The Texas Christian Advocate.

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Texas Christian Advocate

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(Correspondence.)

LETTER FROM AUSTIN.

Some Incidents of Travel—How the Austin Policemen Kill Men—Our Correspondent Discovers a Guano Cave—A New Feature in the Y. M. C. A.; How They Are Assassinated.

After being for some time "cooped up" at office-work, a trip from Galveston to Austin, *via* International and Great Northern railroad, afforded your correspondent an exhilarating pastime. Varied as are the incidents of travel, most of your readers are familiar with them. Who is not acquainted with the fellow who is apparently unconcerned as regards railroad time-tables. He never seems in a hurry, yet always steps upon the platform just in time not to be too late; and who is not familiar with the reverse of this character—the fellow who literally rushes to the depot—a-puffing, red-faced, and excited with fear lest he be left. He takes his seat in the waiting-room with a satisfied air; after a half hour or more, he grows impatient, steps across the street for a drink (of water, perhaps) or a cigar; and after chasing the train fifty or a hundred yards, finds out that it moved off just a fraction ahead of his last calculation. Then who has not "sadly, sweetly smiled" at the maneuvers of the "dozer" who failed to comprehend the situation until just as the car is moving away from the station at which he wanted to get off. The manner in which he "lights out," jumps from the car, and distributes himself, valise, hat, cane, etc., along the track, is positively refreshing. What a benefaction, too, that the restraints of etiquette are thrown aside in travel. Everybody is at liberty to talk to everybody else. What a relief it is that one is permitted for the nonce to address another a civil remark without the necessity of having to go through the formality of—"Mr. Talkmuch, allow me to introduce to you Mr. Doozenberry! Mr. Doozenberry, Mr. Talkmuch." When you find one on the road who objects to familiarity, put him down either a surly fellow or an inexperienced traveler. Then, again, to a traveler with a speculative turn of mind, the patience of the average conductor is somewhat remarkable—but often too lightly appreciated by the traveling public. "What time are we due ——?" "Where do we stop to dine?" "Do we make close connections with —— train?" "Are we on time?" "What is the best hotel in ——?" These and many times their multiple of immaterial questions are each propounded a conductor half-a-hundred or more times each trip. It strikes one that this kind of life would grow monotonous to an extent to make one desperate. Yet you see conductors smile—painfully smile, sometimes, it is true; a sort of photograph of a smile as it were; but they smile—and under the circumstances, it should pass for full weight. Who has not seen the old lady that will load the conductor with band-box, "reticule," bird-cage, and lunch-basket, and then eye him maliciously because he is under the necessity of returning for her poodle! Is it not strange that conductors *ever* smile. If they were not a good natured lot of fellows they certainly would grow cynical, and say that man (and especially woman) is not manufactured of dust—but interrogation points. As before hinted, such "incidents, accidents and facts," afford an office-worked man pleasant pastime.

A DEAD MAN—WHISKY AGAIN.

Arrived at Austin about 2 o'clock; passed the time until breakfast looking around. I sat down to this meal with a vigorous appetite—but the police interfered with its enjoyment by killing a man just across the street from the hotel. I went across to look at him, of course—a large, fine-looking, well-dressed man. Why did they kill him, you ask? Ah! thereby hangs a tale, and I will not "harrow" you by its unfolding. Suffice to say, he had locked himself inside a room in a locality where a hundred men could have been gathered in two minutes to effect the most desperate man's arrest. Yet, three policemen broke open his door, rushed upon and killed him! Be the dead man burglar, robber, or what-not, your correspondent thinks, after a full investigation, there was not a shadow of need to kill him. The remarkable feature of the affair was the verdict of the coroner's jury. They praised the deed as an act of self-defense, and its perpetrators as loyal to their duty and patriotic preservers of the peace. Your correspondent concludes that Austin policemen and juries need a missionary to teach them what murder is. The community of Austin is, however, not satisfied with the matter as it now stands, and it will doubtless have full and complete ventilation. I will remark, in passing, that this tragedy started where they all *originate—whisky!* I suggest a law that will prohibit any man serving on a police force who is or has been addicted to the use of intoxicating drink, or who has been in the habit of visiting gambling hells. It is the fashion now to draw men from these sinks of iniquity to be preservers of the peace. "Take a thief to catch a thief," forsooth! As if a policeman-thief, or marshal-gambler, or detective-drunkard, will not lean in sympathy to those in his "old business," unless it be to his interest to do otherwise. We don't want officers who must be bribed to do their sworn duty. The case now so stands in most cities, if we are to judge from the number of criminals that go unwhipped of justice.

GUANO—A NEW CAVE DISCOVERED.

What vast resources has Texas! We have long known she possessed vast undeveloped wealth in iron, lead, silver, gold, coal, granite, etc., but it is only recently that the guano trade has loomed up in importance! Bat caves are now the rage; and new discoveries are of frequent occurrence. It has remained for your unsophisticated correspondent to discover a rich (perhaps inexhaustible) guano deposit in the very heart of the city of Austin. The State owns the land on which this immense "reservoir" is situated. Therefore, as I can't hope to buy the land nad utilize the discovery, I make the disclosure for the State's benefit. I trust the next legislature will take steps to organize a joint stock guano company, and appropriate the proceeds to the manufacture of a perpetual sweeping machine to be worked in the Senate Chamber and Hall of Representatives, (where rich deposits are being made); or, if this appear infeasible, let them order the entire demolition of this guano reservoir, (I allude to the capital building, of course,) and the erection of a structure commensurate with the wealth and importance of the great State of Texas, and consonant with the architectural beauty of the city in which it is located. The fact is, the land office is the only State building at Austin that strikes the visitor as being at all within the range of present requirements; and it reflects credit only by comparison with the rookeries that disfigure the other public grounds. These should be replaced by buildings that will cause even the present land office to appear ins ignificant.

ASSASSINATORS OF CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS.

As I yesterday (11th) stepped into the passenger coach at Austin, I beheld a somewhat remarkable individual. I first met him in Galveston. He was managing the Young Men's Christian Association rooms, books, etc. He also, to supplement his earnings, conducted a restaurant on the go-in-debt-to-everybody plan. He sold twenty-one meal tickets for $5.00, and some of his customers have them yet (the tickets, not the meals.) Then this A.-O.-C.-A. (assassinator of Christian associations) disappeared—without saying aught to his creditors. He did not even propose settlement according to the modern plan—*by assignment.* I occupied a seat in the car just opposite him—not being disposed to even recognize him. (I am somewhat choice in my acquaintances since I joined the church.) Pretty soon he began a rehearsal to a gentleman who sat near of how badly he had been treated by the Y. M. C. A. of Galveston, mentioning occasionally, in not very complimentary terms, some of my friends. I began to feel uncomfortable. We are told to confess our sins to one another, so I will make a clean breast of it: I felt just then as if I would have freely given 500 dollars if my pastor had been there and said: "Will, my boy, I release you from all responsibility as a church member for *just ten minutes.* Do your duty while I look out of the car window." But I suppose it is a good thing Bro. Goodwyn wasn't there, because if any encouragement had been given me, I might have been harsh to that A.-O.-C.-A. man. As it was, I just stepped across the car, and in the calm, serene, soothing and sympathetic way I have about me, said, "My dear sir, why did you slip away from Galveston like a sneak-thief, leaving debts unpaid and creditors ignorant of your whereabouts?" "O, Mr. S——," said he "hush, and I'll explain! I acknowledge I owe your firm $13.50. I'll fix it!" "I'm not dunning you, man," said I; "but I want to know why you did not, as an honest man would, if unable to settle up your accounts, candidly confess it, and let your creditors know where you were going?" Reader, would you believe it, the fellow actually got mad, abused the CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE, the Y. M. C. A., etc.; think of such an ungenerous return for my sympathy thus publicly expressed. Determined, however, to benefit mankind to the utmost of my poor ability, I turned to my fellow-passengers, and said: "This fellow aspires to the management of Young Men's Christian Associations. He is the kind of man that brings reproach upon them and the church." (You know people will judge all church institutions by the leaven of evil found in them.) "In fact, he is what is known in modern classics as a *dead beat* of the first water." The child-like and bland A.-O.-C.-A. still seemed not to appreciate my kindness (to the public) and sarcastically remarked that I was a pretty somebody to be connected with the TEXAS CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE. I did not blush to acknowledge that I was connected with that paper. (Terms: $2 50 per year, invariably in advance. Write for advertising rates.) In a sort of spiteful way he remarked that he would send Blaylock his half of that $13.50, but that I should never have a cent. I told him I never wanted a cent; that the pleasure I experienced "on this auspicious occasion" more than compensated me. At the same time I took the liberty to congratulate him that he had not met my friend Blaylock, because, having somewhat of a high temper, *he* might have wounded the A.-O.-C.-A. man's sensitive feelings; and that I really expected Blaylock would want to give me *twenty-five dollars* for the impressive manner in which I had shown my love to the public at large. The passengers sympathized with him to an extent that he left the car at the next station.

Now, dear reader, I have given you this sketch not to excite your risibles—though told in a vein of levity. It is this class of men that bring reproach upon the church. Christian associations and churches are too much given to clasping *tramps* to their bosom—those fellows who *slide* in among them, attempting to look meek and humble—and presenting only the counterfeit of humility. They impress one with the idea that they have been taking lessons from Uriah Heep in his full dress uniform of hypocrisy.

I move, Mr. President, if I can get a second, that the church and the Young Men's Christian Associations be purged of such "barnacles." If we can't shake them off, let us scrape them off. With this in view I recommend to all friends of honesty and the church to "pass this fellow around." His name is Brinkerhoff.

In my next letter I will have something to say of Methodism at the capital, and undertake to suggest a little work (for decency's sake) to the next legislature.

Yours, with a growing desire to be seen in print, CAR TOON.

Queen Victoria has at last reluctantly consented to Prince Leopold's earnest request that he might be allowed to enter holy orders, and he will do so at once, provided his health permits. It is understood that the High Church party claims him as its own, as well as the Princess Louise.

Sunday School.

[Prepared for the ADVOCATE.

INTERNATIONAL BIBLE LESSONS.

FIRST QUARTER—TWELFTH LESSON, March 24, 1878; II Chron. xxxiii.: 9—16; *Manasseh Brought to Repentance.*

(*Time* 678, 643 *B. C. Kings of Assyria, Sennacherib, and Esar-haddon, his son.*)

At the death of Hezekiah, Judah's best king, his son Manasseh, at the age of twelve years, succeeded him and linked his name with that of Ahaz, Ahab and Jereboam. As we found it difficult to account for Hezekiah, the pious son of a most infamous father, so now, we find it still more difficult to account for Manasseh, an infamous son of a most exemplary father. Possibly it was Abijah, Hezekiah's mother, that gave us Judah's best king, and Hephzibah, Manasseh's mother, that cursed Judah with one of its worst kings. If this be the correct solution of the difference between father and son, how striking the influences of the two mothers. The son of the one, notwithstanding the most adverse influences against him, became the best of kings and sent a shining example down the ages for all to admire; while the son of the other, with the best possible influences from a model father, became one of the most wicked of kings and has sent down the stream of time a tide of iniquity that his subsequent repentance never could stay. Manasseh reigned fifty-five years, but was taken prisoner by Esar-haddon, king of Assyria, when he had reigned twenty-one years, and was taken to Babylon. His was the longest reign of all Israel's kings, and, following immediately on the tragic events that render the close of his father's reign so glorious, it should have been the most renowned, but his sins made it a stench in the nostrils of his people for all time. The careful reader will fail to discover one single excuse for his perverse, idolatrous course, and hence God's mercies to him seem the more wonderful, and show how patiently and lovingly He bears with our sins.

V. 9. "Manasseh made Judah * * to err, like Jereboam and Ahab of Israel, and his grand-father Ahaz, he strove only to excel in crime. He surpassed in his deeds of darkness the nations that Joshua and David had expelled from the land of promise. He plunged into every species of idolatry, the worship of Baal, with all the vile and licentious rites connected therewith; the observance of *times* (practice of magic), sorcery, augury and necromancy; and also the worship of the host of heaven. He built an immense furnace in the valley of Tophet, and made his son to pass through the fire. Nor was this all; he placed his altars of Baal in the house of the Lord; and those of the host of heaven in the courts of His house.

V. 10. "And the Lord spake to Manasseh and his people; but they would not *hearken.* He spoke by his prophets. (Read II Kings: xxi, 10 and 15.) In his attempt to silence these fearless heralds of truth he filled Jerusalem with blood which Jehovah would not pardon." Josephus says, so infatuated was he, that he executed some one every day; and tradition adds that the faithful Isaiah did not escape his wrath.

V. 11. "Wherefore the Lord brought upon them the captains * * of the kings of Assyria which took Manasseh among the thorns and bound him with fetters and carried him to Babylon," "wherefore," for his crimes above named: "took * * among thorns" (took him with hooks,) (see Amos iv: 2), "bound him with fetters (two brass chains) and carried him to Babylon, (Babel), Esar-haddon's capital, built by Nimrod. Its walls were estimated to be from 60 to 350 feet high, and from 80 to 100 feet wide surmounted by 250 towers. It was 40 miles in circumference, and was entered by 100 brazen gates, but its greatest wonder was its hanging gardens. It was to that magnificent city that Manasseh was led by a hook in his lip bound with two chains. What a pitiable plight for a king!

V. 12. "And when he was in affliction he besought the Lord." In a dungeon in Babylon he learned wisdom. Led like a beast to a foreign land, he was brought in humility to God. Great criminals must suffer severe penalties.

V. 13. "And prayed." He who prays, repents; and when God hears a hardened wretch like Manasseh, He proves to us that His mercies are unfailing; that none are so lost that He cannot love them, nor so sinful that He cannot save them. "Then Manasseh knew that the Lord was God." Through what humiliation had he learned this!

V. 14. Liberated from his Babylonian prison, and from his darker and more degraded prison of sin, he begins to repair the ruins of his city, Jerusalem. He built a wall on the north side of the city, west of Gihon; and enclosed Ophel, the southern slope of Mount Moriah. This wall was over seventy feet high. He had learned, while a prisoner, that Assyria was on the decline, and he was getting ready to revolt.

V. 15. "He took away the strange gods," gods that he had established, "and the idol out of the House of the Lord," which he had placed there, "and altars which he had built, and cast them out of the city." He cast them out, but did not destroy them as he should have done.

V. 16. "He repaired the altar of the Lord, and sacrificed thereon *peace*-offerings and *thank*-offerings, and commanded Judah to serve the Lord God of Israel." He repaired what he had destroyed and desecrated. He had waged a bitter war against God; but now he offers *peace*-offerings and *thank*-offerings for his deliverance from his blind idolatry; and then *commands* Judah to serve the God that had delivered him from a dungeon of death.

APPLICATION.

9. How sad that such a father as Hezekiah should have left such a son as Manasseh. How baneful the influence of a bad ruler. All exert influences for good or evil; and the more exalted the station, the wider the range of influence. The higher the mountain, the further it is seen.

10. God speaks to us all, as he did to Manasseh and his people; He speaks by His word, by His Providences, and by His spirit through our pleading consciences. And as it was with Manasseh and his people, so it is with the wicked to-day. They will not hearken until afflictions befall them, and they are led captive with the piercing hooks of wicked torture.

11. Sooner or later, unless they yield to God, they will find themselves in darker dungeons than those of Babylon. God first appeals to us in His mercy, and then by affliction.

12. Some will only learn in the furnace of affliction what they might easily learn in a palace of pleasure.

13. God says to us, "Call upon *Me* in trouble, and I will hear thee." As Manasseh, the most wicked of kings, repented, so can *all;* but the prayer of each should be, "O Lord, rebuke me not in Thy wrath; neither chasten me in Thy hot displeasure."

14. Manasseh, when restored, fortified his capital; so all, when pardoned, should fortify their hearts against an army of evil temptations that lay siege to every soul.

15. We must often, in bitter repentance, cast out gods that we had formerly welcomed to our hearts, and must restore altars that we have dishonored. The sinner never can *wholly* repair the evil that he has done. Christ alone can atone for that; but he *can*, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, return like the Prodigal to his Father.

16. He, by the aid of the same Spirit, can build new altars, and offer *peace* and *thank*-offerings thereon, as all should do daily. Manasseh had great cause for his thank-offerings; but all who have been liberated from sin, and have experienced that peace that passeth understanding, have equally as good cause for the same offerings.

Bishop Pierce in the North.

(From the Southern Christian Advocate.)

Twenty years ago I went to Newark, N. J., to aid in the didication of St. Paul's M. E. Church. For reasons, ecclesiastic and social, the brethren determined to celebrate the *twenty-fifth* anniversary from the foundation of the building. I was invited to be present and take part in the services of the occasion. Having a desire to go North again, as the invitation was cordial and urgent, I consented to go. I am not much for that kind of fraternity that is merely formal—that coming through treaty-negotiation only comprises the work of diplomats—but I give my heart and hand to that which is spontaneous, Christian, the outgrowth of Methodist affinities. So I went, and had a good time in Church services, in social life, and in my general intercourse with the people.

BISHOP SIMPSON.

I met Bishop Simpson again—heard him preach, and was delighted. He is a strong man, clear in thought, simple in expression, and earnest in manner. Indeed, his style is so easy, so transparent, that a profound thought (and he abounds in them), unless you pause to examine it, will pass as commonplace. He has the depth of the philosopher and the pathos of the orator in remarkable combination.

HENRY WARD BEECHER.

I went in the morning to hear Mr. Beecher. The text was Exodus xx: 4. The discourse was profound—deeply interesting. His manner is natural, unaffected; style largely colloquial, with now and then an intense oratorical paragraph. He is not fastidious, nor even careful, in his grammar or pronunciation, but rushes along under the impulse of his mental action and emotional nature, content to make himself understood. My impression was that he did not feel as free as is common with him. He lacked what we Methodists call "*liberty;*" yet such is the man's power and art and resources, he never permits the hearer's interest to flag. I was more struck with his prayers than his sermon. The composition was more elevated, the sentences better constructed, his language beautiful—perhaps a little too ornate for a chastened taste. They were reverent, humble, and singularly appropriate to his subject and the occasion. I will not say they were models, but there was not one commonplace, or stereotyped expression, and yet simple and felicitous in Scripture quotations. Mr. B. does not seem to me to have an original, creative mind; but he has the power of fresh, crisp expression, which makes old thoughts seem new. The mental soil is rich, and a seed-thought dropped in, the fecundity is marvelous. I ought to say the church is a *plain* one and of immense capacity, and as always—was full.

DOCTOR DEEMS.

I spent a few days with my friend, Dr. Deems, in New York. To him and his family I am indebted for no little kindness. I cannot canonize him, as Paul did "Gaius, mine host," but if I were Paul, I would. I was rejoiced to see with my own eyes, and to hear, on all sides, that the Doctor is doing a good and great work. "The Church of the Strangers" is an institution of power—a providential instrumentality.

GENERAL IMPRESSIONS.

I saw some things in Northern Methodism to admire. In their love-feasts there is more freedom from constraint than with us. It is a family-meeting—all is free; they are not afraid of each other. Their speeches are not stereotyped—they say something—make a point; they are short and fresh. Again: I think the members are more active—more identified with the church—more ready to serve—than our people. Church belongs to them and they belong to the church. But, as with us, there are many things to deplore. The rule on class-meetings is a dead letter. The institution itself fares no better North than South. With its status, legislation has had nothing to do. The causes of its decline lie back of all General Conference action. Family prayer is greatly neglected. The social means of grace fare very much as among ourselves. Methodism is alike in its faults as in its virtues. Both sections of the church might, and ought to, do better. May heaven revive and reform and restore us all, and give us the signs and the power of the years of the right hand of the Most High.

Bating my indisposition, the visit was very pleasant. I am glad I had the opportunity to go and mingle with the church and people. Whatever may be true of fraternity as a great church question—my reception was cordial, and my intercourse with the preachers and people courteous and kind. The spirit of Christ is the spirit of unity, and the less we legislate and diplomatize, the better for the interests of peace and harmony. Reunion under one jurisdiction would bring up questions pregnant with passion and strife. More of the mind of Christ among us all, North and South, will bring us as close together as the mission of Methodism demands.

G. F. PIERCE.

February 28.

Texas Christian Advocate

EDITOR'S NOTICES.

WHEN articles are rejected, we must decline to give reasons therefor.

IN preparing articles for publication write on but one side of the paper; otherwise your communications may be thrown into the waste-basket.

ARTICLES refused publication will, in no instance, be returned to writers.

OBITUARIES should not be over twenty lines; eight words make a line.

PRIVATE letters to the editor should be marked "Personal."

COASTING EASTWARD.

BY R. M. MOORE.

(Special Correspondence.)

As men run to and fro on the face of the earth now-a-days, how to travel *rapidly*, *safely* and *comfortably* becomes the great question. All realize that *speed* is *time*, but forget that *safety* and comfort become *time* also. Besides this, they appeal feelingly to every one. We are learning at last that we all have given us a certain amount of capabilities, and that the more careful we husband these the longer we will live. Whoever then gives us speed, safety and comfort when traveling, becomes our benefactor; and is in fact a practical philosopher. By speed he saves time for us, and by comfort adds time to our lives. Comfort is an assurance that our capabilities, or vital resources are not unduly taxed, while discomfort and unrest are warnings that our life-valves are open, and that our vital energies are wasting. We have physical divinities that guard our lives, maltreat them how we will. We were forcibly reminded of these facts a few days since, when, having occasion to coast eastward, we boarded the fleet and commodious steamer JOSEPHINE, of the Morgan line, bound for Morgan City. Her elegant accommodations at once speak of comfort, and her staunch build and superb management alike assure us of safety. And when she slips cable exactly on time, faces eastwards and glides out and over the bar on the bounding billows, she settles the question of speed satisfactorily. And she further settles that Commodore Morgan and Captain Fowler, the Galveston manager, are the practical philosophers that comprehend the wants of the traveling public. The calm dignity of Captain Reynaud on the quarter deck, the pleasant business dispatch of Purser Kock in the office, and the home-like quiet of the cabin convince us that they know how to place the right men in the right places. The splendid work of the engines and the even keel of the steamer show that engineers, mate and clerk are men of like character. The table was all and more than could be asked. These steamers and Morgan's channels and wharves at Morgan City and elsewhere, render the letter "M," so frequent on Morgan's property, superfluous. He has placed a bigger "M" on Galveston, New Orleans, Texas and the entire Gulf coast.

At Morgan City ahead of time, we are kindly invited, as we go ashore, to return at 12 m. for a lunch before the train starts, at 1 p. m. We can safely say to all Texas travelers going East: "*Try the Morgan steamers, via* New Orleans, for speed, safety and comfort." We are off on the cars on time and are soon rushing over vast sugar plantations walled in by tall cypress forests in mystic drapery that almost sets one to dreaming. Anon, too, we pass over river-like bayous whose names Longfellow has linked with his Evangeline, his wandering Arcadian maiden. As we near the Crescent City, sugar and rice plantations give place to gardens. To the left we discover grand steamers walking up the waters of the Mississippi. Crossing this deep, great river by a ferry, we are soon waiting the 5 P. M. train for Mobile, but do not wait long.

A screech and a rush of the train, and we obey a conductor, as he sings out "All aboard." We are off again, and in six hours we are greeted by warm friends in Mobile. How much friends add to the charms of all places in our eyes.

After a pleasant Sabbath-school, under superintendent Porter, of the Franklin street Methodist church, we find ourself in the audience room above, and Dr. Wadsworth in the pulpit. In that same pulpit, that flaming herald, John Newland Moffatt, had led the multitudes captive by his eloquent utterances; W. H. Milburn, the blind man eloquent, had swayed his audience with a tongue of fire; and P. P. Neely had borne his, in rapt fancy, up to the golden gates of the city of life. Dr. W. came to us that morning, as we had often heard him before, with none of the charms of poetic eloquence, with no flights of fancy, but with the plain, earnest, strong words of truth, burdened with love. His subject was the first of the beatitudes. Then, in a most forcible manner, he urged us to cultivate *humility*, as the *safest* and *surest* way to God. Didactic in style, plain, practical, unlike the three above named, he is a most instructive, forcible and devoted preacher. When Christ gathers his jewels, we will see which of the four has the brightest crown.

A few days in that pleasant city of live-oaks with most agreeable friends, among whom we can never forget Mrs. Jefferson Hamilton, widow of the late Dr. Hamilton, who, more than any other minister of Mobile or Alabama, has left a pathway sown with light, a good and lasting impress on the people of God, and we reluctantly bade them adieu. How pleasant to think of a great and good man like Dr. H. waiting by the river of life as the fruits of his faithful ministry, the little snow-white deeds of kindness, come welling up and clustering about his crown of glory. Always coming and always adding to that crown of glory, they go up through all eternity.

As we almost fly over that best of Southern railroads, the Mobile and New Orleans, in early dawn, we are charmed with those coast villages half hidden among the heavy-antlered live oaks and spar-like pines. Beautiful cottages like the creations of magic nestle in their shady coverts. Along the shore are beautiful drives; and in the margin of the water, bath-houses and pleasure boats. We pass in order Pascagoula, Ocean Spring, Biloxi, Mississippi City, Pass Christian and Bay St. Louis, almost all with immense and elegant hotels. Near Biloxi, on the same coast, the Methodists of New Orleans and Mobile have a most delightful camp ground. Ten minutes too late at New Orleans compel us to wait over, but friends there more than compensate us for the delay.

At night, in company with a most esteemed lady friend whom we had known for more than a score of years, we find ourself at the Carondelet Street Methodist Church prayer-meeting, Dr. Mathews, pastor. The presence there of fully three hundred—an ordinary prayer-meeting for them—was proof that he is a *live pastor*. His reading and comments were an instructive sermon. He said he did not rejoice so much in the glories awaiting him in heaven—the crown and harp—as in the assurance that he was there to be *emptied of sin*. This was his thought and theme for the evening; and, like Dr. Wadsworth at Mobile, he had the courage to warn his people against the sins of the coming carnival.

Off again in the morning, we find ourself fortunate in having Philip Phillips, one of our sweetest singers in Israel, as a traveling companion.

At Morgan city, the steamer Hutchinson awaits us. We had been told that she was slow, but by leaving a half hour late and by dropping anchor at Galveston at 9 A. M. the next day, she disproved the slander. Her officers—Capt. Talbot, Purser Dacosta, Hutchinson, engineer; Otis, mate; and Walters, steward—are all faithful and efficient, and know how to care for the wants of their guests. And we again repeat, let all passengers who are eastward bound, try Morgan's steamers, and the Coast Line.

(Communicated.)

The Latest Suggestion.

To the Bishops and members of the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, to convene at Atlanta, Georgia, May 8, 1878.

Dear Fathers and Brethren—The Committee on the Support of the Ministry recommend to change section 1 of chapter ix of the Book of Discipline so as to read as follows:

1. Every minister who, by the rules and usages of the church, is a claimant on its funds, shall, as far as it is practicable, have his claim estimated by those who are to pay it or by an agent authorized to act for them.

2. Let a committee be appointed annually at the session of each Annual Conference from among the lay members of the Conference consisting of at least one delegate from each presiding elder's district.

Let them elect one of their number treasurer, who shall remain in office one year.

Let it be the duty of the committee to ascertain the number and ages of the children of all the preachers of the Conference.

Let them divide the children into three or four classes according to their respective ages; and estimate the amount necessary to support each child, according to the classes, for the ensuing year.

Let them estimate the amount necessary to support preacher and wife the ensuing year, and the amount necessary to support single preachers the ensuing year. But in estimating the several amounts let them distinguish between those who shall have charge in cities and those who have charge in the country, according to the expense of living in the same.

Let them apportion the aggregate amount necessary to support the children to the presiding elders' districts according to their several ability to pay.

3. Let the traveling expenses of preachers on circuits and stations be estimated by their respective boards of stewards.

4. Let the stewards report to each church meeting the whole amount to be raised, and that part of it each congregation is expected to pay. And let the Church Conference adopt its own method of raising this money.

5. Let the stewards of each circuit or station determine whether payments are to be made weekly, monthly or quarterly during the year. Let them then ascertain how much each member is able and willing to pay in the installments fixed, and whatever amount each member agrees to pay, he or she shall be under solemn obligation to pay, and can only be released from this obligation by order of the stewards or by vote of church conference for good cause shown.

6. Let the stewards divide the moneys raised *pro rata*, according to salary and traveling expenses of preacher in charge, and of junior preacher, if there be one, and by the amount apportioned by district stewards for presiding elder, and amount apportioned by district stewards for children's fund. Let them pay over to the presiding elder and preacher, or preachers, their respective amounts. But let them report to the treasurer of Support Committee once each quarter what amounts have been raised for children's fund and hold the same subject to his order.

7. Let the treasurer of Support Committee receive from the boards of stewards within the bounds of their quarterly reports, and thence at the end of each quarter ascertain what per cent. of each preacher's claim on the children's fund may be paid from the amount on hand. Then let him receive and pay over, or cause the boards of stewards to pay over, to the preachers the moneys on hand, accordingly.

8. Let no preacher be allowed to make out his salary and traveling expenses with money collected for the children's fund. Nor let any preacher at any time receive of the children's fund more than his pro rata share of the amount collected.

9. All charges not able to pay the amount fixed for salary of preacher and wife shall be missions.

10. Let the mission boards provide for the salaries of preachers on missions. But let their children be supported out of the children's fund according to the provisions of this chapter.

Those in favor, say I! Those opposed, say nay!

Your humble servant.

CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE.

(Communicated.)

From a Young Convert.

Many a mature Christian will read with interest the following simple and sincere testimony from a young convert:

If I am not deceived in myself, which I trust to God I am not, I earnestly desire to live the life of a Christian, so that I may die the death of the righteous. I feel now as I never felt before on the subject; and my feelings are what I wish to express, especially to those that are at variance or hold any thing against me—for I fear there are such. I feel like I could freely forgive all who have said or did anything against me (though they ask it not); and I humbly ask their forgiveness if I said or done anything I ought not to have done. I feel it very sensibly that I must account for my own sin even if I were provoked to it; for all persons must account for their own sins—and this makes me glad to know that there is a prayer-answering God.

Although I have been a professor of religion several years, I feel now that I have not possessed true religion.

Let us pray that we be not deceived in ourselves—for our just Judge knows every thought and every intent of the heart, and the devil is never idle, and is very wise seeking whom he may devour. I have prayed earnestly to God that I might know my besetting sin, and I am fully convinced that it is this: that I have ever been too willing to render evil for evil; but, by the grace of God, we can resist that evil. I have been like those Christ compared to seed sown in stony ground—they hear the word and receive it with gladness, but have not root in them, to endure but for awhile. So it is with me, when I was tried but did not endure, and so became offended. Let us be not ashamed to confess our faults, for we are commanded to confess our faults to one another, and to pray with and for each other.

I have had trials, it is true, and have them yet, and expect them, because I intend by the help of God to do my Redeemer's will to the very best of my ability. Can not I endure a part of what He so much endured? I view my trials and troubles differently now from what I once did. The wicked one at times has almost persuaded me that it was impossible for me to be a Christian, owing to so many temptations and vexations, but, thank God, they have only brought me nearer to my Savior.

"Nearer my God to Thee,
E'en though it be a cross
That raiseth me."

YOUNG CHRISTIAN.

THE FIVE TEXAS ANNUAL CONFERENCES.—This is Vol. I of an annual hereafter to be published by those enterprising printers, Shaw & Blaylock, of Galveston; pp. 174; price 75 cents; paper cover. It contains the minutes, reports, statistics, etc., etc., in full, of the "five conferences" which met during the fall. It is an invaluable handbook for the Methodists of the State and puts every thing in permanent and ordered shape for the use of the future historian. Our Presbyterian people need just such an annual. We are making history and now is the time to put it on record.—*Texas Presbyterian.*

A MAN may talk virtuously, but if he lives in secret an impure life, his unconscious influence for evil will destroy the effects of his words. Character influences independently of its professions, and this influence of character is the heaviest weight in the scale of life.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

J. W. Whipple in Account with Board of Missions, Texas Conference.

GALVESTON DISTRICT.

	Dom.	Foreign.	Total.
St. Johns, Galveston.	$79 05	$108 65	$187 70
St. James, Galveston.	33 75	41 75	75 50
Bay Mission	10 00	——	10 00
Columbia and Sandy Point	20 00	5 00	25 00
Velasco	30 00	——	30 00
Shearn Ch'ch, Houston	188 75	86 35	275 10
Total	$361 55	$241 75	$603 30

AUSTIN DISTRICT.

	Dom.	Foreign.	Total.
Austin Station	$155 00	$77 00	$232 00
Austin Circuit	29 00	19 00	39 00
Elgin	7 75	——	7 75
Bastrop	25 00	25 00	50 00
Live Oak	10 00	2 70	12 70
Giddings	8 00	——	8 00
Cedar Creek	10 35	10 00	20 35
Winchester	5 85	11 85	17 70
Caldwell	20 00	10 00	30 00
Birch Creek Mission	2 80	1 50	4 30
Total	$264 75	$157 05	421 80

CHAPPELL HILL DISTRICT.

	Dom.	Foreign.	Total.
Chappell Hill	$100 00	$138 50	$238 50
Brenham	95 30	95 30	190 60
Burton	6 20	——	6 20
Bryan Station	——	82 75	82 75
Bryan Circuit	8 00	8 00	16 00
Travis Mission	21 95	10 00	31 95
Total	$231 45	$334 55	$566 00

HUNTSVILLE DISTRICT.

	Dom.	Foreign.	Total.
Huntsville	$8 50	$8 00	$16 50
Dodge Mission	10 95	——	10 95
Willis	3 60	8 50	12 10
Plantersville	8 75	5 00	13 75
Navasota	25 00	——	25 00
Anderson	35 40	20 00	55 40
Prairie Plains	9 25	5 00	14 25
Zion	2 50	3 50	6 00
Madisonville	5 00	5 00	10 00
Cedar Springs	7 00	5 00	12 00
Total	$115 95	$59 00	$175 95

COLUMBUS DISTRICT.

	Dom.	Foreign.	Total.
Columbus	$15 00	$5 00	$20 00
Oso	17 90	——	17 90
Navadad	6 00	5 00	11 00
Alleyton	7 00	——	7 00
San Felipe	9 00	9 00	18 00
Richmond	25 00	——	25 00
Matagorda	——	10 00	10 00
Lafrange	33 00	——	33 00
Total	$112 90	$29 00	$141 90

RECAPITULATION.

	Dom.	Foreign.	Total.
Galveston Dist	$361 55	$241 75	$603 30
Austin District	264 75	157 05	421 80
Chappell Hill Dist.	231 45	334 55	566 00
Huntsville Dist	115 95	60 00	175 95
Columbus Dist	112 90	29 00	141 90
Grand total	$1086 60	$822 35	$1908 95

ANNIVERSARY.

N. N. John	$20 00
Lady and Gentleman	20 00
Rev. P. W. Archer	20 00
Miss A. D. Dietrich	20 00
C. Edgerly & S.	10 00
Rev. Daniel Morgan	10 00
	10 00
W. Shapard	5 00
A. R. Brookshire	5 00
C. J. Lane	5 00
Cash	5 00
Mrs. Norwood	5 00
	5 00
R	5 00
C	5 00
Hat collection	23 55
Mrs. J. W. Whipple	5 00
Total	$178 55
Less this amount not collected	$55 55
	$123 00
Domestic Missions	$1086 60
Anniversary collections	123 00
Total	$1209 60
Credited by this amount paid on drafts for 1877	$888 60
Paid R. W. Kennon	100 00
	$988 60
Balance on hand	$221 00

FOREIGN MISSIONS.

Sent forward as reported	$78 95
Sent New York draft	450 00
Sent cost exchange	2 50
	$531 45
Paid J. Norwood, Mexican Mission	$206 75
Amount due Treasurer for 1876	48 10
Total	$786 30
Due Foreign Board	$36 05

J. W. WHIPPLE,
Treas. Mis. Board, Texas Conference.

Obituaries.

BRIGHAM—Eliza Ann Brigham, the subject of this notice, was born in England, October 3, A. D. 1848; the daughter of Charles and Eliza Rawson. Her parents emigrated to America soon after her birth, and first settled in Harrison and finally in Hunt county, Texas. Eliza Ann professed religion at a protracted meeting held by Rev. T. Sherwood, near the Brigham school-house, six years ago last July. She connected herself with the M. E. Church, South. She was married to Mr. Henry Brigham, April 7, A. D. 1872. She made her home comfortable and pleasant as a faithful, good wife and mother. Very unexpectedly, on Tuesday, February 26, A. D. 1878, at about four o'clock, P. M., she passed away to the Spirit-land of the good, as we believe, from her life and character, leaving a husband and four little children (the oldest of which was a step-daughter), her father, mother, four brothers and two sisters to mourn their loss. One sister preceded her to the better life. A large concourse of sympathizing friends attended her funeral at her late residence. Let the church remember this dear brother and his little children in their prayers.—D. M. PROCTOR.

USEKEEPING.

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To sell the New Patent Improved EYE CUPS.

Guaranteed to be the best paying business offered to agents by any house. An easy and pleasant employment.

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Read the following certificates:

FERGUSON, STA., LOGAN CO., KY., June 6, 72.

DR. J. BALL & Co., Oculists.

GENTLEMEN—Your *Patent Eye Cups* are, in my judgment, the most splendid triumph which optical science has ever achieved, but, like all great and important truths, in this or any other branch of science and philosophy, have much to contend with from the ignorance and prejudice of a too skeptical public; but truth is mighty and will prevail, and it is only a question of time as regards their general acceptance and endorsement by all. I have in my hands certificates of persons testifying in unequivocal terms to their merits. The most prominent physicians of my county recommend your *Eye Cups*. I am, respectfully, J. A. L. BOYER.

WM. BEATLEY, M. D., Salvisa, Ky., writes: "Thanks to you for the *greatest of all inventions*. My sight is fully restored by the use of your *Patent Eye Cups*, after being almost entirely blind for twenty-six years."

ALEX. R. WYETH, M. D., Atchison, Pa., writes: "After total blindness of my left eye for four years, by paralysis of the optic nerve, to my utter astonishment your *Patent Eye Cups* restored my eyesight permanently in three minutes.

REV. S. B. FALKINSBURG, minister of M. E. Church, writes: "Your *Patent Eye Cups* have restored my sight, for which I am most thankful to the Father of Mercies. By your advertisement, I saw at a glance that your invaluable *Eye Cups* performed their work perfectly in accordance with physiological law; that they literally fed the eyes that were starving for nutrition. May God greatly bless you, and may your name be enshrined in the affectionate memories of multiplied thousands as one of the benefactors of your kind."

HORACE B. DURANT, M. D., says: "I sold and effected future sales liberally. The *Patent Eye Cups*, they will make money, and make fast, too; no small catch-penny affair, but a superb, number one, tip-top business, promises, as far as I can see, to be life-long."

Mayor E. C. ELLIS wrote us, Nov. 16, 1869: "I have tested the *Patent Ivory Eye Cups*, and am satisfied they are good. I am pleased with them. *They are certainly the greatest invention of the age.*"

HON. HORACE GREELEY, late editor of the New York *Tribune*, wrote: "Dr. J. Ball, of our city, is a conscientious and responsible man, who is incapable of intentional deception or imposition."

Prof. W. MERRICK writes: "Truly, am grateful to your noble invention. My sight is restored by your *Patent Eye Cups*. May Heaven bless and preserve you. I have been using spectacles twenty years. I am seventy-one years old. I do all my writing without glasses, and I bless the inventor of the *Patent Eye Cups* every time I take up my old steel pen."

ADOLPH BIORNBERG, M. D., physician to Emperor Napoleon, wrote, after having his sight restored by our *Patent Eye Cups:* "With gratitude to God, and thankfulness to the inventors, DR. J. BALL & Co., I hereby recommend the trial of the *Eye Cups* in full faith to all and every one that has any impaired eyesight, believing, as I do, that since the experiment with this wonderful discovery has proved successful on me, at my advanced period of life—80 years of age—I believe they will restore the vision to any individual if they are properly applied."

ADOLPH BIORNBERG, M. D.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Essex, ss.

June 5, 1873, personally appeared Adolph Biornberg, made oath to the following certificate, and by him subscribed and sworn before me.

WM. STEVENS, J. P.

LAWRENCE CITY, MASS., June 9, 1873.

We, the undersigned, having personally known Dr. Adolph Biornberg for years, believe him to be an honest, moral man, trustworthy, and in truth and veracity unspotted. His character is without reproach.

M. BONNEY, ex-Mayor.
S. W. B. DAVIS, ex-Mayor.
GEORGE S. MERRILL, P. M.
ROBERT H. TEWKSBURY, City Treas.

Rev. W. D. JOURDAN, M. D., of Chillicothe, Mo., who has used, and seen other parties use, our *Eye Cups*, writes: "To those who ask my advice about your *Patent Eye Cups* I am happy to state that I believe them to be of great advantage in many cases, and should be tried by all and neglected by none. This is my honest conviction."

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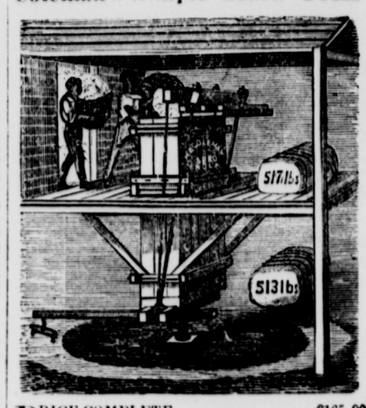
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Texas Christian Advocate

(Communicated.)

Infallibility.

Is it a modern miracle? or what is it? A good deal has been said of late with respect to a pretended Romish miracle, and about what a bishop said to the priest, and of him, who was officially connected in some way therewith. And so far as I have seen, the newspapers seem to be quite pleased with the bishop for the sensible course pursued by him in the premises. The secular press does well to commend in religious persons that which evidently tends to protect community against imposture, and to better the natural, as well as the religious, conditions of society. And as a belief in miracles, as wrought now, for whatever purpose, does not tend in that direction, all persons having authority, whether constituted by law, or emanating from influence, however obtained, should use such authority to discredit pretended miracles. But simultaneously with the discussion of a false miracle here in this country, and with its censure by a bishop of the Romish Church, at Rome there has been performed a miracle of the most stupendous sort, the like of which is not instanced by ancient history, sacred or profane, and modern history records only one other such. I mean the making a human creature to be infallible. Pio Nono was perceived to be infallible when he was very old, and when he had exercised the office of Pope for many years; and now, he that was Cardinal Pecci, is made to be an infallible Pope.

It may be said that whatever comes to pass in this connection, now or hereafter, sustains the relation of an effect to an older cause, and is a sort of matter of course. But is this not rather an Alexander case, wherein the slaughter of millions was murder on so large a scale, that its very grandeur became a species of magnificence which, in some way encircled it with a halo, having the power to blind the mind and paralyze the speech of man? Truly, the cool affrontry with which a set of men in council concocted the dogma of papal infallibility, and published to the world approached the sublime, and from such a fountain we should expect monsters to issue. Still it will be a question with the curious as to the *how* of the infallibility of the new Pope. Was the germ, ovum, or principle of infallibility in the particular cardinal who chanced to be elected a Pope? And if so, was it—is it common to all cardinals, or was it in him only? If it—whatever "it is"—was in him only, who had the good fortune to secure the suffrage of a majority of the cardinals, was it not possible that the majority of the votes might have been cast for another? I presume it will be assumed that it could not be that a fallible Pope should wear the crown. Then they could not have erred in casting a majority of the electoral votes for a fallible man. Or they, the cardinals, each and all have in them the ovum of infallibility, which is incubated upon the occasion, and by the occasion (or the votes) warmed into actual life in the case of him who happens to get the majority of the votes when a new Pope is to be elected.

And we are left to judge that this infallibility, residing in embryo in each of the cardinals, is entirely passive and uninfluential until the majority of the votes are actually given for some one; for there was difference of opinion as to who should be Pope, and difference of opinion shows fallibility somewhere—at least the minority were not without defect of some sort. If this be not so, how is it? Did the mere fact of a majority of the votes being cast for a cardinal make him infallible? Or did the infallibility slip out of the dying Pope and find its way into the body of cardinals, and, while latent in the individual, became active in a voting majority? In this way they might have found, by the certainty which belongs to infallibility, the right man for Pope, and then voted it (the infallibility) to him. Possibly the magic is in the *office*, and whoever gets it, however gotten, is *ipso facto* infallible. In that view of the question sundry curious questions arise. Still, by it the subject is simplified a little. We cannot say that the office is infallible, but that it makes infallible whoever touches it. But we are burdened with a hiatus of a troublesome sort. For if "nature abhors a vacuum," certainly any vacancy in that which is essential to the life of the church must be frightful. It is not suspended animation with which we have to do in this case, but *no* animation, and no animation where there has been life is death. Horrible! When Pius died there was a vacancy. There was then the church—as to its body—but its infallible head was dead, as dead as any head that ever died. And, for all this worse than foolishnes, there is no censure, no lampooning of the same press, which is so forward as to commend the good sense or policy of a bishop who discountenances pretended miracles done in a corner by an obscure priest. There are those who pretend to see nothing more in the claim of infallibility, as set up by the Pope, and, for him, the Romish Church, than is referred to in the case of the King in the law of England, where it says the King cannot die, but they are blind or wholly thoughtless when they so say. If the present Pope is infallible he has become so in the last thirty days, and it is needless to say that of the two miracles, raising Lazarus to life when he had been dead for four days, is not greater than would be the making an infallible being of a man full of all human frailties, to say nothing of sins, by a mere majority vote of some four score, more or less, church officials.

W. K.

(Communicated.)

Should They, Or Should They Not?

That is, should the wives of itinerant preachers attend the sessions of the Annual Conference? Some say no; in fact there is so much opposition to it, and so much talk about it in certain quarters, that some itinerant preachers have determined never to take their wives to another conference. But, is this fair? Is it right? Is it just to the wives, who share the toils and privations of their husbands; who go forth amidst pelting rains and beating storms, through heat and cold, to say nothing of the rebuffs of the world which every faithful minister of Jesus Christ must encounter? Yes, he *must* go amidst want and peril, heralding the everlasting Gospel to dying men, while his patient, submissive wife remains at home and toils to help him, that he may be more able to accomplish the great work that is enjoined upon him by the Most High and the Conference. O, lover of Christ, I appeal to you in behalf of the preachers' wives who spend many long and lonely hours at home during all the year, that the ones dearest to their hearts may impart to you the holy word of God. Can you find it in your hearts to deprive them of the privilege and the pleasure of attending with their husbands, the Annual Conferences? Indeed, is it not their duty to attend, that they may see, hear, and know what is required; that they may be better qualified to assist and cheer their husbands, and urge them to the conflict, putting on the whole armor of God, marching forth bravely to the battle to win the victory, and at last rest in glory? O, ye lovers of Zion, who shall have the distinguished privilege of entertaining the members of the Annual Conference, say not that you "can entertain the preachers, but not their wives." Rather, let us insist on our ministers bringing their wives with them, and let us provide for them the best we can; for think of them at home, deprived of the companionship which lies nearest their heart. While others have the comforts, and even luxuries of life, they have in many instances neither. Therefore will you not try and arrange it so you can accommodate them for one short week, even should not duty demand or require it of you? Think of these noble self-sacrificing women! Let them be made to feel that their presence at conference will not be considered a burden, but a joy; and let the pastors who shall have the pleasure of providing "homes" for the preachers extend to their wives an invitation so cordial that they shall have no occasion to feel that they are "not wanted." Hereafter, considering it a duty which we owe to our God, I ask you: Should they, or should they not? BLANCHE.

(Communicated.)

A Merited Tribute.

On last Friday we were privileged by our preceptor to rehearse a few of the pieces of music learned during the session. Our audience was composed of the *elite* of the town, who not only listened attentively, but their unexceptionable deportment was in perfect harmony with the *universal bearing* of the cultivated people of Chappell Hill.

At the close of the rehearsal, our Dr. Pitts made a few terse remarks upon the flourishing condition of our college, together with an earnest appeal to the community to assist him in enlarging the buildings, now filled to their fullest capacity. How deeply we entered into his feelings while listing to this appeal! We would, had we the Rothschilds' wealth, gladly aid a man, who not only possesses our admiration for his eminent skill, learning and eloquence, but has likewise now our complete confidence by performing so gracefully and efficiently his duties as a teacher. Possessed of a kind and generous heart, a noble love of truth, a high sense of duty, and a self-sacrificing devotion to its performance, he never fails to elicit from his classes their highest commendation.

What we have said of Dr. Pitts applies with equal propriety to Mrs. Pitts. Having endeared herself to us by the possession of those noble qualities which adorn only the best of her sex, we find her ever patient, laborious and ever ready to lend a helping hand to the younger members of her class. In our intercourse with her, whether in the boarding-house or music-room, she evinces such a high regard for the dignity and responsibility of her calling as never fails to command the confidence, love and respect for her *girls*, as she is wont to call them. Being mistress of the art of music, it seems natural for her to impart it to others. We now have sixty-six young ladies in our music class, all of whom would be pleased to have you honor them with your presence next June. Respectfully,

L. R. W.
K. H. V.

CHAPPELL HILL, March 5, 1878.

(Communicated.)

Conversation With A Spiritualist.

While stopping in Missouri, Georgia, last summer, being quite sick, the proprietress of the hotel came up one day and sat awhile with me. I had heard through some friends who had previously called that there was a revival meeting going on at the Methodist Church in town of great interest; and that they had a most excellent preacher in charge. While the lady already mentioned was in my room, the church-bell rang, and noticing it, I said: "How I wish I could go to church. I hear they have a fine preacher and a good meeting; and it has been so many years since I attended church here, I would like so much to go once, at least, while I am stopping here." (I had formerly been a student in the Methodist College in the place.) The lady replied that she thought the Methodist preacher was a fanatic, although he was highly esteemed by his own church. "Are you a member of any church?" I asked. "No," she replied; "I am clear of all such foolishness." I was shocked, as she evidently perceived; but she went on to say that she thought the days of Christianity were well nigh numbered, and "the church would be played out" in a few years more. By this time I was raised on my elbow in bed looking at her in blank astonishment; but she proceeded to explain herself. "My *people*," said she, "are all *progressive in their ideas*; and we all believe in Spiritualism. There is not one of them but are strong believers in it; and I am, if anything, a stronger believer than the rest. Oh!" said she, "it is such a comfort to commune with the spirits of our dead friends." She enlarged upon her progressive ideas until I was thoroughly disgusted, and wished she had not come to sit with me at all; and she left me, thinking, no doubt, she had met up with one who never could be convinced and become progressive. C.

The Clock of Clocks--A Pennsylvanian Outdoes the Work of Habrecht, of Strasburg.

In Mengel's building is now on exhibition in all probability the most wonderful clock in the world. It was built by Stephen D. Engle, a watchmaker, at Hazleton. He is about forty-five years of age, and was about twenty years in perfecting the clock. Mr. Reid paid Engle $5,000 for it. Engle never saw the Strasburg clock. In fact, he has not traveled more than two hundred miles from home at any time. This clock stands eleven feet high. At its base it is about four feet wide and at the top about two. It is about three feet deep at the base, gradually less towards the top. Its colors are brown and gold. The Strasburg clock is thirty feet high, yet its mechanism is not so intricate nor has it as many figures as the Hazleton clock. The Strasburg clock's figures are about three feet high and the American clock about nine inches. Three minutes before the hour the pipe organ inside the clock plays an anthem. It has five tunes. Bells are then rung, and when the hour is struck double doors in an alcove open and a figure of Jesus appears. Double-doors to the left then open, and the apostles appear slowly, one by one, in procession. As they appear and pass Jesus they turn towards him.

Jesus bows, the apostle turns again and proceeds through the double-doors in an alcove on the right. As Peter approaches Satan looks out of a window above and tempts him. Five times the devil appears, and when Peter passes, denying Christ, the cock flaps its wings and crows. When Judas appears Satan comes down from his window and follows Judas out in the procession, and then goes back up to his place to watch Judas, appearing on both sides. As the procession has passed, Judas and the three Marys disappear, and the doors are closed. The scene can be repeated seven times in an hour if necessary, and the natural motion of the clock produces it four times per hour, whereas the Strasburg procession is made but once a day, at 12 o'clock. Below the plaza is the main dial, about thirteen inches in diameter. To its right is a figure of Time with an hour-glass. Above this is a window, at which appear figures representing youth, manhood and old age. To the left of the dial is a skeleton representing Death. When the hour-hand approaches the first quarter Time reverses his hour-glass and strikes one on a bell with his scythe, when another bell inside responds; then Childhood appears instantly. When the hour-hand approaches the second quarter, or half hour, there are heard the strokes of two bells. Then Youth appears, and the organ plays a hymn. After this Time strikes two and reverses his hour-glass, when two bells respond inside. One minute after this a chime of bells is heard; when a folding-door opens in the upper porch, and one at the right of the court, when the Savior comes walking out. Then the apostles appear in procession. The clock also tells of the moon's changes, the tides, the seasons, days, and day of the month and year, and the signs of the zodiac; and on top a soldier is constantly on guard, walking back and forward. As the hours advance, Manhood, Old Age and Death take part in the panorama. — *Reading Eagle.*

A Lady's Reasons for Not Dancing.

1. Dancing would lead me into crowded rooms and late hours, which are injurious to health and usefulness.

2. Dancing would lead me into very close contact with very pernicious company, and evil communications corrupt good manners.

3. Dancing would require me to use and permit freedoms with the other sex, of which I should be heartily ashamed, and which I believe to be wrong.

4. My parents and friends would be anxious about me if I were out late, keeping company with they know not whom.

5. Ministers and good people in general disapprove of dancing, and I think it is not safe to set myself against them. If a thing be even doubtful, I wish to be on the safe side.

6. Dancing has a bad name, and I mean to study things that are pure and lovely and of good report.

7. Dancing is generally accompanied with drinking, and I see drinking produces a great deal of evil.

8. I am told dancing is a great temptation and snare to young men, and I do not wish to have anything to do with leading them astray.

9. Dancing unfits the mind for serious reflection and prayer, and I mean to do nothing that will estrange me from my God and Savior.

10. There are plenty of graceful exercises and cheerful amusements which have none of the objections connected with them that lie against dancing.

WHEN sacrifice is made for another, then the man gets hold of the first principle of religion.

Church Notices.

NORTH TEXAS CONFERENCE.

DALLAS DISTRICT—SECOND ROUND.

Lamar station, March 9, 10
Floyd station, March 16, 17
Dallas circuit, at Farmer's Branch, March [illegible]
Lebanon circuit, at Rock Hill, March 23
Trinity circuit, at Liberty, April 6, 7
Sequin circuit, at Pleasant Grove, April 13, 14
Van Alstyne and McKinney, at McKinney, April 20, 21
Plano and Caruth, at Caruth, April 27, 28
Honey Creek, at Liberty, May 4, 5
Grapevine circuit, at Minters, May 11, 12
Grapevine Springs mission, May 18, 19
Bethel, May 25, 26

Delegates to the District Conference are to be elected this round. The District Conference will be held at Coeran's Chapel, beginning July 4, at 10 o'clock, A. M. The opening sermon by T. R. Pierce. W. H. HUGHES, P. E.

JEFFERSON DISTRICT—SECOND ROUND.

Daingerfield, third Sunday in March
Kelleyville, fourth Sunday in March
Jefferson station, first Sunday in April
Queen City circuit, second Sunday in April
Soda Lake circuit, third Sunday in April
Atlanta circuit, fourth Sunday in April
Mount Pleasant circuit, second Sunday in May
Coffeeville circuit, third Sunday in May
Gilmer circuit, fourth Sunday in May
Longview circuit, first Sunday in June

Delegates to the District Conference to be elected this round. L. B. ELLIS, P. E.

SULPHUR SPRINGS DISTRICT—2ND ROUND.

Oakland circuit, March 9, 10
Sulphur Springs station, March 16, 17
Sulphur Bluff circuit, March 23, 24
Sulphur Springs circuit, March 30, 31
Winnsboro circuit, April 6, 7
Mineola circuit, April 13, 14
Lone Oak circuit, April 20, 21
Pittsburgh circuit, April 27, 28
Greenville station, May 4, 5
White Rock circuit, May 8
Sulphur mission, May 11, 12

THOS. M. SMITH, P. E.

SHERMAN DISTRICT—SECOND ROUND.

Dexter circuit, at Dexter, 4th Sunday in March
Sherman circuit, 5th Sunday in March
Whitesboro ct, at Salem, 1st Sunday in April
Savoy circuit, at Cedar, 4th Sunday in April
Bonham station, 3d Sunday in April
Bonham circuit, 2d Sunday in April
Pilot Point circuit, 1st Sunday in May
Pilot Grove circuit, 2d Sunday in May

J. M. BINKLEY, P. E.

PARIS DISTRICT—SECOND ROUND.

Roxton, March 16, 17
Wayland, March 23, 24
Robbinsville, March 27
Clarksville, March 30, 31
Dodd City, April 6, 7
Cooper, April 13, 14
Ladonia, April 20, 21
Boston, April 25
Texarkana, April 27, 28

Delegates to District Conference to be elected this round. JOHN H. McLEAN, P. E.

WEST TEXAS CONFERENCE.

SAN MARCOS DISTRICT—SECOND ROUND.

Thompsonville ct, at Thompsonville, March 23, 24
San Marcos circuit, at Oyster Creek, April 6, 7
Blanco circuit, at Cherry Springs, April 13, 14
Mt. City circuit, at Mt. City, April 27, 28
San Marcos, station, May 25, 26
Lockhart circuit, at Luling, June 1, 2
Gonzales circuit, at Cane Creek, June 8, 9

Each Quarterly Conference will elect three delegates to the ensuing District Conference. Let the quarterly fast be strictly observed by all the members of the various pastoral charges.

O. A. FISHER, P. E.

CORPUS CHRISTI DISTRICT—SECOND ROUND.

Helena circuit, at Helena, March 30, 31
St Marys mis, at Pleasant Grove, April 6, 7
Goliad circuit, at Perdido, April 13, 14
Beeville circuit, at Beeville, May 4, 5
Rockport station, May 11, 12
Corpus Christi station, May 18, 19
Legarto circuit, at Nueecestown, May 25, 26
Oakville mission, at Atascosa, June 1, 2

R. H. BELVIN, P. E.

TEXAS CONFERENCE.

GALVESTON DISTRICT—FIRST ROUND.

Galveston, St Johns, March 16, 17
Bay mission, at Cedar Bayou, March 23, 24

B. D. DASHIELL, P. E.

CHAPPELL HILL DISTRICT—FIRST ROUND.

Bryan circuit, March 16, 17
Bryan station, March 23, 24

R. ALEXANDER, P. E.

COLUMBUS DISTRICT—FIRST ROUND.

Weimer, March 15, 16
Flatonia, March 22, 23

R. W. KENNON, P. E.

NORTHWEST TEXAS CONFERENCE.

GEORGETOWN DISTRICT—SECOND ROUND.

Salado and Davilla circuit, 5th Sunday in March
Liberty Hill circuit, 1st Sunday in April
Georgetown circuit, 2d Sunday in April
Leon circuit, 3d Sunday in April
Belton station, 3d Sunday in April
Georgetown R R station, 4th Sunday in April
Rockdale circuit, 1st Sunday in May
Blackland circuit, 2d Sunday in May
Cameron circuit, 3d Sunday in May
West Falls circuit, 1st Sunday in June

The third Sunday for Leon and Belton is no mistake.

THOS. STANFORD, P. E.

WAXAHACHIE DISTRICT—SECOND ROUND.

Waxahachie station, 3d Sunday in March
Hillsboro, at Lebanon, 4th Sunday in March
Millford, at Salem, 2d Sunday in April

W. G. VEAL, P. E.

WEATHERFORD DISTRICT—FIRST ROUND.

Eldorado, at Garrett's Creek, 3d Sab in March
Graham, at Graham, 4th Sabbath in March

T. W. HINES, P. E.

BRECKENRIDGE DISTRICT—FIRST ROUND.

Clear Fork circuit, at Ark Arbor, 3d Sabbath in March
Belknap circuit, at Belknap, 4th Sabbath in March

J. G. WARREN, P. E.

COMANCHE DISTRICT—FIRST ROUND.

San Saba circuit, at San Saba, March 17, 18
Mountain mission, at Center City, March 24, 25
Brownwood circuit, at Brownwood, March 31 and April 1
Comanche circuit, at Indian Creek, April 7, 8

The district stewards will please meet me at the quarterly meetings of the respective charges to assess the salary and traveling expenses of the presiding elder. Knowing the extensive travel to any point on the district, and the difficulty of getting the board of district stewards together, I have adopted the plan of letting each district steward assess himself, and thus make out the whole assessment. P. W. GRAVES, P. E.

EAST TEXAS CONFERENCE.

PALESTINE DISTRICT—SECOND ROUND.

Pennington circuit, March 23, 24
Palestine station, April 6, 7
Trinity circuit, April 13, 14
Athens circuit, April 20, 21
Kickapoo circuit, April 27, 28
Rusk and Jacksonville, station, May 11, 12
Cherokee circuit, May 18, 19
Crockett circuit, May 25, 26
Crockett station, June 1, 2
Palestine circuit, June 8, 9
Tyler station, June 15, 16

D. P. CULLIN, P. E.

MARSHALL DISTRICT—FIRST ROUND.

Bellview circuit, at Mt Moriah, March 16, 17
Grand Bluff mission, at Harris church, March 23, 24

R. W. THOMPSON, P. E.

SAN AUGUSTINE DISTRICT—FIRST ROUND.

Neches circuit, March 16, 17
Lynn Flat and Douglass, at Pine Grove, March 23, 24

A full attendance of the Boards of Stewards at the first quarterly meeting of each circuit is earnestly requested.

J. C. A. BRIGGS, P. E.

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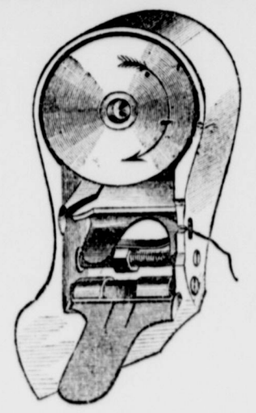
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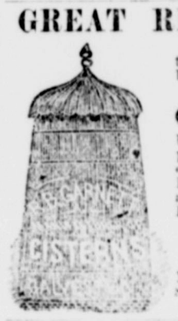
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Many of our subscribers are under the impression that they are receiving the ADVOCATE beyond the time paid for. There was a lapse of eight numbers after the fire before we resumed publication. The undertaking would be too great to change date on every address. It is our earnest desire that every subscriber receive the *full* number of papers paid for, and hence when revising mail list we allow each subscriber eight issues beyond the date indicated on the paper. SHAW & BLAYLOCK.

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Some parties who subscribed for the Minutes understand that we have *advanced the price*. You will all be sent the Minutes subscribed for at the net price agreed upon: *Twenty-five cents!* The regular price is 75 cents—and you can ask anything you please from 25 cents to 75 cents.

SHAW & BLAYLOCK.

To the Public.

We have no traveling agents. All persons holding authority as such, dated prior to February 1, 1878, are unauthorized. Their authority has been and is hereby revoked. All Methodist preachers are, of course, our authorized agents.

SHAW & BLAYLOCK.

To Preachers and Agents.

Will not all send us the postoffices in their respective works. We want to notify you as to the expiration of the time of subscribers, and cannot except where your own and the subscriber's postoffice is the same. We have, as far as possible, completed a reference book for this purpose, but cannot make it perfect until a number are heard from. All the preachers who have not, will, therefore, *please* send us a list of postoffices within their reach.

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EDIGRAPHS.

Two years ago, as we crossed the Brushy on the road leading from Georgetown to Austin, we saw the fresh soil turned up for the road bed of the International. Now the flourishing town of Round Rock occupies the site, and solid stone buildings and well filled stores, with a busy population, give promise of a prosperous future.

The country between Austin and Round Rock has improved greatly since we last visited this region. Large farms have been opened. The wheat and other small grain fields looked green and other tokens met us every mile of a growing, thrifty and prosperous population.

We spent a pleasant night with our old friend Judge S. S. Munger, late of Houston, and family. He has a beautiful farm some two miles below Round Rock. He is paying special attention to garden farming, and when his plans for irrigation are perfected will be able to supply the hungry people in Missouri with the choicest productions of Texas soil. This is destined to be an important business in our sunny State. With our advanced seasons and facilities in the way of transportation, we may supply the market of the North and East.

Austin can boast of several handsome public buildings. We do not include the State House. It occupies a noble site, is massive and capacious, but its style of architecture has not rendered it an object of State pride. The dome seems to have bogged down in the roof. It looks like a sway-backed horse, with a little boy on it. From tokens visible in the north wall of the building, it will not always be a proper place in which our legislators should assemble, unless it is thought that the public interest will be promoted by the burial of senators and representatives, and the State Department, under its crumbling walls. If it would tumble down, and a respectable building be erected in its place, the public interest would be promoted. The court-house, which fronts on Congress Avenue, at the foot of the incline leading to the State House, is a noble building, and an honor to Travis county.

The Sunday-school, under the charge of our church in Austin is one of the best we have visited in the State. The little people meet, under the charge of Sister Stay, in a basement room. It is a bright and happy group. When all were gathered together in the audience room, it was well filled. A larger proportion than is usually found of advanced classes was one feature of the school which specially interested us. Bro. Doom, the superintendent, has a charge as delightful as it is responsible.

One of the leading defects of our International system of lessons is its want of adaptation to the little people's class. A set of simple questions should be appended to each lesson, which they can learn during the week. The teacher, with the present system, is compelled to depend chiefly on the few moments he is with the class to impart instruction, and often finds the subject, the golden text and the questions beyond their capacity. Let them be furnished with some questions which they can take home to their parents, who may be induced to instruct them at home. Every wide-awake teacher has observed the pleasure the little people take in answering questions or reciting their simple lessons. We fear those who have our Sunday-school literature in charge do not fully appreciate the importance of the little people's class. The remark applies to all Sunday-school publications issued by the different churches using the International series.

Unless our people at Austin build a new church, they will have to open one of its walls and enlarge the building to meet the wants of the growing congregation. We are glad to find that under the influence of the bracing mountain atmosphere of Austin Dr. Shepard's health is being re-established. He has a noble charge.

A religious journal of the Methodist persuasion, which we occasionally meet in our rambles, comes to us with a cordial recommendation of Hostetter bitters for dyspepsia. We can not take the advice; nor approve the use of the columns of a religious journal for the indorsement of these alcoholic decoctions. They are as full of head-aches, weak stomachs and uneasy consciences as any other brand of Holland gin or whisky of questionable distillation. Hostetter bitters will make a man drunk in as short metre as either of the above named liquors; and if we judge from the amount that is sold it is swallowed in doses of corresponding proportions. It is a very thin veil with which men cover their thirst for ardent spirits. From the quantity of bitters of different brands sent into Texas, we fear our State is being overloaded with dyspeptics.

Something makes us think of the excuse of the college students for smoking. It was contrary to rule. Three chaps were surprised one night by a professor, with their pipes in full blast: "What is your excuse for smoking?" he demanded of the first. "For my weak lungs, sir," was the reply; and the smoker began to hack and cough like a chicken with the pip. "And yours, sir?" "For my nerves, sir," said the second, who exhibited the physique and temperament of a Durham bovine. "Very good," said the mollified professor. "Now, sir," to the third, who was smoking with the complacent languor of a convalescent, "what is your excuse for violating the rules; have you any ailment? "Yes, sir," was the confident reply. "I smoke for *corns*." It is not for the dyspepsia that so much Hostetter is drank—it is that the drinkers may be *corned*.

We reached Galveston in time to read the proof of "Blanche's" answer to the question, "Should the wives of itinerant preachers attend the sessions of our Annual Conferences?" We feel like exhorting after her earnest plea for her noble sisterhood. Of course they should attend Conference. Don't they share the preachers' toil and trials? and shall they be denied the inspiration which his soul gathers while attending our Annual Conference jubilee? Many a toil-worn itinerant has felt his fainting heart restored as he participated in the stirring scenes of an Annual Conference. The fading fires of zeal have flashed out with bright and glowing flames as he heard the story of trial and triumph from the lips of his comrades in the evangelical army. The heroic devotion of the preacher is often surpassed by his noble wife. He is called to active service—her portion is often to endure for her Master's glory. It is frequently by far the more painful trial. A few days of hospitality in twelve months is a small return for her devotion.

A DISGRACE TO OUR CIVILIZATION.

When people have been doing something that conscience cannot approve, or have been somewhere and are ashamed of it, they very naturally attempt to relieve their minds by making confession to somebody else of their misconduct. It eases their minds to bemean the meanness in which they have participated. This may account for the fact that we have been favored with an item of information respecting one of the moral sinks with which Galveston is cursed. On the night of the 8th inst., our young friend had been induced to witness a chicken and dog fight in a certain establishment, which if unknown to our city police speaks but faintly in favor of their vigilance. It is located on Mechanic street, between 24th and Tremont. Several chickens were killed and a considerable amount of money, in different sums, changed hands. The betting was open and free. The exercises were diversified with a dog fight. The two brutes were locked in bloody grapple, rending and throttling each other to the intense delight of the brutalized bipeds around the ring. We read of bull fights in Mexico and boast of our superior civilization; and in one sense the boast is just. These brutalities are under the ban of public opinion. The moral sense of the community drives the men who share such coarse and cruel pastimes to kennel with the curs they train for the ring in obscure dens where society will not be offended by their debasing sports. Yet men with moral instincts as low as the animals slaughtered to give them sport, are found in our midst and in houses fronting our public thoroughfares, enticing young men into scenes of vice which are a blot upon our civilization.

We were not surprised to hear that such debasing exhibitions may be seen in Galveston; but we did hear with a grave sense of incredulity the statement that one of the dogs in that fight was backed by one of the official custodians of law and order in all the glory of his official garb. The presence of a police officer, in such a scene, as a participant in its coarse, inhuman sports, is an insult to the community whose laws he is sworn to enforce; and whose peace and good order he is paid to preserve.

ALMANAC FASTS.

A secular contemporary announces "Lent" in a fashion quite suggestive. We find in a certain daily paper of large circulation and extended influence a half column on the subject, with "FORTY DAYS" as a heading. The opening paragraph is quite enough to quote. Thus:

"To-day is the beginning of the lenten season, and the *religieuse* throughout the world will observe the season, and cast from their hearts all worldly thoughts, and adore with deeper devotion the Redeemer of all."

But the "carnival"—the farwell to flesh, with its innumerable follies and its abandon to revelry, goes before. A wondrous preparation for forty days of piety, truly! This word "*religieuse*" is well chosen. It has about the same relation to religious that *virtu* has to virtue. The *religieuse* and *virtuosi* belong to the same sphere. Here a paragraph from Dean Trench may be in place:

"We cannot wonder that Italy should fill our great exhibition with beautiful specimens of her skill in the arts, but should only rivet her chains the more closely by the weak and ineffectual efforts which she makes to break them, when she can degrade the word *virtuoso*, or the virtuous, to signify one accomplished in painting, music and sculpture—such things as are the ornamental fringe in a nation's life, but can never be made without loss of all manliness of character, its main texture and woof."

The common sense of the world has some while ago shown its disgust with dilettanteism in literature. But dilettanteism in religion is a far more disagreeable and dangerous thing. If diletanteism—which is the essence of sham—enfeebles literature, it destroys religion.

We do not wish to be harsh or unjust in our criticisms. We are not writing of hypocrisy when we speak of shams in religion, for people may believe most sincerely in shams—as sincerely in religious shams as in patent medicines. Indeed, we have known really distinguished people who would pour into their helpless stomachs any patent medicine—well named, well advertised and well backed with certificates—with a childlike faith that was never vouchsafed to the family physician. We recognize fully the sincerity of believers in shams. Our knowledge of many of them compels our confidence in their sincerity. But confidence in their judgment is another thing. Nor will confidence in the sincerity of believers in shams—ecclesiastic or medicinal—insure confidence in the value of the results! No doubt hundreds of sincere believers in patent medicines fall victims to their sincere credulity. And, as we believe, hundreds of believers in ecclesiastical shams suffer irreparable spiritual damage, notwithstanding their sincerity.

The trouble is the "*religieuse*" (our contemporary spoke wittingly; he did not say the religious) who wind up their winter revels with the carnival, condone very largely any conscious guilt by the reflection that "Ash Wednesday" follows—and the "forty days." And it is just as clear that the subdued mourners of the "forty days" are counted as going a long ways on the credit side of the ledger. What a spiritual condition must he be in who imagines that forty days abstinence from certain forms of pleasure, not only atones for the indulgences of the three hundred and twenty-five days that went before, but actually gains such a surplus of virtue that he may allow himself some considerable margin during the three hundred and twenty-five days that come after! And yet this sort of accumulation of merit is only possible unless a man can be a great deal better during "Lent" than the law of God requires. It seems to us that we have read somewhere an article of religion, denying the possibility of "works of supererogation," and that we have read in the gospels that our Lord reminds all his disciples that when they have done *all* their duty (and who of *the religieuse* do this even during Lent?) it becomes them to say: "We are unprofitable servants; we have done that which was our duty to do."

As long as human nature retains its characteristics, there will be a tendency to make a *mere form* out of all duties that come as a matter of form. If the almanac and the moon are to fix our periods of devotion it is impossible to avoid formality and dilletanteism and sham in our religious observances. Instead of saying, "the religious," we will say, "the *religieuse*."

Many of our secular contemporaries take great pleasure in advertising Romanism. Most of them made ado over the death of the old and the election of the new Pope, as if the salvation of the whole country depended on the benediction of a man in Rome. It is well enough that our people should know more of Romanism. We do not in the least object that the secular press advertises Romanism, but this does not advertise it fully and fairly. We wish that our people should understand Romanism and realize the menace to religious and civil liberty that its presence in any country signifies. We wish that they knew that Romanism—which boasts of immutability as well as infallibility—has been the foe of progress and liberty in every century and in every nation. Alas! that any Protestant should think of Romanism as possibly a tolerbly good sort of religion after all!

We conclude this article by copying from the Atlanta (Ga.) *Constitution* of March 7, the following proclamation from Bishop Gross, that our readers may understand what a high authority in the Roman Catholic Church means by the fastings and devotions of the forty days of lent; and for the additional reason that we may be confirmed in our Protestant principle of fasting upon fit occasion and not by the Almanac or the moon. We copy as follows:

REGULATIONS FOR LENT IN THE DIOCESE OF SAVANNAH.

Ash Wednesday, the first day of lent, falls on the 6th of March.

1. All the faithful who have completed their twenty-first year are, unless legitimately dispensed, bound to observe the fast of lent.

2 They are to take only one meal in the day, except on Sundays.

3. The meal allowed on fast days is not to be taken until about noon.

4. Meat and fish are not allowed at the same meal.

5. A small refreshment, commonly called collation, is allowed in the evening.

6. The quality of food allowed at the collation is milk, butter, cheese, all kinds of fruits, salads, vegetables and fish.

7. Eggs and milk allowed by dispensation on fasting days, and during Lent.

8. To those who fast, custom allows in the morning a cup of coffee, or tea, or chocolate, and a small portion of bread.

9. Necessity and custom have authorized the use of hog's lard instead of butter for cooking.

10. The following persons are exempted from the obligation of fasting: Young persons under twenty-one years of age; women when nursing or in a delicate state of health; those who are obliged to do hard labor; the sick, and all who, through weakness, can not fast without prejudice to their health.

11. By dispensation, the use of flesh meat will be allowed at any time on Sundays, and once a day on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, with the exception of Holy Thursday and the second and last Saturday of Lent. By order of †WM. H. GROSS, D.D. C. SS. R., Bishop of Savannah.

E. CAFFERTY, V. G.

Personal Mention.

The Archbishop of Canterbury has just completed his sixty-sixth year.

Garibaldi will be the guest of Victor Hugo during the Paris exposition.

Bishop Peck, of the M. E. Church, has been seriously ill and is slowly recovering.

Rev. J. H. Collard, from Siep Springs, reports a gracious revival in progress.

Rev. George Muller will visit California soon, and return to England in June.

John Ruskin, the well-known writer, is reported dangerously ill from over-work.

Bishop Keener is to prepare Dr. Munsey's sermons for the press. We long to see that book.

Dr. Alexander Duff, the great Scottish Missionary to India, is dead. Much of a life of seventy years has been given to that cause.

Prince Alexander Michael Gortschakoff, who, next to Bismark, may be fairly ranked as the greatest diplomatist in Europe, is eighty years of age.

Dr. Dollinger, the old Catholic leader, does not have a high opinion of Pius IX. He was, says the professor, a nun in intellect, and the most ignorant Pope in 300 years.

A dispatch from Rome announces the death of Angelo S. J. Seechi, the famous astronomer. He made many important astronomical discoveries, and was the author of a number of scientific works.

Bro. G. H. Phair says: "We have a tendency to walk by sight rather than by faith;" hence the people are waiting to note crop prospects to subscribe for the ADVOCATE—though commending the paper in highest terms.

Dr. L. Pierce, about entering his 94th year, writes to the editor of the Nashville *Advocate*: "I am as well as I ever get to be after a severe attack. My November spell was said to be my last; but my recuperation is as promising as any heretofore had."

Our young friend Rev. Lacy Boone, as will be seen in marriage notices, has realized one of the hopes of life. We trust that the realities, though they come with a mingled cup of joy and care, will be the fulfillment of the brightest hopes which he and his young bride have indulged.

Gortschakoff, the real ruler of Russia, is eighty years old; Bismarck, of Germany, is sixty-three; Marshal MacMahon, the President of France, is nearly seventy, and Dufaure, the present head of the French Ministry, seventy-eight. Lord Beaconsfield, Prime Minister of England, is in his seventy-third year, and his rival, Mr. Gladstone, only four years his junior.

Rev. R. W. Wellborn writes from his charge (Comanche) that "congregations are large and attentive, the harvest being truly great, but laborers few. The failure of crops last year, and the present scarcity of money, is resulting in hard times, but we are anticipating better. Wheat crops are as fine as ever known here for the season; and prospects for an abundant harvest flattering. The ADVOCATE is appreciated by our people."

Rev. S. W. Turner, of Henderson station, East Texas Conference, under date of March 12, informs us the Henderson court house was burned a few nights before. The flames were suppressed with great difficulty. He sends kind words for the ADVOCATE, and is working to extend its influence. He says of the Conference Minutes: "Am much pleased with them. The move to put the facts concerning Methodism in our State in this convenient and permanent form will be of great benefit to us now and in the future."

Texas Christian Advocate

ADVERTISING RATES:

One-half Inch one insertion.....$1 00
Each consecutive insertion..... 75
One Inch one insertion..... 2 00
Each consecutive insertion..... 1 50

Space.	1 mo.	2 mo.	3 mo.
One-half Inch	$3 00	$6 00	$7 00
One Inch	5 00	9 00	12 50
Two Inches	9 00	16 00	22 50
Three Inches	13 00	23 00	32 00
Four Inches	16 00	28 00	39 00
Six Inches	23 00	40 00	55 00
One-half Column	30 00	55 00	75 00
One Column	50 00	90 00	125 00

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To find price of an advertisement for a given time over three months, multiply the price of an advertisement for one month by the number of months: then deduct.

For six months.....20 Per Cent.
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No advertisement counted less than one-half inch.

Eight words make one line of an advertisement; 12 lines one inch: 7 average words make one line special or local notice; 10 lines one inch.

No improper or objectionable matter inserted on any terms.

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SHAW & BLAYLOCK, Publishers.

MISTAKEN APPEALS.

In our last issue, in commenting on the small amounts we raise—and with very great difficulty—from year to year for the benevolent enterprises of the church, we expressed the opinion that the explanation of our comparative failure is found, in the past at least, in bad methods in taking up collections. Nearly akin to the bad methods we felt called on to condemn, are the appeals to wrong motives that are so often made.

Surely there must be something intended by our Savior in His memorable saying: "But thou, when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doest." We are not prepared to say that propositions to give certain amounts should never be made, or that responses should not be called out on any occasion. Yet something could be said for that view. But we are prepared to say that when propositions are made to an audience and the responses are announced, we make a false appeal when we urge A to give that B may not surpass him. St. Paul does not, in his Epistles, recognize or approve this kind of emulation. For it is essentially contrary to the spirit of Christ Jesus.

Sometimes we appeal to the pride of a church or community. "It will never do for Mt. Zion to fall behind." "Your station must come up; these amounts are all published in the minutes." "Our Conference must not fall behind such a conference." Of course Mt. Zion ought to do her duty. And —— station should "come up," and —— conference should not fall behind. But when the main appeal is made to pride—rivalry—mere ambition, or to any kindred sentiment, the appeal is not made on scriptural grounds.

True, our Church is behind some sister churches, of no greater resources, in the great missionary movement of the age; true, we are behind in the support and endowment of our educational enterprises; true, we are behind, lamentably behind, in our publishing interests. What is the ordinary appeal? The appeal most familiar to our people. It is hard to characterize it exactly. Yet one might say, the appeal is very like the appeals that men of the world make to each other when they are pushing some work of public utility. They appeal to State and county, and city pride. We appeal to denominational, to conference, to station, or circuit pride.

Suppose that the publishing house is the cause: we appeal to church pride, to church honor, to church enterprise. We say, "Sustain the house."

Suppose it is a *Christian Advocate*. The case is often very similar. Suppose we plead for a church school or college. We say, "Sustain the college; it is ours; we must stand up for our own school." All very well, if there were only a little less of this and a little more of something else.

The truth is, the *true appeal is to the conscience, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.* We should ask for money, not in the name of the college, the paper, the publishing house, the church; but in the name of our Redeemer. People who give, as well as people who preach, should be able to say, "The love of Christ constraineth me." If we, whose office it is to teach the true doctrine of Christian giving to the people, only plant ourselves upon the platform of Christ and His apostles, we must succeed upon a scale never dreamed of before. If we can ever get the idea fairly lodged in the heart of the church, that when we ask for money for missions, colleges, publishing houses, or other church enterprises, we are asking because the kingdom of our Lord and Savior needs the money, then we will get it, and more of it than ever before.

When our Lord was about to make His triumphant entry into Jerusalem, he sent His disciples into a village close at hand, saying: "Go into the village over against you, and straightway ye shall find an ass tied and a colt with her; loose them and bring them to me. And if any man say aught unto you, ye shall say: the Lord hath need of them; and straightway he will send them."

It is this that we must say to the people when we ask their gifts: "*The Lord hath need of them.*" There is no appeal equal to this, for the cause and for the sake of Christ.

After all, the religious is the most potential element in our nature. There are no motives so strong as the religious motives; no spring of action so strong and reliable. And when we talk of amounts, conscience after all is by far the most satisfactory measure of duty.

In conclusion on this subject, for the present at least, we sum up in these two points: Our comparative failure is due—1. To bad methods; 2. To false appeals. And the methods are bad because they subordinate religion; and the motive appealed to is false because the appeal is not made to our sense of obligation to our Lord and king.

(Communicated.)

The Study of History in Schools.

It is cause of deep regret that the study of history does not receive a greater amount of attention in our schools than is commonly given to it.

In many, I may say in most of our so-called best schools, it is no uncommon occurrence to find pupils in classes, in the sciences, higher mathematics, etc., who are as profoundly ignorant of the history of their native State, and of Rollin, Hume, Gibbon, Macauley, or even Motley, as they are of Herodotus, Pliny, Tacitus, or Thucydides; nor is this lack of historical knowledge confined to the schoolroom, but permeates all classes of society, not excepting the "learned professions."

It is related of a practicing attorney, now living in Texas, that he frequently gets Henry Clay, Cleopatra and Aaron Burr mixed up in the same age and of the same country; Cæsar, Napoleon, and Lord Brougham as contemporary statesmen of England; William Pitt as the discoverer of Pennsylvania, and Dan. Webster as the old dictionary maker.

Every child who can read should become familiar in school with the history of his or her own country at least, and this familiarity will create a desire for a knowledge of the history of other countries.

A close observation of over a quarter of a century has convinced me that the character of an individual's historical knowledge, on leaving school, most commonly forms a true index to his or her knowledge of history the remainder of life.

As a primary work for schools, I regard Thrall's History of Texas as admirably adapted to supply a want long felt and urgently demanded in our schools, especially in Texas; its subject matter being presented in so clear, concise and comprehensive a style, and so strikingly correct. The perspicuous, elegant and discriminating presentation of so many well condenced and material facts; the beautiful typography and superior mechanical execution, make it a book of rare and peculiar merit, and a most valuable acquisition to the educational interest of Texas.

The Chronological Review Questions and the Constitution of the State are valuable features of the work. We shall introduce it in our school. M. B. FRANKLIN.

GRAPE VINE, Texas, March 1, 1878.

GOODWYN'S YEAST POWDERS.—We have tested this powder and pronounce it superior in every respect. To our friends we say—send Rev. P. M. Goodwyn a trial order. He is a Southern Methodist preacher.

Unanswered Letters.

March 10—John 'Adams—$4 75 (not $5); subscriber and postoffices.....R C Hendrick—J P Mussett—subscriber: we have found that with the brethren who "wish to send us subscribers," the hope ends in fruition, and shall look for them.....F L Allen—list of subscribers; tell Beverly we shall frame his picture and place it in our office near Bishop Wightman's, and when visitors ask: "Who is that?" we will say: "That is our nine year old agent".....John Penman—correction inserted.....M H Porter—subscriber; glad you are doing all you can for the ADVOCATE.....J L Murrah—list of postoffices; thirty reasons sent.....E L Armstrong—list of subscribers.....F L Allen—W C Hailslip—subscriber.....Layman—correction inserted.....Sam P Wright—$3 50.....N Holland—$5.....L C Crouse—have gone forward.....J Fred Cox—communication and subscribers; we are not afraid of an indiscretion from your quarter..... O & H Ditson—$20 55.

March 11—J H Johnson—changed; it is gratifying when men of judgment give us such emphatic endorsement.....John Adams—subscriber .....T M Price—subscriber.....W H Cooper—list of subscribers and fifty cents for two copies of minutes.....John S Menefee—$27 45 for job work.....A R Dickson—$2 50 and subscriber..... Thos G Gillmore—if we had known *who* was the agent, there would have been no necessity to inquire; however all is right now.....J M Lane—change of address.....E S Watkins—list of subscribers.....T W Rogers—$2 50 and subscriber..... R W Wellborn—list of subscribers; may this be a year of many and rich blessings to you and yours..... E L Armstrong—marriage notice; did you notice last week we said, Lacy "appeared happy in anticipation of coming events?"..... W Wootton—list of subscribers; tell Bro. W. to let us know how long he received the paper; we will fill out his time.....Rufus E Campbell—change of postoffice.....R F Beasely—$3 75 and subscribers.....D C Neil—shall have attention..... G H Phair—subscriber; now if *you* can't induce them to subscribe, it must be, as the little boys say "a ground-hog case".....L P Smith—minutes ordered have been attended to; were not waiting the money; $10 75 and subscribers received .....W R Manning—subscriber.....S J Hawkins—thanks for notice of the party; it is a good thing we can have some one in each conference to post us—don't you think so; "an eligible standpoint for prophecy" is good; nothing is more suggestive in this connection than the philosophical remark of the old hunter: "*If* our foresight were *only* as good as our hindsight!"..... H C Trammell—change of office..... D W Dailey—"third time is the charm;" we had not received the previous notifications.....Sam'l Morris—subscriber.....H N Russell—correction noticed.....A Little—obituary.....D M Proctor—we did not think one so methodical as you made the mistake, and it proves we were right.....A Champion—the merchants sometime say: "No trouble to show goods;" this is not the truth; they should say: "We don't care about the trouble!" That's the way it is with us about changing paper; glad you think so much of the ADVOCATE as to make it follow you around .....H S Thrall—items received.....John Peverly—subscriber.....H H Brooks—have sent.....W Wooten—thanks for your letter; what you say encourages us and was very gratifying to the editor; we are determined that Texas shall be a unit on this ADVOCATE question; if not, the fault shall not be with us.....E H Cushing—all sent—F P Ray—the idea is a good one; we will investigate, and if not too expensive will do it; thanks for suggestion.....J N Jones—change noted.....J D Whitehead—subscriber.....F M Stovall—list of subscribers.....Mrs A E Barnes—just in time to comply with request.....C R Shapard—subscriber.....F T Barnes.....M A Black—subscriber..... J C C Black—postoffices.....W L Harris—subscribers.

March 13—S R Stark—change of office.....C S McCarver—subscriber; glad you think the ADVOCATE on a circuit "equivalent to a junior preacher;" this says a great deal for junior preachers..... Geo W Graves—$2 50; we can't scold now; the preachers are all treating us so handsomely that we keep in the best humor..... F A Mood—communications, *et al;* we will anticipate.....N F Law—subscriber.....A J Richardson—thanks..... J H Collard—$2 50; see notice about minutes.....W C Blair—postoffices..... W H Killough—subscriber and $3 75; to "make haste slowly" is sometimes not a bad idea..... M B Rankin—subscribers entered and charged Bro. Cook.....J F Denton—list of postoffices..... J W Johnson.....U C Spencer.....subscriber..... Lacy Boone—list of postoffices.....D S Chandler—$3 04 and subscriber.....S S Holcombe—papers are always discontinued when time expires..... G W Lentz—subscribers; all right; use your judgment as to *solvency* of creditors.....R G Raney—$2 50 and subscriber; hope this is the precursor of many more.

NORTH TEXAS CONFERENCE.

GAINESVILLE DISTRICT—SECOND ROUND.

Gainesville station, March 9, 10
Marysville circuit, March 16, 17
Denton circuit, March 23, 24
Elizabeth Town circuit, March 30, 31
Decatur circuit, April 6, 7
Gainesville, circuit, April 20, 21
Montague circuit, April 27, 28
Victoria Peak mission, May 4, 5
Henriette and Cambridge, May 11, 12
West Fork, May 18, 19

W. H. MOSS, P. E.

EAST TEXAS CONFERENCE.

BEAUMONT DISTRICT—SECOND ROUND.

Jasper circuit, at Magnolia, March 16, 17
Newton circuit, at Spear's Chapel, March 23, 24
Wolf Creek mis, at Spurgerville, March 30, 31
Homer circuit, at Stanley Creek, April 6, 7
Woodville circuit, at Mt. Hope, April 13, 14
Moscow circuit, at Livingston, April 20, 21
Smithfield mission, at Smithfield, April 27, 28
Hardin mission, at Hardin, May 4, 5
Wallisville circuit, at Wallisville, June 15, 16
Beaumont circuit, at Liberty, June 22, 23

District Conference will convene at Moscow, Polk county, July 4th and 7th. Dr. I. G. John expected to attend. E. L. ARMSTRONG, P. E.

ALL WHO SUFFER FROM Dropsy and Kidney Diseases can be cured by using HUNT'S REMEDY, the great Kidney Medicine. HUNT'S REMEDY is purely vegetable, and used daily by our best Physicians in their practice. All Diseases of the Kidneys, Bladder and Urinary Organs, are cured by HUNT'S REMEDY.

MARRIED.

BOONE—PICKETT—At the residence of Col. E. B. Pickett, of Liberty, March 12, 1878, by Rev. E. L. Armstrong, Rev. Lacy Boone, of the East Texas Conference, and Miss Helen Pickett.

Commercial.

TEXAS CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE OFFICE,
Galveston, Texas, March 16, 1878.

COTTON.

At New York, the market opened and closed dull. Sales to-day 344 bales. Quotations for all grades are as follows: Ordinary, 8¼c.; Good Ordinary 9 7-16c.; Low Middling 10 7-16c, Middling 11⅛c; Good Middling 11 13-16c.

At New Orleans, the market opened weak; closed irregular. Good Ordinary, 8¼; Low Middling, 9⅜; Middling, 10½. Sales 5,100 bales.

At Liverpool, the market for spots opened flat and moderate; arrivals are steady. Middling Uplands 6⅛; Orleans 6 9-16d.

The market here is dull. Sales 192 bales this day. Quotations are as follows: Low Ordinary, 6⅞c; Ordinary, 7⅜c; Good Ordinary, 8⅜; Low Middling, 9⅜c; Middling, 10⅛c; Good Middling, 11⅛c.

GALVESTON RECEIPTS.

	This Day.	This Season.	Last Season.
Net Receipts	1,573	394,535	469,736
Stock on hand	62,749	59,912	64,018

Exchange—Gold and Silver.

	Buying.	Selling.
Sterling, 60 days	485	495
New York Sight	¼ par.	½ par.
New Orleans Sight	par.	¾ par.
Gold	102	103
Silver	99	100

	To-day.	Yesterday.
Closing gold rate in N. Y.	101¾	101¾
Commercial Sterling in N. Y.	493	492
Closing gold rate in N. O.	102¼	101⅞

THE GENERAL MARKET.

[Quotations are not applicable to small orders but represent cash prices for large lots:]

Bacon			
Short clear	6⅞	to	
Clear ribs	7⅛	to	
Long clear	6¼	to	
Shoulders	5½	to	
Breakfast bacon	9½	to	9¾
Bagging			
Extra heavy, per yard	12½	to	
Light weight, per yard	12	to	
Ties, per bundle	2 50	to	
Bailing twine	12½	to	13
Bran			
From store, per 100 lbs	1 10	to	1 15
By the car load	1 00	to	1 05
Beeswax			
For prime yellow	26	to	27
Butter			
Goshen	32	to	34
Western	22	to	25
Northern	25	to	27
Corn			
Northern Texas	47	to	49
Southern Texas	47	to	49
Corn Meal			
From store	4 25	to	4 75
From landing	4 00	to	4 50
Coffee			
Fair	16¼	to	
Good	17	to	
Prime	17¾	to	
Choice	18	to	
From store about ½c. advance.			
Candy			
Assorted stock	13½	to	14
Fancy	18	to	25
A B	18	to	20
Rock	20	to	22
Crackers			
Soda	4½	to	5
Cream and ginger	8½	to	9
Can Goods			
Peaches, 2 lb, per doz	$1 65	to	$1 75
Strawberries, 2 lb, per doz	1 65	to	1 75
Pine apple, 2 lb, per doz	2 00	to	2 10
Damsons, per doz	1 90	to	2 00
Oysters, 2 lb, full weig't, ⅌ doz	1 50	to	1 65
Oysters, 1 lb, full weig't, ⅌ doz	90	to	95
Oysters, 2 lb, light w't, ⅌ doz	1 10	to	1 25
Oysters, 1 lb, light w't, ⅌ doz	55	to	60
Tomatoes, 2 lb, per doz	1 25	to	1 30
Dry Goods			
Standard prints	6	to	6¼
Medium prints	5	to	5⅝
Brown domestic, 4-4	6	to	7¾
Brown domestic, ¾	5¼	to	6½
Brown domestic, ⅞	5	to	
Bleached domestic, 4-4	5¾	to	11
Bleached domestic, ⅞	5½	to	8
Bleached domestic, ¾	5	to	5½
Lowells	7	to	18
Brown ducks	10	to	16
Brown drills	7	to	9
Sea Island domestic, ⅞ to 4-4	5	to	8
Ticking	7½	to	16
Hickory	7	to	11
Plaids, Gingalenes	7½	to	9
Cheviots	7	to	13
Kentucky Jeans	9	to	45
Tweeds	20	to	47
Flannels, red	14	to	50
Flannels, white	12	to	47
Eggs			
Country, patent boxes, per doz	9	to	10
Bay	13	to	14
Island	13	to	14
Fruit, Fresh			
Apples, per bbl., choice from first hands	$6 00	to	7 00
Lemons, per box	4 75	to	5 50
Oranges, per box	3 50	to	4 00
Fruit, Dried			
Raisins, layer, per box	$2 25	to	2 50
Prunes, per pound	10	to	11
Currants, Zante, in boxes	8	to	9
Half boxes	3 00	to	3 50
Fish			
Mackerel, barrels, No. 2	$10 50	to	11 50
Half-barrels, No. 1	8 25	to	8 75
Half-barrels, No. 2	6 50	to	7 00
Kits, No. 1	1 65	to	1 75
Kits, No. 2	1 40	to	1 50
Herrings, Dutch, per keg	1 50	to	
Codfish, per pound	6	to	8
Flour			
XX	6 00	to	6 50
XXX	6 75	to	
Family	7 00	to	7 10
Fancy grades	7 25	to	7 50
Hay			
Northern, per ton	19 00	to	20 00
Western prime	21 00	to	22 00
Western choice	23 00	to	23 50
Hams			
Choice sugar cured per lb	8¾	to	9
2d quality	8	to	9
Hides			
Dry selected, per pound	16	to	
Light salted	14	to	
Stack salted	12	to	
Kips	14½	to	
Damaged kips and glue stock	5	to	
Wet salted	7	to	
Green	5	to	
Hardware			
Axes, per dozen, Collins' Kentucky light	$10 00	to	
Medium	11 00	to	
Heavy	11 00	to	12 50
Hoes			
Planter's A B No. 0, per doz	$6 50	to	
No. 1	7 00	to	
No. 2	7 50	to	
No. 3	8 00	to	
No. No. 0	6 00	to	
H BI	6 50	to	
No. 2	7 00	to	
No. 3	7 50	to	
Iron			
Common bar, per pound	2½	to	3
Band	4½	to	
Hoop	5	to	5½
Sheet, common	5	to	5½
R G		to	6½
Galvanized	11	to	
Russia	25	to	28
Imitation Russia	18	to	22
Plow slabs	5½	to	
Nail rods	10	to	
Axels	6¾	to	7
Horse shoes, Burden's	5 00	to	
Mule shoes	6 00	to	
Lard			
Tierces, per pound	8½	to	
Kegs	9½	to	
Half barrels and firkins	9½	to	
Lime, Cement, Etc			
Austin lime, per barrel	$1 75	to	2
Alabama	1 85	to	2
Cement	1 90	to	2
Plaster Paris	2 50	to	3 00
Lumber			
Rough yellow pine, per M feet	$20 00	to	
Second quality	16 00	to	
Dressed weatherboards	20 00	to	$25 00
Surfaced boards	20 00	to	25 00
Ceiling	20 00	to	
Flooring	25 00	to	30 00
Cypress lumber by the cargo	40 00	to	
Ash	40 00	to	
Shingles per M	4 00	to	5 00
Laths	3 25	to	3 50
Molasses			
Prime, per gallon	24	to	27
Choice	33	to	40
Texas	34	to	36
Nuts			
Dates, per pound	7¾	to	8½
Almonds, soft	18	to	21
Almonds, hard shell	18	to	20
Filberts	14	to	
Brazil nuts	9	to	11
Oats			
From store	48	to	50
Car load	39	to	40
Onions			
Red	2 75	to	3 00
White	2 75	to	3 00
Oils			
Kerosene per gal in barrels	19	to	20
Pratts Radiant, in cases	22	to	23
Insurance oil, in cases	30	to	35
Poultry			
Chickens, per doz	$2 75	to	3 00
Turkeys, per doz	10 00	to	12 00
Ducks	3 50	to	4 00
Geese	5 00	to	6 00
Powder and Shot			
Drop-shot, per bag	$2 10	to	
Buck, per bag	2 35	to	
Rifle powder, per keg	6 15	to	
Blasting, per keg	4 15	to	
Sugar			
Louisiana, Pure white in bbs	9	to	9¼
" Off white	8½	to	8⅝
" Choice	7½	to	8
" Seconds	7	to	7¼
" Y. C	10¾	to	11
" Snow White	8	to	8½
Standard A	10½	to	
Crushed	11	to	11⅛
Powdered	10⅝	to	11
Teas			
Imperial	48	to	65
Gunpowder	60	to	65
Hyson	50	to	65
Oolong	40	to	60
Souchong	60	to	75
Tinners Stock			
I.C. 10x14 Charcoal Tin Plate	$8 50	to	
I.X. do do do	10 75	to	
I. C. 14x20 do Roof Tin	7 55	to	
I. C. do Coke do	6 75	to	
L. & F. Block Tin	20	to	25
Pig lead	5	to	
Solder No. 1	15	to	
Sheet zinc	11	to	
Tobacco—Smoking			
Fine cut, per bucket	$7 50	to	8 50
Blackwell's Durham, per lb	57½	to	60
Duke of Durham	55	to	57½
Wright's Durham, assorted	55	to	60
Myrtle Durham	45	to	50
Tobacco—Chewing			
Low grade, sound, 11 inch plug, per pound	40	to	45
Good, long stock	48	to	50
Medium	50	to	52
Bright	55	to	60
Choice summer cured filla	60	to	65
Low twist, sound, 4 oz	50	to	55
Medium to good twist	60	to	65
Bright, summer cured filla twists	65	to	70
Wheat			
No. 3	$1 25	to	1 35
No. 4	1 10	to	1 15
Wool			
Free of burs	22	to	25

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Texas Christian Advocate

LETTER FROM PHILADELPHIA.

(Special Correspondence of the ADVOCATE.)
PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 28, 1878.

Your correspondent pleads guilty to a grievous sin of omission, for which it shall be his effort to atone in the future.

Immigration from this section to Texas has been reasonably brisk, but the larger portion of it has emanated from the western portion of the State. Large numbers have shaken the dust of Western Pennsylvania and Virginia from their hob-nailed brogans and taken their departure for the balmy breezes of the Brazos. Some have gone from Delaware, and others will follow in the fall from the peach-producing peninsula.

Your correspondent is informed that his co-laborer in the good cause, Dr. Arvin Brown, of Boston, has been successful in New England and Canada. May he do so again many times.

But the success we have achieved is nothing to that which we might have accomplished could we get the specimens of soil, products and other resources of Texas, for which we have begged and prayed unceasingly.

Kansas has been gleaning in your correspondent's field, and as that thrifty State has done and is doing precisely that which the people of Texas will not help him do, her success has been manifold, and many a deluded victim turns his back on the fertile valleys of Guadalupe and Colorado, for the grasshopper-devoured herbage of our enterprising rival. As it is, agents are establishing themselves, who trade on private account, and find a profit in doing that which the people of Texas should do for themselves.

Among the new firms who are entering into a trade of Texas lands are Messrs. Hemmingway & Levick, 249 South Sixth street, Philadelphia. These gentlemen have been very successful in placing lands of the southwest, and have facilities for exchanging property that railway agents do not possess. The James M. Rose tract on the West Bernard was sold sometime since to a Macon City, Missouri, colony at figures which show the appreciation in which that fertile section is held. All that is needed to rapidly settle Soutwestern Texas is an intelligent and liberal advertising of its manifold advantages. Mr. Hemmingway, the senior partner of the above firm, is one of the most prominent and highly respected men of New Jersey, in which State he resides, and from which he is forming a colony to settle somewhere on the line of the G., H. & S. A. Railway. Your correspondent will esteem it a favor if the residents of the section which he represents will forward to him specimens of the soil and productions of the country, in order that he may the more effectually demonstrate its fertility.

So much for business. Now for something else. Your readers are doubtless aware that Pennsylvania has recently gone into the manufacture of miracles, and that, too, on an extensive scale.

The first to commence the trade was an Episcopalian brother, one Schrack by name. He went dead, very dead. His measure was taken for a coffin; the emblems of mourning hung limply from the bell-pull, the shutters were closed, and Schrack lay for your correspondent knows not how long, on the cooling boards. The doctors pronounced him dead, despite the fact that one of the attendants was sure that she saw the defunct wink. Now a winking corpse is a novelty, and if it would keep without ice and continue to perform at regular intervals, would be a valuable addition to Barnum's strictly moral show. When the doctors came the defunct became a little alarmed at the honors of a prospective *post mortem*. He therefore, like a decent, well-behaved corpse, deliberately and calmly recovered. He cheated the rector of the church, but the doctors and reporters were too much for him. The exposure came before he had acquired the golden notoriety and profit which he hoped to reap as one who had risen from the dead. The reporters unearthed his history, and it was proven not to have been his first scurvy trick.

The Catholics not to be out done, had their miracle at Maunch Chunk, where a girl died and was restored to life by priestly intercession. It is quite certain that the priest was himself the victim of a delusion, but whether the girl herself was an imposter, like Shrack, or a self-deceived devotee, is by no means certain. Archbishop Wood let daylight into that death chamber, and forced the priest to announce the delusion from the altar. After these two ignoble failures it is not probable that the Quaker State will try any more miracles. In fact, to use the language of the boys, "the business is played out."

Your correspondent's letters from Texas speak of "hard times," but oh, what a *Te Deum* would the people of the Lone Star sing if they could hear the wail of distress which goes up from the poor and the suffering of this goodly city. The depression of business, the sinking of real estate, the destitution and the poverty of the lower classes alone is almost incredible. If your correspondent could draw a picture of that which he sees every day, your readers would be appalled at the portraiture. It is not so much the abject that are suffering, as those who have hitherto been in the respectable classes, those that in despite of their suffering, put a "fair face toward London." What think you of a clean, well dressed man, with boots nicely polished, and bearing the appearance of a sober, upright mechanic, tottering into the Mayor's office and saying: "Sir, I have come to you as a last resort; myself and my family are absolutely starving." Such an occurrence has actually happened. Girls, who labor in factories and shops for a pittance that a Texas Dinah would spend and think nothing of, go in troops down the highway of sin, to earn those garments of gentility in which their employers insist they shall be clothed, but for which their wages are totally insufficient. It is a fact, to the disgrace of humanity, that one whose name heads a hundred benevolent lists, whose religious (?) benefactions are the talk of the multitude, employs hundreds of sewing women, at prices which he knows are inadequate pay for the clothes they wear, and which he must know—for every man in the community knows—are bought and paid for with the wages of sin. Men live and die in the odor of sanctity, they are buried with solemn service and musical requiem, who in Texas would be executed and denounced as too base to live and unfit to die. Such are the corrupting influences of wealth.

A day or two since a woman was arraigned before Recorder Hackett, of New York, for abandoning her child on a door-step. With streaming eyes and upturned countenance, she said: "I loved my child, but what could I do? It would starve with me; it might not starve with another." She received three years in the State prison. In Texas, judge, jury and counsel would have made a collection and given her a comfortable sum of money. Such are the differences between people. M.

Peeps at the Planets.

Neptune, the most remote of the planets in the solar systems, is about 2,700,000,000 miles from the sun.

It is supposed that Mercury has mountains higher than our Himalayas, and volcanoes in state of activity.

Out of the myriad lights in the heavens, the earth is only visible to the Moon, Mars, Mercury, Venus.

The earth is 746 times smaller than Saturn, and its mean distance from us is over 91,000,000 miles.

Uranus can never see us at all, as it is 1,723,0000 miles from the sun.

The temperature in Mercury is supposed to be seven times hotter than our torrid zone; if it is inhabited, it must be by people very differently constituted from ourselves.

It is believed that Venus has an atmosphere much like ours, and mountain peaks five or six times higher than Teneriffe, their sides bright with flowers, and birds of brilliant plumage.

The Moon never leaves our globe; therefore it is called our satellite. Though to us it appears larger than the stars, it is really smaller than any of them, but much nearer to us.

Astronomers have calculated that the mountains and extinct volcanoes in the Moon are higher than any on our earth.

If there were any one on the Moon to see it, the earth would appear to them a magnificent ball. The planets and sun would move behind it in brilliant succession.

Our globe appears to Mars as the morning and evening stars.

THE idlest boy on the streets has an influence on somebody who is watching his ways and life. They who are younger than he look up to him as an example, and as it is a rule that the worst traits are imitated in those we seek to follow, they find him a teacher to lead them into forbidden practices. The care of anxious parents is made exacting and wearying in proportion to the amount of this influence that is being exerted on their children. And the disobedient, idle youth, while wasting his own life and fixing himself in habits that will only end in future unhappiness, is unconsciously making himself a minister of wrong to others who fall under his influence.

He that preaches gratitude pleads the cause both of God and men; for without it we can neither be sociable nor religious.

Household.

Ants are kept out of drawers and other places by spirts of camphor.

Lard from a hog not over a year old is the best, and should be hard and white.

Bed-bugs are kept away by washing the crevices with strong salt water, put on with a brush.

Keep coffee by itself, as the odor affects other articles. Keep tea in a close chest or canister.

The best rice is large, and has a clear, fresh look. Old rice sometimes has little black insects inside the kernels.

Oranges and lemons keep best wrapped close in soft paper, and laid in a drawer of linen.

To select nutmegs, pick them with a pin. If they are good, the oil will instantly spread around the puncture.

A bit of glue, dissolved in skim milk and water, will restore old crape.

Half a cranberry bound on a corn will soon kill it.

Red ants will disappear if you wash your shelves down clean, and while damp rub fine salt on them quite thick. Let the salt remain on for some time.

POTATOE PIE.—Boil or wash common or sweet potatoes and strain through a fine sieve; to each pint add one and a half pints of milk, a little melted butter, two eggs, salt, nutmeg to taste; bake in one crust, like custard pie.

PHILADELPHIA CAKE. — Melt a quarter of a pound of butter in new milk, and stir it into two pounds of dry flour, three tablespoonsful of yeast and two well-beaten eggs; cover the dough with a coarse towel, and set in a warm place to rise; when light, knead it into cakes, and bake them in well-buttered tins.

DANDY PUDDING.—One quart of milk, two large spoonsful of flour, the yolks of four eggs, well beaten and mixed with milk; beat the whites of the eggs separately, mix with four teaspoonsful of sugar and drop on the top and bake.

APPLE JOHNNY CAKE.—Scald one quart of fine or medium corn meal with one quart of boiling water, and one pint of sweet apples, pared, cored and chopped. Mix evenly, spread one inch thick on a tin, and bake forty minutes in a quick oven, or until the apples are tender. Serve warm.

HOT ROLLS.—A nice breakfast arrangement, where there are no dyspeptics in the family, is to take a quart of sifted flour, one and a half cupsful of sour milk, two spoonsful of thick cream, a teaspoonful of soda; stir up quickly, and dip into roll-bakers, well buttered, or cup cake tins, and bake in a quick oven. They are very palatable and easily made.

APPLE BREAD.—Peel and core eight good-sized apples and boil them in water till tender. Let them cool until a little over milk-warm; then mix them thoroughly into enough sifted flour to make a thick paste. Put into a crock, set in a warm place, and let stand over night. In the morning, take this sponge and make bread in the usual manner. It is very palatable and light.—*Indiana Farmer.*

Waste Basket.

Too common garments for business men—breaches of trust.

A man may not possess a castle in Spain, and yet have a Cochin China.

A gentleman coming into the room of the late Dr. Barton told him that Mr. Vowel was dead. "What!" said he. "Vowel dead? Let us be thanful it was neither U nor I."

A gentleman named Moore proposed by letter to a young lady, who answered him with a glowing description of a late party, emphasizing the last line of her note: "So no More at present."

Two Irishmen were proceeding in company to a jail-yard, to witness an execution, when one said to the other: "I say, Pat, where wud yez be if the hangman had his dues?" "Begorra," said Pat, "I'd jist be walkin' down this shtreet alone."

At the close of the sittings of the Illinois House of Representatives the clerk read the following: "I am requested to announce that the Rev. Dr. McFarland will deliver a lecture this evening in the hall on 'Education of Idiots.' Members of the legislature are invited to attend.

After the election of Mr. Wilberforce for Hull, his sister promised the compliment of a new dress for the wife of every freeman who had voted for her brother. At this she was saluted with the cry: "Miss Wilberforce forever!" But she smilingly observed: "Thank you, gentlemen; but I really cannot agree with you. I do not wish to be Miss Wilberforce forever."

"Before we were married," said he, "she used to say bye-bye so sweetly, as I went down the steps." "And what does she say now?" asked his friend. "Oh! just the same—buy, buy!" "Oh! I see. She only exercises a different spell over you."

A Fifeshire man took his child to the minister to be baptized, who asked him: "Are you prepared for so solemn and important an occasion?" "Prepared!" he echoed, with some indignation. "I hae a firlot o' bannook baking, two hams, an' a gallon o' the best Highland whisky; and I wad like to ken what better preparations ye expeck frae a man in my condition o' life?"

House and Farm.

All the varieties of the horse are attributed by naturalists to one common origin, either of Tartary or Arabia, the diminutive size of the Shetland, Iceland and other ponies being attributed to climate and provender.

Parsnips contain almost twice as much dry matter or real food as turnips, and this of a superior quality. Carrots, again, contain about as much dry substance as mangolds, but are richer in sugar and of better feeding quality.

Coal ashes scattered on the stable floor will absorb the liquid manure, prevent the cattle from slipping and falling, afford an excellent addition to the pickings of poultry around the place, and can afterwards be spread on the soil.

"Farmers," says the *American Agriculturist*, "should be business men." Whereupon an exchange pertinently remarks: "And, on the other hand, we think it would be a good thing for the resources of the country just now if more of the 'business men' could be 'farmers.'"

Johnson says of millet that its grain is quite equal in nutritive value to the average of English wheats. No one can doubt its value after seeing a field of German millet ripe and ready for the sickle. It contains 9 per cent. of nitrogenous matter, 74 of starch and sugar, 2.6 of fat, 2.3 of mineral matter.

The *Poultry Nation* says: "No kind of meat can be so profitably grown and pay so well as Bronze turkeys, especially where grain is cheap and grasshoppers plenty. In a great many places, so abundant are insects that shorten the grain and grass crops, that turkeys could be almost entirely kept and grown by subsisting upon them."

Never whip your horse for becoming frightened at an object by the roadside; for if he sees a stump, a log, or a heap of tan-bark in the road, and while he is eyeing it carefully, and about to pass it, you strike him with the whip, it is the log, or the stump, or the tan-bark that is hurting him, in his way of reasoning, and the next time he will be more frightened. Give him time to examine and smell of these objects, and use the bridle to assist you in bringing him carefully to them.

SHELTER.—It is absolutely necessary that animals should be sheltered from damp and cold. The reason why pigs or other animals do not fatten so readily in cold weather as in the warmer months is that the food is largely used in keeping up the vital heat, which is now given off in excess and lost. If this loss is prevented, animals will fatten in winter as readily as at any other time.

Many persons insist that hog-cholera is known in no other country, and that America should have all the credit or discredit for the possession. But there is nothing new about this disease. It prevails widely and fatally in England, where it goes by its proper name of typhoid or enteric fever. We notice a recent case, in which, of a herd of thirty-two hogs sent to market in England, thirty died of this disease on the way. If the pretended mystery about this disease were abolished and it was acknowledged that it has a rational and natural cause, the first and greatest difficulty in the way of preventing it would be removed.—*American Agriculturist.*

I CALL upon the skeptic to study the historic life of the Christian Church, and to answer: What is the secret to that life? and by what line of causation he will explain this great movement in the sphere of human thought which we call the Christian Church? I grant that, evidence apart, she may be a sustained imposter, a historic fraud, an organized and officered lie; but if this be so, the star of human hope goes down in endless night. It is Christianity or icy atheism. If the Church is false, and Jesus has given no final answer to the soul's questions, we shall wait long before the bells "ring in the Christ that is to be."—*Patton.*

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Marriages in Russia.

Russian marriages are generally arranged through priests. Being matters of business, it is is desirable there should be no mistake as to the amount of dower which the bride is to bring, and there would very likely be some mistakes if some of the upper clergy were not to act as an intermediary in preparing the settlements. The consent of parents is necessary until the age of thirty is reached in the case of men, twenty-five in that of women; but young people are at liberty to appeal to the authorities if consent be arbitrarily withheld. In the middle and lower classes men marry at twenty when not drafted by the conscription; in the higher aristocracy a young man goes the "grand tour" before settling down, but he is often betrothed before starting to a young lady not out of the school-room, and he weds her immediately upon his return. There is no country that has so few old maids as Russia. When a girl has reached the age of twenty-five without finding a mate, she generally sets out on what she calls a pilgrimage, if poor—on a round of travels, if rich; and in either case she turns up some years later as a widow. Widows are as plentiful as old spinsters are scarce; and widows whose husbands were never seen are more numerous than the rest. Etiquette forbids any allusion to a lady's dead husband in her presence; and this is, perhaps, sometimes convenient.

When a couple are engaged a betrothal feast is held, and the bride elect has a lock of her hair cut off in the presence of witnesses and given to the bridegroom, who in return presents a silver ring set with a torquoise, an almond cake, and gift of bread and salt. From this moment they are plighted; nor can the relatives break the match except with the consent of the parties themselves, which is signified by a return of the ring and lock of hair. On the wedding day the bride comes to church dressed in white; but it is only among the highest classes, who copy Western fashions, that the bridal costume is entirely white, and that a wreath of orange-flower blossoms is used. Among the Russians pure light blue is the nuptial color, and a coronet of silver ribbon stands in place of the wreath. The wedding-ring for the bride is of gold or some yellow metal, but not a plain hoop; it is generally a double ring with enchased stars. The bridegroom has a ring, too, which the bride puts on his finger at the altar after she has received his, and this is mostly a plain one. After the wedding service, which comprises in some of the less civilized districts the breaking of an earthenware vessel in token that the bride renounces her own possession (or is ready to smash all her father's crockery for her husband's sake—explanations differ)—after this there is an adjournment to a banquet in which mulled *krass* (small beer) and almond cakes play a part. There is no departure on a honey-moon tour. The banquet is followed by a ball, then by a supper. In houses where speeches are made it is not the bridegroom, but the bride's father who returns thanks when her health is drank—this usage being owing to the fact that the father still retains authority over his child after she is married. He may summon her home to tend him when he is sick. If he loses his wife he may claim his married daughter's services as a housekeeper during the first three months of his widowhood; and he very often does so. If the daughter's husband dies he may order her to return to his roof and he becomes *de jure* the guardian of her children. None of these privileges are retained by a married woman's mother.

Divorces are not allowed in Russia, but a marriage can be annulled for informality; and so divorces are pretty frequent. It is only a question of money, like most Russian things. Marriage laws are so complex that two parties willing to pay for the luxury of a separation can easily ferret out a ukase whose prescriptions were not scrupulously observed at their nuptials. It is the clergy who declare a marriage null, and they will connive at any trick for this purpose.

The Benefit of Sleep and the Miseries of the Sleepless.

The early bird that caught the worm has furnished an illustration of the benefits of early rising for untold years, but in all that time it has never been proven that the late bird fared less sumptuously, and who has thought of the early worm, and his sad fate? Great men who have accomplished wonders, taking only four hours sleep out of the twenty-four, are paraded before the eyes of an admiring world, and from the border land of dreams it listens, and wonders, and grows incredulous. Even admitting these exceptional cases, it gives no proof that less sturdy frames could endure a like regime.

No doubt the world would move at a faster pace, to say nothing of the saving of an endless amount of trouble, if sleep could be dispensed with altogether; but since it is a necessity of our nature we may as well submit gracefully to the inevitable.

To turn aside from planning and pursuing; from hope and love, and pleasure, and sink into oblivion, is not always agreeable; yet so imperative, so natural is the demand, that the heavy eyelids droop in spite of will, the brain sinks into forgetfulness, and the soul in sweet unconsciousness awaits the wakening, and goes forth with fresh strength and courage to life, and the new day.

"Now blessings light on him who first invented sleep!" It is a panacea far surpassing powders and potions, and the want of it slays thousands of busy people every year. If a person be strong, and robust, full of energy and activity, going to sleep always against his will, and waking at the first peep of day—begrudging the moments spent, as time taken from the business of life—it is no occasion for him to class all who are not early risers among the sluggards. A person who is lazy in everything; who accomplishes but little in his waking hours; who turns on his couch craving "a little more sleep and a little more slumber," well merits the lesson to be learned from the ant; but if an active soul sighs for another hour of repose, be sure he needs it. Nature asserting her rights, seeks to ward off impending illness; she silently pleads for time to repair the waste which waking hours have made. Cheating her of necessary repose, by pilfering from the hours of sleep, is the "open sesame" to "every ill that flesh is heir to." So shut the door softly, and step lightly, and when energy and strength are restored, the sleeper will wake himself. The old adage that "early to bed and early to rise, makes a man healthy and wealthy and wise," is not being verified in these latter days, for we know of scores of people who go to rest as soon as possible after sunset, and rise long before his majesty thinks of such a thing; and they are no wiser than their neighbors—who sleep until day-light—and are as poor as church-mice into the bargain. As to health: night no doubt is the proper time to sleep, and although thoughtless youths and gay maidens are dancing themselves merrily into their graves, it would require more than the wisdom of Solomon to convince them of the fact. Night, they think, is the time for mirth and gayety, and the "wee sma' hours ayont the twal" the time for rest. However one may differ from these seekers after pleasure, but few persons in this nineteenth century, consider that in order to do a full day's work it is necessary to get up in the middle of the night; and those who do are generally the ones to fall victims to the miasmatic influence of the early morning air, and it serves them right, too. The most cruel of all mistaken theories as to early rising is to drag little children from their beds at an unearthly hour in the morning, and see them yawn and rub their sleepy eyes, simply for the sake of inculcating habits of early rising. Little children are sent to bed, "when it gets dark under the chairs," and since sleep is what they need, it is well to let them have what they will. The legions of the sleepless, turning wearily on pillows of down, long for peaceful, dreamless rest, only to find themselves face to face with the ghosts of lost opportunities. The air is filled with the might-have-beens and maybes of by-gone and future years, while sins of omission and commission file slowly by, and hopes, fears and disappointments come trooping after. In the silent watches of the night there is no soothing balm of sympathy; no tender love; nothing but the naked human soul, silence, and darkness. It is a fearful ordeal, night after night to count the clock-strokes, and the heart-beats, and think!—think!—think!

The soporific influence of a prosy book may now and then coax drowsiness; and when that fails, one may watch flock after flock of sheep jump over a wall; repeat the alphabet backwards, forwards and sideways; struggle valiantly amidst the quardrillions and quintillions of the numeration-table; renew an acquaintance with the multiplication table by a solitary game of "buzz," listen to the tramp of marching hosts, and the beat of muffled drums; watch the "sad sea waves" and hear their roar as they break on a rock-bound coast, and still with wide open eyes staring into vacancy, see the fickle goddess "stalk off, not to return, or if she does, in visits, like those of angels, short and far between."

Alas! for those who in their misery take refuge in drugs and opiates, that stupefy the brain and lull their victims into happy dreams and peaceful slumbers, from which they awaken all too late to find God's image shattered and dethroned, and themselves lost to truth, honor and nobility, worthless wrecks on the shores of time. Better, far better, to wake and watch, until strength failing them, they

"Sleep the sleep that knows not breaking
Morn of toil, nor night of waking."

than to die a living death—than, lured by syren voices, to fall helpless victims at the shrine of the soul-destroying opium.

The Infidel's Sheep.

Away among the hills of northern New England were two infidel neighbors, who had lived to man's estate, sinning and blaspheming against God.

On of them heard the gospel message, and, hearing, believed unto eternal life. A short time afterward the converted man went to the house of his infidel neighbor and said to him:

"I have come to talk with you. I have been comforted."

"Yes, I heard that you have been down there and gone forward for prayer," said the skeptic with a sneer; "and I am surprised, for I thought you were about as sensible a man as there was in town."

"Well," said the Christian, "I have a duty to do to you, and I want you to stop talking and hear me. I haven't slept much for two nights thinking of it. I have four sheep in my flock that belong to you. They came into my field six years ago, and I knew they had your mark on them, but I took them and marked them with my mark; and you inquired all around and could not hear anything of them. But they are in my field, with the increase of them, and now I want to settle this matter. I have laid awake nights and groaned over it, and I have come to get rid of it, And now I am at your option. I will do just what you say. If it is a few years in the State's prison, I will suffer that. If it is money or property you want, say the word. I have a good farm and money at interest, and you can have all you ask. I want to settle this mater up and get rid of it."

The infidel was amazed. He began to tremble.

"If you have got those sheep you are welcome to them. I don't want anything of you, if you will only go away. A man that will come to me as you have, something must have got hold of you that I don't understand. You may have the sheep if you will only go away."

"No," said the Christian, "I must settle this matter up, and pay for the sheep; I shall not be satisfied without. And you must tell me how much."

"Well," said the skeptic, "if you must pay me, you may give me what the sheep were worth when they got into your field, and pay me six per cent. on the amount, and go off and let me alone."

The man counted out the value of the sheep and the interest on the amount, and laid it down, and then doubled the dose, and laid as much more down beside it, and went his way, leaving a load on his neighbor's heart almost as heavy as that which he himself had borne.

The full results of that scene are known only to God. One thing is certain—the infidel was seen to frequent the house of prayer, and we may be sure that he afterward believed that there was some power in the gospel, and that all Christians were not hypocrities.

A Dutch Funeral.

Just at that moment a funeral procession passed along the street opposite to where we stood, crossed a bridge to our right, and filed close by us toward another bridge. Four men stood in long black coats, calf-tight stockings, and with immense plumes on their cocked hats, marched at the four wheels of the hearse, while a squad of men in swallow-tailed coats preceded, and another squad of robed mourners in black breeches brought up the rear. The hearse was very cumbrous and completely blanketed with crape. The movement was slow and solemn, although to American eyes grotesque enough to be amusing. Those old men, professional mourners probably, hired by the day to be sorrowful, and poorly paid perchance, had wonderfully lean shanks thrust into their black stockings, and the calf was pitiful to behold. And then such a breadth of cloak flapping in the breeze, as if stately pairs of compasses had been rigged in full sail and set going by the wind. Then the plumes, lofty and busy, bobbing along, so much of the surface upon so slender underpinning, while the drowsy driver of the hearse reclined on his elbow, and might be easily mistaken for the dead man himself. We met the same procession two hours afterward returning from the cemetery, the spindle-legged mourners seated inside the hearse back to back, with their feet dangling close to the cobble-stones, and every one of them smoking a pipe! The folds of the hearse tapestry were thrown carelessly across the top of the craft, and the dead man's room occupied by the business weepers, who had borne him to his tomb.—*A. Clark's Summer Rambles in Europe.*

THE only way from sins to salvation is through Jesus. Sins—saved, and Jesus between. I saw a picture the other day of a wreck. A rope was drawn from the shore to the wreck. There was the shore, and there the wreck, and the rope was between. So Christ's arm is stretched from our sins to salvation. Through Him we escape from the wreck of earthly hopes and reach heaven.—*Wayland Hoyt.*

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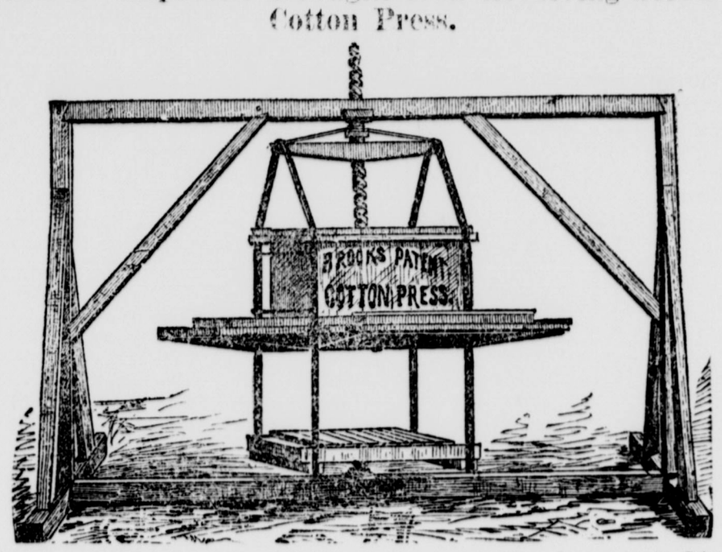
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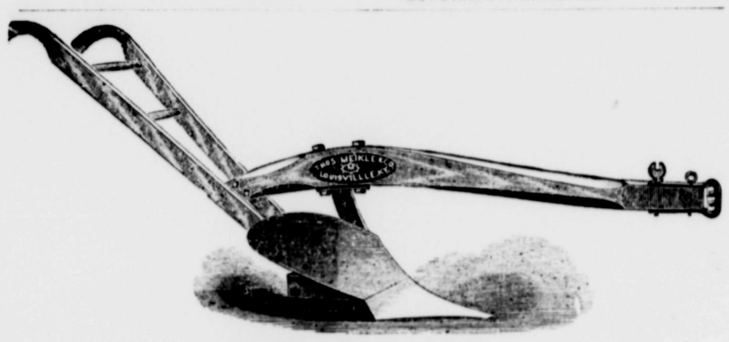
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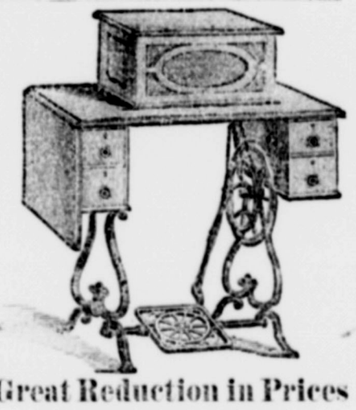
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Texas Christian Advocate

"WHY, sir, Nashville is the centre of the world."—*Baptist Reflector.* This may be so as the centre of a wheel moves less than any other part. Texas is far enough from the centre to move briskly.—*Baptist Herald.*

It would seem from this that our Baptist friends are also a little troubled by the Nashville tendency to centralization.

"The efficiency of the Methodist Church depends largely upon the exercise of Episcopal powers."—*Texas Advocate.* Then Baptist churches ought to be very efficient, as each one of them is usually supplied with a Scriptural Bishop.—*Texas Baptist Herald.*

Will the *Herald* please inform us who calls Baptist Bishops to the Episcopal office? Who judges of the soundness of their doctrine? and to whom are they responsible for the discharge of their official functions? If the *Herald's* logic is good, and Baptist Churches are not always efficient, is it because their churches are sickly or the Baptist Bishop weakly?

To the Pastors of Churches and Superintendents of Sunday-schools in Texas:

The International Sunday-school Convention meets at Atlanta, Ga., in April, and will be strictly a delegated body. Under the rule of representation, Texas is entitled to sixteen delegates. It is hoped that they will all be appointed, and that they will all attend. The objects of the convention are laudable, the results must be beneficial. Having been appointed to the position of one of the delegates, I desire to prepare myself to represent efficiently the Sunday-school interest of the State. I therefore ask the pastors of all orthodox churches, *without regard to denominational distinctions*, and all superintendents of Sunday-schools connected with such churches to send me full reports and items of information to enable me to meet the trust confided to me. May I not confidently expect a prompt response? Let me know all about your schools. Let me know your views and wishes. It is a noble cause that claims our co-operation. Let us get all the good we can out of the convention.

E. D. PITTS.

Chappell Hill Texas, March 11, 1878.

Errata.

In my article No. 6 on Popular Infidelity, there are two important typographical errors:

In the middle of the second paragraph are these words, "palpably contradicting every covert allegation and inuendo in the *obligation.*" The word in italics should be, "objection." About nineteen lines further down are these words, "that so many who boast of the *summons* they hear," etc. The italicised word, "summons," should be, "sermons." J. P.

Jefferson, March 12.

CALVERT, TEXAS, March 9, 1878.—In my communication there is a mistake: I intended to say, "I have *ever* been a laborer." But the types make me say, "I have *never* been a laborer." LAYMAN.

(Communicated.)

GEORGETOWN, TEXAS, March 5—We rejoice to announce a deep religious awakening among the students in Southwestern University. Quite a number are seeking a change of heart, and several have joined the church. There have been no extra services held. The work began in the students' class meeting, which is held each Friday afternoon, and promises, under the Divine mercy, to spread. We ask the prayers of the people of God for the young men. As a body, they are moral, upright, courteous and studious, but quite a number are in the category of the young man to whom Christ said: "Yet lackest thou one thing."

F. A MOOD, *regent.*

(Communicated.)

EXCURSION TO ATLANTA.—I am getting up an excursion from Dallas, via Nashville, to Atlanta, to leave Dallas about the 25th of April, to give those who wish an opportunity to spend Sunday in Nashville, and then reach Atlanta in time for opening of the General Conference, on the 1st. All who desire to go will please (without delay) notify me at Hutchins, Dallas county. Brethren will please give public notice of the excursion, and report the names of all to me, whether delegates or otherwise. As rates will be in proportion to the number going. If we go by the Texas and Pacific road, excursionists can get aboard anywhere between Dallas and Texarkana, and if by M., K. and T., anywhere between Dallas and Denison. As soon as terms are agreed upon, I will give notice and all particulars through the ADVOCATE.—W. G. VEAL.

HUTCHINS, March 5, 1878.

The Rich Man's Son.

In the city of Glasgow once lived a worthy merchant, whose children I knew. As God had blesssd him in his buying and selling, he became a rich man. And having a great love for country life, he took his riches and bought some fields on which he had played and gathered flowers when a child, and also the mansion in which the old laird of the place was wont to live. There was just one thing he forgot to do: he forgot to make his will, and say to whom the mansion and the fields should go when he died. So by-and-by, when he died, no will could be found. Now he left behind his wife, four daughters and an only son. But as no will had been made, the manison and the fields, and a great part of all his riches, came to this only son. He was in London when the news came that his father had died, and that he was now a rich man. Just at that moment money would have been very useful to him, for he was a young merchant beginning life, and no one would have blamed him if he had said, "The money is welcome, and with it I shall push my new business on." But God had given him a gentle heart. He left London as soon after he got the news as he could get a train. And although it was late in the day when he arrived at his native city, the first thing he did was to go to the house of a friend who draws out deeds, and at his request, made out a deed by which the manison and the fields were made over to his mother all her days, and all the rest, both land and money which his father had left, was divided share and share alike between her, his sisters, and himself. And when that was all fixed, he went to his home and buried his father. Somebody said to him afterwards, "But why did you go that very night and have your deed made out?" He said, "I that night saw it was my duty to do it. If I had left it till next day my duty might not have seemed so clear."—*Sunday Magazine.*

Wonderful Effect of Imagination.

During the siege of Breda, in the Netherlands, in 1625, the garrison was dreadfully afflicted with the scurvy. So useless was the medical aid afforded to the soldiers, and so desperate were they in consequence, that they resolved to give up the city to the enemy. This resolution came to the ears of the Prince of Orange; he immediately wrote addresses to the men, assuring them that he possessed remedies that were unknown to physicians, and that he would undertake their cure, provided they continued in the discharge of their duty. Together with these addresses he sent to the physicians small vials of colored water, which the patients were assured were of immense price, and of unspeakable virtue. Many, who declared that all former remedies had only made them worse, now recovered in a few days. A long and interesting account of the wonderful working of this purely imaginary antidote was drawn up by M. Van de Mye, one of the physicians in the garrison, whose office was thus successfully usurped by the Prince of Orange. A corroborative proof of the well-known power of the imagination in affecting disease is afforded in the following Arabian fable: One day a traveler met the Plague going into Cairo, and accosted it thus: "For what purpose are you entering Cairo?" "To kill 3,000 people," rejoined the Plague. Some time after, the traveler met the Plague on his return, and said: "But you killed 30,000!" "Nay," replied the Plague, "I killed but 3,000; the rest died of fright."—*Sunday Magazine.*

THE AGE OF WONDERS.—A large establishment has been opened in St. Lious for drying eggs, and is operated by hundreds of thousand dozens. The eggs, after being carefully inspected by light, are thrown into an immense receptacle, where they are broken, and by centrifugal operation the white and yolk are separated from the shells, very much as liquid honey is taken from the comb. The liquid is then dried by heat by a patent process, and the dried article, which resembles brown sugar, is put in barrels, and is ready for transportation. The dried article has been taken twice across the equator in ships and then made into omelet, and compared with omelets made from fresh eggs in the same manner, and the best judges could not detect the difference between them. Is not this an age of wonders? Milk made solid; cider made solid; apple butter made into bricks. What next?—*Exchange.*

An additional virtue is now attributed to clover—that of destroying weeds. A thick stand of it, such as will grow from twenty pounds of seed to an acre, on good land, will produce such a degree of shade as to smother all the annual weeds, and free the ground to a large extent from them.

PLANTERS AND MERCHANTS in the interior of the State who contemplate building will save money by first procuring plans and specifications. Messrs. Clayton & Lynch are prepared to furnish plans, elevations, sections and drawings, so specific and complete as to enable any intelligent mechanic to construct and the owner to superintend any ordinary building, with complete specifications, bill of material and form of contract when required. Churches, residences, stores, hotels, public halls, jails, court houses, cottages, cotton presses, gins, barns, etc., can be put up in a substantial and stylish manner from their plans at less cost than when done in an unsystematic manner. They can refer to several buildings which have been and are now being put up from their plans in different parts of the State. If you will send them a rough pencil sketch, showing number of rooms, size and general dimensions and arrangement of the building required, together with written description, explanatory of what is required, they will submit preliminary plans for inspection, on which any modifications that may be found necessary can be noted, and the plans returned to them by mail, after which they will furnish the complete plans, specifications, working drawings, etc., ready to be used in the construction of the building, whether of wood, stone, brick or other material.

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News of the Week.

Washington Items.

Col. Haynes, Collector of Customs at Brownsville, in his testimony before the House Military Committee, said troops were necessary to protect the Rio Grande frontier. Present force he thinks sufficient, but should not be reduced. Thinks all raids above Laredo are by Indians.

The appointment of Bayard Taylor as Minister to Germany gives general satisfaction.

House passed Senate bill granting pensions to veterans who served in the war of 1812 fourteen days, and restoring names of those stricken from the roll on account of disloyalty.

The adjustment of the war claims is the perplexing question now before Congress. They amount to about 25,000. If referred to a commission it is thought that nearly a score of years will be required to settle them.

The steamer Constellation has been detailed to carry goods to the Paris Exhibition.

The Sub-Committee on Railroads, consisting of Matthews, Dorsey, Mitchell and Lamar, favor the Texas Pacific bill, agreed on by the House Committee.

Petitions against the passage of the bill transferring the life service from the treasury to the navy department, were presented the Senate on the 11th.

A resolution appointing Gen. Sherman Regent of the Smithsonian Institute, passed the Senate.

A bill passed the Senate providing for a commission of five to consider the alcoholic traffic, with an amendment by Mr. Conkling, that one member of the commission shall be engaged in the traffic.

Mr. Gordon, of Georgia, introduced a bill to prevent the introduction of contagious and infectious diseases into the United States; a memorial from the citizens of Jacksonville, Fla., praying for an effective system of quarantine on the Atlantic and Gulf coasts.

Mr. Hill, of Georgia, introduced a bill to aid the Great Southern Railroad to construct a railroad from Georgia into Florida.

Mr. Eustis presented resolutions of the Louisiana legislature, opposing the reduction of tariff duties on imported rice.

Mr. Riddle, of Tennessee, introduced into the House a bill to reduce the tax on whisky and tobacco.

Mr. Cox, of New York, on the 11th endeavored to offer a resolution inviting the President to recognize the Diaz government. Mr. Mills, of Texas, objected.

A joint resolution was reported from the Committee on Ways and Means, extending the term for withdrawal of distilled spirits from bonds to three years, and providing that a tax should be levied at the withdrawal.

Mr. Turner, of Kentucky, introduced a bill looking to the taxing of United States bonds, like any other property, for State purposes. Went to Judiciary Committee.

Dr. Linderman recommends an appropriation to put the New Orleans mint in operation. Two other mints are required to secure the coinage of five or six millions per month.

A minority of the House Committee on Pacific railroads has made a report against the Texas Pacific and in favor of allowing the Southern Pacific to continue east without subsidy.

Mr. Schleicher introduced a bill for a public building in Brownsville.

The Judiciary Committee disapproved the act of the Arizona legislature, which passed an act authorizing Huntington to construct the Central Pacific across that territory free of taxation four years. The act of the committee is favorable to the Texas Pacific.

Mr. Thurman, from Senate Committee on Judiciary, reported a bill to prohibit members of Congress from becoming securities on certain bonds.

Mr. Morrill submitted a resolution instructing Judiciary Committee to inquire into the expediency of providing that claims against the United States exceeding $1000 in amount, be prosecuted in the U. S. Circuit Court, for the district in which the claims originated.

Bill to aid the Polar expedition, designed by James Gordon Bennett, passed unanimously.

The Eastern Question.

The announcement of the signing of the treaty of peace between Russia and Turkey was made on the 3d, to the Russian soldiers at San Stefano, by the Grand Duke Nicholas. It was received with great enthusiasm.

Russia has abandoned her claim on Egyptian and Bulgarian tributes.

At St. Petersburg the rejoicings over the treaty were enthusiastic.

The Para correspondent of the London *Times* says that Turkey, by giving up her hostile European provinces at the same time deriving tribute from them, or saddling them with a portion of the national debt, and concentrating the Mussulmans in the territory near Constantinople, with the concentration required by the loss of territory in Asia Minor, can create a new Ottoman power much stronger than when scattered over a large, badly organized and hostile territory.

Dispatches received by the London *Times*, the 4th, indicate that the insurrection in the Greek provinces of Turkey is spreading. 2,000 insurgents were intrenching within sight of Valo in Thessaly. The district between Mount Olympus and the Pinders range is in revolt.

After a four hours fight, the Turks at Ghessta were defeated by the Epirus insurgents, with a loss of 80 killed and 150 wounded.

A provincial government was formed at Lycursion, and the union of Greece proclaimed.

At Sarissa, sixteen armed men and thirty-five women and children were massacred by the Turks, and all the women of the town horribly outraged.

On the 8th the London *Standard* received a special dispatch stating the Russians were constructing entrenchments from Kodakai to Sharai, on the sea of Marmora. They have 18,000 men with cannons on these lines confronting the Turkish lines, across the neck of the Gallipoli peninsula.

A London telegraph of the 10th states that Gen. Ignatieff and Reouf Pasha started for St. Petersburgh that day to ratify the treaty.

Lord Derby has sent a dispatch to the powers proposing that Greece be admitted into Congress. Much satisfaction over this act is felt at Athens.

A war grant of 3,720,000 florins on account of urgent army and navy expenses, is asked by the Austrian government of the delegations. A bill for 60,000,000 florins will be presented.

Private advices received in London indicate that the Mohammedans are greatly excited over the disasters which have fallen on Turkey. Trouble is apprehended, unless the government takes some anti-Russian action. It is said that 200,000 Moslem volunteers to serve against Russia can be raised without difficulty.

The Czar's remarks at his reception of the diplomatic corps, on the 10th, were considered decidedly pacific.

It is said that Reuf Pasha will ask the remission of the 200,000,000 roubles of indemnity.

It is reported that Russia and Turkey will not recognize the right of any power to interfere with the terms of the treaty, except as regards the question of the straits and the settlement of the boundaries of Montenegro.

The London *Times* contends that Russia must submit every one of the peace conditions to the congress, not excepting the indemnity clause. It claims that Russia has no right to be dictator over Turkey. The powers did not invite her to make war, nor give her a commission to replace the government of the Porte according to her own views alone.

The belief prevails that if Bismarck presides over the Conference Lord Beaconsfield will represent England.

In the House of Lords, Lord Derby stated that Persia had informed the government that she has no understanding with Russia regarding the cession of the district of Caspian for the district of the Bayazid.

Sir Stafford Northcote stated to the Commons that the government had informed Austria that it did not object to Berlin as the place for holding the Conference, and that Lord Lyons will doubtless be the British delegate.

Lord Derby, on the 12th, informed the House of Lords that the government was in communication with the other powers respecting the powers of the Congress and the questions which were to come before it. If its powers were nominal and not real, it was useless to go into it.

The *Times'* Vienna correspondent says Russia maintains that only the parts of the treaty affecting European interests should be submitted to the Congress. Austria, without doubt, will support Great Britain in demanding that Greece be represented in the Congress.

A *Standard's* dispatch from Pesth says that Andrassy assured members of the Hungarian delegation that upon certain points and in certain eventualities, a convention between England and Austria was ready.

It is stated that Lord Derby informed Count Schouvaloff, Russian Ambassador at London, that unless the entire treaty of San Stefano was submitted that England would not attend the Congress. After consulting, Prince Gortschakoff replied that Russia would consent, the Congress itself deciding what points ought to be examined.

The British Government has not heard that the Russians were entrenching themselves on the Peninsula at Gallipoli.

At a joint setting of the sub-committees of the Hungarian delegation, a motion to grant the credit of 60,000,000 florins asked by Count Andrassy was unanimously adopted.

A Reuter's dispatch from Constantinople of the 12th reports that the Russians have occupied Firkerkini, half hour's march from Buyukdoc, on the Bosphorus. They occupy a majority of villages around Constantinople, and continue advancing toward the city.

Italy.

It is reported that the resignation of Signor Crispi from the Italian Cabinet was caused by a domestic scandal. He was married with religious rites in Malta, and his marriage was registered at the Sardinian Consulate; that he seperated from his wife and last January married again.

Signor Cairoli, of the Left, has undertaken the formation of a ministry. It is asserted that the King assented to the formation of a new Cabinet from the Left on condition that the foreign policy remain unchanged, and the law of Papal guarantees and the fundamental laws of the State be maintained.

Spain.

A London dispatch from Madrid, March 11th, says the budget abolishes the surcharges and extraordinary duties established in favor of all nations having commercial treaties with Spain, except England and the United States.

On the 9th the Minister of War presented a bill in the Cortes, fixing the military contingent for 1878 at 100,000 men. The budget of the Minister of Finance shows a deficit of 8,000,000 pesos, which may be balanced by the sale of State property. It proposes a special duty on petroleum and other mineral oils imported from countries not having commercial treaties with Spain.

Miscellaneous.

A new volcano has been discovered in Patagonia.

Murphy secured 13,000 signers to the pledge at Washington.

Chicago will have to pay $39,000 for last July's labor riots.

The decrease in the public debt during February is reported at $2,250,237.

The Iowa Senate has voted to restore the death penalty, by a large majority.

Hannibal Hamlin is 69 years old, and has held office, State or Federal, for forty-three years.

It has been a year since Plymouth, Mass., had an alarm of fire.

Adrian VI, of Utrecht, made Pope in 1522, was the last man not an Italian, who was elected Pope.

There are now sixteen hundred vacant houses in Washington, the most ever known.

During his official career Governor Hartranft has signed the death-warrants of forty murderers.

A bill has passed the South Carolina legislature punishing burglary by hanging.

Two thousand London preachers preached in favor of war on a recent Sunday.

Montana has a population of 56,000, and not one business failure has occurred there during the last year.

The losses of the Scotch farmers in the last season, through inferior crops, is estimated at $50,000.

London now has two colleges for working-women and is about to open a third. They are very successful.

Advices from Chili announce the death of Don Augustin Edwards, the leading millionaire of Chili. His wealth is estimated at $25,000,000.

West Virginia has already lost $500,000 through defaulting sheriffs. This does not include what they owe to the counties and districts.

All the mints now in operation are to be devoted to the coinage of the silver dollar exclusively except when it is absolutely necessary to coin gold.

Secretary Evarts has just sold from his Vermont farm, yokes of oxen that weighed 5,150 and 4,851 pounds, and two cows that weighed 1,400 pounds each.

According to the statistics from the St. Paul Chamber of Commerce, the yield of wheat in Minnesota for 1877 was 40,000,000 bushels.

Within two miles of one another, in Cedarville, North Covantry Township, Chester county, Pa., there are living six ladies, the youngest of whom is eighty, whose collective ages amount to five centuries and eight years.

The fact that 80,000 out of 96,000 inhabitants of a Chinese province have died of starvation enables one to appreciate more clearly the terrible sufferings of the 70,000,000 people in the empire, who are said to be perishing for want of food.

The British iron trade continues in an extremely depressed condition, and there is talk of the necessity of further reductions in wages to enable the iron makers to keep their works going. Out of 974 blast furnaces existing in the United Kingdom only 489, or just about one-half were in blast at the close of 1877.

The Chinese government is grappling so resolutely with the opium question, closing the dens where it is sold, that a wholesome dread is seizing the people, accompanied by what is still more encouraging, a widespread desire to break away from the debasing habit. The Christians of Peking countenance this growing reform with all the aid in their power.

The British part of India has a debt of about $700,000. The regular annual revenue amounts to $270,000,000, but the debt increases instead of decreases.

The tomb of Washington has been provided with a burglar alarm, connected with the mansion, to prevent any attempt to disturb his remains.

Mrs. Eulalia Perez, of Los Angeles, California, is described as the oldest woman in the world, numbering at present 149 years. Her age is said to be well authenticated!!!

A weekly Christian newspaper, published by the missionaries of the American Board in Japan, has a circulation of over a thousand copies.

Twenty-eight persons in Richford, Vermont, were taken sick with typhoid fever within two weeks recently, caused by using well water contaminated by sewer water.

The oil producers' association say that if Pennsylvania refuses to give it a free oil pipe line, it will go to Albany and ask the New York Legislature to give the right to lay free pipes to Buffalo.

A constitutional amendment is pending in the Wisconsin Legislature providing for the taxation of all property except that owned by the State and lands held for burial purposes.

A single orange tree in the Azores in one year produced 20,000 oranges in a fit state for exportation. The Azores sends every year to London more than 200,000 boxes of oranges.

It is said that King Humbert, of Italy, is anxious to get Nice and Savoy back from France. In Savoy, the cradle of his family, the people speak Italian, and are in every way more Italian than French.

Fifty-two claims have already been located in the Black Hills' oil regions. The oil indications are pronounced good. Salt springs have been discovered in the same region, and parties are preparing to get the salt out of them.

Birds killed on the Western prairies and packed with paper in barrels, without freezing or any other artificial process of preservation, are sent to England by every steamer, and arrive in excellent condition.

Texas Items.

The Rockdale *Messenger* reports an ox in Yellow Prairie which turned the beam at 1550.

The *Messenger* reports a shower of leaves last week. The sky, as far as eye could reach, was filled with them. A whirlwind at some other point possibly occasioned the phenomenon.

Bryan is to have a town clock soon.

A Pennsylvania colony, numbering over four hundred farmers, have bought 58,000 acres of land in Throckmorton county.

About 13,000 bales of cotton are shipped annually from Schulenburg, Fayette county.

The wheat prospects of Northern Texas are unusually fine.

Seven corn-fed cattle were sold in Austin county for three cents per pound.

A petrified rabbit has been found near Dallas, some eight feet from the surface wedged between two rocks.

Brazos county proposes to establish a poor farm as a home for paupers and indigent persons. One hundred acres of land near Bryan has been purchased for the purpose. Commendable.

Corn sells for twenty-five cents per bushel in Lee county.

The *Empire* says new farms are being spread all over Erath county.

The farmers in Freestone county have enough corn and meat to supply them for two years.

Over six hundred convicts have been sent to Huntsville from all parts of the State during the past twelve months.

The annual cattle shipments from Fort Worth are estimated at 200,000 head.

The farmers in Caldwell are using much corn to fatten cattle for Galveston and St. Louis.

A Fannin county man boasts he drank three barrels of liquor last year. How much good did it do his family?

Corn has been sold for fifteen cents per bushel in Bell county.

A man, aided by two dogs, has succeeded in bringing a flock of 4,000 sheep from California. He came in a wagon and the dogs managed the sheep.

There is but one bar-room in McCulloch county.

A Denison tramp locked a lady in her kitchen and made her cook his breakfast. As there were no men around the lady complied, and the rascal fed high and fled.

It will require one hundred hands and three years time to remove the guano from the caves of Uvalde.

A. R. Black, one of the oil kings of Pennsylvania, has bargained for 40,000 acres of land in the Pan Handle of Texas.

The San Antonio *Express* says 549 buildings were erected in that city during the year ending February 28th, 1878. There are now 50 in process of erection.

The Brenham *Banner* reports a large Irish potato crop planted in Washington county and doing finely. They are being raised for the northern market.

Fort Worth has received 40,000 bales of cotton since September, 1877.

A Mr. Krum was killed while loading a blast at Watson's Mill, Burnet county. He used tamping containing granite gravel. The powder exploded, driving the tamping rod through his jaw and neck, and hurling him against a rock. His neck was broken and head crushed.

The *Guard* says Goliad has been crowded with strangers for some time, looking for homes.

The wheat crops in Grayson county are delighting the farmers with their promise of unusually fine crops.

The wolves in a part of Hopkins county have been annoying the farmers. A recent hunt resulted in the capture of three of the enemy after a hard chase and fight.

The farmers in the vicinity of Giddings are planting large quantities of Irish potatoes.

The citizens of Lavaca county are about to vote on prohibition.

Corn is up in Colorado county, and cotton planted on many farms.

A vein of sour water similar in taste to the Cardwell Spring in Calwell county, has been found near Flatonia.

The Fort Worth *Democrat* calls for a tannery. That point has shipped 300,000 hides to northern and eastern markets. These would run several tanneries.

The Harrisburg *Independent* styles Throckmorton county the "Farmer's Mecca." Williamburg, the county seat, is the nucleus of the Pennsylvania settlement.

The Brenham *Banner* reports the total receipts of cotton up to the 7th at 19,364.

Country bacon has been sold in Bastrop at from six to eight cents; hams, eight to ten cents shoulders, seven to eight cents. People need not suffer when provisions are so abundant.

One hundred and five tracts of land are advertised in Gillespie county for non-payment of taxes.

English peas in Gonzales are nearly ready for the table. Texas one day will supply the northern tables with early vegetables.

The Mexia *Ledger* says 20,000 pounds surplus bacon hangs in the smokehouses of the thrifty farmers in the vicinity of Thornton.

Sixty-two marriage licenses have been issued by the County Clerk of Houston county since January 1, 1878.

The Caldwell *Eagle* says that work is progressing on the Methodist Church building at that place.

The Pittsburg *Magnet* reports the temperance council at that point in a flourishing condition.

DeWitt county farmers are improving their stock of hogs. Poland China, Essex, Berkshire and other varieties have been introduced.

Buffalo meat is sold in Eastland county at six cents per pound.

The Rangers have captured Stark Reynolds, who is the last man on the black list in Kimble county. They have been on his trail for many months.

Eggs have sold as low as ten cents per dozen in Galveston. It is a singular fact that with the herds of cattle in Texas that beef is about the most expensive article of food in the Island City. Eggs are cheaper than roast beef or a loin steak.

The *Morning Call*, published at Graham, Young county, states that by a restriction contained in all the deeds to town lots, "no spirituous liquors can be vended or given away, nor gambling permitted in or about the premises, until the town is incorporated and has its municipal officers." The consequence is that Graham has immunity from dram-shops, gambling hells, dance houses and other nuisances which curse incorporated towns. A few were dissatisfied and tested the question whether the town should be incorporated or not. It was voted down. That was sensible. The incorporation will prove an expensive luxury. Grog-shops, rum and riot will make an expensive police a necessity.

A colony of four hundred German families have just arrived in Baylor county, Texas, from Indianapolis and vicinity. They bought an even 100,000 acres of land, and paid cash down at the rate of $1 50 per acre, or $150,000. They have ample capital and material to at once begin farming operations, and will make a fair crop this year.

Church News and Views.

There are about 9,000 Protestants living in the island of Cuba.

The colored Baptists of Virginia have built and paid for fifty churches the past year.

The second revision of the New Testament has reached the middle of Romans xi.

There is said to be in London 1,500,000 people who never attend a place of worship.

A church is being built as a memorial of Livingston, at his birth-place, Blantyre, Scotland.

Pius IX. during his long reign, created 29 archbishops, 139 bishoprics, and 43 vicariates apostolic.

The entire indebtedness of $200,000 on Rev. Dr. Stephens H. Tyng's church has been subscribed.

Seventy thousand Bibles have been sold to Russian soldiers in the field by the British Bible Society.

For the first time in history a Protestant Theological Seminary has been established in Paris.

In Lahore, India, there are nearly 1,400 boys and more than 200 girls in the mission schools.

The Pan-Anglican Synod meets in Lambeth, England, next July, and will hold sessions continuing about four weeks.

Of the 3,500,000 Canadians who are members of church, 1,500,000, it is estimated, are Roman Catholics.

The Roman Catholic Bishop of Vancouver's Island, has made a tour of Alaska, with the view of establishing a mission there.

In the entire world there are, according to the Methodist Almanac, 91,835 Methodist preachers, and 4,393,888 lay-members.

The Presbyterians in Ireland are discussing the question of permitting instrumental music in the churches.

About thirty of the bishops of the Protestant Episcopal Church will attend the Pan-Anglican Synod, in July.

The Carthusian monks have founded a new monastery near London, the buildings of which are to cover nine acres.

Five of the churches in the Persian Mission are reported to be supporting their pastors, besides paying parts of their school expenses.

As the result of the revival at Marietta, O., under the labors of the Rev. E. P. Hammond, 882 persons have been examined and professed conversion.

In nine years the Presbyterians have organized a hundred churches on the Pacific coast, all but five of which have regular preaching.

During the last ten years the Italian Government has confiscated and sold at public auction, $106,000,000 worth of church property.

A three days' conference of those who believe in the speedy coming of Christ, is called to meet in London, February 26th, 27th and 28th.

In the province of Shinghiu, in Japan, a church which has now forty communicants has grown up without the aid of a missionary.

Mr. Spurgeon's health is improved. He expects to return to London from France, where he is now sojourning, in March. His church now has 5015 members.

Another association for the conversion of the Jews is to be formed in London. Its object is the training of curates in Jewish parishes, on the application of the incumbents of those parishes.

Holland has now a Sunday-school Union embracing 400 schools, 3000 teachers, and 70,000 scholars. The union is under the direction of the Reformed Church, and is a mighty missionary engine.

Rev. J. J. Lafferty, long associate editor of the Richmond *Christian Advocate*, by the retiracy of Rev. Dr. W. W. Bennett, became sole editor of that sprightly paper.

Rev. Dr. John Hall recently lectured before the Young Men's Hebrew Association, of New York, on the relation of the Hebrew Scriptures to Science, and his lecture was warmly commended by the *Jewish Messenger.*

In British Guiana, a large body of Chinese live, of whom twenty five were converted the past year under the labors of a Chinese native preacher, who reports, in all, a Christian church of eighty-one members.

A deaf mute was ordained an evangelist in the Congregational Church of West Boxford, Mass., last week. There are but three ordained ministers among the deaf mutes in the United States, the first two being in the Episcopal Church.

Father Sheffrey, a New Haven Catholic priest, opposes the exclusion of the Bible from the schools. He thinks that any form or semblance of religion is better than no religion, and, as the reading of the Bible in the schools was an acknowledgment of God, the discontinuance of such reading is a step in the direction of atheism.

Christendom has but 2110 ordained foreign missionaries in the field—Great Britain, 1030; Germany, 592; United States, 460, and 88 from the smaller Christian countries—and never yet gave to this work over $6,000,000 in one year.

China has not heretofore been the most promising field for missionary work, but there are at length signs of the coming day even there. Nearly fifteen thousand converts have been added to the Protestant churches in China during the past year, and there are now in that land more than one hundred self-supporting congregations.

Miss Leyburn, of the mission of the Woman Union Missionary Society in Greece in a letter published in the *Central Presbyterian*, describes a large Sewing Society in Athens, of which the Queen is President. She is a neice of the Czar, and the ladies meet to sew for the Russian soldiers for an hour or two every morning in the palace, the Queen herself working industriously. She says Queen Olga is a lovely woman in person and character, a devoted wife and mother, and much beloved by all who know her.

The Lutherans of Hungary are rejoicing over the conversion of Baron Anthony of Dellacesy, from Catholicism, and over the further fact that he has given to the church an estate worth 2,000,000 florins.

The Congregationalists in England are considering the question whether those may be fellowshiped in the Congregational Union who deny the Trinity, the physical resurrection of Christ, and the miracles of the gospel.

Minnesota is a Lutheran State, having more Lutherans among its population than any other name or confession. They number 75,000, Germans and Scandinavians. There is but one English Lutheran Church in the State.

On the 1st of May, Rev. Dr. Stephen H. Tyng, rector of St. George's Church, New York, becomes rector *emeritus*, with a life salary of $3,000 a year. Rev. W. W. Williams, of Georgetown, D. C. is to become rector of the church. Dr. Tyng is now in his 78th year.

Bishop Paine has been in the Episcopal office thirty-two years; Bishops Pierce and Kavanaugh, twenty four years; Bishops Doggett, Wightman and McTyeire, twelve years; and Bishop Keener eight.

The Free Presbytery of Glasgow has appointed a committee to consider what steps can be taken, in concert with other bodies, to "promote the conversion of the Roman Catholic priests and people to the true faith of the Gospel of Christ."