

WOMAN'S DEPARTMENT

CONDUCTED BY MRS. FLORENCE E. HOWELL. All matter intended for this column should be addressed to Mrs. Florence E. Howell, 23 M. Main street, Dallas, Texas.

A REMINISCENCE OF DEPARTED EXCELLENCE. Whatever brings to our recollection the worth of those that have passed away, impresses us with serious feelings and comes as a voice from the other world, bidding us press forward to the attainment of the prize at the end of the race.

Turning over the leaves of an old scrap-book I found this prayerful little impromptu verse, written by Dr. Ruter in a young lady's album in the town of San Felipe, which was then the county-seat of Au-tin County, and had been the capital of Texas when a province of Mexico. The estimable young lady to whom these lines were addressed died a few years afterward:

TO MISS M. T. M. On Zion's height, in fields of light, May sheat last arise, With sister spirits, clothed in white, Triumphant through the skies. There dwells repose that knows no pain; Faint joys, a quietude. Ah! haste, that heaven of bliss to gain; 'Tis folly a life to lead, And be it ill, whether explained or not.

AFTER THE DEATH OF DR. RUTER the following lines were added by Miss L. A. McHenry:

TO MISS M. T. M. Long may they care this ephemer memento save; The hand that traced it rests within the grave; Had honor, fame, philosophy, or worth, Avail'd ought, Ruter still had been on earth. But God disposes every Christian's lot, And he is ill, whether explained or not.

Dr. Ruter was a fine scholar and an able minister of the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. He had charge of the missions of the Methodist Church in Texas; had traveled over the settled portions of this new and interesting country for more than a year, and having arranged all things satisfactorily, he started home, intending to move his family as soon as possible. About a half day's ride from the town of Washington he was taken very sick and returned to town where he could have medical aid.

When my father heard he was sick he went up to see him (it was about twenty-five miles), and when he returned told the family he was dead, my mother wept, and I suppose that is the reason I remember the scene, for there is nothing that impresses a child more than a mother's tears. Dr. Ruter's death was universally regretted, and it cast a mournful shadow over the Church in all the land, and every one felt how mysterious are the ways of our Heavenly Father. "His ways are not as our ways," and though his servant was well qualified to carry on his work among the children of men, the summons came, "It is enough; come up higher." We find the work goes on although the workmen fall.

Other exabassadors for Christ were sent out which, together with those already here, formed a nucleus around which has gathered the great Methodist Church in Texas with her seven conferences.

MRS. A. J. LEE. LAMPASAS, TEXAS. ACCORDING TO THE Missionary Review, all Europe could be put into an area in Central Africa where there is not one missionary.

A MOHAMMEDAN in Malacca made this objection to the Bible: "It is too holy. If we accepted it we could not cheat nor lie nor get on in business."

ARCHDEACON FARRAR, in speaking of the debt of science to missions, shows that mission aries have rendered invaluable service in philology, created anthropology and made possible comparative religion. They discovered the chain of links on which the future destiny of Africa must turn, and also the Nestorian monument, the Moabite stone, the Hittite inscriptions, and a hundred other significant memorials of the dead and buried past. Thus missionaries are resurrectionists of history, as well as of dead souls. It would be easy to show that commerce is even more indebted to them. By Christianizing and civilizing barbarous and heathen races they have created markets for trade.

HELP THOSE WHOSE FEBRUARY 6-11, 1894

The motto of the Board of Church Extension is: "A Church for every congregation and a parsonage for every pastor." The enterprise is large, but inspiring rather than discouraging. In 1890 (we have no later statistics) the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, had 15,017 congregations and 12,687 church edifices, 2330 felloes flock meeting in private houses, halls, school-houses and court-houses. We are now helping to build them church edifices at the rate of more than one each day. May we not hope some day to catch up? God forbid that the Church shall ever cease to grow and demand more room; but it is not vain to hope and confidently expect, under his blessing, that the day will surely come when the Church will be thoroughly equipped into this work of providi-g a sanctuary in every community where He may dwell among His people.

By a fair division of labor the work of providing homes for the itinerants has fallen to the lot of those without whom there would be no homes. The right arm of the Board of Church Extension is the Woman's Parsonage and Home Mission Society, and the devout women composing it are pledged to see that every houseless itinerant preacher shall have a home for his family while engaged in the pastoral work of the Church. This undertaking, like the other, is not a Quixotic one, but, on the contrary, the results already attained are full of promise for the future. There are in the Church 4600 pastoral charges and 3015 parsonages. That is to say, two of every three Churches are now provided with parsonages. How many of these are due to the impulse given to parsonage building by the Woman's Society? The figures are interesting, indeed they are startling. In 1886 the parsonage statistics for the first time appear in our conference minutes, and the total number then in existence is there

reported at 2030. These figures represent what had been accomplished in this direction in 100 years of building. In that same year (1886) the women went to work, the parsonage question began to be discussed and pressed upon the attention of the Church as never before, and behold at the end of six brief years the number of parsonages reported advances from 2030, valued at \$2,247,288, to 3015, valued at \$3,693,156. That is to say, in the six years following the organization of the Woman's Parsonage work there were built one-half as many parsonages as the Church had to show for all its previous century of building.

About one-half of these new buildings received aid directly from the Woman's General and Conference Board's and their local auxiliaries, while the persistence with which they pressed the matter upon the attention of the Church undoubtedly suggested and stimulated the building of many of those not directly contributed to by them. I think it clearly demonstrable that to the efforts of these faithful women is due the great activity of the Church in this direction since 1886.

Such results would have been gratifying even had all the women of the Church been enlisted. They become marvelous when it is considered that while we have 15,000 congregations in our Church, in less than 6000 of them have auxiliaries of our Woman's Parsonage and Home Mission Society been organized. Had our preachers everywhere organized these auxiliaries, or encouraged the women to do so, the results attained by the small army who have been at work justify the conclusion that there would not now be a homeless pastor in Southern Methodism. Brethren, to the rescue. Help the women who are trying to help you, your wives and your children.

The limits assigned for this article do not permit me to enlarge upon that other phase of the work of this society. I refer to its home mission work. The need of an organization that would correlate the societies already existing in our Church, systematize their work, stimulate others to join them, and direct others into channels that would uphold our own institutions, the energies of our women who, for the lack of such an organization of our own, were devoting their time and efforts to the work of worthy outside societies, caused the General Conference of 1890 to enlarge their constitution and authorize them to enter the larger field. The results so far have amply vindicated the wisdom of the act. Instead of the society being weakened by diversifying the object to which it is devoted, new life has been infused into the whole movement, and it has gone forward with a bound. The possibilities for good are incalculable. Help them, brethren, to come up to the measure of their great and holy ambition. DAVID MORTON.

THE soul spreads its own hue over everything; the shroud or wedding garment of nature is woven in the loom of our own feelings. Be noble-minded, and all nature replies, I am divine, the child of God—be thou, too, his child, and noble. Be meek, and all nature dwindles into a contemptible smallness.—F. W. Robertson.

THE MISSIONARY QUILT.

We have received the following names for our quilt: Mrs. Ida L. Steen, Johnnie V. Steen, Hollie Steen, Calvin Steen, Hamilton; Rev. J. J. Davis, Mrs. E. L. Davis, Mineral Wells; Mrs. B. D. McKary, Lampasas; Mrs. E. D. C. Key, Dumas; Rev. J. F. Follin, with the saints in heaven, sent by his wife, F. Worth; Mrs. Lena Barrett, Temple; Mrs. George Parkington, Hallettsville; Rev. S. A. L. Lewis, Silver Valley; Rev. S. C. Ellis, Coleman; Nettie Elliott, E. P. Duggan, San Saba; Mrs. Hattie Hassan, Cuero; Rev. W. C. Crangland, Alvarado; Mrs. Sarah S. Pare, Jessie F. Pare, Paris; Alma A. Morse, Goldens; Miss Harper Lemaster, Granbury; M. M. Goodwin, Mission Valley; R. V. A. R. Dover, Bluff Dale; for which we are very thankful. Send on your names, with 10 cents each, to Mrs. M. A. BARNES, Bluff Dale, Texas.

Church Notices

Table with columns for months (Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr, May, June) and days (1-31) for the year 1894, listing church events.

WEST TEXAS.

BEVILL DISTRICT—SECOND ROUND. Laredo sta. 1st Sun in March San Diego sta. at San Diego. 2d Sun in March Corpus Christi sta. 3d Sun in March Rockport and Aransas, at Rockport. 4th Sun in March Lagarto sta. at Bethel. 1st Sun in April Floresville sta. 2d Sun in April Lavernia sta. at Sandy Elm. 4th Sun in April Stockdale sta. at Stockdale. 5th Sun in April Helena sta. at Runge. 1st Sun in May District Conference will convene at Runge, May 3, at 2 p. m. Recording Stewards will please have their quarterly Conference Records present for examination. W. H. H. BRIGGS, P. E.

SAN ANTONIO DISTRICT—SECOND ROUND.

Devils sta. 1st Sun in March Carrizo Springs. 2d Sun in March Uvalde sta. at Lebanon. 3d Sun in March Eagle Pass. 4th Sun in March Del Rio. 5th Sun in March Pearsall sta. 6th Sun in March Cotulla and Pearsall. 7th Sun in March Denton sta. at Lebanon. 8th Sun in March Travis Park. 9th Sun in March Sherman Street. 10th Sun in March Pleasanton and Amphion. 11th Sun in March West End. 12th Sun in March East End. 13th Sun in March I. T. MORRIS, P. E.

THE SENSIBLE METHOD TO MOTHERS. Do you know which of the subjects in this circle your child will ask about? Of course not, for he may be a genius in any of them. But you cannot be prepared to answer on all of them; if you were, you would know everything. And yet he should have his questions answered while he is eager, or he may lose interest in what would otherwise make him successful, and maybe, famous. Is it not better to tell the child that you do not know, if you do not, and invite him to help you look up the question in the Encyclopædia Britannica? In this way he soon becomes an investigator. Get the latest and best edition—the only complete edition—the only up-to-date edition on the market. It can be had upon the cash payment of only 10 cents a day.

IF YOU PLACE THE ENCYCLOPEDIA BRITANNICA

In your home, your children will be able to find answers to all their questions, and they will busy themselves at healthy investigation. No danger then—their future welfare is insured. You intend to get this great library for your home some time. It is only a question of how soon. If you order now you will get the benefit of the introductory rates offered by TEXAS CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE to its subscribers—a saving of from \$21 to \$28 on the price of your set, besides getting it on remarkably easy terms. But what is still more important, every day you delay you deprive yourself and your family of the elevating and refining influence of this excellent library, which might as well be placed in your home to-day, for it can be done by denying yourself the small sum of only 10 cents a day.

HERE IS OUR PROPOSITION:

- 1. Write TEXAS CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE, Dallas, Texas, for application blank, description of bindings, etc.
2. Select the style of binding you wish and send in your application for a set at introductory rates.
3. Then fourteen volumes will be shipped to you, to be paid for on the easy installments of 10 CENTS A DAY, the remaining fourteen volumes to be supplied as soon as the first are paid for. Or if you prefer to pay \$5 per month, the complete set of twenty-eight volumes will be shipped to you at once.

Table listing various districts and rounds (Kerrville, Beaumont, Vernon, Waxahachie, Cisco, Gatesville, Fort Worth, San Marcos, West Texas, East Texas, Tyler, Palmetto, San Antonio, Waco, Brownwood, Weatherford, San Augustine) with dates and names of presidents.

SWAYNE'S OINTMENT. The great relief of 'Swayne's Ointment' without any internal medicine, cures the most obstinate cases of rheumatism, neuralgia, sciatica, etc. It is a full and complete relief to the sufferer. It is a full and complete relief to the sufferer. It is a full and complete relief to the sufferer.

