

The Texas Christian Advocate.

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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 county is given. When out of cards, notify us.

RECENT OCCURRENCES IN MAINE.

The general reader is pretty well posted in the events which have recently transpired in the State of Maine. It is one of those incidents likely to take place under our system of government, and which subjects republican institutions to a pretty severe strain. The constitution of that State requires that a candidate for governor shall receive a majority of all the votes polled to secure his election. At the State election held in September last, Mr. Davis, the Republican candidate, received a majority over any one of his competitors, but lacked about six hundred votes of a majority of the whole. This threw the election into the legislature, where the house of representatives selects two names from the number of candidates and sends them to the senate and that body elects one for governor.

Common report after the election last September, gave the Republicans in the legislature a majority of twenty-five in the lower house and seven in the senate over both the Greenback and the Democratic parties. Early in December a rumor became public that Gov. Garcelon, who is a Democrat, had discovered various irregularities, to give them no harsher name, in the returns which would materially change the result. Republicans became excited, and at the suggestion of Hon. Lott Morrill, a number of questions were submitted to the Supreme Court, supposed to cover the doubtful cases. At least one member of the court is a Democrat, but the court unanimously condemned the course of Garcelon, which virtually gave the Republicans a majority in the legislature.

The 7th of January was the time fixed for the meeting of the legislature, and on that day the Governor's term of service expired. On the 5th the Governor appointed Gen. Chamberlain to the command of Augusta, and instructed him especially to take charge of the public property, including the state house.

On the 7th, what was called the fusion legislature, met and organized, electing J. D. Lamson, president of the senate. The Republicans abstained from participating in the proceedings and claimed that the fusionists lacked a quorum for the transaction of business. On the 8th, as there was no governor, Gen. Chamberlain assumed sufficient authority to take charge of the state-house, which was kept guarded, no one having admission without a pass, certifying that they had business; but no one claiming a seat was denied admission. There were sixty Republican members present, willing to be sworn in; but Mr. Lamson doubted his right to administer the oath. Things continued in this state until the twelfth—the fusionists still without a quorum. In the afternoon, after the "fusion" legislature had vacated the state-house, the Republicans met and organized, claiming a quorum for the transaction of business. A number of questions, covering the points in controversy, were submitted by the Republicans to the Supreme Court. Mr. Lamson, president of the "fusion" senate, assumed the office of governor. Gen. Chamberlain declined to obey his orders. His orders were also disregarded by the mayor of Augusta and the sheriff of the county.

On the 16th ult. the fusionists elected Joseph D. Smith, Greenbacker, Governor, and he delivered his inaugural address. On the 17th the newly inaugurated Governor, Smith, issued an order relieving General Chamberlain from his onerous duties, but the General was not anxious to be relieved, and promptly informed the Governor that he should hold on to his authority until a constitutional government was instituted. The Supreme Court in a second string of "opinions" proceeded to justify the

Republicans in their course. Thus fortified, the Republicans proceeded to elect David F. Davis Governor, who was duly installed and delivered his inaugural. After this, all the State officials, except the Treasurer, promptly submitted, and the Treasurer avowed that he only held out to protect his bondsmen from possible annoyance.

We may now hope that "the Maine muddle," as the secular press called it, is about over, and happily terminated without bloodshed. At one time violent men of both parties talked freely about shedding the last drop.

This threatened conflict in Maine has recalled to the public mind a similar danger that threatened Rhode Island in 1842. Up to that period this State had conducted its municipal affairs under the charter granted by Charles II. The formation of a new constitution arrayed parties against each other, and under the newly elected Governor, Dorr, an appeal was made to the President of the United States for his interference. Fortunately, it was settled without this intervention. But President Tyler gave his views on the duty of the general government in similar contingencies, as follows:

I must be permitted to disclaim entirely and unequivocally the right on the part of the executive to make any real or supposed defects existing in any State constitution or form of government, the pretext for a failure to enforce the laws or the guarantees of the constitution of the United States in reference to any such State. I utterly repudiate the idea, in terms as emphatic as I can employ, that those laws are not to be enforced, or those guarantees complied with, because the President may believe that the right of suffrage, or any other great popular right, is either too restricted or too broadly enlarged. I also with equal strength resist the idea that it falls within the executive competency to decide in controversies of the nature of that which existed in Rhode Island, on which side is the majority of the people, or as to the extent of the rights of a mere numerical majority. Forthwith executive to assume such a power would be to assume a power of the most dangerous character. Under such assumptions the States of this Union would have no security for peace or tranquility, but might be converted into the mere instruments of executive will. Actuated by selfish purposes, he might become the great agitator, fomenting assaults upon the State constitutions and declaring the majority of to-day to be the minority of to-morrow, and the minority, in its turn, the majority, before whose decrees the established order of things in the State should be subverted. Revolution, civil commotion and bloodshed would be inevitable consequences. The provision in the constitution intended for the security of the States would thus be turned into the instrument of their destruction. The President would become, in fact, the great constitutional-maker for the States, and all power would be vested in his hands.

A NEW THEORY.

The Interior of the Earth a Mass of Water.

Some time last year I wrote an article—"Geology and the Bible"—which caused some of my geological friends to rush into print and handle me without gloves, because I disbelieved the theory that the interior of the earth is a mass of fiery heat. Geology, however, teaches that it is, and bases its theory upon the fact that volcanoes exist, and that as you go down in a mine or bore into the earth the thermometer indicates an increase of temperature of one degree for from sixty to seventy feet of perpendicular descent; hence we are informed if we go down a distance of thirty-five miles we will reach a degree of heat so intense that the most refractory substances will melt in a few moments. It is true, and volcanoes are connected with this internal heat, as geology teaches, it would seem to be an absolute impossibility for volcanoes to ever become extinct, for no known substance could possibly intervene between the craters and the internal fires and exist, even for a few moments. Again, the increase in temperature as you descend into the crust of the globe is explained to my mind upon the same hypothesis that we explain the increase of temperature in a closed room on the earth's surface, and the more close the room and the less circulation there is, the greater the heat; but this increase soon reaches a maximum. So, too, the increase in penetrating the earth will, I believe, soon reach a maximum, and reaches it long before there is any danger of even ordinary combustibles being ignited. Now, I hold that the interior of the earth is composed of salt water that is in constant circulation to keep it cool and pure; and my theory is based upon a system of reasoning identical with that pursued by geology in determining the internal heat of the earth. Geology teaches that this heat creates an immense pressure, and that the volcanoes—only some 270 in number, and over two-thirds of

them situated on the shores and islands of the Pacific—are so many vents and safety-valves to relieve the internal forces, and thus prevent the earth from being rend to pieces. So, too, I hold that the vast quantity of internal water creates an immense pressure, and that the millions of springs and fountains of the great deep act as safety-valves to relieve the pressure. Science teaches that springs and brooks and rivers owe their existence to the rainfall upon the earth; but I take it, from a careful consideration of this subject, that the quantity of water taken up from the springs, ponds, brooks and rivers, by evaporation, and the quantity discharged into the seas annually is a thousand-fold greater than the amount furnished by rain. This surplus is supplied from the interior of the earth. Again, as we penetrate the earth, no matter where we find water, and the deeper we go and the nearer we approach the central mass, which is salt, the greater the pressure and flow, and the more strongly is the water impregnated with salt, magnesium and other ingredients that compose the water of the seas. Again, the daily revolution of the earth not only brings us day and night, but it permits the internal waters to percolate through every part of the earth's crust, and thereby be freed from its salts and made pure, and prepared to form the springs and rivers found everywhere.

Without this daily revolution nearly one-half of the globe would be almost entirely destitute of water, while the other and bottom half would have too much, and the earth rendered uninhabitable. The mass of water in the interior of the earth is in constant circulation and forms a connection with the surface water at the north and south poles. It may be asked, if the interior of the earth is a mass of water, why it was necessary to have a bottom or floor for the great seas. Well, I take it, that it was necessary to have only a small connection with the internal mass, and that the bottom of the seas assist in holding the exposed or dry land in its proper position. Again, the waters flowing over the bottom of the seas is cooled and prepared in a great measure to re-enter the earth. It is a well established fact that a powerful and deep under-current sets in toward the poles, while the surface water flows from them. Science teaches this, and informs us that this under-current ceases to go forward at the poles, and rises and commences to flow out again; hence the rising of this under-current prevents the formation of ice, and consequently there is an open sea at the poles. Now, it is demonstrated beyond doubt that the under-current alluded to is much greater in volume and flows with much greater velocity than the surface current flowing outward, and therefore a much greater quantity of water is carried to the pole than flows from it, and the excess must enter the earth. Indeed, all of the under-current enters the earth at the pole, while the surface current makes its egress. It is to assist in this result that the waters of the sea are salt. The saltiness of the sea gives to it dynamical force and a vertical circulation which fresh water does not possess. Again, in the winter, or in a cold climate, such as the arctic regions, cold water sinks and warm water rises to take its place in a salt sea. If the water were fresh, the case would be different, the cold water would remain at the top and the warm sink, and thus prevent the flow from the interior of the earth. Hence, it is a wise arrangement to have a large area around the poles covered with vast quantities of perpetual ice. It cools the water as it rises from the center of the earth, and gives to that entering a strong, vertical momentum that sends it coursing through the interior of the globe. Now, I hold that my water theory is just as plausible as the fiery one of geology, and it is more in harmony with the Biblical account of the creation: "And darkness was upon the face of the deep; and the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters." And God said: "Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place and let the dry land appear."

HARD BRICK.

FOR ALLAYING HOARSENESS and irritation of the throat, it is daily proved that "Brown's Bronchial Trachea" are a mild remedy, yet very efficacious.

MISSIONS.—The M. E. Church South, mission in Brazil was opened in 1875. In 1870 Rev. J. E. Newman organized the first society of Methodists there. Two years later the mission had a membership of forty-one Americans and one Brazilian. The report last year shows a congregation of from fifteen to thirty in Rio de Janeiro, and a Sunday-school of forty-two. The last report from Rio gives seven preaching places, two Sunday-schools, and twenty-three church members, eight of whom speak only Portuguese. Rev. J. C. Newman reports from Piracicaba four appointments, at which he preaches to about two hundred and fifty persons. He has forty-one members and one Sunday-school.

Rev. C. B. Galloway, of Vicksburg, gives some reasons why he will co-operate with the Women's missionary movement:

1. It stimulates interest and enterprise in general missionary work. Their efforts will in no wise diminish, but greatly enhance, regular missionary collections.
 2. It enlarges the intelligent conceptions of Christian obligation and duty. The circulation of missionary intelligence will promote the general feeling of our church periodicals.
 3. It develops the unappreciated resources of our womanhood. He is the ideal pastor who finds something for every one to do. Here is a fruitful field and a blessed opportunity.
 4. It contemplates a work beyond the power of the general church to accomplish. This history of the mission work has long since abundantly demonstrated.
 5. It strengthens the bond of our connective unity.
- Then, as pastors, let us "help these women." Their success has been gratifying, but is only a prophecy of more marvelous results.

The "commission," as read by Methodist preachers, is as follows: "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature: he that believeth, let him be baptized, and he that is baptized, let him be immersed, as may best suit his notions or convenience, the same shall be saved.—*The Baptist.*"

That is pretty good. Now how does the commission read by Baptists? "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature, he that believeth and is saved shall be baptized. Is that it?—*Baptist Messenger, (Campbellite.)*"

Both wrong; but we will not correct you. The commission, however, to "The Baptist" and "Missionary" ought to read: "Go ye not among sinners to save—but go ye into the membership of other churches and build up your own by tearing down theirs."

Rev. Dr. Buckley, of New York, has an article in the last *Methodist Quarterly* in which he offers the following views on the pastoral term:

He suggests, but does not advocate, a possible amendment allowing the re-appointment of a pastor by the Bishop for six successive years, on the condition that the same be requested by a vote of three-fourths of the Quarterly Conference and two-thirds of the Annual Conference. The suggestion is certainly worthy of the consideration of those who favor the removal of the time limit. This plan would preserve all the limitations essential to the itinerancy, while it affords a fair trial of the advantages of a lengthened pastorate.

Mr. Moody, lecturing on the Lord's prayer in St. Louis the other day, and dwelling much on the forgiveness of trespasses, noticed that while he was speaking fifty or more persons rose and left the church; whereupon he said that he had known persons who had heard about this requirement for forgiveness hastily leave the church and seek out those they needed to forgive, and he hoped that those who were then leaving the congregation were prompted by such a spirit.—*Et.*

DURING service at a Methodist church in Fairfield, Iowa, January 25, a man by the name of N. J. Spears, cut his own throat. It is said he was temporarily insane, laboring under an hallucination that law officers were endeavoring to arrest him for an imaginary offense.

IS THERE NOT too much effort to increase membership in our churches and not enough care to improve what we have? A large, untrained body has not half the efficiency of the well-informed and pious few. Spirituality and not members should be the test of prosperity.—*Richmond Advocate.*

Our friends will notice under head of new advertisements the card of Messrs. Longcope & Co., of Houston, cotton factors and commission merchants. This is one of the best firms in Texas. Any business undertaken by them is faithfully and efficiently performed. Correspond with them or call at their office, No. 22 Main street.

A DRUNKARD at Battle Hill, Kansas, resolved to reform or die. Putting some deadly poison into a glass with whisky, he locked himself into a room with the mixture. His plan was to conquer his craving for alcohol if possible, and if his appetite overpowered him, kill himself with the drink that satisfied it. He was alone with the poison for six hours, and then he drank it. His life was saved, however, by the timely efforts of a physician, and he was sent to an asylum for inebriates.

THE great ice period that ground the rocks into soil is to be repeated, according to the theory of Prof. Paige—whoever he is. Let everybody get ready for the event, which will transpire at a day and date not mentioned—but sixteen thousand years hence.

ANTI-PROFANITY clubs are being formed in some portions of the country. The members pledge themselves not to be guilty of profanity, and to encourage reform in this particular. Such a club ought to be formed in Austin to work, if possible, upon the consciences of State officials.

SCOTCHMEN enjoy about the same predominance in the New Zealand Colony of Otago that Irishmen do in some of our American towns. A contract for grading a road was to be let, when the lowest bid was signed "McPherson." Notice was sent to the said McPherson to meet the board and complete the contract. In due time they met; but, behold! McPherson was yellow in hue and had an unmistakable pig tail! "But," gasped the president, "your name can't be McPherson?" "Allee lightee," cheerfully answered John. Nobody catch um contlack in Otago unless the name Mac." The contract was signed.

Our Postal Cards.

WACO, McLennan Co., Feb. 2.—What a glorious rain we have had and are having. The earth is becoming saturated, and it appears that the long, low drought is at an end. Rained almost constantly for three days and nights past.—SAMUEL P. WRIGHT.

BEAUFORT, Graham Co., Jan. 28.—Is there a fog-itive contained to baptize with water. In the New Testament? 2. What authority have we for baptizing with water in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost? 3. Why did the disciples baptize "in the name of the Lord Jesus" only? Will some of the learned folks answer the above questions and oblige one who would like to know.—HARLOCK.

HILLSBORO, Hill Co., Feb. 1.—The weather has been exceedingly dry in this county. Nothing like a general rain in eight or ten months. Farmers, merchants, mechanics and preachers were beginning to feel the effects, but thank to kind Providence for His mercies, a good rain has come at last—yes, a good soaking rain, and after it a good snow, which will be a great advantage to frost-bitten wheat. "He sendeth rain upon the just and unjust."—DAVIS.

MADISON, Conway Co., Feb. 2.—I am well received on this circuit, although the drought has left the country in a poor condition; no grass and very little corn—nearly all farmers have to buy the sack corn. We are assured by the people, and also by the promise of God we shall not want. We had a fine rain on Friday, and it continued until Monday morning. The farmers are very hopeful, and many have planted corn.

AVINGER, Cass Co., Jan. 28.—Please state in the Advocate what my post-office address is changed from Kelleyville, Marion county, to Avinger, Cass county. The weather is still very dry and warm. But few have killed their meat, and those that have, have lost most of it. The church on the Kelleyville circuit is in a healthy condition. Though our presiding elder is a lovable man, his name is Lane. I am doing all I can for you.—J. W. HILL.

MARSHALL, Harrison County, Feb. 2.—Another saint gone to glory. Mrs. M. A. Thornton died last Friday evening, and on Saturday evening we laid her remains in the new cemetery in Marshall to await the sound of the trumpet on the resurrection morn. She had been a member of the Methodist Church more than fifty years. She was ready and anxious to go. Two children had preceded her to the home of the good. May her surviving relatives so live as to meet her in Heaven.—E. F. BOONE.

BRACKETTVILLE, Kinney Co., Jan. 31.—We have just reached this place, via Bandera Mexican mission, Bro. Polo Rodriguez. On that night the work is encouraging. Several additions to the church. Bro. Tafola, of Corpus Christi, was with us. The fine rains early in January and the warm weather since have brought the grass out, and the stockmen are in a good humor; and so are farmers. Find this mission—Bro. Palomares—in a truly flourishing condition. The Lord bless our brother's faithful labors, and he is happy. We are anxiously awaiting the arrival of Bro. S. G. Kilgore to take charge of the American.—A. H. SUTHERLAND.

MOUNTAIN PEAK, Ellis County, Jan. 26.—Resolved, 1st, by the first quarterly conference of Waxahachie circuit, Waxahachie district, N. W. Texas Conference, that we do give our unqualified endorsement to the Sunday law, and believe it to be a necessity to the prosperity and happiness of our whole country. 2d, That we deprecate the effort being made by a part of the secular press of the State, and opposers of the temperance, to do away with wholesome law. Signed in behalf of the quarterly conference.—JOS. H. STEWART, Sec.

ENGLEWOOD, Robertson County, Feb. 2.—Morgan, the county seat, is fourteen and a half miles from Hearse instead of eight. We have just had a three days' rain and some snow, yet the weather is mild and very spring-like. Every prospect pleasing. The farmers are hopeful. The outlook favorable.—SAM'L MORRIS.

MAPLE SPRINGS, Red River County, Jan. 31.—Good health prevails on Wayland circuit. TEXAS ADVOCATE popular. Local opinion, in effect, fully. When the election was held for local option, there were but two men who voted against it. Soon after one of them left, and the other was killed by lightning. The Sunday law is observed generally. New church house in progress at Wayland. We are having some happy meetings. Good prospects for a successful year.—A. C. McDONALD.

TEALIE, Smith County, February 2d.—I hope no amount of cackling, especially over soft eggs, will deter you, Mr. Editor, from wielding those terrible blows against corruption in high places. I hope further, that no amount of exhortation from any who might cater to high officials, will so blind the minds of the good element of the State, in and out of the churches, as to keep them from the discharge of their duty in this important matter, for "when the wicked bear rule the people mourn." Things looked gloomy out-doors. Nature is robed in her white winter mantle. The snow patens against the window panes while I write. The wind whistles from the North. Troupe will have a new church soon.—R. M. BAKER.

TEXANA, Jackson Co., Jan. 29.—The weather is fine, and the grass is growing luxuriantly. Corn is being planted rapidly. I think a large percentage of the crop in this county will be cotton. It is almost impossible to get along without the cotton crop. The congregations are good at church, and so far as I know the machinery of the church is running without friction. The good people of Caranchua will soon have an organ in the church. "Praise God with the organ." Will some one of Uncle John's Bible-class tell me where that Scripture is?—M. A. BLACK.

THORNTON, Limestone Co., Feb. 2.—Rain has been falling almost incessantly for the last four days. Stock dying by scores, horses in particular. Some sickness in this vicinity, principally typhus and pneumonia; has been very fatal. Three of our citizens have fallen: Mr. R. A. Durham, father of Rev. Robt. Durham, who is now graduating at the Vanderbilt University, is no longer with us. Work on the new church is going on now, and we hope to have it ready for dedication by the first of April. We hope to build two more this year. Spiritual prospects encouraging.—M. K. LITTLE.

DAIRY-CRENSHAW, Morris County, Jan. 28.—Methodists first on the ground! I received a donation yesterday of a choice corner lot, upon which to build a Methodist church, in the new town of "Belden," on the Texas & St. Louis R. R. Belden promises to be a brisk business point. Work moving on about as usual. We had no unwholesome lugging (reception) signs, but we have enough to eat and plenty to do. Success to the ADVOCATE. I am sending it to sections where it has never been before.—R. G. SEWELL.

BRYAN, Brazos Co., Feb. 1st.—Bryon has a population of about 13000; some say 4900. The people are social, cultured, and church-going. We have a full house every service and most excellent attendance. Our Sabbath school is good and growing. Stewards organized and active. Service Sunday, both morning and night, prevented by rain. A slow, cold rain, began to fall on Friday and still continues. This will put the ground in fine condition for plowing. We are hoping and praying for showers of grace.—A. E. GOODWYN.

WHITE CIRCUIT, Jan. 25.—I have been on my work doing all I could for the cause of Christ. My quarterly conference has been held; had a good time; Bro. Price was with us; finances small; the people have built a good parsonage here. This work has been done since Conference. This place is improving; we have a good school; we are all in favor of the Sunday law and strictly observe it. We are living in the new parsonage, but have not met with "stump's" luck; yet looking for it.—I. N. REEVES.

ERATH COUNTY, Jan. 29.—Our first quarterly meeting over; our presiding elder, Rev. A. Davis, was present. The Duffan circuit is a new circuit, but alive to many interests of the church. It has been rather slow on the ADVOCATE question, but I think the two dollar proposition has brought about a reaction, and I am determined to send you all the subscribers I can. It is true, times are hard and money scarce, but we must have the ADVOCATE. It is worth ten dollars to any family that are trying to get to heaven. I have just visited the Granddaddy High School, and must say the school is a success, and any school would be a success with Rev. J. J. Shirley at the helm.—J. H. TRIMBLE.

GEORGIA POSTAL.—The weather has been wonderful. Springtime in winter. In this section the people well to do. Good crops and good prices. Preachers at their places and doing well. A good revival at St. James church in Augusta. Bro. Inskip, with the pastor (General Evans) edits the Georgia Advocate in Atlanta, and does it well. The *Wesleyan* gets better and better. Your correspondent had the temerity to speak against special transfers, and the official boards are after him. They say he is jealous and envious. May he be it; but it is not *Methodism* for a man to be transferred at the instance of an official board, even if he is for a special place. If we are to negotiate for places, give us all a chance. I don't think I am so free spoken because I am jealous, but because I think a disregard of any law is calamity; and if our ministry is to become a self-seeking affair, I am going out of it. I never asked an appointment or maneuvered for one and I don't think I was ever jealous of a brother in my life. I never had a poor appointment. I have always been the warm friend of transfers; but I say boldly that making fish of one and flesh of another is wrong in principle and injurious in practice, and for churches to negotiate with preachers, in the conference or out of it, is death to the itinerancy. If that is treason, make the most of it. Rev. John W. Yarbrough, a most excellent and gifted man—father of Geo. W. Yarbrough, stationed in Athens, Ga., and of Rev. Walter Yarbrough, and father in law of Dr. Haygood—is dead, after fifty years' service. Poor Bishop Haven! He has gone to his final home. He said hard things about us, but perhaps if we had shown him a better side of ourselves he would have felt less harshly. Any way, he is gone. Let all bitterness sleep with him.—G. C. S.

Texas Christian Advocate

GALVESTON, FEBRUARY 7, 1880.

Our Postal Cards.

BAZETTE, Navarro Co., Jan. 26.—I have just closed my second round on my circuit. All things are moving on well. Some excitement about the whisky law. As to the Sunday law, I believe that my people endorse it fully.—J. P. HULSE.

JEDDO, Bastrop Co., Jan. 26.—Is the castor bean raised in Texas? If so, how will it compare with cotton, lucratively? Where can the seed be had? What do you think about planting the castor bean in Texas? Write about it, you "postal writing farmers," and oblige a—METHODIST.

WHITESBORO, Grayson Co., Jan. 25.—We are well pleased with the church bell we purchased of the Blymyer Manufacturing Co., Cincinnati, Ohio. We got the bell for \$45, and it only cost us \$4.60 freight. The bell is of good size and tone, and is warranted for two years. The bell and hangings weigh 375 pounds.—L. S. ASHBURN.

JEWELL, Eastland Co., Jan. 18.—I wish to inquire for my uncle, Mr. Lemuel Burton. If there is anybody who knows him, please request him to write to me. We have a good Sunday-school and class-meeting. Preaching regularly at Bear Springs. Times hard. Weather dry and warm.—L. J. RICHARDSON.

BOSQUEVILLE, McLennan Co., Jan. 28.—Our protracted meeting closed last Wednesday night. Result: ten conversions and six accessions to the church. The meeting closed with several anxious seekers at the altar. We have demonstrated beyond a doubt that the Lord can save souls in January. We have a good community and a church-going people and a big house to worship in. So come on, "Circuit Rider."—SAMUEL J. FRANKS.

HOMER, Angelina Co., Jan. 27.—I have just made my first round on this circuit with my colleague, a sweet spirited young man. We have preached twenty-one sermons, found the church in a healthy condition, prayer-meeting at almost every appointment, Sunday-schools doing well. Very dry and warm; a great deal of meat has been lost; a good deal was killed last week. If that is lost, do not know what the people will do. There is not corn sufficient to do the people. It will have to come from Kansas.—M. DONZGAN.

HENDERSON, Rusk Co., Jan. 28.—Dr. Young lectured to a large audience here last night. Organized Henrietta Council, No. 180, U. F. T. Took the vote of the congregation on the Sunday law, and the vote was unanimous for it. Indeed, there has been no opposition here to it. We are moving quietly. When will Bro. John send out an appointment to this corner of "his circuit?" Some friends have kindly volunteered to raise money to paint our parsonage, and the work is nearly done. May they be blessed in their deed.—S. W. TURNER.

GOBER, Fannin Co., Jan. 23.—Attended prayer-meeting to-night with class at Wisdom. Very good turnout; good meeting. Brother Allison was with us. Hope the prayer-meeting may continue, as it is the life of religion. By prayer the church triumphs over Satan and his hosts. May the church unite this year in the prayer for more religion, more conversions and better times. Last year we were greatly blessed—the result of prayer. Let us thank God, take courage and begin the united prayer that the good Lord may bless us more abundantly this year. Pray, brethren.—L. L. PICKETT.

INDEPENDENCE, Washington Co., Jan. 27.—First quarterly conference for Independence and Burton circuit held at this place on the 24th and 25th inst. Bro. Rogers, presiding elder, absent on account of sickness. Small attendance of official members. Faculties and students of the Baptist male and female institutions of this place in attendance at our church on the Sabbath. Raised \$5.35 for domestic missions. Bro. Eldridge and wife, of this place, came near being killed by being thrown from a buggy on the 15th inst. He is still confined to his bed, but improving slowly.—G. S. SANDEL.

ALVARADO, Johnson Co., Jan. 27.—We are trying to reach the masses of the people of Alvarado circuit by holding extra services in private residences in the different neighborhoods. We now have about twelve prayer-meetings every week regularly, and the P. C. and A. P. attend as many of them

as possible. The prospect of success is very encouraging. Numbers attend these meetings who are never seen in our churches. We remember the words of Bishop McTyre: "He is the best pastor who puts most people to work." We recommend our plan to others.—W. R. D. STOCKTON.

WHITNEY, January 27th.—This city is seven weeks' old, contains two hundred buildings and still they build. We have secured a lot in the centre of the city for a church and parsonage; are getting up a subscription to erect a commodious house of worship. Fort Graham circuit changed to Whitney circuit by action of the first quarterly conference which met at this place on the 17th inst. Bro. J. W. Dickson, pastor in charge, is spreading himself and doing a good work. The Lord bless him.—J. W. STEVENS.

RED OAK, Ellis Co., Jan. 28.—We have just held our first quarterly conference. A full attendance of official members, and finances all O. K. Bro. Johnson visited us and cheered us all by his sweet spirits. Gen. Lewis was in attendance, and did some very effective preaching. At the close of the quarterly conference we concluded to continue the meeting, and are having fine success; three conversions last night, and a prevalent seriousness all through the congregation. The brethren are cheerful and hopeful, and a good year is expected. We pledged ourselves to the editor for one hundred subscribers to the ADVOCATE in the year that is to come. The outlook is encouraging all over the Ferris circuit.—JAS. A. WALKUP.

Christian Education.

At a prayer-meeting in the University chapel opportunity was given to any one, who might wish, to ask the prayers of the church for any special object. After a few moments' silence Dr. F. A. Mood, the regent of Southwestern University, arose and said: There was a matter that gave him a great deal of concern, and that he wished to ask the prayers of the church; yet he hesitated, because we had become so accustomed to saying "pray for us" almost upon all occasions, that such requests had come to be regarded a mere matter of form. Nevertheless, disclaiming anything like formality, from the bottom of his heart he would earnestly beg the prayers of the church for the blessings of God upon the students of the university. He feared that the religious status was not as good as the material prosperity of the institution would warrant; and said, that with the large increase of matriculations we had the right to expect a corresponding development in the religious condition of the students. He had desired also to make the same request of the church at large through the ADVOCATE but hesitated for some reasons as stated above. However, I see from a late issue of the ADVOCATE, that notwithstanding his fear that the church might pass it by as a mere formal request, the Doctor publishes his petition. Now, then, why should the Methodists of Texas think such requests formal, or pass them by with silent indifference? If the institutions of learning established by the church all over Christendom mean anything, they mean that Christians regard it a part of their Christian duty to educate the young; however, all Christians may not realize the weight of this obligation upon them.

Secular education, unsanctified by the holy influences of Christianity, certainly can not enter into the feeling of obligation upon any church. The body of Christ can realize no obligation to cast pearls before the swine, who, with the church-given power of education, will turn again and rend the giver, or in other words, to educate and turn out upon the world moral demons; men, who, by the influence of example, use all the power of their education against Christianity. No one can deny that educated men are the men that rule the world—it matters not how the education may have been acquired, whether at home or at college, or by self-help alone. In every great reformation, either in Church or State, the leading men have been men of education. Christianity has not been slow to recognize this great power, which, when sanctified by her holy principles to the glory of God, may become one of the strongest factors in the human forces that convert the world. Hence, one of the fields in which the church of Christ has felt herself called upon to labor for the Master, is that of Christian education. Let no man deny her this right—it is her province, just, divine—her mission is to teach. Too much good has been done, too many souls have been saved, too much of the God-light power of

Christianity has been thrown into the civilization of the world through this instrumentality for any one to deny her this field of operation. In fact, it is one of the marked and peculiar duties of the church to promote education, sanctified by Christian influences; and, however, direct she has been in the performance of this duty, she has always taken the lead in the work of education. Is it a mistake to say that in philosophy, in science, in literature, the church stands head and shoulders above anything done by secular institutions? Let those acquainted with the facts of history answer. Education, under the influence of Christianity, has been the grand civilizing power of the world, especially so in America, and more especially so in the State of Texas. Compared to what the different religious denominations have done for education in this country, the State has done nothing; while under the free-school system the people have been taxed to pay carpet-baggers, who are not qualified to enter the freshman class in any respectable college, from fifty to seventy-five dollars per month to teach children their "A B C's," the best educated men of the church have been spending the energies of their lives in the education of the youth, *pro bono publico*, on mere starvation salaries. In the light of such facts would it not be beautifully inconsistent for any one of our legislative statesmen—supposing he had a thimble-full of brains—to talk about the propriety of the church turning the educational interests of the country over to the State? Woe to that land in which Christianity has no schools. When any church has educated one man who consecrates his life to God, she has done much for the cause of Christ. But suppose a young man, educated in a Christian institution, should by means of his learning, raise to any degree of influence, so as to give tone to public sentiment, and his influence should be unfavorable to Christianity, what then? Why, so far as the education of that man is concerned, the educatory design of the church has failed. Yes, more, she has armed and equipped a soldier to fight in the ranks of the enemy. If she has done her whole duty by sanctified instruction to christianize the character of the student, she may not be responsible for the ill use of the weapon she has given, but only unfortunate in the bestowment. Suppose again, she does not her whole duty, and the majority of students instructed under her care, in consequence, should, by precept or example, offer the weight of their influence upon the altars of sin, what then? Not merely unfortunate in the bestowment of her gifts, but guilty of giving aid and comfort to the enemy. The church had better not educate than to educate the enemies of Christ—I mean her practically ungodly enemies—who may even admit the truth of Christianity, while by the influence of example they corrupt better morals than their own. Christianity may have nothing to fear as to the overthrow of the truth, but there is much to be feared from the influence of an educated wicked man in the loss of souls. Then the plain duty of the church would be, if she undertakes to educate, to select such teachers for her schools as would, by precept and example, endeavor to impress upon the characters of the students under their care the principles of Christianity. But the duty of the church would not stop here. Who thinks the duty of the church to convert Mexico to Christianity has entirely ceased when men have been sent there to preach the gospel? Certainly the church that never offered a prayer to God for the success of those missionaries cares very little whether or not Mexico is converted. Texas Methodism has been fortunate in the selection of an earnest Christian faculty for our Southwestern University; but are the Methodists of Texas doing that other duty—the work of prayer? Do any parents expect their children to be saved who never pray for their salvation? Does any pastor expect his flock to be saved who never prays for his flock? Does any man desire the conversion of the world who never prays for the world's conversion? Can we desire or expect our schools to be successful when we never ask the blessings of God upon them? Are we discharging our whole duty when we fail to use the great power of Christian education to conquer the world for the Master? The church of God can not forsake this broad field of labor and stand guiltless before the great white throne. May God in His mercy forbid that any one educated at the Southwestern should ever be found fighting in the ranks of the enemy.

JAMES CAMPBELL.

GEORGETOWN, TEXAS, January 26, 1880.

Philip Werlein's
PIANO
WAREROOMS,
135 CANAL ST.,
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. They have received united, unanimous and voluntary testimonials of superiority from the leading critics and musicians of the old country over all other makes. They are absolutely perfect in ACTION and TONE, with cases of plain and richest styles of rosewood. They are the soul of music.

The Mathushek Piano.

It is gratifying to record the unprecedented success achieved by these Pianos, having acquired an enviable reputation and widespread popularity. Their purity of tone, durability of construction, extreme delivery of touch, and magnificent finish, have won the warmest eulogiums and elicited the enthusiastic admiration of all who have seen and heard them. Unparalleled testimonials are constantly received, expressing unqualified satisfaction.

HALE Upright PIANOS,

BEAUTIFUL IN TONE AND RICH IN DESIGN OF CASE.
have just been received, and I can now fill all orders to wholesale and retail customers. Over 4000 of these Pianos have been sold, and perfect satisfaction is guaranteed to every one. They embrace all the improvements known in the art of Piano-forte making. The material is the best that can be procured.

ORGANS



are growing in demand. Those with many other first-class Organs, in our assortment. In order that these instruments be appreciated, they ought to be seen and heard. The best evidence of appreciation is the growing demand for them. To meet the great demand for Pianos, I have mailed the following first-class Pianos to my stock.

The Gabler.

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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.

OPEN EVENINGS.

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

Second-hand Pianos for Sale.

Dallas Business Directory.
BOWSER & LEMMONS.
Agents and Dealers in all kinds of agricultural implements and farm machinery.
A. GRIFFITH & CO.,
Hardware, iron, steel, nails, wagon, carriage and Buggy Material, Smooth and barbed fence wire, Dallas, Texas.
E. P. COWEN & CO.,
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-fittings saddlery-hardware, saddle trees, colars, harness chains, etc., Dallas, Texas.
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DALLAS, MANUFACTURERS' AGENTS—TEXAS.
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HARDWARE,
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MRS. E. CHESNUT,
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Cotton Factor, agent Muburn Wagons, Buggies, Steam Engines, Farm Implements and the renowned Tucker, Sulley and Fry Plow, guaranteed to show the slickest land in the U. S.

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Successor to STEINER & CO.,
Manufacture of and dealer in Carriages, Phaetons, Buggies, and BICYCLE WAGONS,
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We claim to sell the cheapest and best buggies ever sold in the State, and defy competition. Send for catalogue and price list.

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Wholesale dealers in Drugs, Patent Medicines, France, oils, Window Glass, Stationery, Toilet Articles, Garden and Flower Seeds.

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Manufacturers of
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and the CANADAY SILKY PLOW,
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Expert dealer in
Fine Pianos and Fine Organs,
Sheet Music, Books, Musical Merchandise,
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CHEAP WATER.
We have now perfected arrangements whereby we can sell our First-Class Cisterns manufactured of the very best heart Alabama Cy press at the following unprecedented low prices:

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| 100 gallons.....\$18 00 |
| 120 ".....20 00 |
| 150 ".....25 00 |
| 200 ".....32 00 |
| 250 ".....37 00 |
| 300 ".....42 00 |
| 350 ".....47 00 |
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| 450 ".....57 00 |
| 500 ".....62 00 |

Each Cistern Sold Under a Strict Guarantee.

Packed in barrels ready for shipping, and each space marked so that anyone can set it up. \$1 additional added to each cistern for drayage and packing. Respectfully,
R. B. GARNETT,
106 and 108 Church St., opposite Tremont Hotel, Galveston.

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Produce Comm'n Merchants,
105 TREMONT STREET,
For the Sale of Grain, Flour, Wool, Hides, Butter, Cheese, etc.
Special attention given to country orders. Quick sales and prompt returns.

THE ORIGINAL SUPER
Patented for Dr. Bly and Lewis Lockwood, New Orleans.

A. McDERMOTT,
He returned and established the business of manufacturing Dr. Bly's Patent Artificial Arms and Legs,
and he purchased the sole right of the Southern States. Perfect satisfaction guaranteed in all cases or no pay. Price exceedingly reduced. A. McDERMOTT, 203 Camp St., New Orleans.

Sewing off a Leg. Easy and Fast.

Our latest improved sawing machine cuts off a 2-foot log in 2 minutes. \$100 PRESENT will be given to two men who can saw as much in the old way, as one man can with this machine. Circulars sent free.

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CAUTION.—Any sawing machine having a patent for the apron, or handle for the foot, is an infringement on our patent, and we are prosecuting all infringers. SO BEWARE WHO YOU BUY OF.

EIGHTEEN DOLLARS.

Solid Sterling Silver, Hunting Case KEY-WIND WALTHAM WATCH.

These Watches we guarantee to be as represented. We send one of them to any a person, fully warranted, C. O. D., with privilege to examine, but our customers will find it less expensive to send us the money by register, making P. O. Order, and on receipt of same we will forward watch ordered, at our expense and risk, and if not approved on sight, will refund the money. Silk guard and key are in plain case each watch. Catalogue sent free. W. KENDRICK & SON,
410 FORTH AVENUE, LOUISVILLE, KY.
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Disorders, Dysentery, Cholera, Measles, Summer Complaint, Flux, Children's Teething, and the Great Preventative of Asiatic Cholera.

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The extraordinary medicine, the fame of which is known broadcast throughout the country, is undoubtedly superior to any remedy ever offered to the public for the complaint for which it is intended. We have in our possession testimonials furnished voluntarily by Col. Long, James W. Polk, Francis Pickens, Geo. Pleasant and others of the Army; Father J. Deems, the celebrated Italian missionary; also officers of the Navy, surgeons, and other distinguished names, who have testified in the most emphatic manner to its superiority over every other medicine. It is especially recommended to the afflicted with cholera, dysentery, and all diseases arising from impurity of the blood. It is especially recommended to the afflicted with cholera, dysentery, and all diseases arising from impurity of the blood. It is especially recommended to the afflicted with cholera, dysentery, and all diseases arising from impurity of the blood.

Greatest Blood Specific Known

Warranted better than any other or money returned.
MAGUIRE'S ALTERATIVE ELIXIR.
FOR THE CURE OF—
Scrophulous Rheumatism, Neuralgia, Gout, Catarrh, Mercurial Affections, Goitre, Swelling of the Joints, Caries of the Bones, Ulcers, Cancerous Eruptions, Itches, Pimples, Enlargement of the Glands, Constitutional Disorders, and all diseases arising from Impurity of the Blood.
This preparation is a powerful combination of sassafras, Yellow Bark, Sillaria, Isopogon, etc., and is equally efficacious in all cases of impure blood, making it the strongest and best restorative of the kind extant, and for all diseases of the blood infinitely superior to any other article. It is skillfully prepared, and perfectly reliable. The effect of this medicine is to soothe morbid humor collected in every part of the system, by promoting a free circulation of the blood, removing obstructions, restore the Liver, Lungs and Urinary Organs to healthy condition, and remove any remaining long contracted diseases that may remain in the system. Sold by all druggists. Price, \$1 and \$2 per bottle.

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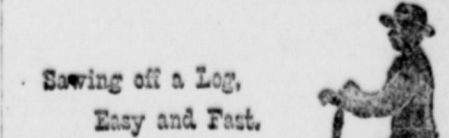
Approved by the Academy of Medicine of Paris, recommended by the medical celebrities of the world. Used for 50 years, and approved by over 2,000,000 men and women. It radically restores manhood, nervous debility, and all disorders brought on by indiscretion, or excessive use of stimulants, and restores the system to its original vigor. To be had at Dr. Levi's, or 19 Rue Richelieu, Paris, and at Dr. Brown's, 251 N. 3rd St., St. Louis, Mo., and by all respectable druggists.

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Texas Christian Advocate

GALVESTON, FEBRUARY 7, 1880.

Palo Pinto District.

On the first day of December I left home and loved ones to meet my appointments on the Palo Pinto district. As I had no plan of this new, unorganized work, of course I must start in time. Well, Granbury circuit comes first on the list, and by taking Florence, Gatesville, Meridian and Glen Rose on my route, I can make it to Granbury in four days—a distance of one hundred and fifty miles. I had no trouble the first day's drive. I knew all the roads, and spent the first night with old friends near Florence. The road from Florence to Gatesville being a very rough one, and having always been troubled with a peculiar weakness for taking wrong roads, it was dark when I reached Gatesville. Finding that new parsonage topless, I spent the night pleasantly with Dr. Perry. By starting early next morning and driving hard all day, over rocks, up hill and down hill, I reached Meridian in good time and stopped with Bro. J. F. Hines. Next morning he showed me the wreck of his new church, which was blown down last spring. It takes grit, grace and greenbacks to build churches. Bro. H. will succeed. I found a beautiful country along my route from Meridian to Glen Rose, but it requires a great deal of patience to drive a jaded team from Glen Rose to Granbury. It was getting dark when I drove up to Bro. Vaughan's residence. He had just moved to Granbury, and was anxiously looking for his lumber wagon to get in from "Fort Worth." I heard him say: "There is our lumber," but seeing his mistake, however, we rejoiced together. I visited Granbury high school next morning, and found Bro. Shirley with a house full of students. Granbury high school is the educational centre of this district. The quarterly conference for Granbury circuit met at Lipan, in the northwest corner of Hood county. This was my first quarterly conference, and I will never forget it. Bros. Vaughan and Hiner knew just how to brake a boy presiding elder. One day's drive west of Lipan, and I was in the bounds of Sunday Creek mission. The quarterly conference was held some twenty miles north of Stephenville, Erath county. Bro. Blackburn, P. C., has a small field and cultivates it well. Thirty miles west of Bro. Blackburn's work, I found Desdemona mission, all in Eastland county. As this mission was left to be supplied, I employed Rev. A. P. Hightower for the work. He is a young man of energy and promise. After holding quarterly conference for Bro. Hightower's work, I turned eastward for Palo Pinto. Finding no church building, we occupied the school-room on Saturday and Masonic Hall on Sunday. Bro. Ellis, pastor in charge, is doing a good work. The town of Palo Pinto is the geographical center of this district until future generations discover the right one. Quarterly conference for Crystal Falls mission was held some twenty miles east of Breckenridge, in Stephens county, near the clear fork of the Brazos. Bro. Trammell is living with his people. Quarterly conference for Cedar Creek mission met ten miles southwest of Graham, in Young county. Bro. Carson, pastor in charge, made a better report than the stewards. From Bro. Carson's work I went to Graham. Here I met many old acquaintances; I enjoyed it. From Graham I went to Belknap and held quarterly conference and preached in public room of the hotel. Quite a number of the official members attended this quarterly conference. Bro. Goode and his board of stewards mean business. I came from Belknap to this place, Seymour, the county seat of Baylor county, in two days. I find Bro. Harrison, pastor in charge, all snugly housed in his parsonage he has built since conference. I counted thirty houses all ready built and quite a number going up. Immigrants are coming in daily. To-morrow will try to preach and hold first quarterly conference ever held in this part. We need a young man for Wichita mission. I have traveled through the district, have been kindly received by preachers and people, and feel encouraged. There is peace and prosperity on Palo Pinto district. May God help us all to be faithful. J. K. LANE.

SEYMOUR, BAYLOR CO., JAN. 23, 1880.

LANCASTER, DALLAS CO., JAN. 26. —First quarterly meeting for Lancaster and Wesley station was held at this place on the 11th inst. Presiding elder on hand; did some good preaching. We continued the services fifteen days; result: more than one hundred conver-

sions and thirty accessions to our church. The church greatly revived. All the Christian people of Lancaster worked faithfully in the interests of the meeting. Rev. Mr. Caldwell, of the Presbyterian, and Rev. Mr. Averill, of the Baptist Church, labored with us faithfully, like line yoke fellows; and Willie Gray, of West Virginia, the sweet singer, sang the gospel so softly sweet that the congregations were often melted to tears. God bless Willie Gray; for he is a good, unselfish man, and labored most faithfully through the meeting. He was presented with a beautiful and costly gold-headed cane by his admirers. We had the pleasure of presenting it to him in the presence of a very large audience, and Mr. G. returned his thanks to the kind donors in a short, pretty speech. We are thankful to God for the blessings He has so richly bestowed upon the people of Lancaster. To Him be all the praise, through Jesus Christ our Lord. We can not close this communication without mentioning the improvements made on the parsonage. One room now is neatly painted and elegantly furnished, and the preacher's home is emphatically a pleasant one. The ADVOCATE is held in high esteem by our people here.—STUMP ASHLEY.

Flowers sweeten the air, rejoice the eye, link us with nature and innocence, and are something to love.

The man who is wrong is apt to get mad trying to make everybody think he is right.

Don't be too generous with your temper. Keep it.

Children's Department.

LOVE, TRUST AND OBEY. Little children, love the Savior, He both ears and feet us too. If you will, He will tell you, Through your mamma, what to do. Little children, trust the Savior, He is strong and mighty too, He will save you from all danger, And He'll bring you safely through.

Letter from Uncle John.

Dear Little Children:—The object of this letter, like the one that has gone on before, is to tell you something more about the history of the Bible. The Pentateuch, or first five books, was written by Moses, the servant of the Lord and leader of Israel. Pentateuch means "five books," and that is why they have this hard name. Moses wrote these five books. He was a very wise man and walked with the Lord. He was one of the chosen ones, called of the Lord to lead His chosen people out of bondage. No doubt many of us are acquainted with the character of this good man, the inspired writer of these good books. Uncle John would advise us all to study this character well, and we will learn many good lessons to help us on in this life. How when he was born, the angel king issued a decree and ordered all the little boys that were born to be cast into the sea, and how Moses was hid among the flags, in a little ark of bull-rushes, and how it rested by the river bank, and how the daughter of the king came down to the river edge, and how it happened that she sent and fetched the child, and how it wept, and how the heart of the daughter of the great king was touched, and how the sister of Moses was sent, and how the mother of Moses was called, and how he grew to be a man, and how he was not afraid of the king's commandment, and how he chose rather to suffer the affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season, and how he esteemed the reproaches of Christ—looking upon them as greater riches than the treasures of Egypt, and how he had respect unto the recompense of the reward, how he was not afraid of the king, how he endured, how he saw Him who is invisible, his flight into the land of Midian, his stay, what he learned, what he did, the burning bush, the call, his trip to Egypt, how he went before the king, the plagues, the march of Israel, the opening of the Red Sea, the pillar of cloud and pillar of fire, Mount Sinai, the clouds and glory, and fire and smoke, and Ten Commandments on tables of stone bearing the hand-writing of God, the golden calf, the forty years in the wilderness, the manna, how he died on Mount Nebo, in view of the Promised Land. Uncle John hopes we all will study this character and learn these lessons. He wrote these five books. They, like all the rest of the books of the Bible, were not first written in book-form, but on parchment scrolls. These were said to be made of the skin of animals and beasts. They were early and extensively used for writing. Some writers say they wrote upon them from left to right, and from

right to left. There was then no books and chapters and verses, and punctuation points and marks as we find them in the books now and in the Bible. These ways and things all came into use away further down the ages. The other historical books, prophetic books, and poetical books, the Proverbs and the Psalms, were written at different times by different ones, and holy inspired men wrote, as well as spoke, as they were moved by the Holy Ghost. Uncle John will not have time in these letters to tell about all of these things, as it is not in accordance with his design, but he hopes you will study and learn all of these things. In our next letter we will notice how these books were preserved and how they were translated into the different languages of the world. The Lord bless all the children.

UNCLE JOHN. P. S.—Ada's sweet little letter received. Lord bless her in her good resolutions. Pray for Uncle John. Also the letters of Lulu, and James, and Georgia, and Lee, and the nineteen names in the Sunday-school at Shady Grove, Buena Vista. Lord bless all the children.

UNCLE JOHN.

LIMESTONE COUNTY, Jan. 17.—Dear Uncle John: I write you to let you know that I want to join your Testament class. I love to read the Testament, and I love to read the ADVOCATE also. I am through the Testament. I want to live a Christian life.—HUGH PICKENS.

CLEAR LAKE, Jan. 24.—Dear Uncle John: Will you be so kind as to explain to me what the 60th verse of the 11th chapter of Luke means? By explaining you will oblige one of your nieces.—TREDIE NICHOLSON.

EAGLE COVE, Callahan Co., Jan. 10.—Dear Uncle John: I wish you to put my name down in your large Bible class. This is the first time I have tried to write you a letter. Don't forget to put my name down.—EVAN TWOMEY.

EAGLE COVE, Callahan Co., Jan. 10.—Dear Uncle John: I am but a little girl, but I want to join your Bible class, and I promise to read the Bible through this year, and I hope that I may be profited by reading it with the balance of my cousins.—MATTIE TWOMEY.

DANGERFIELD, Morris Co., Jan. 19.—Dear Uncle John: I have tried to keep my promise in reading the New Testament through. In Revelation we have John's vision of heaven. Will you tell me what is meant by the words "coming down" in the verse: "I, John, saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven," chapter xxi, 2d verse. I will read the Psalms next, and then I will try to read the Old Testament.—EDDIE C. GREEN.

MORALE, JACKSON CO., Jan. 16.—Dear Uncle John: Perhaps you would be glad to learn that on the last Sunday in the past year my grandma (papa's mamma), Aunt Neelie and I agreed to read the Bible through this year. Brother Tommie said as he had just commenced to read the story of the Bible we must excuse him. Grandma is ahead of us all; papa just continued reading in the New Testament. Maybe I'll write again awhile.—MATTIE WILBANKS.

EAGLE COVE, Callahan Co., Jan. 10.—Dear Uncle John: As brother and sister have sent you their names to join the Bible class, I thought that I would send you mine. You may tell my little cousins that we live on the frontier, but father takes the dear good ADVOCATE, and we love to read their little letters and to learn that so many are going to read the Bible this year.—ROZELL TWOMEY.

PILOT POINT, Denton Co., Jan. 7.—Dear Uncle John: I am a little girl, ten years old, and my brother Ernest is eight; I want to join your Bible class this year, and brother wants to join your Testament class. I find the Bible hard to understand in some places, but I hope, as I get older, and read more, I will understand it better. Bro. J. W. Horn is our preacher this year; we like him very much. Pa takes the ADVOCATE, and I like to read the Children's Department.—IRENE AND ERNEST MARTIN.

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TRIED BY FIRE. THE DIEBOLD SAFE SUSTAINS ITS RECORD. READ! READ! READ! PALESTINE, TEXAS, Jan. 5, 1880. I take pleasure in testifying again to the superior merits of the Diebold Safe, and have this day bought one for the third time. Our safe in our last fire, although subjected to the most intense heat for over ten hours, preserved its contents intact. I had all of the County Treasurer's books and papers in the safe, and they were as perfect as when first put in. The lock responded to its combination and was opened on it. I have purchased a fire and burglar proof one this time, at a cost of \$750, for the use of Shumette & Welschmeyer. (Signed) JOHN F. WEIDEMEYER, of Shumette & Welschmeyer. Still Another Test. HOUSTON, TEXAS, July 12, 1879. L. T. Noyes, Esq., State Agent Diebold Safe and Lock Co., Houston, Texas. Dear Sir:—I had a No. 2 Diebold & Kenzie Safe in the fire here on the night of the 10th. It had some eighty barrels of whiskey at that time. The heat was intense, and I could not get to the safe to open it for some eight or ten hours. The contents, consisting of books, papers and currency, were entirely preserved. The hinges of the door were nearly melted off, yet I opened the lock on its combination. (Signed) W. HARRALL.

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Texas Christian Advocate
GALVESTON, FEBRUARY 7, 1890.
Sunday School.

INTERNATIONAL BIBLE LESSONS.
BY E. M. MOORE.
FIRST QUARTER—SEVENTH LESSON—Feb. 13, 1890.

GOLDEN TEXT.
Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in Heaven, is perfect.—Verse 48.

We continue in this lesson the theme of the two previous lessons; The true spirit of the law, or the moral standards by which all must be measured who would enter the new society, which Christ proposes to inaugurate and commit to the keeping of His disciples and their successors. Doubtless His accusers had come with the restless multitudes, prepared to provoke Him with questions and expose His supposed lax notions of the law; but as they listen they are dumb with amazement, as He enters the secret recesses of their hearts and finds there murder, adultery, and blasphemy in the causeless anger; the secret lust; and in the extravagant asseverations of what they deem the truth. The tables are turned. The accusers are the accused. Instead of finding Him the lax-interpret of their sacred laws of Moses, they find Him revealing their inner meaning in a way that makes them vile transgressors of the very laws they had gathered about Him to defend. And, to make matters worse, He spoke as one having authority, and enforced His views in a way that carried conviction through the hearts of the masses of the people. His standard was severe; but still more severe was the logic that sustained His pure standards, and that revealed the secret springs of crime. The Pharisaical formalist that toyed with crime in the secret chambers of his soul, restraining the overt acts, slunk away from the hideous picture of himself as the Master laid bare his inner life to the public gaze. They had made a fearful mistake. The supposed culprit becomes a severe judge, whose penetrating eyes pierced the armor-plating of their self-righteousness, and sent His swift arrows of truth to their very vitals. The lesson to-day is only a continuation of the two previous lessons, wherein He exposes their lax notions of perjury, their duties to each other and to their government, and then closes with the injunction for them to be perfect, even as their Father in Heaven was perfect. Their supposed lax Teacher thus lifts His standard as high above their standard as Heaven is higher than the earth.

V. 33. "Again, ye have heard that it hath been said by them of old time, Thou shalt not swear thyself, but shalt perform unto the Lord thine oaths." We can imagine a bit of irony in "ye have heard" without doing any violence to the occasion; especially when we remember that Jesus had been accused of having loose notions of the law; and He now very adroitly refers to their own teachers in the phrase "ye have heard," wherein, doubtless, they had gone back to the dim, uncertain past for vague tradition, by which to hamper the very laws for which they are now so zealous. "By them of old time" in time past; "for swear; perjure; shalt perform;" shall discharge; "thine oaths;" thy vows or promises. There is no reference to a judicial oath, but to profane oaths made in making promises. The profanity of all Orientals is well known. They swore by everything, and some of the ancient teachers held that whenever they swore by the Lord or by anything that was sacred, they should discharge such obligations. They did not condemn the profanity, but held that the swearers were bound by their profanity whenever the name of the Lord was used.

V. 34. "But I say unto you, Swear not at all; neither by Heaven; for it is God's throne." "But" contrasts His rule with this old law eliminated of all its life; "I" is emphatic; the "you" are His nameless accusers; "swear not at all;" use no profanity to strengthen your statements. To swear by Heaven is the same as swearing by Him whose throne is there. Our Savior refers only to profanity and not to judicial affirmations.

V. 35. "Nor by the earth, for it is His footstool; neither by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King." The earth being God's creation, it is still swearing by its Creator, it is still swearing by its Creator to swear by it, and they who thus swore could not avoid the binding nature of their oath, as interpreted by their own teachers. The same is true of those who

swear by His peculiar city—Jerusalem. They used the heavens and the earth and Jerusalem to give their statements the character of an oath, while they were only pretending, and so really lying.

V. 36. "Neither shalt thou swear by thy head, because thou canst not make one hair white or black." "Thy head" is a creation of God, and in swearing by it, we swear by its Creator; and yet some to-day will assert, "I'll give you my head if I do not do so and so." This is the profanity that Christ here condemns.

V. 37. "But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay; for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil." "Your communications;" your speech or discourse; "Yea, yea; Nay, nay" means, let a simple yes or a simple no suffice in affirming anything as true or untrue. Profanity is a poor endorsement of the truth. The profane expletive comes of evil.

V. 38. "Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth." The law as found in Ex. xxi: 24; Lev. xxiv: 20; and Deut. xix: 21, was the law of retaliation introduced to prevent private revenge, so common in the East, and intended to limit it, but it had been perverted so as to warrant retaliation of every kind. Under this head a Pharisee found a license to commit the foulest crime and yet be an upright man.

V. 39. "But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil; but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also." "Resist not evil;" contend not with an evil person; "but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also," evidently means to exercise a self-possessed Christian forbearance under any provocation; it means to do as He did, when smitten.—John xviii: 22, 23.

V. 40. "And if any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloak also." A literal translation of the Greek is, to the one wishing to obtain judgment against thee, and to take thy coat, give thy cloak also. The meaning of which is, be more just than the law. By the law the coat, or inner garment, could be taken, but not the cloak or blanket, as it was used for cover at night.

V. 41. "And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain." This is a reference to a custom then much in vogue in despotic governments. Couriers had the right of compelling those of one village to take them on to the next village free of expense, and persons of rank had the same privilege. It did not matter what might be the poor man's necessities, his best was taken from his plow or yoke and made to do service for the privileged traveler. It was a galling provocation at times. Hence the lesson is, be more generous than the despotic exactions of tyranny require. If the official or magnate says to you go with him one mile, go with him two.

V. 42. "Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away." Jesus here inculcates the duty of giving to the needy, when worthy, and loaning without usury to him whose circumstances justify. It is not possible for one to give of his means to every beggar, nor is it expected that one could have the means to loan to every borrower. Two things are supposed: that the beggar and borrower are worthy, and that the giver and loaner have both to give and to loan.

V. 43. "Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbor and hate thine enemy." The law for loving a neighbor is very explicit.—Lev. xix: 18; but that for hating an enemy is very ambiguous.—Deut. xxiii: 6. The Jew regarded all of his race as his neighbor, and every Gentile as an enemy.

V. 44. "But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you." "Love your enemies" is more than to "bless" or "do good to." To love, as here expressed, covers our whole duty to our fellow-man; "bless;" speak well of; "curse;" speak against; "despitefully use;" traduce.

V. 45. "That ye may be the children of your Father which is in Heaven; for He maketh His sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust." "Children;" sons. To be God's children we must be like them in character. God's benevolence goes out for all His children, just as He sends His rain and sunshine on all alike.

V. 46. "For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans have ye?" "For if ye;" ye Christians; "love them;" only love them; "what reward have ye?" what reward do you deserve?

"publicans;" those who collected the taxes for the Romans and were thoroughly hated by the Jews. "The Talmud classes them with thieves and assassins, and regards their repentance as impossible," and yet our author, Matthew, was one of them, and so was Zaccheus, the chief publican, to whom Christ said, "this day is salvation come to this house," meaning the house of Zaccheus.

V. 47. "And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans do so?" A salutation was a common Eastern courtesy; "salute;" greet, or bid God speed. A common salutation then was, "Peace be with you;" "brethren;" the Jews regarded the Jews only as their brethren; "what do ye," who profess to do God's will, more than those who do not? and as "publicans" were classed as heathen, He classes with what do ye more than the heathen?

V. 48. "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in Heaven is perfect." "Perfect;" complete, as opposed to all imperfect service to God and narrow, selfish obligation to man. Their law required them to love all men, and they had only loved their own. They owed obligations to all men; they had discharged them to a select few. Hence the command is discharge all your obligations to God and man, be perfect men as your Father in Heaven is a perfect Father.

APPLICATION.
33. All should be careful in making promises, but more careful in keeping them. All profane assertions used to endorse a statement as true, rather weakens its credibility instead of strengthening it.

34. No man claiming to be a follower of Christ can indulge in profane swearing; and every man who does swear or use profane language, thereby declares his own moral lunacy. Its use always disgraces one. Profanity is the most senseless of all sins. It is a cowardly, wicked, and untruthful habit and advertises him who swears as a servant of Satan.

35. They who think they are guiltless when they swear by the heavens or earth, only add cowardice to the profanity.

36. And they who swear by their "heads" or anything else, are held alike guilty of blasphemy. It matters not that it is done in a thoughtless way; for it only proves the utter depravity of the heart, from which blasphemy flows unconsciously. He who uses oaths to back his simple word, admits thereby that his veracity is questioned.

37. Except in the courts and executing legal papers, all statements should be the plain narration of facts. All that is beyond this vitiate our Savior's rule. Many statements that are sent forth as truth would suffer in volume if put through the "yea, yea and nay, nay" compressor.

38. The rule of the world is "an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth." We go into court and demand and exact damages for each loss, and "the law allows it and the court awards it," while the law of Christ requires us to go back to the causes and condemn or not as the motive is bad or good.

39. To resist evil with evil is a crime in itself, and hence it is that that mode of settling difficulties produces such a fearful harvest of crime in such a brief period. This resisting evil with evil is the little fire that begets a great flame.

40. It is better to give a "cloak" than to spend it in fruitlessly defending a suit against a "coat." The result in the end is the same in dollars and cents; but there has been kindled a fire, a consuming fire, that has scorched and burned up some of the flowers of peace and rest that grow in the garden of the heart.

41. It is better to heap up two bushels of generosity for a man who demands one by an unjust law, than to dole out one bushel of hate at the bidding of force.

42. It is a noble impulse to aid unfortunate ones who need, by giving and loaning, and this spirit our Savior commends; but it would not be right to give or loan, where there was no merit in the applicant.

43. The command to love our neighbor is explicit; but the authority to hate an enemy is an outgrowth of human depravity. As every man is our neighbor, there is no place found for an enemy.

44. We can love all men and can seek their good, while we may not love their habits, characters, or sins.

45. We become like our Father in Heaven in doing good to all men.

46. It is easy enough to love those who love us and return one favor for another; but a better test of love is to love those who hate us, and do good to them who abuse and injure us.

47. A Christian professes to harbor no hatred, and he should possess only a spirit of love to all. The religion that does not improve

on depraved human nature is a fraud.

48. We are enjoined to imitate Christ in all His imitable perfections, and that Christian that is not continually desiring and striving for higher attainments is not a Christian at all.

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