

The Texas Christian Advocate.

OFFICE, STRAND, GALVESTON.

TERMS--Two Dollars per Annum, in advance, two dollars and fifty cents if paid within six months, and three dollars if paid after six months.

JAMES W. SHEPPAN, Publishing Agent, To whom all Business Letters must be addressed.

All Communications sent to the Editor.

RATES OF ADVERTISING. Advertisements of ten lines, or less, \$1 for the first insertion, and 20 cents for each subsequent insertion.

There is a great need of reform among professors of religion in reference to dress. Many members of our Church appear to be as eager for ornaments and costly attire as the unprofessing world. It gives me great pain to see the shamelessness and recklessness with which they set aside the precepts of the Gospel.

PROGRESS--CHURCH BUILDING.

Bro. CARNES--I presume every item of Church progress will be acceptable to the majority of your numerous readers. I have taken some pains to inquire of several brethren and friends in regard to "church building."

THE MINISTRY.

The views which have been advanced are correct, in the most important particulars. Every pious young man, who has been brought to feel that it may, perhaps, be his duty to preach the gospel, to give the subject an immediate and prayerful consideration, and to use all proper means for ascertaining his duty.

THE MINISTRY.

The adults had worked out their mission, or failed to do it. But these little ones had their own mission to perform. They were to be nurtured in the kingdom of God, and the eighth is also justly experienced conversion.

THE MINISTRY.

When the Bible was written by a woman, "Why?" Because it says so many kind things for women. Our Saviour never refers to us but in reverence. Parents who have watched the growth of their children, and seen the desire of their eyes taken away, and who have found themselves busy running over the Scriptures, material and immaterial, and gathering up, as a stay of their hearts, what God has said for their little children.

THE MINISTRY.

Many years ago, an old man, a devoted Christian, commenced a prayer meeting which is still continued, having resulted in many conversions. As a pastor it was my privilege to be with him, particularly during his last illness. In several visits made to his house, I found him on the Mount, looking out the land of promise. Finding nothing seeming to mar his comfort, I interrupted his joy, I determined to satisfy myself whether there was anything that gave him any pain or heart upon the suffering his chamber, I asked him in simple terms, "How are you, this morning?"

THE MINISTRY.

He spoke not a word, but turned his face toward the wall, and lay so between five and ten minutes; then he turned his head back upon his pillow, and his face brightened, and I saw tears streaming down his cheeks. "Oh, yes, sir," said he, "there is one great trouble."

THE MINISTRY.

"What is it?" I inquired. "Speak your whole mind to me freely." "Well," said he, "I have ten children, and I have prayed to God for more than thirty years that he might bless them, and give them the kingdom of God, and the eighth is also justly experienced conversion. This is the answer to my prayer, and I feel that I am doing well. But he will do it, I know he will; my children will be converted."

THE MINISTRY.

This man has been in his grave for fifteen years, and I have watched his children, ever since his death; and now I feel that I have seen that seven out of the ten have been born into the kingdom of God, and the eighth is also justly experienced conversion. This is the answer to my prayer, and I feel that I am doing well. But he will do it, I know he will; my children will be converted."

THE MINISTRY.

But Christian philosophy presents a more embarrassing and comforting view to the mind. How cold, selfish, would be this world of ours without these children! They preach the evangel of beauty and innocence; they break the iron shackles of the world, and their voices are heard vibrating solemnly, sweetly, and reserved only for their tiny hands; they stir in the heart hidden wells of feelings; they preserve human sympathies from utter ossification; they deeply subvert our hard natural nature.

THE MINISTRY.

Geologists often show us deep down under the earth's layers, the clear and well-defined print of a trail, or the track of a little bird, made in the dim ages past. These are the imperishable memorials of themselves on the face of a world from which whole species and races and kingdoms have passed away without a record.

THE MINISTRY.

The Bible makes many records, minute and kind, of the death of little children. They have their significance. Take the case in David's family. We know signally that the babe who perished and death of the unborn child, and the effects produced upon the royal parent. It is not saying too much, that a large proportion of the souls who are saved, will be saved by the ministry of little children.

THE MINISTRY.

Summing up the moral results of the year, we must not credit all to orators and preachers. When the young men and women have visited homes, and softened the hearts of the indolent, and drawn them heavenward, where their voice has not been heard.

THE MINISTRY.

The strong man, armed with sin, has bowed over the little child, and wept. Under what sermon was he ever so melted down? What other preacher ever availed to look that pride of strength, and unveil that fountain of tears? The gay, worldly-minded, mother sits silent, and sheds secret tears, and prays; and, peradventure, as these two hearts are drawn closer by a common grief, they think of a common life in heaven, and resolve to grow graces, as the babe cannot come to them, that they will go to it.

THE MINISTRY.

"When our little boy died," has been the beginning of prayer for many bereaved parents. When the baby died, it was their impressions on the family circle that have matured to godliness.

THE MINISTRY.

The old may outlive their friends; the middle-aged may make enemies who are glad to be rid of them, or, wandering off, die where none lament; but the babe is without prejudice in life, and mighty in death. It is God's messenger of reconciliation; a flag of truce, a banner of enemies and enmities, and writh and strife. It has strong hold, in a tender place, upon two hearts, if no more. The empty crib, the half-worn shoes, the soft looks of hair, that few may see, produce the painful yet pleasing memory of the angel visitor that looked in upon us, and smiled and went to heaven, bidding us, and care and sorrow, to follow on.

THE MINISTRY.

There is something so peculiarly affecting the whole character in the loss of a child, that we sympathize with the parent who said he believed no minister prepared to bury another's child who had not buried one of his own.

THE MINISTRY.

There's many an empty cradle, There's many a vacant bed, There's many a lonely home, Whose joy and light are fled; For many a mother's eye, The little hollows lie, And weepful hearts are rent, As e'er it is the cry.

THE MINISTRY.

In this way there is receiving large contributions from the earth. Next to the conversion of a soul, the enemy of God and man may take

SUNDAY-SCHOOL CONVENTION.

The Texas-School Convention of the East Texas Annual Conference of the M. E. Church, South, met in Rusk, Cherokee county, May 21, 1860, at 3 o'clock, p. m.

The Convention was called to order and the religious services conducted by Rev. J. B. Tollis.

Members present--R. S. Finley, Wm. H. Gilliam, M. H. Bonner, E. C. Williams, J. A. Scroggs, A. H. Shanks, A. B. Maunio, J. A. Angel, H. R. Murray, S. G. Box, N. W. Ghan, C. A. Sterne, E. P. Rogers, H. H. White, Wm. P. Peety, J. B. Tollis, W. H. W. Bridges, J. Miller, J. W. Feltz, J. M. Douglas, Wm. K. Mastin, Asa Holt, J. W. Clark, John Long, W. P. Pettib, J. B. Seg, W. H. McPhail, J. P. Carlisle, R. F. Dunn, F. M. Stovall, Neil Brown, J. M. Binkley.

The Convention permanently organized by electing Rev. R. S. Finley, President, J. B. Tollis, Vice-President, Asa Holt, Treasurer, and S. T. Bridges, Secretary.

The following Committee were appointed: 1. On the constitution, organization, and government of Sunday-schools.

2. On the qualifications and duties of officers and teachers of Sunday-schools.

3. On privileges and duties of parents, guardians, and children.

4. On the relation and duty of pastors.

5. On the relation of Sunday-schools to Missions.

6. On statistics.

7. On books and periodicals.

8. On the Parent Sunday-School Association.

9. To select speakers for the next anniversary.

The Convention then adjourned, to meet the next morning at 8 o'clock.

Tuesday morning, 8 o'clock, Convention met; divine service by Neil Brown; R. S. Finley in the chair; minutes read and approved.

Communications were presented, read, and referred to appropriate committees.

The first Committee offered the following report, which was adopted:

1. Resolved, That we recommend the adoption of the Constitution of the M. E. Church, South, given in the annual report.

2. Resolved, That each Sunday-school organize by election of a superintendent, and names of the teachers and scholars, and names of the parents and guardians, and names of the children, and names of the books and papers of the school, furnishing them to the scholars, and taking care that they be promptly returned to their respective schools; that it shall be the general duty of the superintendent to receive all moneys collected for the benefit of the school, and pay out the same upon proper order, and keep a correct record thereof, and report quarterly to the secretary.

3. Resolved, That the teachers be persons of good moral character; that they be generally well educated, and imbued with the principles of the Bible, and that they be able to instruct, and impart to them wholesome instruction, and as far as practicable, at all proper places, and on all suitable occasions, give the scholars such moral as will tend to promote their general, local, moral, and religious good.

4. Resolved, That the superintendent be a man of good moral character; that he shall be generally well educated, and imbued with the principles of the Bible, and that he be able to instruct, and impart to them wholesome instruction, and as far as practicable, at all proper places, and on all suitable occasions, give the scholars such moral as will tend to promote their general, local, moral, and religious good.

5. Resolved, That the secretary, librarian, and treasurer, be men of good moral character; that it shall be the general duty of the secretary to receive all moneys collected for the benefit of the school, and pay out the same upon proper order, and keep a correct record thereof, and report quarterly to the superintendent.

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