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OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE FIVE TEXAS ANNUAL CONFERENCES OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SOUTH.

Vol. XXXVII.

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Dallas, Texas, Thursday, October 11, 1900.

No. 7

EDITORIAL.

THE QUALIFICATIONS OF STEWARDS.

We have no office in the Methodist Church of greater importance than that of steward. The men who occupy this position either make the Church a success by their efficiency or they make it a failure by their inactivity. The pastor looks to them for his support, and the people look to them as the proper medium through which the support is conveyed. If the preacher is paid his salary with regularity and promptness, it is because he has stewards who attend to their duty conscientiously; but if he goes unpaid, then just the reverse is true. They help the preacher to make or unmake the Church, either by their hearty cooperation or by their inattention to the duties imposed upon them. These men who occupy this important position are elected by the Quarterly Conference at its fourth session annually. The preacher nominates them, and he has the whole congregation to select from. If he does not put the right sort of men in the place it is his own fault, unless he is short of men in his membership. As the fourth Quarterly Conference are now being held, this is a good time to discuss the qualifications of stewards. The Discipline tells us exactly the kind of men to put into the stewardship. Notice its directions:

1. They must be men of solid piety. This is a fundamental element. It means that they must be thoroughly regenerated and in possession of the quickening power of the Holy Ghost. Without this their piety will be superficial and perfunctory. But if they know God in the forgiveness of sin, and if they are in fellowship with the Spirit of Christ, then they will enter upon their work with loving devotion and persistent energy. Too many men are placed in this position simply because they are ordinarily good men and successful in business, without due regard for a deep piety that grows out of repentance toward God and faith in Jesus Christ. This is a great mistake. The pastor needs very pious men to aid him in the conduct of the affairs of the Church. They need to be sound in heart and clean in life.

2. They must know and love the Methodist doctrine and Discipline. This presupposes that they are students of the Bible and of the Book of Discipline. In these are found the doctrines of the Church. Not to know these is to place the material concerns of the kingdom of Christ in the hands of ignorant men. And if they are not informed as to what the Church believes and teaches, they are poorly prepared to appreciate its worth as a saving agency in the world. To know these matters is to be able to impress upon the people from whom they collect funds the importance of according a liberal support to the gospel. Men ignorant of our doctrines and polity make an inefficient help for the pastor.

3. They must be men of good natural and acquired ability to transact the temporal business of the Church. It requires this to make any business a permanent success, and especially the Church of God. Hence no congregation ought to be willing to entrust such responsibility to a man whom

they would not risk in the safe conduct of a secular business. Stewards must have good judgment, practical insight and resourcefulness of methods and enterprises. They must know how to plan and devise ways and means for the procurement of finances with which to meet the current expenses of the Church. Therefore, the pastor needs to exercise his very best judgment in the selection of men to fill this position. He can not afford to load the stewardship down with men of doubtful piety, or of inferior mental equipment, or of known incompetency to look after the ordinary business affairs of life. If he does crowd such men into this place, either himself or his successor will suffer as a consequence, and the Church be retarded in its progress. And there is no necessity for keeping men in this position from year to year simply because they expect to be re-elected, unless they have these disciplinary qualifications. Give us good, true, business-like men to fill the stewardship of the Church, and Zion will prosper in things temporal as well as spiritual.

SOUTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY.

We are glad to note from various sources that Southwestern University has had one of the best openings in its history. This is as it should be, for Texas Methodism is largely indebted to this institution for much of our permanent success. Every station and circuit throughout the State ought to be represented there by our vigorous boys. In many respects the University is better equipped than ever before for efficient work. The new building has added large facilities for improvement in all departments, and the faculty is composed of the best material in Texas. The advantages offered are equal to the best, and from a moral and religious point of view they are superior to those of our secular schools. We are not ashamed to point to our University and tell the world that it is a Methodist institution. What we need now to make it the foremost school in the State is unity of sentiment upon the part of all of our conferences in its support. It is the school of all of Texas Methodism, and all of Texas Methodism needs to give it an undivided co-operation. Backed by such an influence, its development will be marked and robust. The preachers are the special agents of the University. They are so related to it and the people as to bring the two into persistent contact. No one of our preachers ought, if possible, to permit any boy prepared for college work to go from his charge to any other school. We want to keep our Methodist boys in our Methodist institution. We are prepared to care for them, and to do a better part by them than the State or any of the denominational schools. Then it is our duty to call attention to our own school from our pulpits and in our pastoral visiting. By this means we will keep our people in possession of the knowledge of the University, and when they get ready to send their boys from home they will naturally have the University before their minds. We do not hesitate to say that if as preachers we would do our full duty to this school, there is no reason why we should not have from five hundred to a thousand students under its tuition. We have about seven hundred organized charges in Texas, and there

is at least one boy in every charge who ought to be in the University. Do you see where that sort of work would place the patronage of the school? Then what a dissemination of education among the Methodist boys of Texas this would accomplish! Why not put them there?

CONFERENCE STATISTICS.

Of late years our conferences have been perplexed with the problem of conference statistics. How to solve it is a question. The communication of Rev. Jas. M. Barren, in the Advocate of October 4, is to the point, and we hope it has been read and re-read by the preachers. There is no earthly excuse for the man who makes his statistical report in a careless and inaccurate manner. If he does not know how to cipher, as we used to call it, when he ought to get a boy or a girl in the seventh grade of the public schools to take charge of his calculations for him. He has the minutes of the preceding conference before his eyes. He sees exactly the number of actual members reported by his predecessor. He knows how many he has received the present year by profession and certificate. He also knows how many he has lost by dismissal, death and otherwise. With these figures before him he knows whether he has had a loss or a net gain. Then, with the number of members reported by his predecessor as a basis of calculation, he can get, without the slightest difficulty, the number he is to report at conference. He need not make a single mistake in his estimate.

Some preachers take it upon themselves to change the figures reported in the minutes of the previous conference in making up their statistics. For instance, you go to your work, and from the printed minutes you see reported by your predecessor three hundred members. But you go down to the work and can not find but two hundred and fifty. Then, when you go to make out your statistics, you take two hundred and fifty as the basis of your calculation instead of the three hundred reported last year. You do this because you do not want to charge your year's work with a loss of fifty members. Right here is where you make a mistake. The figures in the minutes are official and you have no right to make any change in them. It makes no sort of difference if you do sustain a loss for which you are not responsible; you simply have to grin and bear it—unless you ask the ensuing session of your conference to reconsider the vote by which the minutes of the preceding conference were adopted. And we doubt whether or not one conference has the authority to correct the minutes of a preceding one. But if the change is made, the preacher is not the man to make it. And when he does it, he transcends his prerogative. He simply has to go by the figures reported by the preacher who preceded him. Now, if all of our preachers will go by these suggestions, then we will get out of these erroneous figures found in our statistical tables. The importance of this matter is such that every preacher ought to make it a matter of conscience. We have had enough of this sloven work in our minutes. It ought to stop. The only way to stop it is for the preachers to study simple addition and subtraction found in our

ordinary arithmetics and adhere to the rules there laid down. The Secretaries of our conferences are not authorized to make corrections. The preachers must attend to this before the figures are reported to the conference. Then we will have figures that will not be

THE PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN.

The Presidential campaign is beginning to excite some interest as the time for holding the election approaches, but fortunately it is not absorbing all of the attention of the people, to the neglect of other matters, as in former years. The country has reached an industrial era, and prosperity abounds. The people are thinking more about matters of this character than politics. Fields, stores and shops are prosperous and busy, and contentment for the most part, is widespread. But this state of things is not due to politics and politicians. It stems despite politics. There is a general impression that it does not matter much who occupies the White House. Just so he is a true and honest man, the Government is safe. In the present campaign, the country is to be congratulated upon the character of the two men who are aspiring to presidential honors. Mr. McKinley has occupied the position for four years, and the people have weighed him and he stands upon his record. Mr. Bryan is as well known as his rival, and he conceals none of his views of public affairs and how they ought to be conducted. They are both Christian men, and prominent members of their respective Churches. No dishonor attaches to either one of them. They are representative American citizens. For these and other reasons, the people are not thrown into paroxysms of fear as the time for holding the election approaches. They are taking interest enough to go and vote, but they are carrying on business and thinking also of material matters. The politicians are becoming excited, but this is their habit, and they mean no harm by it.

Some of them are resorting to extraordinary methods with the hope of exciting the religious voters of the country. Bishop Fowler, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, has issued a document of great pretensions, in which he tries to prove that Mr. McKinley is the prophet of God, raised up in these latter days to forestall of open doors to the advancing kingdom of Christ, and that to re-elect him is to maintain the position of the Church in the thought of the nations. But even a political Bishop can not excite anything but ridicule in the minds of thinking men when he deals in matters of this character. Then, too, we notice that from Chicago a circular is sent forth accusing Mr. Bryan of blasphemy and irreverence! This is made the basis of an exhortation to Christian people of every name and order to rise up and heap such a scowling out of the White House. But Mr. Bryan's religious views and Christian character are infinitely better known than the wilful manufacturers of this silly twaddle. Campaign committees must be in sore straits when they resort to such perversions of common truth. We repeat that both of these conspicuous men are above reproach in their moral and religious characters, and the Government will not run aground under the guidance of either one of them. Therefore, there is no occasion for un-

derstanding or anxiety, but the people should be reminded that they may have had a chance to elect Bryan, and that the country would be more than ever in the hands of a man who would not care for the people's interests, and who would not care for the people's interests, and who would not care for the people's interests.

THE LOCAL PREACHERS CONFERENCE.

The Local Preachers Conference, called to session last week by Rev. W. C. Young, pastor of First Methodist Church, in this city, had a successful session. The number of those present was quite large, but they represented the entire membership of the State very fully. This is the first time of the kind in Texas, and many of those present did not fully understand its purpose. The first reason a number of them who would have attended, were unable to do so, was the opportunity of attending the one of the sessions, and that the other was a deliberate session, in view of the following week's work and devotion to the Church, her doctrines and work of general interest was heard upon every point. There was not one dissatisfied word, and one complaint upon the part of all of them. They were well and well instructed, and of wonderful benefit to our cause. The object of a local preachers conference is to give the preachers a chance to meet and to discuss the various matters of interest to them. They discuss a general subject, and have a chance to give their views in words. They were awarded a welcome by the officials of the city and our good people, though crowded with commercial concerns of the Fair, gave them their best entertainment. We trust that similar good results will follow the sessions of the conference in other parts of the State.

Richardson, Advocate, of a year or more from now there will be a candidate for President. The best was Mr. Bryan, in Washington. We thought that Southern Methodism would be glory in attending upon a man, as the negro delegates had done, when they had marked him and distinguished attention and whereas a Southern Methodist and a negro man began the year the British churchmen gave the negro presidency. The Advent from the South had some reputation in London, and the Southern had in witness the day. The negro was the "second equal" of his opponent at all high meetings, and in good faith, he had special notice. It was plain enough what the purpose was, namely, to insult the Southern delegates. We believe a number of our representatives—Bishop Wilson and others—would attend the sessions. The Western Methodists date on the night in glory, though Charles Wesley calls them in a song "The wretched progeny of Ham." We recall certain Southern Methodists returning sore enough.













Texas Christian Advocate

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G. C. RANKIN, D. D., - - - - - Editor

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TEXAS ANNUAL CONFERENCES.

Table with conference dates: Held by Bishop W. A. Chandler, West Texas, Graham, Tex., Oct. 21; Northwest Tex., Georgetown, Tex., Nov. 11; North Texas, Denton, Nov. 27; East Texas, Pittsburg, Tex., Nov. 29; Texas, Rockwall, Tex., Dec. 2

SPECIAL NOTICE.

The Board of Directors of the Texas Methodist Conference, will meet at the building in Waco, Tuesday, October 11, at 10 o'clock p. m.

HORACE BISHOP

Since our last issue we have received for our suffering Methodists in storm centers about one thousand dollars. This makes a total received by the Advocate of \$20,181. This is good showing, and it is proof that hearts of our people are in this noble work.

We are in receipt of numerous congratulations upon our re-election to the editorship of the Advocate for another year. We appreciate these expressions of appreciation, and they tend to inspire us with additional energy to make the paper a still greater power in the building up of Methodism in Texas.

In order to make our people an intelligent people in all matters of morality and religion, and in the progress of Church enterprises, they must be induced to read the literature of the Church press. Secular papers and secular books will not accomplish this end. These specimens of literature do not make Church matters a specialty. They deal in things worldly and material. Often they contain matter most hurtful to the morals and religion of the household.

If anybody is especially displeased with the Advocate, he is keeping it to himself or telling it to people who do not communicate the fact to this office. On the contrary, many expressions of approval come to us from all sections of the State. Of course this is pleasant, but the highest appreciation that we can receive is additional subscribers. Without these, the paper will fall short of its mission.

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A SUNDAY IN ROCKWALL.

Rockwall is the county seat of Rockwall County, located north of Dallas twenty-five miles, on the line of the M. K. & T. Railroad. It has a population of fifteen hundred or two thousand well-to-do people, and the appearance of the town is indicative of thrift and contentment. It is said that there are no very wealthy people in the community, but their wealth is well distributed among the citizens, and all of them seem to be in good, substantial circumstances.

Rev. A. R. Nash is the pastor of our Church here, and he is finishing up his second year. I was entertained under his hospitable roof. He has a fine Christian family. Among his nine children he has two twin girls about thirteen years of age, and so much alike that it is difficult to tell the one from the other. It was delightful to be in such a home and with such good people.

The service was a very pleasant one to me, and I trust a profitable one to the congregation. It was followed by the communion, and we had a precious season. I also met the League in the afternoon, and spoke to them. We have a good list of subscribers at this point, and I was not received as a stranger.

STATISTICS OF OUR LOSS IN GALVESTON.

Rev. W. A. Bowen, of the West Texas Conference, has been in Galveston several days, and in a letter

gives us the following statistics of our loss in members on the island on account of the storm:

St. Johns has 157 members less than last year, most of this loss being by the flood—thirty or forty by drowning, the others by losing everything and being compelled to leave. St. James has gone from 250 to 150—fifteen killed outright; West End from 150 to 90—thirty drowned outright. There were fifteen Sunday-school scholars drowned from West End. Bros. Bradford and Oxley haven't compared their Sunday-school rolls, but a union meeting on the 23d tells the sad story: St. Johns has an average attendance of 225 and St. James of about 250. On the 23d, a union meeting of both schools—which usually brings out much more than an average of each—at St. James, showed only eighty from both schools!

The need of Galveston now is for an imitation of Christ by his followers everywhere in their efforts towards the stricken ones on the island. Homes must be provided for those who remain. Food and raiment in plenty, as well as medicines, doctors and nurses, are being provided. But the pressing need is money. Christian civilization owes it to those people in the name of the Christ—to put them where they can make a living and educate their children.

STORM SUFFERERS' FUND.

Table listing donors and amounts for the Storm Sufferers' Fund, including Rev. J. A. Nash, Higgins, J. Methodist Church and Sunday-school, Harletta, per Rev. L. S. Barton, etc.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

Houston, Oct. 1, 1900—Received of L. Blaylock of Texas Christian Advocate \$207 for rebuilding churches and storm sufferers in South Texas. G. T. HOTCHKISS

THE BRETHERN ARE RESPONDING.

Rock Hill, Texas, Oct. 4, 1900—Mr. L. Blaylock—Dear Brother: Enclosed find check for \$5.00 for the brethren and the rebuilding of churches in the Houston District. The money is the gift of some of the brethren of my circuit. The Lord bless you. J. W. CLIFTON

Large table listing numerous donors and amounts for the Storm Sufferers' Fund, including Wills Point M. E. C. S., per Rev. C. E. Brown, Cedar Hill M. E. C. S., per Rev. E. L. Spurlock, etc.

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ing for the Relief Committee of the Galveston Typographical Union, No. 28, and as we have no local organization in Dallas, S. C. I was led to believe that some mistake had occurred and that the money had been sent under a confusion of chairmanships.

Dear Bro. Blaylock—Enclosed find \$2 for Galveston sufferers. From Mrs. Mary Barwell, Bruceville, 25; Mrs. Dora Plaque, of Dallas, 4. Send to Bro. O. T. Hotchkiss, Yours truly, A. E. CARRAWAY

Dear Bro. Blaylock—Enclosed find check for \$2.44 from Mrs. Callie Whitehead for our folks at Galveston. E. K. BRANSFORD

Dear Bro. Blaylock—Enclosed find \$2.00 for our church here for our people at Galveston, Texas. Yours truly, F. O. FAVRE

Dear Bro. Blaylock—Enclosed find \$2.00 for our church here for our people at Galveston, Texas. Yours truly, J. P. MERRITT

Dear Bro. Blaylock—Enclosed find \$2.00 for our church here for our people at Galveston, Texas. Yours truly, J. D. WHITEHEAD

Dear Bro. Blaylock—Enclosed find \$2.00 for our church here for our people at Galveston, Texas. Yours truly, W. P. CLARK

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Dear Bro. Blaylock—Enclosed find \$2.00 for our church here for our people at Galveston, Texas. Yours truly, J. B. BRIGHT

Dear Bro. Blaylock—Enclosed find \$2.00 for our church here for our people at Galveston, Texas. Yours truly, JEROME DUNCAN



If you send cash or these articles, if not sent money, please send to No. 231 Silver Street, Dallas, Texas. W. M. KENDRICK

Church to the relief Galveston and direct this amount, given directed to the Rev. Chappell Hill, etc.

Fort Smith, Ark., Oct. 1, 1900—Dear Bro. Blaylock—Enclosed find \$2.00 for our church here for our people at Galveston, Texas. Yours truly, J. P. MERRITT

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mendeth his love toward us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us.

2. There are, then, two things of which we are sure: we are sure that God rules the world according to law, and we are sure that God loves us.

We have found that God is love. Our hearts rest in that. What does that mean? It means that "like a father pitieth them that fear him."

But we are beginning to see that law is not the God of God. God is not the prisoner of the laws which he himself has made.

And those who talk so much about the laws of nature, and who think that all things are ruled by fixed fate, need to remember that there is such a thing as freedom of action in the world.

allow all men liberty of action; and although the unconscious laws of nature could do nothing, you and I are free to originate action and to help our fellow-men.

I said a moment ago that the philosophical and scientific world is coming to a more intelligent understanding of this matter. I quote from Borden P. Rowne, one of America's greatest philosophers: "It seems permissible, then, to hold that what is possible with man may be possible with God."

I think that we now see the reconciliation between universal law and the love of God. It is the same reconciliation that there is between universal law and man's love.

Let us bind to our hearts the great and precious doctrine of God's particular providence over his children. God numbers the hairs of our heads; God clothes the flowers of the field; God feeds the birds of the air.

out of harmony with what nature teaches us: it is in accord with the longings of our human hearts, and it is the express declaration of the Word of God.

"Judge not the Lord by feeble sense, But trust him for his grace: Behind a frowning providence He hides a smiling face.

"Blind unbelief is sure to err, And scan his works in vain: God is his own interpreter, And he will make it plain."

4. We have found that all is law and all is love. We have found, however, that God is free under law to work for the good of his children.

(1) The presence of sorrow in this world is meant to teach us that character is of more value than pleasure. God never intended this world to be a world of unmixed happiness.

(2) And suffering does develop character in those who suffer. It is written: "All things work together for good to those that love God."

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To rescue from the ruin of mankind. Called forth a cloud to darken all their years.

(3) There is another thing which we need to remember—suffering develops character not only in those who suffer, but also in those who witness the suffering and are moved by it to sympathy and to service.

And so it has ever been, that the world moves forward through suffering. The suffering of ten thousand today may have delivered a hundred thousand from death fifty years from now.

"I see the wrong that round me lies, I feel the guilt within; I hear with groan and travail cries The world confess its sin.

DAVID C. COOK PUBLISHING CO. 36 Washington Street CHICAGO

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OBITUARIES.

The space devoted to obituaries is twenty by twenty inches... REV. JOHN E. LAMAR.

REV. JOHN E. LAMAR was born A. D. December 21, 1831, near September 5, 1860...

REV. ED. G. DUVAL.

Rev. Ed. G. Duval, a superannuated member of the West Texas Conference...

REV. ED. G. DUVAL.

Rev. Ed. G. Duval, a superannuated member of the West Texas Conference...

IN MEMORY OF BEN C. BROOKS.

The people of San Augustine County have never seen a braver and more noble soul...

mates can recall where he ever unjustly provoked a quarrel or where, indeed, he had any trouble at all...

DAWSON.—Diana, Edith Dawson, infant daughter of E. B. and Sarintha Dawson...

LITCHFIELD.—Mrs. Addie Litchfield (nee Matthews) was born Jan. 21, 1862...

HEGAR.—Katie Alice, little daughter of Otto and Alice Heger, was born June 25, 1891...

WADLEY.—Mrs. Edith E. Wadley (formerly Miss Burket) was born in Louisville, Ky., Aug. 3, 1856...

PUCKETT.—Truly a good young man has gone from us, Eddie Puckett...

BALTON.—Mr. Frank D. Balton was born May 1, 1841, in Caddo Parish, Louisiana...

THWEATT.—Hattie Elizabeth Thweatt, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. S. Thweatt...

with LOCAL APPLICATIONS, as they cannot reach the seat of the disease. Catarrh is a blood-contaminated disease...

Catarrh Cannot be Cured with LOCAL APPLICATIONS, as they cannot reach the seat of the disease...

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GILLOTT'S PENS, THE MOST PERFECT OF PENS. HAVE GAINED THE GRAND PRIZE, Paris Exposition, 1900.

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GAUGHT C. "The first day of this year..." WILL MAKE AF "I was sick for about three months..."

MEREDITH.—Surely fallen. Elmer Meredith Gullford County, N. C. died at his home Texas, September 5, 1 had lived for forty year founder of the Meredith which is about one-half house, and was permitted his good wife and child one camp-meetings, and he could for the cause of which he had beloved years. His home was home, and a part of 1 means was always a preacher and cause of The Lord blessed him ways he proved to be ill ed by the rivers of w Lord brought him slow good old age. He ofte was living on borrow when the summons cam



