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The following sermon was entirely extemporaneous, both in preparation and delivery.

It was prepared, it was read, and it was published, but with the hope of its being useful as an effort to connect the government and Providence of God with the present crisis in the affairs of the country.

It is, I believe, a sermon of prayer, and it is the time, if ever, for humble prayer and fixed trust in God.—W. H. S.

THE REIGN OF GOD OVER THE NATIONS.

Illustration of a Sermon preached in the Methodist Church of Houston, Texas, January 4, 1861.

By REV. W. H. SEAT.

The Lord God omnipotent reigneth.—Rev.

We are called together by recommendation of the President of the United States to worship Almighty God with fasting, humiliation and prayer.

The temples of worship are thus open throughout the land, and the afflicted people assemble to hear His word and His Providence extended, and to lift their supplications to His throne.

This solemn approach of a great nation to God is occasioned by the solemn crisis which, as an earthquake, has shaken the land, and which involves the fate of the great Republic.

Scarcely do we apparently do, at an important epoch in history, with momentous interests at stake, and eminent perils and dangers in our prospect, it is not surprising that a Christian people should be inclined to lift their eyes unto the hills whence cometh their help.

And while I would not to-day lessen the feeling of resistance, calm, deep and determined, to dangerous sectional aggression, which now flows and mingles in the public mind, I would fain combine with it a thorough conviction of dependence upon Almighty God, prompting an appeal, earnest and bold, for His guidance and His help.

Some of the most sublime language used in the sublimes of all books, is descriptive of the fixed reliance of a Christian soul, and of a Christian people, upon God Almighty amid the brightest convulsions of earth and time.

And if we can say in our hearts at this eventful period, "The Lord of hosts is with us, the God of Jacob is our refuge," then we need not, we cannot, we will not fear, though the earth be removed, though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea, though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof.

Some of the most glorious achievements of prayer, especially when associated with fasting and humiliation, have been the deliverance of nations from threatened ruin.

And when our trust is thus "in the Lord which made heaven and earth, and our prayer to Him, no real evil shall befall us," all things shall work together for good; "He will make the wrath of man to praise Him, and the remainder of wrath will He restrain."

When Hezekiah, King of Judah, was threatened with invasion by the mighty Assyrian monarch, while he used every means for access to resistance, that would suggest or furnish resources, let it be specially noted that his resources were united with earnest prayer and unwavering trust in God.

And in answer to such prayer, in honor of such confidence, Divine interposition averted the danger. Forth the incident of sacred history furnishes the model for resistance to dangerous aggression, whether foreign or sectional, whether invading or threatened, to the end of time.

And while we employ such means as are human, let us not forget those that are Divine.

And the gloom and commotion around us, let us look aloft. "The Lord on high is mightier than the noise of many waters, yet than the mighty waves of the sea."

A hard unseemly gusts the storm, and though under its resistless sweep "the tents of Cushan may be in affliction, and the certians of the land of Midian may tremble," yet the succeeding light and calm shall sink the precious truth gently deep into the soul.

"The Lord is good; a strong hold in the day of trouble, and he knoweth them that trust in Him."

"The Lord reigneth, let the people tremble," in penitence and sorrow, "He pours out wrath upon the ungodly nations." "The Lord reigneth, let the earth rejoice—let the multitude of the Isles be glad thereof," for while "clouds and darkness are round about Him, righteousness and judgment are the habitation of His throne," and the most terrible commotions in human society are incorporated into His mysterious dispensations in their onward sweep through the ages of time.

"The Lord God omnipotent reigneth." This is our consolation and our hope. And by way of further improving this solemn hour, let us notice briefly this supreme reign of God, with some reference to the momentous period through which we are now passing.

God the Creator, the Upholder, the Owner of all things, is beyond all doubt the Supreme Ruler of the whole universe of matter and of mind. His reign is thus commensurate alike in extent and in duration with creature existence.

His being is uncreated and eternal, but his reign commenced with the first creative act, when "He spoke and it was done, when He commanded and it stood fast." He is from everlasting, but His throne was "established of old," even "when the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy."

The reign of God extends over all things "visible and invisible, whether they be thrones or dominions, principalities or powers," and is supreme over all throughout their whole exist-

ence. It is, moreover, adapted to these two grand divisions of creature existence, the visible and the invisible, the material and the immaterial. For the great and marvelous works of nature there is natural government involving natural laws. Over His myriad rational creatures extends the sway of moral government and moral law. This moral reign, everywhere identical in its general principles, is, nevertheless, variously adapted to the unnumbered tribes of the universe that own its sway.

Its immutable laws are revealed in our world, alike for individual and universal man. Between these two extremes are exhibited subordinate forms of human government, as the family, the church and the state. Of these the family is the first and the most important.

The complete idea of the family, as revealed in the scriptures, includes parents, children and servants, or slaves. These, only these, are recognized in the immutable doctrine as the permanent domestic relations, and rules are elsewhere in the scriptures given for their regulation and control.

No external or foreign intervention can be allowed in reference to this sacred circle, excepting, perchance, to restore it when broken, as when the angel of the Lord arrested the fugitive in the wilderness and returned her to her mistress, or when the Apostle Paul sent back Onesimus to Philemon.

No, without Jeweling on the relation of the family to the church, I wish here to remark that the nationality is most nearly complete which corresponds to the power of the complete family, and which is charged with and adapted to the conservation and protection of this perfect circle of domestic relations.

And that national compact which exhibits in its operations the slightest tendency to an invasion of this sacred circle, may well be looked upon with suspicion and distrust. And when the danger of such aggression is felt to be near and palpable, it can but be resisted with all the determination, all the love of home with its peace and safety, would inspire.

The Most High rules in the kingdoms of men. His sovereignty over the nations. God made one blood all nations of men, for He dwelleth on all the face of the earth, and determined the bounds of their habitation that they might seek Him. Here is expressed the unity of mankind, "one blood," their variety, "all nations," their general locality, "all the face of the earth," special localities, "appointed the bounds of their habitations," the object, that they might seek Him, making their several nationalities subordinate to His reign and subservient to His glory.

God thus wills the existence of nationalities. The multitude at the tower of Babel were, against their denunciations and efforts, by a special miracle, dispersed into nations. Human government is an ordinance of God, and its officers are "His ministers for the punishment of evil-doers and for the praise of them that do well." Provisional adaptations doubtless have much to do with the different forms of governments for the nations of the world.

For men capable of self-government, the republican is the most natural and the happiest form. The Divine government must, necessarily, be a monarchy, because He alone has the right to His throne or the perfections essential to its administration. The constitution of the family naturally indicates the husband, the father, the master, as its head. No man, or succession of men, can, however, sustain such natural relation to a nation, or be so far superior in abilities as to have the natural right to control its destinies.

A republic having God as its head—a theocracy such as Israel was, such as the United States should be, is the perversion of the Divine idea connected with it is the chosen form. Whatever the form, however, it is righteousness that exalteth a nation while sin is a reproach to any people.

God originally appointed to the nations the bounds of their habitations. The general plan of Providence in its relations to this question, has been to limit the nations to smaller territory than their ambition or cupidity would demand. It is true that immense empires have arisen both in ancient and modern times, but they have by conquest, combined several nations in one, to be held together by force, and have been generally temporary in duration.

The perpetuity of a Republic of immense extent is a question of difficult and uncertain solution, because the various unavoidable conflicts of the people meet in the government itself with a constant tendency to clog its machinery, disturb the harmony of its action, and threaten its existence. And these difficulties as to the perpetuity of the American Republic, are immeasurably increased by the fact that all the differences and antagonisms are merged in one mighty conflict of views and interests, and even competition, defined too by geographical lines.

This persistent, growing controversy is really the basis of judgment as to the unfolding designs of Providence in reference to the destinies of our country.

Civil government must be of necessity subordinate to the supreme reign of Almighty God. His laws are binding alike upon men as individuals, and in all their combinations of obligation and interest as nations. Righteousness exalts the nation, but sin is a reproach to any people. The one secures the favor and protection of heaven, the other provokes wrath divine, in punishment or destruction. This is abundantly manifested from the scriptures which reveal God in history; His presidential dealings with the nations of the world.

Wicked men in the aggregate, but multiply the sins of individual men, which thus become by their prevalence national sins. In addition, government may in official action and policy of the Ruler involved in common guilt, perish in common ruin.

It may be profitable at this solemn juncture to notice a few species of crime which have in past ages procured the punishment or destruction of nations.

Reverence of God and idolatry in spirit or in form. "Pour out Thy fury upon the heathen that know thee not." "Because of swearing the land mourneth." "The wicked shall be turned into hell with all the nations that forget God." Are not we as a people very guilty in these respects? We have forgotten the holiness of the pit, and the hand that lifted us from its depths. "Jehoshaphat waxed fat and kicked." "What injustice to the claims of God, what irreverence for Him, what daring profanity, worthy only of the lips of demons, and fit only to be uttered and heard in the caverns of perdition—what base ingratitude for peculiar and

pre-eminent blessings, prevail all over the land. Verily there is cause for humiliation and prayer. Licentiousness, in word and deed, the reign of fleshly lusts and appetites, luxury and shameful drunkenness. For these very sins the offended Sovereign sent down the fire tempest upon the cities of the plain, and overwhelmed their guilty population with the vengeance of eternal fire." May it not be in part because of the prevalence of such vices that we are made a strife unto our neighbors, and our enemies laugh among themselves?

Veracity and corruption in the management of solemn trusts, in legislation, in the distribution of public patronage. This is exhibited in the Bible as exceedingly offensive to God and a prolific source of national calamity and suffering.

Sabbath breaking. The law of this holy day lays its explicit claims upon the individual and the family in all its departments: parents, children, servants, even the domestic beasts.—Such high obligations that have been laid upon all and all families upon all the land and all the earth. No man or no association of men, no company or corporation, no state or nation can, with impunity, for any ordinary exigencies of private business and public service violate this solemn commandment of Almighty God.—For Sabbath breaking "the city of the great King" was solemnly threatened with destruction by fire which should not be quenched. For persistent disregard of even the special law of the sabbath year, Judah plied in captivity seventy years, exchanging for every year of prince a year of suffering in a foreign land. It in the revolution now progressing, fraternal blood shall flow, may it not be regarded as a solemn retribution for continued private and public violations of God's holy day? Verily, there is cause in this for fasting and prayer.

Pride, self-sufficiency, self-exaltation, the lifting up of the heart against God. Pride is self-idolatry. It "sets up a rival throne in the Creator's realm." "God knoweth the proud afar off." "God resisteth the proud." In such a contest the result cannot be doubtful. "Pride goeth before destruction and a haughty spirit before a fall."

Exaltation of human power and grandeur in a great nationality is exceedingly favorable to the development of this vice. But "though land join in hand the wicked shall not be unpunished." In the sacred history of the great cities and nations of ancient times, pride is represented as beyond all others—the most prolific source of calamity and ruin. The cities of the plain were destroyed for "pride" as well as "fulness of bread."

Arrogant Tyre, standing at the head of the great Mediterranean, the mart of commerce for the land and the sea, abounding in wealth and power, her dwellings, palaces; her merchant princes; and her traffickers the honorable of the earth, said in her pride: "I am of perfect beauty." Alexander the Great brought his resistless armament against "the crowning city." Her walls are demolished, her palaces and towers thrown down, and her very site left a bare rock. The islands shake at the sound of her fall, and their Kings come down from their thrones and elbowed themselves in sackcloth lament the fate of the glorious city. "Was such our ruin?" "God hath purposed it to smite the side of all glory and to bring into contempt the honorable of the earth."

To Elom, said the rocky fastness of his mountain home, it is said, "Thy terriblest hath deceived thee, O thou that dwellest in the clefts of the rock, whose habitation is high and that saith in his heart who shall bring me down to the ground. Though thou exalt thyself as the eagle, and though thou set thy nest among the stars, thence will I bring thee down, saith the Lord." No strength of position, or national prosperity, or multitude of chariots and horses, can shield the splittings of pride from the vengeance of God. A mightier than the munitions of the rocks, a higher than the eagles or the stars shall "abase" the proud in the day of the earth.

The Great Pharaoh, the representative of Egypt's wealth and power, as a whole in his famed river, said in self-sufficiency and pride, "The river is mine and I have made it for myself." But a Divine hand threw a net over the monster of the deep and puts a hook in his jaws. His carcass is cast out upon the open field, as a prey for the beasts of the field and the fowls of the air, while his blood fills the valleys even unto the mountains. "And when I pat thee out I will cover the heaven and make the heavens thereof dark; I will cover the sun with a cloud, and the moon shall not give her light. All the bright lights of heaven will I make dark over thee, and set darkness upon thy land, saith the Lord God."

The great Assyrian empire, described as a magnificent tree, deep rooted in the earth and watered by rivers sent out by the sea. His trunk is strong and his "shadowy strand" towers high and spreads afar. The fowls of heaven seek repose in his branches and the beasts of the field find a home in his shade.—Perfect in beauty, he is the envy of the trees in the garden of God. He is "lifted up" in pride. The multitude of people "go down from his shade." The fowls remain on his pine and the beasts trample underfoot his broken boughs. The deep is covered for him, the floods restrained, the great waters stayed. Lebanon mourns and the trees of the field faint, and the nations shake at the sound of his fall. This, too, happened unto him as an example "to the end, that none of the trees by the waters exalt themselves for their height" to provoke a like destruction from God.

When mighty Nebuchadnezzar walked and stood upon his palace and looked out over his magnificent capital with its walls and hanging gardens, its palaces and towers, the wonder of the world, he said in the pride of his heart, "Is not this great Babylon that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honor of my majesty?" At that moment there fell as thunder from a cloudless sky, a voice saying, "O King to thee it is spoken: 'The kingdom is departed from thee.'" And when driven from men he sat on grass, or until seven times passed over him, he learned the important lesson that "the Most High ruleth in the kingdoms of men and that those that walk in pride He is able to abase."

It is not pride in the American people, but pride in the United States, and it is the danger of the American people!

Our successful revolution, and subsequent history; our happiness in peace, and triumph in war; our rapidly increasing population and widening territorial grandeur; our rapid progress in wealth, intelligence, refinement, and all the elements of national elevation and greatness; our unequalled constitution and form of government; our lofty and glorious position among the nations of the earth, have tended powerfully to the development of that feeling of self-sufficiency and independence of God that pride and haughtiness has provoked the wrath of God in the overthrow of the nationalities that have passed away. The memory of our heroes and sages, our annual rejoicings on our nation's natal day; our beautiful star-spangled banner, floating over land and sea, the extravagant praises and adulations of our orators—have further encouraged the inflation of the national pride, productive of deep and general forgetfulness of God.

We have beheld with rapturous joy the vast temple of American freedom rising into magnificent grandeur; we have perchance neglected the vestal fires upon its altars, forgetting the while that the lightning of heaven might blast its summit or the earthquake shake its solid foundation.

This nation is yet in its infancy. Let the Union be perpetuated through the ages to come, her territory increasing until it shall include all the desirable portions of this grand division of the globe, extending over all this area her population, wealthy, mighty states, unquenchable by the combined powers of the earth, with a countless population and fabulous sums of government patronage—the paragon of the world and the wonder of time. Who shall tell of her boldness in the midst of prosperity in violating the laws of Heaven, her forgetfulness of God, her luxury and licentiousness, her deep and boundless corruption and her heaven-daring gospel? Shall an open Bible and a preached gospel suffice to restrain and overcome the national tendencies to vice and ruin? These are not only the means of training for the individual or the nation, but indeed the most effectual. The Most High has a rod of chastisement for the one and the other. And may we ask what are the designed results of present affliction?—Will they be employed by the wonderful providence of God as to thoroughly humble the nation, correct error, restrain aggression, re-ignite the people in the bonds of love and reconstruct a confederacy already dissolved in spirit and in form? Will the Supreme Ruler, either immediately or in the future regenerate the nation upon the basis of a new covenant and guide her forward to a destiny without a parallel in the annals of time? If such be His will, then shall the dreams of the past be realized, the hope of departed patriots be fulfilled, the hearts of living millions leap for joy, and this wonder of the world, this miracle of Providence shall stand upon the temple, as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land.

But, my brethren, the governor of the universe may see it to be impossible for this great people to remain permanently one, without perpetual conflict, and without the development of self-depravity as shall provoke his vengeance in its due time. It may be that we have been essentially the part of the past, and the hope of departed patriots be fulfilled, the hearts of living millions leap for joy, and this wonder of the world, this miracle of Providence shall stand upon the temple, as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land.

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THE TEXAS CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

LATER FROM WASHINGTON.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 25.—Mr. Buchanan, in an interview with the President today, expressed a belief that no collision would occur between Federal and State forces during his administration. He said every effort would be made on his part to avoid such a collision.

The House today resumed the consideration of the report from the Committee of Thirty-Three. No action was taken on the report, and the House adjourned until to-morrow.

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MILITARY COMPANIES FOR THE SOUTH. Norfolk, Jan. 25.—The United States steamship company has been chartered for the South, under sealed orders.

She took two companies of soldiers from Ft. Monroe, for what purpose remains a mystery.

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A large portion of the day was spent in objection.

An ordinance was passed resuming State authority over the territory ceded to the United States.

THE LOUISIANA ORIGINATOR OF SECESSION. Baton Rouge, La. Jan. 25.—At 10 o'clock last evening, the following was delivered by the originator of secession, in the hall of the Louisiana State House.

Mr. J. M. Calhoun, Chairman of the Convention of 1862, said: "I have the honor to be present at this Convention, and to be the originator of secession."

Mr. Calhoun then read a paper in which he declared that he was the originator of secession, and that he was the author of the Ordinance of Secession.

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THE FLORIDA MATRONS.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 25.—The transportation of mail to Panama has been discontinued by order of the Post-Office Department.

GREAT EXCITEMENT IN WASHINGTON.—THE BLACK REPUBLICANS IN FEAR. Washington, Jan. 25.—Much excitement prevails here, suggesting a rumor that a secret organization composed of the employees of the Government offices and others, has taken place, with a view to take a strong and defiant position in the present state of the Union.

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MARRIAGES.

On the 24th of January, at the residence of the bride's father, by Rev. E. A. Stocking, Mr. ISAM PARKER, and Miss AUGUSTA ANN POWERS, daughter of F. POWERS, Esq., of Harris county.

On the 12th of December, 1860, at the residence of the bride's father, by Rev. N. W. BARKER, Mr. CHRISTOPHER C. WRIGHT, of Georgia, and Miss ANNA E. WEAVER, of Harris county.

On the 20th of December, 1860, by Rev. H. W. South, THOMAS P. PETTY, and MARY J. ROGERS, both of Falls county.

On the 15th of January, by Samuel Barnes, clerk in the town of Hills, GEORGE BARROWS, Esq., and Miss BETTIE POLK, both of Bataw, Lincoln county.

On the 10th of January, at the residence of the bride's father, in Smith county, by Rev. W. K. Martin, Dr. J. B. MORRIS, of Kaufman county, and Miss M. C. PRATHER.

On the 8th of January, at the residence of the bride's mother, Esq., Wharton county, by Rev. Quinn M. Meade, Mr. WILLIAM F. JONES, of Fayette county, and Miss JOSEPHINE M. JONES, of Harris county.

On the 8th of January, at the residence of the bride's father, in Smith county, by Rev. J. W. Fields, Mr. JAMES W. McNEELY, and Miss LOUISA E. McNEELY.

Also, on same day, by Rev. J. B. JONES and Mr. H. W. J. ROBERTS, daughter of Judge O. R. Roberts of Tyler.

On the 1st of January, by Rev. L. R. Demaris, Mr. H. D. WARREN and Miss MARY A. NANCE.

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QUARTERLY MEETINGS, &c.

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SAN ANTONIO DISTRICT. First Round. Pleasanton Mission, at Pleasanton, Jan. 26. Pleasanton Mission, at Pleasanton, Jan. 26. Pleasanton Mission, at Pleasanton, Jan. 26.

CONCEPCION DISTRICT. First Round. Victoria Station, Jan. 25. Victoria Station, Jan. 25. Victoria Station, Jan. 25.

GONZALES DISTRICT. First Round. Gonzales Circuit and Colored Mission, Jan. 25. Gonzales Circuit and Colored Mission, Jan. 25. Gonzales Circuit and Colored Mission, Jan. 25.

COLUMBUS DISTRICT. First Round. Victoria Station, Jan. 25. Victoria Station, Jan. 25. Victoria Station, Jan. 25.

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Child's Corner.

Child's Corner. O dear! I am tired of Sunday! So said Willie, a little boy who was longing for the Sabbath to be over, that he might return to his amusements.

Galveston Advertisements.

AUG. SACHTLEBEN. JOHN B. DUNHAM, JR. W. P. EMMERSON, Grand and square 23. P. O. Box 100.

Obituaries.

Obituaries. Mrs. Sarah A. E. Paschal, daughter of John G. and Eliza Paschal, was born in Abbeville, South Carolina, in 1831.

Miscellaneous Advertisements.

L. C. CUNNINGHAM & CO.'S COMMERCIAL NOTICE. We would respectfully inform the PLANTERS and MERCHANTS in the vicinity, to the effect that we have established...

Galveston Male Academy.

Galveston Male Academy. The Second Year of the Institution will commence Monday, 8th inst.

Educational.

Madras Military Institute. DEPARTMENT OF PRACTICAL CHEMISTRY. The Laboratory will be open daily from 10 o'clock to 4 o'clock.

Galveston Prices.

Galveston Prices. For the week ending August 12th. Cotton, 10 1/2; Sugar, 12 1/2; Rice, 10 1/2.

Cable and Transportation.

Southern Steamship Company. New Orleans, Texas, Florida and Havana U. S. Mail Lines.

Professional Cards.

Professional Cards. Crawford & Allen, Attorneys at Law. Harris & Kavanaugh, Attorneys at Law.

The City of the Vatican.

The City of the Vatican. No Christian mind, whether Protestant or Papal, can view with indifference the present condition of the Papacy.

Anderson & Henshaw's.

Anderson & Henshaw's. Photographs and Ambrotype Rooms. A. L. Styles of Photographs taken plain or colored to order.

L. H. Wood & Co.

L. H. Wood & Co. Brown & Kirkland. Importers of all kinds of Foreign and Domestic Hardware.

Children's Teaching.

Children's Teaching. Mrs. Winifred. Soothing Syrup. For Children's Teething.

Galveston Female Seminary.

Galveston Female Seminary. Union Chapel Institute. First Term commencing Sept. 12th.

Chapel Hill Female College.

Chapel Hill Female College. Commenced in the Spring of 1860. The Faculty consists of the following: Miss M. H. Baker, Principal.

Galveston Female Seminary.

Galveston Female Seminary. Union Chapel Institute. First Term commencing Sept. 12th.

Dr. Eaton's Infantile Cordial.

Dr. Eaton's Infantile Cordial. A SURE REMEDY FOR INFANTILE COLIC, DIARRHOEA, AND ALL AFFECTIONS OF THE STOMACH AND BOWELS.

Dr. Heard & Welch's Blood Food.

Dr. Heard & Welch's Blood Food. A SURE REMEDY FOR ALL AFFECTIONS OF THE BLOOD.

The Charleston Forts.

The Charleston Forts. Fort Sumter is by far the strongest position, and commands all the fortifications in the harbor.

Desirable Property for Sale.

Desirable Property for Sale. I AM NOW OFFERING for sale, in the town of Chappell Hill, Texas, a desirable property.

Doyle Commercial College.

Doyle Commercial College. OF THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS. Founded in 1852. The Faculty consists of the following: Rufus Doyle, President.

Abury High School.

Abury High School. The Faculty consists of the following: Mr. N. C. Hill, Principal.

West Top Bell Foundry.

West Top Bell Foundry. ESTABLISHED IN 1822. The Foundry is situated in the city of Galveston, Texas.

Professional Cards.

Professional Cards. G. W. Crawford & Allen, Attorneys at Law. Harris & Kavanaugh, Attorneys at Law.

Professional Cards.

Professional Cards. Charles E. Travis, Attorney at Law. James W. Byrnes, Attorney at Law.

Professional Cards.

Professional Cards. Dr. Heard & Welch, Medical. A. M. Potter & W. S. Carruthers, Dentists.

Professional Cards.

Professional Cards. Wilson & Brothers, Premium Horse-Power. A. M. Potter & W. S. Carruthers, Dentists.