, who had become a king by his valor. "We have seen His star in the East," means we, while in the East, saw his star. "Worship him;" means more than honors to a king.

V. 3. "When Herod, the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him." "The King;" is used to distinguish him from his sons, whose dominions were less than his; "these things;" not in the text, and useless; "was troubled;" was terrified. He had murdered three sons and a wife, because they seemed in the way of his ambition. The sons of

his accomplished Mariamne were popular, and mother and sons had to die. There is no wonder that Jerusalem was troubled when such a tyrant was on the hunt for blood.

V. 4. "And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born." There was but one chief priest, but the title was applied to all the heads of the twenty-four courses established by David. The scribes were the transcribers and readers of the Law. "Christ;" the Messiah, the one promised to Eve, expected by the Jews and dreamed of by neighboring nations.

V. 5. "And they said unto him in Bethlehem of Judea; for thus it is written by the prophet: 'They;' the priests and scribes; "him;" Herod; "of Judea;" is added to distinguish it from Bethlehem of Zebulun; "by the prophet;" by the prophet Micah, v: 2.

V. 6. "And thou, Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda, for out of thee shall come a governor that shall rule my people Israel." Our author, St. Matthew, translates liberally. A literal translation is: "But thou, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto Me that is to be ruler in Israel." To this all Jews turned as the promise of their Messiah; but when they abandoned Him, they had to abandon this also.

V. 7. "Then Herod, when he privily called the wise men, inquired of them diligently what time the star appeared." "Privily;" secretly; "the wise men;" the Eastern Magi; "diligently;" carefully.

V. 8. "And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said: go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also." "He;" Herod; "them;" the wise men; "young child;" Jesus; "worship;" bow down to.

V. 9. "When they had heard the King, they departed; and lo, the star which they saw in the East went before them till it came and stood over where the young child was." The star that had sent them westward in search of a king had disappeared until they start again for Bethlehem. One of the popular delusions is to refer to this star as "the Star of the East." It was a star which they of the East saw in the West and followed it.

V. 10. "When they saw the star they rejoiced with exceeding great joy." This star first sent them to Jerusalem, where they evidently had lost sight of it, hence their joy on seeing it again.

V. 11. "And when they were come into the house they saw the young child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshipped Him; and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto Him gifts: gold and frankincense and myrrh." Their worship and treasures testify to their estimate of the character of the infant Savior.

V. 12. "And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way." Revelations by dreams were held in less esteem than other revelations, and yet they were recognized as one of the ways in which God revealed His will. He so appeared to Joseph four times.

### APPLICATION.

1. The wise men of the East sought the infant Savior because a star, a stranger in their horizon, appeared; but He has appeared to us, as the Son of Righteousness, and yet how few hasten to Him!

2. The Magian inquiry should be that of every human heart: "Where is He that is born King of the Jews?"

3. The guilty are always troubled when reminded of Christ.

4. The wily King would quiet the tumult among his people; but, base as was his purpose, he easily learns where to look for the Savior, and so can all who would find Him.

5. "Thus it is written by the prophet" reveals the way to all who seek the Savior of sinners.

6. They who are wilfully blind easily wander from the broadest roads. "Thou, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah," points so clearly to Christ, that the wonder is that all did not hail Him Redeemer and King.

7. How pious Herod seemed, but

he was really deep in the depths of hypocrisy.

S. All powerful, as he was, he forgot that he could not deceive and circumvent God.

9. The Star of Bethlehem will always guide those who are sincere in their search for truth.

10. So rejoices every Christian heart as the light of that star, hid at times, beams out again.

11. When we go to Christ, we should offer Him only the gold and frankincense and myrrh of our truest affections.

12. God, in some way, warns his children of the toils that the wicked prepare for them. These true seekers after the new King had found Him and had offered their tribute. They had no occasion to return to Jerusalem to gratify even a king. One warning from God, even in a dream is sufficient, and they depart into their own country, and Herod is foiled.

### FIRST QUARTER—SECOND LESSON—JUL. 11, 1880.

Matt. II: 13-23; The flight into Egypt; Time—B. C. 4; Place—From Bethlehem to Egypt and back to Galilee; Rulers—Augustus Caesar, Emperor of Rome, and Herod the Great, King of Judea, Galilee and Perea.

### GOLDEN TEXT.

Arise and take the young child and His Mother, and flee into Egypt.—Verse 13.

God always supplements man's weakness, and brings victory out of defeat, assurance out of doubt, and light out of darkness. When his aid is sought he never demands of us impossibilities, either in faith, or act. To enable Mary to meet the world's accusation, Gabriel appears to her in person, to assure her of her high estate, and strengthen her for her trial; as no common trial it was. So God sends His angel to Joseph, in a dream, when it becomes necessary to rescue Jesus and his favored mother, committed to his care, from the merciless Herod, who sought the life of anyone who could possibly be in the way of his relentless ambition. Thus blinded, he had slain his favorite wife, the royal Mariamne, and her princely sons in their ripe manhood. The divine agencies are only called in where the human would fail. God thus commits to Joseph the care of the helpless infant Savior. As his chosen people sought Egypt to preserve life, so the chosen one to redeem a world, goes to Egypt to save His life. The chosen people were committed to the care of Joseph, and here another Joseph has the care of Him, whom Israel in Egypt typified. Egypt at that time was a Roman province, and there the sacred family would be safe. There were many Jews there, and there had been built a rival temple to the one in Jerusalem. The journey thence was performed in a few days. As he departed in the night the risk of capture was not great. The departure of the unknown Galilean family was not calculated to attract attention. If poor, as some suppose, how miraculously the necessary expense of the journey was supplied by the rich gifts of the wise men from the East. The wait that was soon heard in Rama, of mothers for their infant sons, justified the warning and the prompt departure of Joseph with his charge. Again the angel appears to Joseph in Egypt to bid him return into the land of Israel when Herod had died; but he is warned again to avoid Archelaus the son of Herod.

V. 13. "And when they were departed, behold the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, arise and take the young child and His mother and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word; for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him." "They;" the wise men, departed into their own country as related in the previous verse, the last verse of the last lesson. "The angel of the Lord;" the same as mentioned before. The command is peculiar; it is not, "take thy wife and her son;" but it is "take the young child and His mother, until I bring thee word;" until I speak to thee; "for Herod will seek;" for Herod is about to seek.

V. 14. "When he arose, he took the young child and His mother by night, and departed into Egypt." "When he arose;" should be *having risen*. The delay implied in our text is not in the original; "by night;" to escape observation. His commands as given in the verse above, is "flee," and it is fair to presume that he acted on the solemn advice. The life of the child in his keeping is in peril, and he obeys the angel's warning, "flee."

V. 15. "And was there until the death of Herod; that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, out of Egypt have I called my son." "Was there;" was in Egypt, "until the death of Herod." We learn from Roman history that he died about four years prior to our A. D. 1. Hence it is evident, as Christ was born in his reign, that he was born four years earlier than our Christian era, and hence must have been born B. C. 4, as Herod died on the 1st of April after the birth of Christ. This fact is well known to all familiar with the chronology of the Bible. The object of His going was not to fulfill a prophecy; but His flight to Egypt was foreseen as a fact, and was recorded by the prophet Hosea, xi: 1, and, in so going, He fulfilled the prophecy, or in fleeing to Egypt He did what was foreseen He would do. "Out of Egypt have I called My Son" was used with reference to Israel; but God's chosen people was a type of His chosen Son. Hence, while the prophecy was fulfilled in Israel's exode from Egypt, it was yet fulfilled in a higher sense in the return of Israel's type from the same land.

V. 16. "Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts, thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently inquired of the wise men." "When he saw;" having seen; "was mocked;" was treated as if a child—that is, mocked; "exceeding wroth;" was in a rage; "all the children;" all the male children or boys; "coasts;" borders. "From two years old and under" included all up to two years old; "according to the time" implies that a year or more had elapsed since the Magians had first seen the wonderful star in the East.

V. 17. "Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremy the prophet, saying: 'By Jeremy, the prophet;' by Jeremy, the prophet. Chap. xxxi: 15.

V. 18. "In Rama was there a voice heard, lamentation, and weeping, and great mourning; and Rachel weeping for her children, and would not be comforted, because they are not." Rama was a town of Benjamin, as far north of Jerusalem as Bethlehem was south of it. It was in Rama that Samuel was born, and there Saul was anointed King. The passage in Jeremiah was fulfilled when Nebuchadnezzar captured Jerusalem and the King of Judea, Zedekiah, and slew his sons before his eyes, and then put them out. Rama was the first rendezvous for the captive Jews, one of whom was Jeremiah himself, who was released there. Rachel was the legitimate wife of Jacob, and as such typifies every mother of Israel. Hence, when mothers were mourning the slaughter of sons the great lamentation in Rama was repeated. Rachel was weeping.

V. 19. "But when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, arise and take the young child and his mother, and go into the land of Israel, for they are dead which sought the young child's life." Observe the same expression: "take the young child and his mother;" and now it is "go," and not "flee," as it was when they left Judea. Again it is *Israel* that is their destination, and not Judaea. "They are dead," is a quotation that refers to Pharaoh, as a type of Herod. Some suppose the plural form is used to include his wicked son Antipater, whom he slew five days before his own death.

V. 20. "And he arose and took the young child and his mother, and came into the land of Israel." Here is prompt and implicit obedience. He arose and took his charge and journeyed to the land of Israel.

V. 21. "But when he heard that Archelaus did reign in Judea in the room of his father, Herod, he was afraid to go thither; notwithstanding being warned of God in a dream he turned aside into the part of Galilee." When Herod died his kingdom was given to his three

sons: Archelaus, Ethnarch of Judea, Samaria and Idumea; Antipas, Tetrarch of Galilee and Perea; and Philip of the rest. The feud between Archelaus and Antipas rendered the fugitives safe in Galilee.

V. 23. "And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth; that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, 'He shall be called a Nazarene.'" "He;" Joseph; "Nazareth;" a germ or root. In settling there Joseph fulfilled all the references to Christ by the prophets. A "Nazarene" was a term of reproach.

### APPLICATION.

13. God's angels are always about his praying children, ready to warn them of dangers; but they have something for them to do. They must obey.

14. Though Egypt is a type of bondage and sin, yet it is safe for His children to seek a refuge there amid temptation and sin, when God bids them do so. That is always a safe place where duty leads.

15. How easily the might and wrath of a king is foiled by simple obedience to the express will of God. Mark the fearful fate of him who would attempt to defeat the will of God. He raves and slaughters for a few months, and then it is said of him: he is dead.

16. How blind in his rage; slaughtering innocent children without the slightest cause, as Jesus never intended to trouble him in his temporal kingdom, but as ambition overleaps itself, so man's cruelty often over-runs his narrow limits and measures beyond his time.

17. We fulfill not only good men's prophecies, but God's, concerning us, in lives in harmony with His will.

18. As sin inflicted pain, suffering, and death on our race, the world's Ramas have not been few; and more than once has motherhood, as typified in Rachel, sought consolation in vain at the shrines of the world for her confined babes; but Christ comes to mothers in their deep sorrows, and says fear not, thy babe shall live again. To part with our loved ones forever, is what keeps the sad fountain ever flowing. The assurance that we shall meet again dries our tears.

19. God's spirit comes to us as the angel to Joseph in Egypt, assuring us that our great arch-enemy, Satan, if not dead, is harmless, as long as we place our trust in Christ.

20. As the angel sought Joseph in Egypt, so the Holy Spirit seeks us in trials, temptations, and sins, and bids us "arise" and seek a purer and better life, purer and holier associations, and to disregard this voice is to sin.

21. *Obedience* is one of the prime Christian virtues. Many fail herein. God alone is our sovereign, and all His creatures must serve Him.

22. In Archelaus we have the bitter fruit of an evil training. Like father, like son, is too often true, as it was in this cruel son of a cruel father. So the iniquities of fathers are visited on their children forever.

23. The fulfillment of the prophecy in Christ proved Him the true Messiah; but His life and His labors are stronger proofs still. How mighty has become the once despised Nazarene from Galilee!

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Texas Christian Advocate

Gratitude is the throwing out of our hearts in the light of another's kindness.

If our judgment is to be guided by the number of bills introduced into Congress, we are to have a great deal of law in this country—whether we have any justice or not.

THE Republicans are beginning war on Postmaster-General Key. There is a deficiency of five millions in the postal appropriations.

Our Northern Methodist exchanges are nearly overrun with propositions for a change of the discipline. This is not uncommon on the eve of a meeting of the General Conference.

MILITARY SCHOOLS.—The more we see of the work they do the less we like them. They do train—but not for civil life.

A LABORER, Henry Kneeland, on the New York elevated railroad, in attempting to lower a derrick over the road, fell upon the track.

THE DRUNKARD'S DEATH.—Did you ever see a drunkard die? I knew one who died in his chair.

The New York Observer has the following item, which clearly shows the desire that prevails among young men to engage in vocations which appear to be respectable and genteel.

ards die, but who desires to be the witness? We might fall into the blushing funeral train, and follow him to his burial; and stand around his grave; and there hear the broken-hearted widow weep, and ragged children cry—but let us turn away, and forget him if we can.

Wit loses its respect with the good, when seen in company with malice; and to smile at the jest which plants a thorn in another's breast, is to become a principal in the mischief.

Some of his friends once asked Admiral Farragut how it was that he had such a successful life; and this is the account he gave of his starting right, or how he gave up his own wrong plan of life and came down to a better, wiser one.

My father, he said, "was sent down to New Orleans with the little navy we then had to look after the treason of Aaron Burr. I accompanied him as cabin boy, and was ten years of age.

READ THIS, GIRLS.—Learn to darn stocking neatly and then always see that your own are in order. Do not let a button be off your shoes a minute longer than a minute.

The New York Observer has the following item, which clearly shows the desire that prevails among young men to engage in vocations which appear to be respectable and genteel.

city, calling for a good carpenter, brought only four replies. The trades unions are preventing the training up of skilled workmen by preventing masters from having apprentices, while boys and young men prefer seeking the precarious position of a clerk to learning a trade, by which they may ere long become independent."

The Stone Man of Taghanic. History of Another Piece of Yankee Smartness Which Deceived the Doctors and Professors.

TRUMANSBURG, N. Y., Sept. 1.—The principal topics of conversation in this vicinity of late have been the revelations which have recently come to light in regard to the "stone man" at Taghanic falls.

In his first attempt at producing a prehistoric man he tried to mould the figure, but found this would not do. He then formed a long shapeless mass of the composition and carved it out by hand, using an ordinary knife while it was soft and plastic.

Three or four days before its pretended discovery the object was conveyed by night to the place determined upon for its resurrection, accompanied by four men, residents of Trumansburg.

insane was also represented in the ranks of the faithful, and a delegation of experts from that institution gave the fraud a certificate of respectability. As a humbug it can certainly be called a respectable success, but it is not the first fraud that success has made respectable.

When a board of eminent physicians and chemists announced the discovery that by combining some well known valuable remedies, the most wonderful medicine was produced, which would cure such a wide range of diseases that most other remedies could be dispensed with, many were sceptical; but proof of its merits by actual trial has dispelled all doubt.

3 Good Remedies! DR. HERRICK'S SUGAR COATED, VEGETABLE LIVER PILLS. Purge off all impure matter, and keep the system healthy.

DR. HERRICK'S CAPSICUM OR Red Pepper PLASTERS. REMOVE PAIN INSTANTLY IN KIDNEYS, CHEST, SIDES, BACK, AND LIMBS.

RENNE'S PAIN KILLING MAGIC OIL. Safe, Sure and Delicious to use for RHEUMATISM, NEURALGIA, SORE THROAT, HEADACHE, ETC.

HOLIDAY MUSIC. Six Christmas Carols. Nothing is better than an elegant volume of BOUND SONG MUSIC.

Oliver Ditson & Co., Boston, C. E. DITSON & CO., 518 Broadway, N. Y. CENTRAL ROUTE TO TEXAS! Houston and Texas Central Railway.

THE SHORT LINE. Pullman's Palace Sleeping Cars each way without change. Between Dallas and St. Louis via VINITA and St. Louis and San Francisco R. R.

LEGS & ARMS. Jas. A. Foster's Patent. Artificial Limbs. Soldiers furnished free on government account.

LAME BACK WEAK BACK. Benson's Caprine Porous Plaster. Overwhelming evidence of their superiority over all other plasters.

FITS AND EPILEPSY. DR. BELL'S FIT CURE. A Positive and Infallible Cure for FITS, EPILEPSY, SPASMS, CONVULSIONS.

Specific Medicine Co., 19 South 7th Street, St. Louis Mo. JAMES B. GOFF, ATTORNEY-AT-LAW, AUSTIN, TEXAS.

Soule's Commercial and Literary College, NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA.

MARSDEN'S PECTORAL BALM. The Greatest Remedy Known for Consumption, Coughs, Colds, Bronchitis, Asthma, Whooping Cough, and All Diseases of the Throat and Lungs.

G. R. FINLAY & CO., NEW ORLEANS, WHOLESALE AGENTS: JENKINS' ANNIHILATOR. A SURE CURE FOR Rheumatism, Gout & Neuralgia.

G. R. FINLAY & CO., NEW ORLEANS, WHOLESALE AGENTS. 100 Elegant Cards, 100 HATS & BROS., Job Printing House, Corn Hill, Texas.

RUPTURE (Hernia) CURED. By the use of TRUSSES. Made and fitted by the inventor H. SPILLMANN.

These celebrated Trusses are well known by thousands who are relieved or cured free of charge, except the price of Truss.

PATENTS. obtained for new inventions, or for improvements on old ones, for medical or other compounds, trade-marks and labels, Covenants, Assignments, Inventions, Appeals, Suits for infringements and all cases arising under the Patent Laws promptly attended to.

Wet COTTON GIN SAW CLEANER. IT CLEANS EVERY SAW ON ANY GIN IN "ONE SECOND!" Wonderful Advantages to the Ginner.

BAST'S RIDING SAW MACHINE. Will cut up more logs and cord wood with less labor than any other machine.

AGENTS! READ THIS. We will pay agents a salary of \$100 per month and expenses, or allow a large commission, to sell our new and best inventions.

WANTED.—AGENTS for containing Children's Compendium and over 2000 illustrations with all the new features.

MY ANNUAL CATALOGUE OF VEGETABLE AND FLOWER SEED FOR 1891, rich in engravings from photographs of the originals.

GRAY'S SPECIFIC MEDICINE. TRADE MARK THE GREAT TRADE MARK ENGLISH REMEDY. Will promptly and permanently cure any and every case of Nervous Irritability and Weakness.

ORGANS. 18 1/2 Stop, 3 Set Golden Tongue Walnut case; warranted 6 years. \$24.00. 16 days' trial, only \$10.00.

GUNS. Latest models ever known to the world. Revolvers, Rifles, & Shotguns. OUR \$15 SHOT-GUN.



Texas Christian Advocate

Religious Weeklies.

THE PUBLISHER.

If a solid and lasting reputation be the certain reward of the editorial reformer of our religious weeklies, great wealth awaits the wise publisher.

MONEY IN IT.

Now if ordinary business sagacity were put into it, and some necessary tact and push, it would soon become a great money-making power.

CHARITY OR BUSINESS?

It is time to understand this business. If religious papers are to be put in the category of charities, let us take up a collection and endow one at once.

CANDOR.

For publishers to pretend that they do the work merely for the "love of the cause" is, it is to be feared, but a soft way of pious lying.

GIFTS THAT ARE CHEAP.

Solomon made a large contract with Hiram, king of Tyre, for timber of cedar and timber of fir with which to build the temple of God.

WHAT PUBLISHER HAS COURAGE?

What Southern publisher will be the first to defy this ungodly sentiment and give the Southern church a religious newspaper?

OVER-CONSERVATISM.

Our conservatism, which hitherto has been our safety and our purity, under the changed condition of things now threatens to become the door of entrance to our adversaries.

trovery between the Vanderbilt University and Dr. Winchell. His friends pushed the controversy to the very "roots of our belief."

SLEEPER THAN THE EDITORS.

Yet this is only one instance—though a great and mortifying one—of our deep humiliation in the world of thought.

WHAT IS POSSIBLE TO US.

Given, a newspaper, first, of sufficient size to admit one or more articles every week suited to each large class of readers, from the child to the philosopher, together with a condensed chronicle of religious events.

Second. Of unclouded color, and material strong enough to endure two readings without being worn out.

Third. Of open, clear type, large and small, and well printed, so as to be easily read.

Fourth. A capable editor.

Fifth. Two thousand dollars annually to pay for contributions when not supplied free.

And it is a moderate and entirely feasible aspiration to swell the subscription list to thirty thousand.

THE PUBLISHER MUST DO IT.

The Methodist traveling connection is the best newspaper agency system in the world; but it is only a system. The power and wisdom to operate the system must be found in the publisher.

A BIT OF EXPERIENCE IN PARENTHESIS.

I have been a subscriber to some of our Advocates over twenty years, have been in cities and towns and country, and I have never had an extra copy of one, or seen an extra copy of one, sent to any subscriber with which to obtain a new subscriber.

received hundreds of specimen copies from "up yonder," some of them so good as to induce me to subscribe, and others to follow my example just from seeing the papers on my table.)

Now the power to make money, and to make it legitimately, which a religious paper with thirty thousand subscribers would give a Southern publisher, would make a covetous man's mouth water.—Wesleyan Christian Advocate.

AN ADMISSION.—Prof. Tyndal, in a late number of the Fortnightly Review declares:

"If asked whether science has solved, or is likely in our day to solve, the problem of the universe, I must shake my head in doubt. Behind and above and around us the real mystery of the universe lies unsolved, and as far as we are concerned, is incapable of solution.

"There ought to be a clear distinction made between science in the state of hypothesis and science in the state of fact.

"And inasmuch as it is still in its hypothetical stage, the ban of exclusion ought to fall upon the theory of evolution.

"After speaking of the theory of evolution applied to the primitive condition of matter, as belonging to the dim twilight of conjecture, the certainty of experimental inquiry is here shut out.

"Those who hold the doctrine of evolution are by no means ignorant of the uncertainty of their data, and they only yield to it a provisional assent.

"In reply to your question, they will frankly admit their inability to point to any satisfactory experimental proof that life can be developed, save from demonstrable antecedent life.

"I share Virchow's opinion that the theory of evolution in its complete form involves the assumption that, at some period or other of the earth's history, there occurred what would be now called spontaneous generation. I agree with him that the proofs of it are still wanting.

"I hold with Virchow that the failures have been lamentable, that the doctrine is utterly discredited."

N. D. Thompson & Co., of St. Louis, will issue at once the PEOPLE'S ILLUSTRATED ALMANAC, hand book and Immigrant's guide for 1880, by Rev. H. S. Thrall, A. M.

It will contain about 200 neatly printed octavo pages and include a new and very accurate map of Texas. Price 75 cents.

As its name implies, it will be illustrated, and in all respects a most creditable work; not a cheap, inaccurate, unsightly, catch-penny publication, such as has too often been imposed upon the people of Texas and other Western States.

GIGGLERS IN CHURCH.—Giggling is described in the dictionary as the act of "laughing with short catches of breath," as "laughing idly, tittering, grinning."

It is silly and childish enough anywhere, but in church it is abominable, and yet there is no place where giggling is more common. It is natural in school girls, but when met in young women of nineteen or twenty it is unpardonable.

It is frequently a characteristic of young men with incipient mustaches, who think they qualify themselves for manhood by affecting contempt for what their elders revere.

God makes the earth bloom with roses, that we may not be discontented with our sojourn here; He makes it bear thorns that we may look for something better beyond.

—Ludlow.

Philip Werlein's PIANO

WAREROOMS, 135 CANAL ST., NEW ORLEANS,

NEW ORLEANS, CAN BE FOUND THE LARGEST STOCK OF INSTRUMENTS TO SELECT FROM IN THE CITY.

The attention of parties wanting to purchase strictly first-class Pianos is called to the following:

The Chickering & Sons' Upright and Square Grand Pianos.

They are not only receiving the admiration of artists of our own country, but command a sale in Europe, where they have been exported in large numbers.

The Mathushek Piano.

It is gratifying to record the unprecedented success achieved by these Pianos. Relying solely on their intrinsic merits, they have acquired an enviable reputation and wide-spread popularity.

A Full Assortment of the Popular

HALE Upright PIANOS,

BEAUTIFUL IN TONE AND RICH IN DESIGN OF CASE.

Estey & Co. and Mason & Hamlin

ORGANS



are growing in demand. These, with many other first-class Organs, is our assortment.

The Gabler, Grovesteen & Fuller, and Hardman.

They are pianos of highest standard, finely finished, and are thoroughly warranted as being just what they represent.

Second-hand Pianos Taken in Exchange. Instruments Sold on Installments.

Every Instrument Warranted!

The best Wood and Iron STOOLS in the Market. PIANO COVERS of every description.

Desier in SHEET MUSIC, INSTRUCTION BOOKS, and Importer of MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS of every description and MUSIC.

OPEN EVENINGS.

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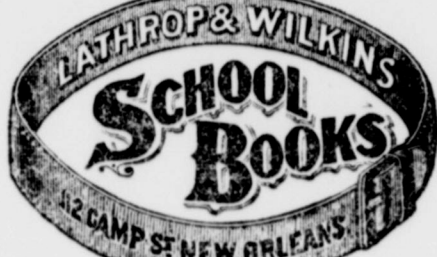
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Texas Christian Advocate

ANNE AND WILLIE'S PRAYER.

A CHRISTMAS STORY.

BY SOPHIA F. SNOW.

'Twas the eve before Christmas, "Good-night" had been said. And Annie and Willie had crept into bed. There were tears on their pillows, and tears in their eyes. And each little bosom was heavy with sighs. For to-night their stern father's command had been given. That they must retire precisely at seven. Instead of eight; for they troubled him more with ques ions unheard of than ever before. He told them he thought this "Santa Claus" was no such a thing as "Santa Claus" ever had been. And he hoped, after this, he should never more hear how he scrambled down chimneys with presents each year. And this is the reason why two little heads so restlessly tossed on their soft, downy beds. Eight, nine, and the clock on the steeple tolled ten— Not a word had been spoken by either till then: When Willie's sad face from the blanket did peep. And whispered, "Dear Annie, is you fast asleep?" Why, no, brother Willie, a sweet voice replies. "I've tried in vain, but I can't shut my eyes; For somehow it makes me so sorry because dear papa has said there is no "Santa Claus;" For we know there is, and it can't be denied. For he came every year before mamma died; But then I've been thinking that she used to pray. And God would hear everything mamma would say. And perhaps she asked Him to send Santa Claus here. With the sacks full of presents he brought every year. "Well, why can't we play dest as mamma did then. And ask Him to send him with presents adven?" "I've been thinking so, too," and without a word more. Four little bare feet bounded out on the floor. And four little knees the soft carpet pressed. And two tiny hands were clasped close to each breast. "Now, Willie, you know we must firmly believe that the presents we ask for will come to receive. You must wait just as still till I say, amen. And by that you will know that your turn has come then. Dear Jesus, look down on my brother and me. And grant us the favor we're asking of Thee; I want a nice book full of pictures, a ring. A writing desk, too, that shuts with a spring. Bless papa, dear Jesus, and cause him to see that Santa Claus loves us as much even as he; Don't let him get fretful and angry again. At dear brother Willie and Annie, amen!" "Please, Dests, let Santa Claus come down to-night. And bring us some presents before it is light. I want he could give me a bright little book. Full of pictures, some other nice books. And a bag full of tins, a book, and a toy. Amen, and then, Dests, I'll be a good boy. Their prayers being ended, they raised up their heads. And with hearts light and cheerful again sought their beds: They were soon fast in slumber—both peaceful and deep. And with ladies in dream-land were roaming in sleep. Eight, nine, and the little French clock had struck ten. The father had thought of his children again; He seems now to hear Annie's half smothered sigh. And to see the big tears standing in Willie's blue eyes. "I was harsh with my darlings," he mentally said. "And should not have sent them so early to bed; But when I was troubled—my feelings found vent. For bank stock to-day has gone down ten per cent. But of course they've forgot their troubles ere this— But then I denied them the three asked for kises; But just to make sure I'll steal up to their door. For I never spoke harsh to my darlings before." Saying, he softly ascended the stairs. And arriving at their door heard both of their prayers. His Annie's "bless papa" draws forth the big tears. And Willie's grave promise falls sweet on his ears. "Strange, strange, I've forgotten," said he, with a sigh. "How I longed when a child to have Christmas draw nigh. I'll atone for my harshness," he inwardly said, "By answering their prayers, ere I sleep in my bed. Then he turned to the stairs and softly went down. There he select slippers and silk dressing gown, Bonnet hat, coat, and boots, and was out in the street— A milk-maid facing the cold winter sheet. He first went to a wonderful "Santa Claus" store. (He knew it, for he'd passed it the day before). And there he found presents on the same errand as he. Making purchase of presents, with glad heart and free. Not stopped he until he had bought everything from a box full of candy to tiny gold ring. Indeed, he kept adding so much to his store That the various presents accumulated a score! Then homeward he turned, with his holiday load. And with Aunt Mary's aid in the nursery 'twas stowed. Miss Daisy was seated beneath a pine tree. By the side of a table spread out for a tea: A writing desk then in the center was laid. And on it a ring for which Annie had prayed. Four acrobats painted in yellow and red stood with a book house on a beam laid: There were balls, dogs and horses, books peeping to see. And bits of all colors were perched in the tree: While Santa Claus, laughing, stood up in the top. As if going ready for more presents to drop. And as the food father the picture surveyed He thought, for his trouble he had amply been paid. And he said to himself as he brushed off a tear: "I'm happier to-night than I have been for a year. I've enjoyed more true pleasure than ever before. What care I if bank stock falls ten per cent. Hereafter I'll make it a rule, I believe. To have Santa Claus visit us on each Christmas eve." So thinking, he gently extinguished the light. And tripped down stairs to retire, for the night. As soon as the beams of the bright morning sun Put the darkness to flight and the stars one by one. Four little blue eyes out of sleep opened wide. And at the same moment, the presents opened: Then out of their beds they sprang with a bound. And the very gifts prayed for were all of them found: They laughed and they cried in their innocent glee. And shouted for papa to come quick and see What presents old Santa Claus had brought in the night. (Just the things they had wanted) and left before light. "And now," said Annie, in a voice soft and low, "I don't believe there's a Santa Claus, papa, I know." While dear little Willie climbed up on his knee. Determined to settle between them he should be. And told, in soft whispers, how Annie had said. That their dear, blessed mamma, so long ago dead. Used to kneel down and pray by the side of her chair. And that God, up in heaven, had answered her prayer. "Then we dot up and prayed dust as well as we could. And God answered our prayers; now wasn't it good?" "I should say that He was if He sent you all these. And knew just what presents my children would please. Well, well, let him think so, the dear little elf. 'Twould be cruel to tell him I did it myself!" Blind father! who eured your stern heart to relent? And the hasty word spoken so soon to repent? 'Twas the being who bade you steal softly up stairs. And made you His agent to atwater their prayers.

The secretary of war has been given the use of \$200,000 for the erection of military quarters on the Rio Grande frontier of Texas.

WASHINGTON LETTER.

Solid Work in Congress—Expensive Superfluous—Diplomatic Humbuggery.

[From our Regular Correspondent.] WASHINGTON, D. C., December 15, 1879. There seems to be a disposition in Congress to take time by the forelock and pass appropriation bills early in the session. Two of these bills have already been passed, and it is expected that two more (the Military Academy and the Consular and Diplomatic bills) will be passed before the adjournment for the holidays, which has been fixed for Friday, the 19th. The committee has abandoned the idea of attempting to reduce the salaries of some of the high-priced foreign missions and of abolishing others. After conversation with Senators, they have become convinced that a bill favoring reduction or abolition would meet with resistance and defeat in the Senate. If the bills are presented with the same figures that passed last year, they will pass with but little debate in either house of Congress. This easy acquiescence in time-honored extravagance is not of the spirit of reform. The official corps of the United States army already numbers over two thousand men; a greater disproportion of rank to file than any other army in the world presents. But West Point still continues to send out its graduates, who have been educated at government expense, and who must be supported with increasing pensions to the day of their death. Again, what use have we for a foreign diplomatic service. We have not and cannot have such relations with European nations as they have with each other, making it necessary for them to glare upon each other from casemates protected by millions of bayonets. But even in Europe, diplomacy, in the old ambassadorial sense, is a thing of the past. Steam, electricity and the printing press killed it. If Bismarck or Disraeli should wait for important information from their ministers at different courts, they would be from twenty-four hours to two weeks behind the loungers in London and Berlin who read the papers. If Bismarck wishes to form a defensive alliance with Austria, it is no longer necessary to dispatch a courier on horse-back, as in the days of Talleyrand and Metternich. He gets on a special train, and the business is settled in a day. For the very slight so-called diplomatic relations that we have with European countries, it would be much cheaper for Mr. Evans to use the Atlantic Cable, even at \$5 per word, than to support a corps of supernumerary so-called diplomats at foreign courts. It is only necessary for one to observe the representatives of foreign courts here to realize how absurd it is for us to maintain this worm-eaten tradition abroad. The diplomats here, from Sir Edward Thornton down to the Minister Extraordinary and Ambassador Plenipotentiary from the Samoan Islands, have absolutely nothing to do. Foreigners are able to do nothing with charming elegance. The so-called better classes have been bred *adum can diglitate* arts until they are second nature. But these arts are not, and it is devoutly to be hoped will never, be our ideal. The men that we send abroad are grotesque bunglers as carpet knights, or in any situation where they cannot have the privilege of making a stump speech. *Dolea for nicate* manners are not suited to the genius of our institutions, or to the habits of our men. X X X

WE HAVE A SUSPICION that the excitement over the Sunday law and other public questions has diverted attention from the importance of the great temperance reform. We must not wax lukewarm on that very vital point. The liquor men are ever vigilant, and we fear that in some counties where local option prevailed, and where a majority of the people were temperance advocates, owing to our lukewarmness in new elections, licenses have again been granted. We must not so surrender, but rally again for a new fight. It is, perhaps, not advisable to organize a temperance party, but it is best for the friends of temperance to let all candidates know that this with us is a vital question; and that temperance men vote for sober men, and none others.

The union of matter and form makes a body; the union of body and soul together makes a man; and the union of man and Christ makes a Christian, and sap from this root makes him a growing one. —Ralph Erskine.

Did any one ever hear of a person, who, because there is counterfeit money in circulation, would have nothing to do with money? Why, then, reject Christianity because there are bogus Christians in circulation? It is very strange that so trivial and unreasonable an excuse should be often offered.

It looks as though the National Republican Convention will be held in Chicago.

AN INTERESTING "PERSONAL."—A warrant is in Washington City for the arrest of Congressman Vorhis, of New Jersey, for embezzlement.

A BILL is pending in Congress looking to the disfranchisement of Mormons. It provides that no one shall vote who has more than one wife, or who believes that it is morally right for a man to have more than one wife.

CONGRESS has begun to wrestle with the Ute Indian troubles. The people of Colorado, through their representatives, demand the forfeiture of their reservations, and there seems a reasonable likelihood that they may be declared enemies if the murderers of Thornburgh and Meeker are not surrendered. Present army movements indicate that a general Indian war is apprehended.

JUDGE EDMUNDS, postmaster of Washington City, died last week. Before he was buried nearly every business man, and every man of any prominence within reach, had been solicited for his signature by some one of a number who aspire to the office made vacant. Everybody, except the petitioners, is sorry Judge Edmunds died.

HON. DAN VOOHIES wants to find out by congressional resolution what is causing the negroes to "exude" from the South into the North, especially to Indiana. We trust measures will also be adopted which will look to keeping the negroes when once they have them in the North—especially as, with few exceptions, those who go are vagrants.

"Technicalities and informalities" (that's what they call it now-a-days) have been industriously at work in Maine. The Republicans suffer this time. The State legislature has been metamorphosed, as it were. In the house, republicans have been counted down from ninety to fifty-eight, and democrats up from sixty-one to seventy-eight. In the senate, it was thought the republicans had seven majority—but, by the law of the Maine "returning board," the democrats have nine majority. Republican papers, all over the country, are indulging some very italic remarks about what they term the Maine democratic steal.

The commissioner of pensions has issued an order that, in any case where a dispute shall arise between a pensioner and any attorney acting for him, and complaint is made by said pensioner to the pension office, all communication by the department with the attorney in the case shall thereafter cease, the commissioner directing all transactions in the premises thereafter to be made with the pensioner direct. This order is to avoid the delay incident to an examination into the merits of the numerous complaints received of unjust charges by attorneys.

The following provision of an electoral-college amendment bill will indicate one among the patent processes by which the country is expected to rid itself of questionable plans for electing a president: The citizens of each State who shall be qualified to vote for representatives in Congress shall cast their votes for President by ballot, and proper returns of votes so cast shall be made under seal within ten days to the Secretary of State or other officers lawfully performing the duties of such secretary in the government of the State, by whom said returns shall be publicly opened in the presence of the chief executive magistrate of the State and of the chief justice or judge of the highest court thereof, and said secretary, chief magistrate, and judge shall assign to each candidate voted for by sufficient number of citizens a proportioned part of the electoral vote to which the State shall be entitled, in the manner following, that is to say: They shall divide the whole number of votes returned by the whole number of the State's electoral vote, and the resulting quotient shall be the electoral ratio for the State; and shall assign to the candidates voted for one electoral vote for each ratio of the popular vote received by them respectively, and, if necessary, additional electoral votes for the successive largest fractions of a ratio shall be assigned to candidates voted for, until the whole number of electoral votes of the State shall be distributed.

PUBLIC OPINION can not do for virtue what it does for vice. It is the essence of virtue to look above opinion. Vice is consistent with, and very often strengthened by, entire subserviency to it.

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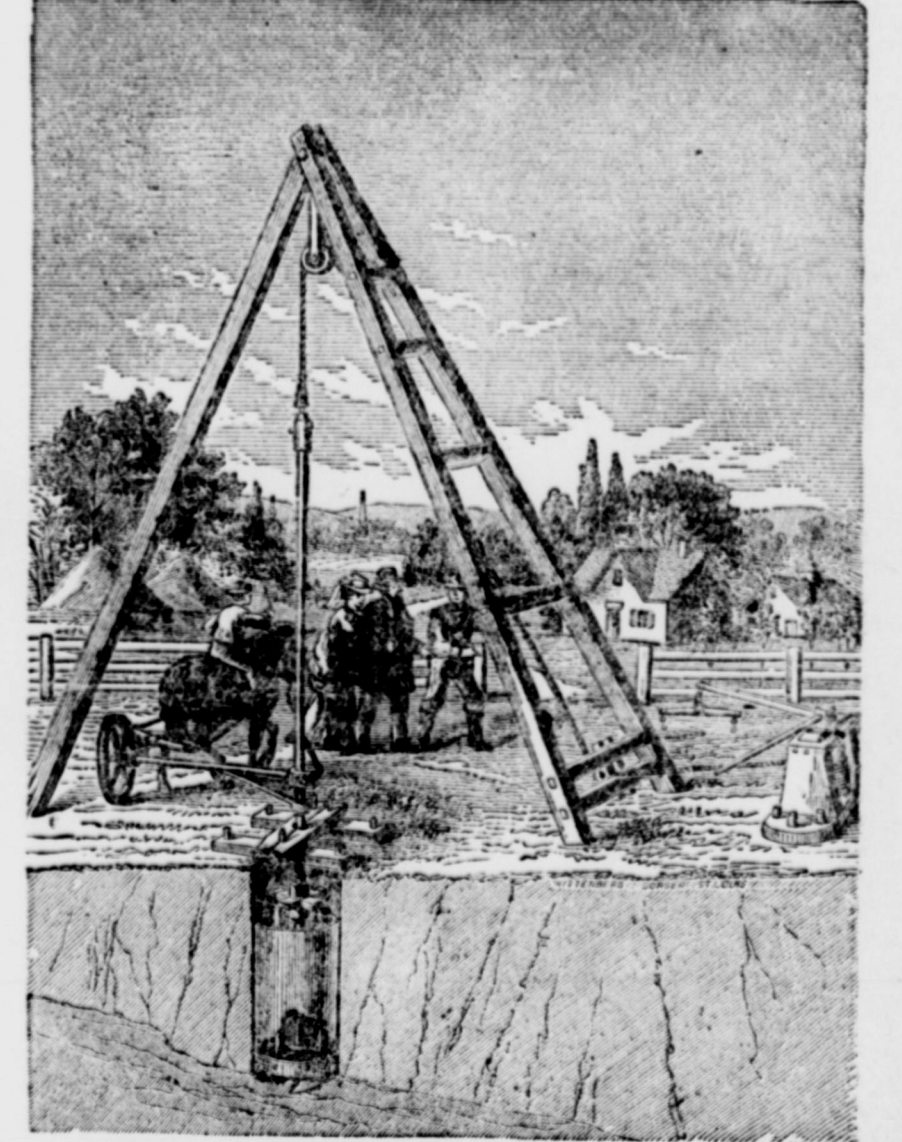
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