

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."

Correspondence.

EAST TEXAS CONFERENCE.

Report of the Committee on the State of the Church.

The committee who were appointed to consider the state of the Church, offer the following report:

We are exceedingly gratified in surveying the fields occupied by our laborers, to find so many indications of the blessings of God upon the work of our ministry. Amid financial disasters and pecuniary dearth that have not been surpassed for many years, our people have not abandoned the great work of the Lord, but in spite of all hindrances are in many places working nobly in the cause.

Contributions for the widows, orphans, and superannuated preachers have been made in some parts of the work adequate to the means of the contributors, but in many places the tears of the widow, the cry of the orphan, and the indigent circumstances of the worn-out preachers have fallen upon dead ears, and callous hearts, and thereby the treasury of this most important church debt is depleted, and the beneficiaries are to be the sufferers.

OUR MISSIONARY COLLECTIONS are far below what they were last year, many excusing themselves of the responsibility of contributing to foreign missions under the oft-repeated plea that charity begins at home. But when it is remembered that the salaries of most of the preachers are far below the average, and the home missions poorly supported, the plea is but a commentary of the want of the willingness to consecrate means for the furtherance of Christ's kingdom.

OUR SUNDAY-SCHOOLS, which have long been a beauty and a glory in the church, are waking up throughout the bounds of the conference to the importance of widely disseminating the high standards of literature endorsed and recommended by the sanctified intelligence of the church. In connection with this great auxiliary of our Zion in many of our stations and circuits, juvenile missionary societies are being organized, and the day is not distant when they will outstrip the church in their missionary contributions.

The additions to the membership during the year amount to sixteen hundred, making the sum total of members in the East Texas Conference, including local preachers, 12,052. Five hundred and thirty infants have been baptized by our ministry to be trained up in the way they should go. This number is an increase of 112 over that of last year.

Within the bounds of the conference there are 116 church buildings, valued at \$79,340. Ten parsonages, valued at \$6,350. Other church property, \$3,635. Moneys expended for building and repairing churches, \$8,161.75.

Our missionaries have, without exception, faithfully performed the work assigned them—some of them, from past experience, bereft of even the hope of any other pecuniary reward than the pittance they might receive from an impoverished missionary treasury affording them salaries too small to support any man's energies unless supplemented by the hope of a heavenly inheritance.

AMID THE FINANCIAL DISASTERS and pecuniary dearth, the spiritual state of the church seems to be improved, or improving. Class and prayer-meetings are better attended; family prayers and home religion are reviving in many places, and the members of the church are bringing themselves into stricter obedience to all her laws.

By these and many other tokens of good in these trying and troublous times, your committee offer the following resolution:

Resolved, That we call upon the people whom we serve as pastors, to unite with us in the great work of spreading scriptural holiness

through these lands, and that they join us in offering up most sincere, humble and devout thanks to the Great Head of the church, for the many indications of his favoring providence which we have enjoyed, and especially for that measure of success which has attended the Gospel of His grace as administered by us.

U. B. PHILIPS, Chm'n.

To the Bishop and Members of the East Texas Conference.

Since my last written report on the subject of collecting material for a "History of Methodism in Texas" I beg leave to submit the following:

Your appointee is gratified to be able to report, that a large majority of the members of this conference have, either in person handed to me, or forwarded a sketch of the time of their birth, their parentage, conversion, call to the ministry and the fields of labor to which they have been assigned; in most cases, the number of converts, and also the number received into the church, particularly noted each year.

These sketches have been read with much interest. Some of the brethren have furnished incidents in their observations and ministerial labors which are worthy a place in our contemplated history, and which would be read with interest and spiritual profit by our own denomination and by all true lovers of Zion.

From these sketches can be ascertained where and when our annual conferences were held, and who presided over their deliberations from 1840 to the present time.

I have thirty-one responses from the brethren, written in a plain, legible hand; comprised in the list, we have contributions from the oldest living members of our conference, besides from some others who have deceased since we commenced collecting material, who fought the good fight of faith, "laid their armor by to dwell in peace at home."

We also have sketches from other brethren who more recently joined the itinerant ranks; taken altogether, we have experiences, portraying labors, trials and triumphs, which would compare favorably with what is regarded as the heroic days of Methodism.

It must remain a source of deep regret (as I have elsewhere said) that so many of our faithful, prominent and most efficient ministers and early pioneers passed away without leaving behind them data by which the progress of the work of God might have been more clearly apprehended during the time of their labors and sacrifices.

Before the close of the next decade, many of us who are now living will neither speak nor write; other voices will sound the note of salvation, other pens will write of the triumphs of the cross.

For the encouragement of our successors, as well as for the truth of history, they should know "what God hath wrought" in our day with the instrumentalities used, along with the successes, the stories of failures in building up our church institutions, with reasons assigned, should also be told, to inspire an emulating zeal in the former as well as to avoid being entrapped in the latter. How can these facts be diffused unless they are written?

I respectfully urge upon the brethren of this conference, one and all, to rescue from oblivion, and preserve for the future historian (whoever he may be,) all the facts and incidents coming under your observation, which would enrich the pages of the history of our branch of the Protestant church in Texas.

With this report, I ask leave to turn over to the conference, the papers the brethren have so kindly furnished and respectfully resign my commission, offering the following resolutions:

Resolved, 1st. That the sketches referred to in the foregoing report be placed in the hands of a careful member of this conference whose duty it shall be to keep them until called for by a person authorized to receive them.

Resolved, 2d. That this conference makes choice of Brother — as said custodian.

Resolved, 3d. That the said brother be requested to collect as much more suitable material for our church history as he conveniently can. All of which is respectfully submitted.

DANIEL MORSE, Appointee, etc.

A Missionary Church.

I have been searching the last three numbers of the ADVOCATE for a reply to its request for the production of the statistics of such churches as have repudiated the doctrine of missions. Not finding the answer, I will give it an off-hand shot; sometimes it is the only chance for game.

We think that individual experience in Christian religion establishes the doctrine of missions; religion is addressed to the under-

standing. It has the principles, the laws, the progressive discoveries of a science. Of all the sciences it is the noblest; for it unfolds the loftiest principles, the most unerring laws, and the most boundless discoveries. As one has said: "It is divinity in the soul." Hence, we have the language of the great I am: "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your father which is in heaven is perfect." Hence, the apostle says: "grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ," implying, speed on with alacrity, in the high vocation to which we are called. They also imply that the spirit of Christianity is a missionary spirit. We learn from the university of experience, and from the great fountain of theology, that religion is progressive in its nature, and must be missionary in spirit. With due consideration upon this important feature of religion, the great apostle says: "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God, and every one that loveth is born of God." Not a certain brotherhood, but a broad spirit of philanthropy, extending through the whole Christian fraternity.

The next argument is drawn from the general body of believers, or the church. One of the most essential elements of prosperity, is a spirit of benevolence in its broadest, and most uninterested sense. Christianity is a system of benevolence; it emanated from God's benevolence, and its means and ends are alike benevolent. One of the reasons why the glory of the church in some localities seems to have departed, is to be reckoned from their selfishness. They seek their own, not the things which are Christ's; they seem to act as if their cause and His cause were two opposite, irreconcilable things. They pursue their aims as steadily, and waste their time as selfishly, as the world around them. No burning desire for the salvation of souls fills their breasts. No holy zeal animates them to deeds of mercy to the perishing. They have no higher aim than worldly ease and prosperity. Is this the execution of the heavenly claims, with which she has been intrusted by the Redeemer of men? Her commission is missionary in its character, and she must obey, or prove recreant to her Savior. It is: "go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." To feel an irrepresible anxiety for the salvation of a ruined world is the crowning endeavor of true discipleship.

Where are those churches, once large and flourishing, which regard the work of sending the gospel to the heathen as a work of man's devising, and withhold their aid from the mission work? In many places, so near extinct that there are not members sufficient to keep up an anniversary. If the church would consult her interest, she must see to it that she is faithfully executing the trust committed to her. The bread of life has been placed within her hands for a famishing world. She has been appointed trustee for the world by the Savior who bequeathed happiness to men.

I learn from the scriptures that the spirit of Christianity is a missionary spirit. I am not to consider myself sent into the world to get wealth and enjoy myself; but that I am Christ's, and must be at my Master's work.

The church is militant and will be so until the archangel sounds the trumpets. Let us attain to higher appreciations of this characteristic feature of that religion, or our candlestick may be removed out of its place. G. L. HINDS.

ALVARADO, TEXAS, Dec. 27, 1878. —Judging from the pleasure it affords me to read in the columns of our ADVOCATE reports from our preachers of their happy reception and the favorable auspices with which the new year is opening up, I presume that a few lines from Alvarado will not be objectionable.

While I cannot boast of anything extraordinary as to the out-goings or in-comings which have fallen in the line of my recent change of locality, it is just to mention the last tokens of regard. The hour of our departure from our home in Waco, was a splendid dinner in the house of our esteemed friend, J. D. Wallace, prepared by his excellent wife—than whom, no one knows better the taste and capacity of a Methodist preacher to enjoy a good meal. Like unto this, was our first token of appreciation upon our arrival. A bountiful meal was spread at the house of Prof. J. A. Patton, whose accomplished lady (an old friend, by the way,) is equally well posted as to the demands of Methodist hospitality.

Our circuit stewards are not yet equal to the demand, if measured by some of our city boards, in providing for the comforts, even luxurious living, of their preachers; and for one, no vote of censure will be cast upon them, for half the pleasure of such an event will vanish

when it comes in answer to demand instead of free will. By a little application in business tact, we are comfortably housed, warmed and fed, and with a strong sense of personal obligation and liability, it becomes a cause of necessity, as well as pleasure, that moves to renewed and doubled diligence in the culture of our field. The greatest cause of gratulation furnished us in the opening aspect, is the abundant resources lying within our reach; upon the utilization of these hang all our hopes of success.

Alvarado is in the midst of a cluster of villages, well-to-do, linked together by an almost unbroken chain of magnificent farms on the north, east, and south, and by the cross-timbers on the west, thickly interspersed with small farms. As to backbone and sinew, this circuit is equal to the very best in the State. Our greatest privation, as compared to other wealthy circuits, is the want of church buildings, for which we trust a speedy remedy will be found; and in the presence of new churches, a fresh impetus will be given to all our movements. As to living, in the sense of bodily subsistence, we need have but little thought this year. Corn is in great abundance and selling at 15 to 20 cents per bushel, and pork at 3 cents per lb. As to currency and coin, the old settlers say its stringency is unprecedented. Our principal school in this section is the Alvarado Masonic Institute. The buildings are commodious and commanding in appearance. A large and increasing patronage; well officered and finely drilled. It is pronounced a success.

Our first quarterly conference is over. The presiding elder, Rev. Horace Bishop—new in his office, but well qualified and a week in advance of the time—put in his appearance. This gave us an opportunity to visit several points together, and post himself as to the wants of the circuit. His sermons were well placed and full of spiritual power.

We are in the midst of our Christmas holidays. Nothing unusual or remarkable has occurred. A Christmas tree for the little folks and a well timed address by Prof. J. A. Patton, was well attended. The writer and wife, together with several friends, paid their compliments to Prof. Yeager yesterday, by sharing in his elegant birthday feast. More anon.

W. R. D. STOCKTON.

Report of the Treasurer of the Board of Missions of East Texas Conference, M. E. Church, South, for 1878.

Grand total, embracing the anniversary collection, (which amounted to \$168), \$1158.97.

Foreign Missions, \$415.50—all of which has been forwarded by draft and a receipt to Bro. J. W. Manier, Treasurer of the Parent Board.

Domestic missions, \$743.47, disbursed as follows: Paid on draft to Rev. E. L. Armstrong, P. E. of the Beaumont district, \$410, for claimants on said district; paid on draft to Rev. J. C. A. Bridges, P. E. of the San Augustine district, \$235.97, for claimants on said district; paid on draft to Rev. R. W. Thompson, P. E. of the Marshall district, \$89.47, for claimants on said district. J. S. MATHIS, Treas.

QUARTERLY REVIEW.

The Quarterly Review of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, is ready for the printer. We have some names from Texas, but, compared with our roll of ministers and members, very few. Shall this remain so? Will the brethren not rally to this important move? I believe they will if they will give due attention to the nature and prospects of the movement.

The price of the Review is three dollars per annum. Secure a name from some of your leading laymen, accompany it with your own, and let me have it as soon as possible, with the understanding that you forward the money to Rev. R. A. Young, D.D., Nashville, Tenn., immediately on the receipt of the first number. F. A. MOOD.

SAN MARCOS, Dec. 31.—We were preparing to retire Sunday night. The clothing for Monday's wear was being put out, when it was discovered that a button was off the shirt. We thought it would be no harm to just tack the button on, as there would be no time for this in the morning. The button, etc., ready, we thought the curtain had better be lowered a little: persons passing might think we were sewing on the Sabbath. Our little girl, three years old, had nestled down in her father's arms; all thought her to be asleep. She raised up and said: "Mamma, Dod tan see you, tan't he?" The button was left off that night.—MOTHER.

TEXANA, Dec. 30.—I send you this communication to let the preachers and church of my district know that I am improving. I have been sick for nearly one month—very sick. Thanks to a kind Providence for my restora-

tion; also to Bro. Wood and wife, at whose house I am finding such a pleasant home, for their great kindness; and to Dr. Bronaugh for his skillful and unremitting attention; wish all the sick could have his services. I hope in a few days to be able to return to my home in Gonzales. That part of the church in the district which I have been able to visit is in good condition. A. A. KILLOUGH.

OUR POSTAL CARDS.

POTTER'S RANCH, TEXAS, Dec. 26.—The work encouraging at Boerne quarterly meeting; good congregation; two joined the church. Christmas-tree near Potter's ranch; all joyful. Sunday-school doing well.

Dec. 28.—Weather rainy and cold. Full quarterly conference, Tucker doing well. Immigrants coming in. Some in tents; room for more. Much good land in spots. Mountains healthy. The church increasing. Rangers on the lookout. No Indians.—W. T. THORNBERRY.

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, Dec. 23.—San Antonio is a wonderful town. Our church (the M. E. Church, South,) is holding its own; no preacher yet, but the Rogers will soon be here; we expect much of him. I spent several days here; the church is very kind to me. Now, if you wish to know how preachers are treated here, come and follow me round in this town of plenty and liberality.—W. T. THORNBERRY.

BUFFALO, LEON CO., TEXAS, Dec. 31.—Mr. Benny Worms, a young merchant of Jewett, who was shot, knocked in the head, and left for dead, by some negroes, is getting well. There have been several shooting combats in this section recently; whisky did his part. This is as brushy and grubby a country as I ever saw, yet it produces astonishingly; crops are good, yet farmers are much in debt from old contracted debts. Cotton, potatoes, tobacco and ribbon-cane, seem to be natural growths here. Mr. Dave Jackson of this county made 1000 gallons of syrup on two acres. Not done making syrup here yet; it sells for 40 to 50 cents per gallon. Hard times—result of scarcity of money. Plenty of rain and cold weather.—SAM'L C. VAUGHAN.

MONTAGUE, TEXAS, Dec. 31.—I have made my first round; health of the country good. Plenty of corn, wheat and pork. No money hardly. I have but few subscriptions for this year, but will try and send you a good list. Weather extremely cold; considerable snow. We are talking church building now, in Montague. Many immigrants coming into Montague—plenty of room and a great need. Tell them still to come. For the past year there have been six suicides in this county. More anon.—S. CRITCHFIELD.

WEATHERFORD, TEXAS, Dec. 26.—We were called to witness the marriage of Miss M. E. Hunter to Mr. J. T. Long, on the 24th, at the residence of the bride's father, Mr. A. J. Hunter; after which we all went to the Christmas-tree at Dean's school-house, and shared liberally of Santa Claus' gifts. The next day we went to a dinner given by the kind people of that vicinity, but just before I was to enjoy the feast, I was called off to attend the burial services of our brother Harden, who died the day before of chills. We greatly mourn the loss with his companion and children.—S. B. ELLIS.

FLORESVILLE, TEXAS, Dec. 28.—Having just finished a thorough supervision of our three Mexican missions of San Antonio, Lodi and Medina and Bandera, I am prepared to say that they are in a healthy and growing condition. Fourteen persons were baptized. All our missions are to observe "watch-night" service. We wish to see the mighty power of God manifested during the new year in the conviction, conversion, and sanctification of hundreds of Mexicans. Let all our friends join their prayers with ours to this end.—A. H. SUTHERLAND.

BONHAM, TEXAS, Dec. 30.—I have almost completed the first round on the Bonham circuit. Find a clever, appreciative people, and the best of all papers (the ADVOCATE) in a number of households; hope to place it in many more. The spiritual condition of the charge is not as good as desired. Superabundance of corn and pork; can't be sold at any price. Several snow falls last week. The health of Fannin County good, and if sickness don't prevail we are all expecting a mighty revival soon on Bonham circuit. Pray for us.—S. B. BUSH.

LINN FLAT, NACOGDOCHES CO., TEXAS, Dec. 29.—Christmas nearly over, and O, such an one; drinking and carousing at every place heard

from. We were called yesterday to attend burial of a young Mr. Boyd, who killed himself accidentally. He was preparing to go driving, had his gun under his arm, when he dropped it on the frozen ground, both barrels going off at the same time. The shot took effect in the right knee ranging up the thigh, causing death in about seven hours. Another young man was struck at the same time by one shot, but not much hurt.—J. T. SMITH.

DALLAS, TEXAS, Jan. 1.—Some one has said, "you need nothing but a congregation to preach to; that is all you want." Does anybody remember that utterance? How little the majority of our chief ministers know of the privations of the frontier work; how little of the ever-recurring and unsatisfied wants of our families. It is one thing to feast on the cream of great commercial and ecclesiastical centres, and discourse upon the "heroism of the days of Coke and Asbury," and write about "Post Oak" circuit and "our church in Sandburg," and quite another to live in rags and eat the stale and musty crumbs on the outposts of Zion. Indeed, we sometimes need everything more than a congregation. The chapel is full, but the store-room and wardrobe are empty! —ATTICUS.

TEXANA, TEXAS, Dec. 28.—Christmas passed off quietly and pleasantly. We have seen no bad conduct thus far. The whole country has been blessed with an abundant rain. Notwithstanding the seemingly great quantity of grass, stock is dying. Some think that it is the continuous pasturage system that constitutes the cause. The ADVOCATE seems to be as popular as the preacher.—M. A. BLACK.

BEDIAS, GRIMES COUNTY, Dec. 29.—Bedias, (pronounced Bedi,) takes its name from a creek, which takes its name from a once powerful tribe of Indians, some half dozen of whom still live in this county. A Christmas tree at the Methodist Church, on Christmas night, was followed by another at the Baptist Church the night after Christmas. The Odd Fellows closed the holidays with a grand supper Saturday night.—CHIEF.

MARSHALL, TEXAS, Dec. 30.—A clever gentleman from Wichita county, spent a night with me recently. He said there were not one hundred persons living in this unorganized county, not exceeding twelve ladies, and no schools nor churches. He went there seven years ago without means, hired out to attend to stock for three years at from \$18 to \$30 per month, and invested his wages in cows; since which time he has sold \$1500 worth of beefs, and has now 405 head. The valleys of Red River and the smaller streams are very fertile and grazing good. The country abounds with wild game. No depredations from the Indians or desperadoes. A good country for men of limited means to take a good start in life.—DANIEL MORSE.

Father Hyacinthe, who has just established himself in Paris, and begun to hold religious conferences or meetings, has addressed a long letter to "Most Reverend Father in Christ," the Archbishop of Canterbury, asking that the reformation which he has begun in France be recognized by the Anglican Communion, and that one of its bishops be appointed provisionally to the oversight of the mission, until the day comes when the new movement may constitute itself an autonomous church. He proposes, he says, to revive the ancient Gallican liturgies and the Gallican Church, which the Vatican Council has suppressed. To this letter the Primate of Scotland, who is a member of the committee of the Lambeth Conference on relations with other communions, replies by request of the Archbishop of Canterbury. He assures Father Hyacinthe of sympathy with his mission in France, and promises to provide for its oversight, though he cannot promise that episcopal functions will be administered until the proposed ritual has been prepared and submitted for examination.

The statistical returns of Methodism for 1879 shows the number of Methodist communicants in the world is 4,489,877, with 104,175 local and traveling preachers. The Methodist population is estimated at 20,000,000. The Methodist Episcopal Church reports 1,688,783 members, 12,560 local and 11,308 itinerant preachers. The gain of members is about 17,000 for the year. Other branches of the denomination bring up the total in the United States to 3,396,999 members, 26,642 local and 22,194 itinerant preachers.

Knowledge and timber should not be much used until they are seasoned.

Texas Christian Advocate

How Doctors Promote Intemperance?

[At a session of the Northwest Texas annual Conference we heard Dr. Mood administer a scathing rebuke to that class of physicians who prescribe spirituous liquors in their practice. The Doctor stated that he had frequently been advised, by physicians to use brandy, whisky, etc., in his own case. We give the following, extracted from an exchange, as in point—and trust it may do good:]

At a meeting held in London, Dr. Munroe, of Hull, related the following fact in his experience in prescribing "stout" in sickness:

A hard-working, industrious, God-fearing man, a tectotaler of some years' standing, suffering from an abscess in his hand, which had reduced him very much, applied to me for advice.

I told him the only medicine he required was rest; and to remedy the waste going on in his system, and to repair the damage done to his hand, he was to support himself with a bottle of stout daily.

He replied: "I cannot take it, for I have been some years a tectotaler."

"Well," I said, "if you know better than the doctor, it is no use applying to me."

Believing, as I did then, that the drink would really be of service to him, I urged him to take the stout as a medicine, which would not interfere with his pledge.

He looked anxiously in my face, evidently weighing the matter over in his mind, and sorrowfully replied:

"Doctor, I was a drunken man once; I should not like to be one again."

He was, much against his will, prevailed upon to take the stout, and, in time he recovered from his sickness. When he got well, I, of course, praised up the virtues of the stout, as a means of saving his life, for which he ought ever to be thankful, and rather lectured him on his foolishness in being such a fanatic (that's the word) as to refuse taking a bottle of stout daily to restore him to his former health.

I lost sight of my patient for some months; but I am sorry to say that on one fine summer's day, when driving through one of our public thoroughfares, I saw a poor, miserable, ragged-looking man leaning against the door of a common public-house, drunk, and incapable of keeping an erect position. Even in his poverty, drunkenness and misery I discovered it was my tectotal patient, whom I had, not long ago, persuaded to break his pledge. I could not be mistaken; I had reason to know him well, for he had been a member of the Methodist Church, an indefatigable Sunday-school teacher, a prayer-leader, whose earnest appeals for the salvation of others I had often listened to with pleasure and edification. I immediately went to the man, and was astonished to find the change which drink, in so short a time, had worked in his appearance. With manifest surprise, and looking earnestly at the poor wretch, I said:

"S—! is this you?"

With a staggering reel, and clipping his words, he answered:

"Yes, it's me. Look at me again. Don't you know me?"

"Yes, I know you," I said, "and am grieved to see you in this drunken condition. I thought you were a tectotaler?"

With a peculiar grin upon his countenance, he said: "I was, before I took your medicine."

"I am sorry to see you disgracing yourself by such conduct. I am ashamed of you."

Rousing himself, as drunken people will do at times to extraordinary effort, he challengingly replied:

"Didn't you send me here for my medicine?"—and, with a delirious kind of chuckle, he hiccupped out words I can never forget:

"Doctor, your medicine cured my body, but it damned my soul!"

Two or three of his boozing companions, hearing our conversation, took him under their protection, and I left him. As I drove away my heart was full of bitter reflections, that I had been the cause of ruining this man's prospects, not only for this world, but for that which is to come.

You may rest assured I did not sleep much that night. The drunken aspect of that man haunted me, and I found myself weeping over the injury I had done him. I rose up early the next morning, and went to his cottage, with his little garden in front, on the outskirts of the town, where I had often seen him with his wife and happy children playing about, but found, to my sorrow, that he had removed sometime ago. At last, with some difficulty, I found him located in a couple of rooms in a low neighborhood, not far

distant from the public-house he had patronized the day before. Here, in such a home as none but the drunkard could inhabit, I found him laid upon a bed of straw, feverish and prostrate from the previous day's debauch, "abusing his wife because she could not get him some more drink—she standing aloof with tears in her eyes, broken down with care and grief, her children dirty and clothed in rags, all friendless and steeped in poverty. What a wreck was there!"

Turned out of the church in which he was an ornament, his religion sacrificed, his usefulness destroyed, his hopes of eternity blasted, how a poor, dejected slave to his passion for drink, without mercy and without hope! I talked to him kindly, reasoned with him, succeeded him until he was well, and never lost sight of him, or let him have any peace, until he had signed the pledge again.

It took him sometime to recover his place in the church, but I have had the happiness of seeing him restored. He is now, more than ever, a devoted worker in the church, and the cause of temperance is pleaded on all occasions. Can you wonder, then, that I never order strong drink for a patient now?"

The Jeweler of Ascalon.

Many years ago I heard Rev. Hosea Ballou preach a sermon on the subject of Filial Love, from the text, "Honor thy father and thy mother," in the course of which he related the following story. Very likely it has been in print. If it has, it will bear printing again.

Dama was the chief jeweler of Ascalon, and eminently distinguished for his exemplary life and many virtues. On a certain occasion a committee of the elders called upon him for the purpose of purchasing precious stones with which to ornament the ephod of the high priest. Diamonds were the stones they sought, and having thus informed the jeweler, they offered him what they considered a fair price for the gems. Dama told them he could not at that time attend to them, and bade them call again later in the day. The elders did not wish to be thus put off; and, moreover, they suspected that this was only a ruse on the part of the jeweler to increase the price of the stones. They persisted in their demand for immediate attention. Diamonds such as only Dama possessed were necessary to complete the ephod, and they offered double and triple the price they had at first proposed. But Dama was immovable, and they finally went away greatly disappointed, not to say wrathful.

Later in the day the elders called again, and Dama placed before them the diamonds they desired, and when they made their selection they tendered to him the higher price which they had last offered.

"No," said the jeweler, "Your first offer was all the stones are worth, and that only will I take."

"Why, then," exclaimed the chief of the elders, in astonishment, "did you not close with that offer this morning?"

"Because," answered Dama, "my father had the key of the chest in which the diamonds were deposited, and he was at that time asleep. He is aged and infirm, and his short hour of sleep was of more worth to him than was your increased offer of price to me. My father has not so many comforts that I can knowingly deprive him of a single one of them."

The High Priest, when he had heard the story, came to the jeweler's house, and laid his hand upon Dama's head, and said:

"Blessed be thou by Him who hath said, 'Honor thy father and thy mother;' and in the time to come, may thy children honor thee as thou hast honored the author of thy being."

Paul's Unwritten Experience.

There are chapters in every man's experience which are acted, not written. Between the lines of St. Paul's story of his conversion, one reads the history of his struggle. What was his restless plunging and backing against the goad that was thrust into his flank, but an effort by vigorous percuting of the churches to crowd down the thoughts which the martyr Stephen's words had sent into the heart of his theology, philosophy, and moral life? The doubts which then sprang up were goads which pricked him forward into a relentless persecution. As he struck at the feeble churches, he thought he was dealing blows also at the inimical thoughts which opposed his Judaism, and the sudden light which shone around him showed him that he was persecuting Jesus, and that Jesus was the Lord who sent the doubts to arouse him. —Fishers of Men in Sunday Afternoon.

Naming the Baby.

"What shall we name this year?" is an important question this year, for the crop, like the wheat, was never better. It is rather soon to undertake to grade them as "No. 1, No. 2, or rejected," and your head and reputation are both safer to pronounce the entire lot No. 1; but the question as to names must be settled at once. One would think nothing was easier than naming the baby, for the world has been full of names for 6,000 years, yet it is a subject that elicits the gravest discussion in the family, and reaches out to the "advisory board" of the neighborhood, and often ends in open dissatisfaction, or a compromise by which the poor child goes through life carrying a premonition crushing enough to break the constitution and make the life of the bearer miserable. A long name is always a disadvantage. For a boy who enters the marts of trade a double name is often a safeguard, and especially so when the middle letter is one seldom used in proper names. The leading name should be short and easily spoken, as the fact is too apparent to every one that if such is not the case a nickname is sure to follow. The case of the girl is entirely different. No girl should be burdened with a double name, no matter how many aunts and grandmothers are to be honored by so doing. A girl should have a single name, and that should be pronounceable and musical. Mehitabel or Jerusha, and like names, may be good and substantial enough, but a young lady sooner or later revolts. Every young lady, as a matter of course, expects to marry, and should not lose her family name by so doing, but simply add that of her husband. She should get her double name by this important act of her life, and not before.

INSENSIBILITY TO PAIN.—Land and Water gives the following, which shows what an unfeeling creature the shark must be: The Esquimaux are in the habit of catching sharks both with nets, baited with salt meat, and with a hook and line. They are hunted for the sake of the oil which is expressed from their livers, and for a substance very much like spermacetti which is obtained under pressure from their flesh. Sir Leopold McClintock says the Esquimaux assert that the shark is insensible to pain, and that Peterzen, who was his interpreter in the voyage of the "Fox," related how he had plunged a long knife into the head of one which was feeding on a white whale entangled in his net, but that the brute continued its repast notwithstanding.

As Sir Leopold remarks, it must be remembered that the brain of a shark is extremely small compared with the size of its huge head, and he says that he himself has seen bullets fired through them with very little apparent effect; but that if these creatures can feel, the devices practiced upon them by the Esquimaux must be cruel indeed. The dogs of the hunters are not allowed to eat either the skin or the head, the former being very rough, and the latter producing giddiness and sickness.

Measurement of Cattle and Hay.

In reply to questions asked by a correspondent, the Chicago Inter-Ocean gives the following directions for ascertaining the weight of cattle and of a mow or stack of hay:

For cattle, measure the girth of the animal, in feet, by a cord around behind the shoulder-blades; then measure the length, from the front of the shoulder-blades to the end of the rump. Multiply the length by the girth. If the animal measures less than 11 feet and more than 9 in girth, multiply this product by 42, and the answer will be the weight in pounds. If it measures less than 9 and more than 7 feet in girth, multiply by 39; if less than 7 and more than 5 by 23; if less than 5 and more than 3, by 16; if less than 3 feet, by 11. For hay, find the cubic feet in the mow or stack, and divide by 500, and the answer will be the tons. But no rule for ascertaining the weight of hay by measurement is reliable, as much depends upon the kind of hay and how it is packed.

Chinese Ingenuity in Carving Ivory Balls.

The skill displayed by the Chinese in carving ivory balls within each other has excited the wonder and admiration of Europeans. Nothing can afford a greater proof of patience and perseverance, as well as of the taste of a Chinese handicraftsman, than one of these elegant baubles, each ball being exquisitely carved, and no two alike in pattern. Each of these balls rolls freely within that which incloses it, and is visible through apertures; so that, however many

there be, the beauties of each can be examined and the number of the whole counted. Much time is spent upon the carving of these toys, for the cleverest artist will employ a whole month in the execution of each separate ball; consequently the labor of two years is not infrequently bestowed on the production of a single toy, which is formed out of a solid globe of ivory, and has no junction in any part. The outside of this globe is first carved in some very open pattern, and is then carefully cut with a fine, sharp instrument through the openings, until a complete coating detached from the solid part inside, as the peel of an orange might be loosened with a scoop from the fruit without being taken off. One hollow ball is thus formed, with a solid one inside of it. The surface of the inner ball is then carved through the interstices of the outer one, and, when finished, is subjected to the same operation as the first, and thus a second hollow ball is produced, still with a solid one of smaller dimensions inside. This process is repeated again and again, the difficulties increasing as the work proceeds, till at length only a small ball, of the size of a marble, is left in the center, which is also ornamented with figures cut upon it, and then the ingenious but useless bauble is complete. This process is said to be performed under water.

The Western Cliff-Dwellers.

Of late, blown over the plains, come stories of strange newly-discovered cities of the far southwest; picturesque piles of masonry, of an age unknown to tradition. These ruins mark an era among antiquarians. The mysterious mound-builders fade into comparative insignificance before the grander and more ancient cliff-dwellers, whose castles lift their towers amid the sands of Arizona and crown the terraced slopes of the Rio Mancos and the Hovenweep (pronounced Hov'-en-weep).

A ruin, accidentally discovered by A. D. Wilson, of the Hayden Survey several years ago, while he was pursuing his labors as chief of the topographical corps in Southern Colorado, is described to me by Mr. Wilson as a stone building, about the size of the Patent Office. It stood upon the bank of the Animas, in the San Juan country, and contained perhaps five hundred rooms. The roof and portions of the walls had fallen, but the part standing indicated a height of four stories. A number of the rooms were fairly preserved, had small loop-hole windows, but no outer doors. The building had doubtless been entered originally by means of ladders resting on niches, and drawn in after the occupants. The floors were of cedar, each log as large around as a man's head, the spaces filled neatly by smaller poles and twigs, covered by a carpet of cedar bark. The ends of the timber were bruised and frayed, as if severed by a dull instrument; in the vicinity were stone hatchets, and saws made of sand-stone slivers about two feet long, worn to a smooth edge. A few hundred yards from the mammoth building was a second large house in ruins, and between the two strongholds rows of small dwellings, built of cobble-stones laid in adobe, and arranged along streets, after the style of the village of to-day. The smaller houses were in a more advanced state of ruin, on account of the round stones being more readily disintegrated by the elements than the heavy masonry. The streets and houses of this deserted town are overgrown by juniper and pinon—the latter a dwarf wide-spreading pine, which bears beneath the scales of its cones delicious and nutritious nuts. From the size of the dead as well as the living trees, and from their position on the heaps of crumbling stone, Mr. Wilson concludes that a great period of time has elapsed since the buildings fell. How many hundred years they stood after desertion before yielding to the inroads of time cannot be certainly known.

The presence of sound wood in the houses does not set aside their antiquity. In the dry, pure air of Southern Colorado wood, fairly protected, will last for centuries. In Asia cedar wood has been kept a thousand years, and in Egypt cedar is known to have been in perfect preservation two thousand years after it left the forest. The cedars throughout the territories of the southwest do not rot, even in the groves. They die a stand erect, solid and sapless. The winds and whirling sands carve the dead trees into forms of fantastic beauty, drill holes through the trunks and play at hide-and-go-seek in the perforated limbs until, after ages of resistance, they literally blow away in atoms of fine, clean dust.

On the Rio San Juan, about twenty-five miles distant from the city of the Animas, Mr. Wilson

discovered the following evening a similar pile, looming solemnly in the twilight near their camping-place. The scene, as described, was weird in the extreme. As the moon arose the shadows of the phantom buildings were thrown darkly across the silvery plain. The blaze of camp-fires, the tiny tents, the negro cook, the men in buckskin hunting garb and the picketed mules made a strange picture of the summer's night, with background of moonlit desert and crumbling ruins, on whose ramparts towered dead, gaunt cedars, lifting their bleached skeletons like sheeted ghosts within the silent watch-towers of the murky past.—From an illustrated article in Scribner for December.

Grain Crop of Europe and America.

Europe produces now on an average 5,000,000,000 bushels of grain, of which Russia produces one-third, Germany and France 520,000,000 each, and Austria 500,000,000. The United States produces 1,600,000,000 bushels, or about the same as Russia. In order to appreciate the advantages of the United States, the population should be taken into account; this is for the United States 40,000,000, and, therefore, we produce forty bushels per head, while Europe, with a population of quite 300,000,000 produces only 16 bushels per head; Russia 26 bushels per head, and Great Britain only 4 bushels per head. As the average quantity of grain consumed per head is 15 bushels, we produce nearly three times as much as we want, Russia scarcely twice its wants, Europe on an average all needed, but Great Britain not much over one-fourth. It will be seen that the general production far surpasses the consumption, but this excess is absorbed by breweries and distilleries all over the world, which do more to keep the price of breadstuffs at a high figure than anything else.

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TO THE TEXAS CONFERENCE.

Our Mission Board is behind with the claims of the missionaries who have served the Church faithfully the past year. Drafts to meet the assessments of the present year will soon fall due. It is important that collections be raised at an early day. Let the amounts be reported through your P. E. or directly to the Treasurer, J. W. Whipple, at Austin.

MISSIONARY REPORTS.—Dr. Wilson requests us to state that the reports from the Secretaries of the Mission Boards of several of the Texas Conferences have not reached him. He desires each one to be prompt.

MINISTERIAL CHANGES.—At his own request, Rev. R. H. Belvin has been relieved from the charge of the Corpus Christi district, and Rev. John B. Denton appointed in his place, while Rev. Alanson Brown takes Bro. Denton's place on the Beeville circuit. F. T. Barnes having resigned the charge of the Rockport circuit, Rev. Harrison A. Graves has been employed to take his place. Rev. C. M. Rogers, of the Legarto circuit, has been appointed to the San Antonio station. This leaves the Legarto circuit unsupplied.

CORPUS CHRISTI.—A Christmas festival was held in the Methodist church on Christmas Eve. The weather was cold, but the indomitable ladies who had the enterprise in charge stood nobly to their work; and, of course, it was a success. The weather grew colder, and during the whole of Christmas day and the day following we had the spectacle, rare in this latitude, of seeing our rose bushes, oleanders and chrysanthums, though in bloom, covered with icicles. On the morning of December 27, the ice was a quarter of an inch thick on a bucket in the open yard.

"BLOODY INSTRUCTION" is the title of a somewhat labored, though timely, editorial in the Galveston News of January 7. It is based, mainly, upon the mobbing of Parker and Barker, near Hico—of which "Josffh" gives intelligence under "Our Postal Cards" heading. It is claimed that the vexatious delays in visiting punishment upon criminals—growing out of defective laws and corrupt officers—is goading oppressed and honest taxpayers into breaking through constitutional barriers and taking the law into their own hands. Such examples call loudly for remedy at the hands of the sixteenth legislature. If, however, our legislature will enact stringent laws against gambling and the whisky traffic, we think all the evils complained of will be abolished. All our corrupt officials are elected through the whisky and gambling influences, and most of the crime is a result of the same.

IS THERE NO RELIEF.

A few weeks ago, we published a circular which revealed a deliberate effort to control the legislature of the State in the interest of the saloon men of Texas. This aggressive movement on the part of a business which entails unmixed evil on society, should arouse every friend of law and order to the necessity of such legislation as will secure the enforcement of the laws against gambling. It is a notorious fact, that though it is an offence against the laws of the State to keep a gambling house, or to stake money in games of chance, the law is violated with impunity in every town and village, as well as every city in the State. Other crimes are punished, but with reference to gambling the law is a dead-letter on the statute books. Judges, in their charges, seek to enforce the authority of the law upon the empaneled jury; the prosecuting attorney summons witnesses, and yet, though there is not a night in the three hundred and sixty-five which measure the year when the law is not violated boldly and openly, only a few are indicted; and when these are convicted, they are punished with a fine so insignificant that judge and jury feel that each is playing a part in a miserable farce. The first difficulty encountered in the enforcement of the law is to find evidence before the grand jury which will justify an indictment. We will not attempt to decide how elastic men's consciences become on such occasions, or how conscientiously they dread the possibility of telling too much. They admit, under oath, that they have been present when gambling has been going on, but are often most singularly forgetful as to the parties who were present. With a prodigious effort, they may remember the names of the keepers of the gaming tables; but, with the help of skillful questioning on the part of a practiced prosecutor, they are often utterly unable to recall the names of scores of men who have elbowed them night after night before the faro-bank, or crossed their legs for hours together under the card-table. The indictments are most frequently against men who make the offence their trade, and who regard the law and its penalties a periodical joke. They usually plead guilty. The jury, made up of men of tender heart, or possibly of men who, if the memory of the witness before the grand jury had not been so treacherous, would have been indicted themselves, place the fine at the lowest figure the law allows; and with ten dollars and cost paid, the farce is ended till the next term of court. A man who wins hundreds or thousands of dollars in a single night feels but little distress over a ten dollar fine. The proprietor of a faro-bank who pays twenty dollars per night for the services of "dealers" and "cappers," and adorns his saloon with princely munificence, feels the pressure of such penalty about as heavily as did the fabled ox the weight of the fly which was sunning itself on one of his horns.

Either our laws are defective or our officers are faithless. It is possible that both of these causes are in operation. The attention of our law-makers is invoked to these flagrant outrages. A law which imposes a fine that the offender will feel and which cannot be reduced to a contemptible minimum by the jury; and imprisonment for every offense, and confiscation of tools and paraphernalia used, may be classed among the leading wants of the times. As saloon men are taking steps to break down the feeble barriers with which society has been seeking to guard itself against this flood of evil, it is time that law-abiding citizens should bestir themselves and demand of the approaching legislature the enactment of such laws as will make its authority felt by the offender. The judges who now fill the bench in the different districts, could, if their advice were sought, suggest such amendments to the law as would insure its enforcement. There is a suspicion in the minds of many thoughtful men that laws are sometimes designedly

framed with flaws which favor the escape of the offender. The law-abiding citizens of Texas are growing weary of the burden which this parade of good laws that cannot be enforced, and judges and prosecuting attorneys and an expensive police through whose fingers the bold offenders slip without incurring the penalty which the law was designed to impose. Nine-tenths of the bloody and fatal rencontres which crowd the columns of our sensational papers, find their origin in the whisky saloon or at the card-table. The swarm of saloon men whose trade yields no valuable product, but breeds brawls, impels men to bloody deeds, drains the hard-handed mechanic of his earnings, beggars wives and children, brutalizes manhood and wrecks the morals of young men by the thousand every year, is becoming an intolerable burden. Let the press give voice to the demand that our legislature shall enact laws which will abate these evils. Let the efforts of the saloon men be met by the tax-payers, who bear the cost of courts which find their chief employment in hunting down and punishing crime which has its origin in the saloon or gambling-hell. Let the friends of law and order demand such legislation as will compel the officers who assume their oaths of office to meet their obligations. Let penalties be imposed with which no pettifogger can juggle and which no jury can construe in the interests of the offender.

The Galveston Christian Advocate criticises the News severely, for publishing articles of questionable propriety. We would ask the Advocate if the publication of the advertisement of Henry Ward Beecher's newspaper is not equally as reprehensible, considering the estimate that the public have of that man's character.—Belton Courier.

By the Galveston Christian Advocate, is meant, of course, the TEXAS CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE. We wish, however, our journalistic friends would observe the distinction. The ADVOCATE is not a Galveston institution, by any means. The place from which the paper is published could be changed without in the least interfering with the patronage we receive. The fact is, we are beginning to be of opinion that it would advantage the paper to remove it to some point which will show more appreciation of the enterprise.

But to the Courier's criticism: We submit that the Christian Union is not Mr. Beecher's paper. He is merely one of the editors. Papers should be judged upon their own merits. There is a wide difference between the mention of a paper with which a man happens to be connected and the disgusting details of the crimes with which he is charged. The publication of the Beecher trial, with all its obscenity, was as demoralizing as many other publications. We did not criticise the character of the proprietors of the News, but the character of its sensational columns. We did not censure denunciations of vice on the part of the press, but the style in which offensive details were dished up to suit the impure and morbid tastes of readers. Our position, we are sure, will be approved by every thoughtful parent. A family paper and a police gazette are two different products of the press.

"THERE are 812 places in New Orleans where the temperance lecturer can wet his whistle."—Galveston News.

The point in this specimen of wit is found in the thrust it contains at one of the moral movements of the age. If the temperance lecturers are in the habit of wetting their whistles at drinking saloons, they are a set of consummate hypocrites. If they are honest men, the News is guilty of slander.

MISSIONARY COLLECTIONS.—It is of special importance that preachers be prompt in their Missionary collections. Delay until the close of the year is one cause of failure. We ought never to risk so important an interest upon the possibility of a rainy Sunday.

MODERN DRAMA.

The modern theatre is often defended as a school of morals by the secular press. No man living is better able to measure the merits of the stage than Edwin Booth, one of the most eminent tragedians of his day. In a note to the Christian Union, he has the following to say of the modern drama:

"My knowledge of the modern drama is so very meagre that I never permit my wife or daughter to witness a play without previously ascertaining its character. This is the method I pursue. I can suggest no other, unless it might be by means of a 'dramatic censor,' whose taste or judgment might, however, be frequently at fault. If the management of theatres could be denied to speculators and placed in the hands of actors who value their reputation and respect their calling, the stage would at least afford healthy recreation, if not, indeed, a wholesome stimulus to the exercise of noble sentiment. But while the theatre is permitted to be a mere shop for gain—open to every huckster of immoral gimcracks—there is no other way to discriminate between the pure and base than through the experience of others."

Mr. Booth tried the experiment of running a theatre on correct moral principles. He expended a fortune in the building and its adornment. The house was large and well appointed, the scenery was magnificent, and none but first class actors trod the boards. The plays were of the highest standard both as to their intellectual power and moral tone. The most fastidious taste was not shocked by an impure suggestion in word or look. His theatre was a failure, and at the same time, Black Crook, the vilest of the "leg drama," has made fortunes for the managers who presented the lascivious performance. In Galveston, the same law controls the patronage of the Opera House. Whenever it panders to the baser passions of our nature, the house is crowded from parquette to gallery. Mr. Booth makes it his business to consult the programme in order to prevent his wife and daughters being brought in contact with a performance that would bring a blush to the cheek of modesty. With the larger portion of the patrons of the opera, it would appear that the bills are searched for a different purpose.

OUR CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT.

Under the census of 1870, Texas is entitled to six representatives in the lower house of the Congress of the United States. In numerical order, the first district comprises 21 counties in Southeastern Texas, and polled 18,276 votes, of which, John H. Regan received 18,038. Cherokee is the most populous county in the district, having cast 2,346 votes—the only county with over 2000 voters.

The second district has 19 counties, and polled 31,231 votes; of which, 19,728 were for E. B. Culbertson. This district has five counties that polled over 2,000 votes. Harrison, 3,357; Fannin, 3,347; Lamar, 3,001; Hopkins, 2,418; Hunt, 2,406.

The third district has 26 counties, and polled 56,724 votes; of which, Olin Wellborn received 40,848. This district has the following counties with over 2,000 voters each: Grayson, 5,777; Dallas, 5,452; Tarrant, 4,309; Collin, 4,026; Ellis, 3,516; Johnson, 3,070; Cook, 2,782; Hill, 2,612; Kaufman, 2,570; Denton, 2,413; Parker, 2,105; Wise, 2,006.

The fourth district has 21 counties, and polled 40,340 votes; of which, Roger Q. Mills received 30,536. The following counties have over 2,000 votes: McLellan, 4,101; Robertson, 3,635; Harris, 3,621; Bell, 3,311; Navarro, 2,702; Brazos, 2,360; Freestone, 2,190; Falls, 2,120.

The fifth district has 21 counties, and polled 40,888 votes; of which, G. Wash. Jones received 21,101. The most populous counties are Galveston, whose vote was 4,666; Washington, 4,457; Fayette, 3,936; Travis, 4,706; Milam, 2,785; Bastrop, 2,742; Colorado, 2,580; Williamson, 2,245; Austin, 2,204.

The sixth district contains 45 counties, and cast 34,874 votes; of

which, Gustave Schleicher received 19,100. Only three counties cast over 2,000 votes: Bexar, 4,500; Cameron, 2,452; and Gonzales, 2,400.

An inspection of the above figures shows that the votes cast in the first district were less than a third of those cast in the third, and less than half cast in the fourth and fifth districts; which shows conclusively the necessity for a re-districting of the State to equalize representation; as now, a voter in the first district has as much influence in Congress as three in the third, or two in the fourth and fifth.

There are 153 counties whose votes were cast and counted. The total vote, as reported, was 222,342. Allowing for absentees, the voting population may be estimated at 250,000; and allowing each elector to represent a family of five persons, the total population of the State is, 1,250,000. The ten most populous counties rank as follows, judging from their votes: Grayson, Dallas, Travis, Galveston, Bexar, Washington, Tarrant, McLellan, Collin, and Fayette.

ABOUT THAT FRATERNAL MORSEL.

The Southwestern, the organ of the M. E. Church (North), published at New Orleans, complains of the "Fraternal Morsel," which appeared in the ADVOCATE some weeks ago. If our comments were severe, then Dr. Hartzell and others, who lecture in the North about fraternity, etc., in the South, should be more careful as to their phraseology. If, when he asserted that "fraternity was a myth, except when conquered and compelled," he meant a fraternity to be conquered and compelled by Christian love, he ought to have said so. Some of the Southern preachers have very distinct recollections of the compulsion that was laid upon us a few years ago. Here in Galveston a Southern Methodist preacher was ordered out of his church and pulpit by military authority, and the house and pulpit placed in the charge of a preacher of the Methodist Episcopal Church (North). We are willing to forget these events, and have accepted fraternity in good faith. When it is published to the world that our fraternity is a myth, we understand it as a charge that our professions to fraternity are false. If the representatives of Northern Methodism persist in publishing such charges in their official press, they must not be surprised if people should interpret their expressions by the rules which govern the English language. We are weary of grand fraternal flourishes at General Conferences which are followed by the declarations made through the official organs of the church (North), that in the South "fraternity is a myth, only when conquered and compelled." If the church in the North, or its friends, complain that these men do not represent that church, then let it be more wise in the choice of their representatives.

The Northwestern Christian Advocate, of Chicago, commends the TEXAS CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE, in the following terms:

"The Southern Methodist Texas Advocate, Galveston, edited by Dr. I. G. John, is fighting a brave battle in that State against public and personal vice in high places. We rejoice at the pluck and persistency with which he fearlessly tells the truth. Some people call such a warrior brave, but they do not understand that plain, kind, but fearless denunciation of sin comes very naturally from some men. It is a wonder that all papers and pulpits do not see that even Satan and sinners have profound contempt for God's servants who wear gloves during battle. The editor or minister who is too polite, too 'cultured,' and too 'philosophical' to tell the plain truth, is a very usable reinforcement to evil. It is possible to love the sinner even when occasion warrants pounding him out of his sins. Evil-doers in Christ's times were sometimes 'wandering sheep,' and sometimes 'generations of vipers,' 'liars,' and 'thieves.' You sometimes find the wreck of honor in very mean business. If you but tell the truth, and let light shine through the facts, many sinners will quit their business in disgust."

RESULT OF "CLUB ROOMS AND PRIVATE QUARTERS."

The announcement this week of the defalcation of Thomas Reed, cashier of the First National Bank, of Galveston, for \$27,000, fell on the business community of this city, like a thunderbolt from a clear sky. One week ago, no man stood higher among the business men of Galveston than this man—to-day, he is a fugitive from home and friends, with an ineffaceable blot upon his name. Many explanations to this strange affair are offered. One is in many minds and on many lips: We will guarantee that nine-tenths of the business men of his acquaintance, when they heard the startling intelligence, asked the same question: "Has he been gambling?" So well satisfied are they that the "private quarters" of gentlemanly gamblers lead straight to defalcation or darker deeds, that, if it should appear that he has been frequenting these resorts of vice, it will be accepted as a sufficient explanation of this terrible denouement. We are informed that this is the true history of the case. We have been assured that for months, with others well known in our city, this unhappy man has been found in one of the "club-rooms, or private quarters" of Galveston. The down-grade on which he was descending, brought him to the inevitable moral crash. Others are on the same track. When will society take warning?

TEXAS MISSIONARY CONTRIBUTIONS.

We believe it was one of the former Presidents of the United States who originated a phrase which has become famous, if not classic—"Comparisons is odious." In publishing the account of the proceedings of the West Texas Conference it was stated that our contributions for foreign missions furnished a forcible text for Bishop Keener's Missionary Address. This somewhat disparaging remark has been copied, so far as we have seen, by the whole family of Advocates. The reports from all the Texas Conferences have come to hand; and we have taken the trouble to look into them, to see if our little "West Texas" is so far behind her sister conferences in missionary contributions. The following table shows the aggregate number of members in the four conferences named, and the amount per member contributed to the general mission cause, including the collections for foreign and domestic missions, on the several charges, adding the anniversary collections, which, at our conference at San Marcos, amounted to \$250:

Conference	No. of Members	Missionary Amt. per Cont. Member
West Texas	6,357	\$1.97
Northwest Texas	23,367	3.45
North Texas	21,967	3.80
Texas	7,291	2.04
East Texas	11,582	1.90

As was eminently right and proper, the old Texas Conference, having the commercial cities of Galveston and Houston, and the State capital, with its wealth and influence, should lead all her sisters; but little West Texas is not so far behind as to be held up to criticism. But, enough! The contributions of our people to the great cause of the world's conversion are inexcusably meagre, and should be doubled and quadrupled during the coming year.

The total number reported this year is 69,974, an increase of 2462 over last year, though from an error in the published minutes of the North Texas Conference last year there appeared to be a decrease. The only conference in which there is an actual decrease is the Texas Conference, in which there is a decrease of 250. The largest increase is in the Northwest Texas Conference—1461; in the West Texas the increase is 680; North Texas, 124; and in East Texas the increase is 451. Comparatively, and considering the immense immigration to our State, our aggregate increase in the year just closed is very small, and should lead us to earnest searchings of heart, and a determined effort to do better the coming year. H. S. F.

Every man is a volume if you know how to read him. It takes brains to appreciate brains.

Texas Christian Advocate

Temperance.

The Maine Liquor Law.

The State of Maine has now had twenty-seven years' experience of its prohibitory liquor law. It was established in 1851, and no exception is to be made for the short time during which it was abolished, for that period constituted a very necessary part of the experience. What now is its position? Has it grown stronger or weaker? This is a question of great significance. It is supposed that a people of ordinary intelligence is capable of comprehending the drift, tendency, and value of a law in the course of twenty-seven years. It is a simple trial, involving their common social and daily interests. If they cannot become acquainted with one of their own simple laws in twenty-seven years, so as to form a safe judgment upon it, pray how long a time should they have? One generation has nearly passed away in the meantime, transmitting its views and experience as it goes along.

Now it is capable of unquestionable proof that the Maine Law was never so firmly fixed in the convictions, judgments, and determination of the people as at present. Both political parties alike espouse it. This is very nearly a demonstration. For if either party saw the least hope of gaining more votes than it would lose by assailing it, who believes it would be unassailed a single week? At this day both parties accept it as a foregone conclusion that whoever attacks it digs his own political grave.

Another proof is, that every Legislature does something to make the law more efficient in its working and in all points conformable to sound and efficient legislation.

But a third and final proof is, that the attacks upon the law are outside of the State. There are many benevolent individuals, travelers, or residents of neighboring States, who are distressed about this law. We possess quite a collection of attacks upon it from outsiders. They are of two directly opposite views. One class is distressed because the law is so severely executed. It is impossible for a decent man, a gentleman, to obtain the liquor he needs. He must call a doctor and persuade him to give a medical prescription for it, and then ten to one the city agent, who alone can sell it, is not in his office. The poor, thirsty traveler leaves the place with curses, but fares no better at the next. He indignantly claims the right to drink when he pleases, as much as he pleases, and to be as drunk or as sober as he pleases. The people of Maine reply, No, not by our permission. A drunken man is either a fool or a madman. Both are dangerous to themselves or others, in different ways. We will not allow you to become either on our soil, so far as we can legitimately prevent it.

But another class take the opposite ground, and ridicule the law as wholly inoperative, as worse than nothing. They report more drunkenness in Maine than ever before, and are quite concerned about our morals. According to them, the Maine Law has ruined the business of the State, driven away capital, and caused a vast increase of intemperance! Now both these opposite representations cannot be true. If it be so difficult to obtain a glass of liquor that travelers bitterly complain, the State must be very far from general intemperance.

But there are perfectly reliable statistics which decide the question. It is admitted by all that secret distilling can scarcely exist. The people very generally determined that it should not exist; and looking upon all who would engage in it as low, vile, lawless men, who would also steal and murder, but for fear and cowardice, the detection and summary condemnation to fine, imprisonment, and confiscation, are too certain to allow of its existence in any force.

Now, what do the most trustworthy statistics show with regard to the effect of the Maine Law in Maine?

First, as to its open, authorized sale: Before the passage of the prohibitory law, there were 2,000 places where rum and other liquors were sold, amounting to \$10,000,000 annually. Now there are about 100 town agencies, and their sales amount to \$100,000 annually, for medical and mechanical purposes; about fifteen cents per inhabitant, as shown by ex-Governor Dingley. The population of the State was then 450,000, and the cost of intoxicating liquors was \$22.22 to each inhabitant.

But to get at the real facts, we must add the private use and surreptitious sale, which are matters of conjecture. Few would place them so high as \$1,000,000. The population is now 625,000. This

would give us \$1.75 to each inhabitant, against \$22.22.

On the old system we should now be expending, with our increase of population, \$13,888,000. The State doubtless saves full \$12,000,000 every year by this law. The people being fully convinced of this, will not abolish the law in order to accommodate a set of would-be rum-sellers and manufacturers—men who grow rich by making others poor, and whose ultimate influence upon society is best seen in the courts of justice, the jails, the almshouses, and the taverns.

With these statistics the views of judicious men of the largest experience fully accord. Ex-Governor Dingley, after presenting an immense array of statistics of the past and present, adds, "Not only my own observation, but also the observation of every public man whose position has given him an opportunity to know the facts, sustain the whole drift of the statistics I have presented."

A mayor of the city of Portland, in a message to the City Council, affirmed, that "the quantity of liquor now sold is not one-fiftieth part as much as it was before the enactment of the law."

But it is true that in the cities—fortunately we have but few—the law cannot be executed as in the country. But the same is true of other laws. Theft, violence, fraud are tenfold more in proportion to numbers than in the country. Further and more stringent legislation will, ere long, grapple with this evil, and the cities will not be allowed to cherish nests of poison, corruption, crime, and death any more than they would be allowed to have a pest-house for the diffusion of smallpox. Even in cities, however, the evil is very much restrained. Drunkenness and all the means to produce it are driven into hiding-places, and are regarded as works of darkness, in the same category with theft and robbery.

But for the greatest achievements of the law, we must go into the country. Some time since we visited a farming town familiarly known to us in former times, and had a conversation with three of the intelligent farmers of the place about the Maine Law. As their views clearly represent the views of the great majority of men of their class, let us give them in substance and in a very compact form as from one man.

We said: "Mr. A., your roads are excellent, the houses and barns seem to be in good order, shade-trees abundant, and many other signs of thrift, but we have passed two farms that are growing up into wood-lands."

"Yes," he replied, "our population has diminished by nearly three hundred in the last twenty-five or thirty years; but our farms produce more than they ever did before."

Being asked for an explanation of that, he replied: "There are three chief reasons. One is our improved implements of agriculture. Our mowers, reapers, tedders, cultivators, etc., enable us to do more work with less hands. I am now an old man, but I can cultivate more land and produce larger crops than when I was twenty-five; for now the horses and oxen do the work, even to the digging of potatoes, which is a great crop with us."

"A second reason is, that we farmers have learned that in order to get a good crop out of the ground, we must put something into it to make the crop grow. We make a great deal of dressing for the soil in various ways that we never thought of in old times."

But the third reason and the greatest, is the Maine Law. Forty years ago there were seventy drunkards in this place, with only fifteen hundred inhabitants, and more than that number of hard drinkers. Now there are no hard drinkers and only two drunkards that I know of. Where they get their rum the Lord knows, or perhaps I should say the devil knows. They can't buy a drop in this town. The Maine Law has painted the houses and surrounded them with shade trees. We have better clothing, better furniture, more books and papers, better schools, and more property than we had forty years ago, although most of the young men go to the West."

"But," said we, "what has improved your roads so much?"

"We are proud of our roads," he replied. "We know better how to make them so that they will stand and wear well. This going West is a foolish thing. A man who will stay at home and study his ground, and study his crops, and make a good use of all his advantages, will do as well here, in nine cases out of ten, as he will at the West."

We took pains to verify so far as possible these representations, which were given with much good sense and judgment. Visiting quite a number of houses, we saw in some small but well-selected

libraries. Forty years ago you might have seen the Bible, Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress, Robinson Crusoe, and possibly a History of New England. Now there were to be seen Histories of England and of the United States, and books of Poetry, of Travel, and of Biography. Besides these some agricultural newspapers and other periodical literature lay on the table. Photographs, of course, adorned the wall; and it is well that they have taken the place of the miserable daubs which used occasionally to be seen. The signs of general comfort were unmistakable. The signs of increased intelligence were equally plain. Not wealth, but comfort; not struggling ambition, but quiet and contentment seemed to reign. If there was no startling progress, there was steady, silent growth, which is much better.

The observations made by us in that individual place we have made in a more cursory manner in many other places. We have passed through the whole length of the State from New Hampshire to New Brunswick, and have conversed with people of every class, and we can bear the most decided testimony that the Maine Law is not only a great success, but it is most firmly established in the hearts of an immense majority of the people.

This is further proved by the fact that almost every year increases its efficiency. Its weak points are from time to time strengthened. Objectionable points are modified; but no one attempts to relax it; no one dares assail it. Whoever wishes to see the Maine Law in its present form, together with other liquor laws of the United States, can obtain a pamphlet of 138 pages postpaid, by sending his address with twenty-five cents to J. S. Stearns, Publishing Agent, 58 Reade street, New York. The excellence of the Maine Law, however, is in its execution. The people sustain it. They have considered well the evils of intemperance, and have decided to do away with them.

The present Legislature has only responded to the known sentiments of the people in passing without one dissenting voice the following preamble and resolution: "WHEREAS, The use of alcoholic liquors as a beverage has a direct tendency to destroy domestic happiness, corrupt society, encourage crime, and drag men down to poverty, pauperism, degradation and ruin; therefore,

"Resolved, That the noble men and women of the State of Maine, who have so faithfully and earnestly labored to suppress the evils of intemperance, and to reform and elevate the inebriate, are entitled to and should receive the commendation and earnest support of all good people in their own borders."

In the enactment of the first law in 1851, the vote was, in the House, eighty-six to forty; in the Senate, eighteen to ten. In the passage of the last stringent addition to the law in 1877, there was not a dissenting voice, either in the House or Senate.

Whatever may be the opinion of the Maine Law abroad, the above stated facts manifestly prove that the people of Maine like it, are determined to maintain and perfect it, and are reaping inestimable blessings from it.—Extract from an article by Cyrus Hamlin, D. D., in Southern Presbyterian.

Care for Drunkenness.

A person thus afflicted can easily supply himself with the remedies used at all inebriate asylums, and be his own physician, at his own home, without the necessary expense and publicity of visiting any reformatory institution. His laboratory need contain only a small quantity of cayenne pepper, a pot of concentrated extract of beef, and a few grains of bromide of potassium. When the desire for alcoholic drinks recurs, make a tea from the cayenne pepper, as strong as can be taken with any degree of comfort; sweeten it with milk and sugar, and drink. This tea will supply the same place that a glass of liquor would fill, and will leave no injurious effect behind. Repeated daily as often as the appetite returns, it will be but a few days before the sufferer will have become disgusted with the taste of the pepper, and with the appearance of this disgust disappears the love of liquor. The fact is proved every day. The extract of beef is to be made into beef tea, according to the directions on the pot, in such quantities as may be needed for the time being, and furnishes a cheap, easily-digested, and healthy nutriment—it being made "to stay on the stomach" when heavier articles of food would be rejected. The bromide of potassium is to be used carefully, and only in case of extreme nervousness—the dose being from fifteen to twenty grains, dissolved in water. This is a public exhibit

of the method of treatment adopted at the inebriate asylums. In addition thereto the drinking man should surround himself with influences which tend to make him forget the degrading associations of the barroom, and lift him upward. He should endeavor, so far as his business vocations will permit, to sleep, bathe, and eat regularly, and obey the laws of health. By the adoption of this course, energetically and sincerely, no man who has the will to reform can fail to do so.—From Sunday Magazine.

WHEN DOES DRUNKENNESS BEGIN.—Let Liverpool notoriety supply us with some light upon so distressing a subject. During 1877 the following arrests took place for being drunk and incapable alone: Under the age of ten years—boys, 95; girls, 18. Between 10 and 12 years old—males, 217; females, 32. Between 12 and 14 years old—males, 301; females, 41. Between 14 and 16 years old—males, 459; females, 56. Between 16 and 18 years old—males, 668; females, 299. Between 18 and 21 years old—males, 1,872; females, 1,311. With the increase of age we see an increase of the power of drunkenness, but among the female offenders it is to be noted that from 16 to 18 the increase on the side of the women is wholly out of proportion to that on the other side. They are more than five times as many as were tabulated for the period of life immediately preceding. The next stage shows in both sexes a great addition to the baneful habits, but it will be seen that whereas the male drunkards are not quite three times more numerous at this period, the female drunkards are nearly in the proportion of five to one over their previous enumeration.

J. B. BARTON,

Agent for Keop's Celebrated Shirts. 174-Tremont Street, Galveston-174. Finest Quality Dress Shirts, 6 for \$9; second quality Dress Shirts, 6 for \$8; best Jean Drawers, good heavy Knit Undershirts, 35 cents. Best Cotton Flannel Underwear, per suit, \$1.35 to \$1.75. Best Red Flannel Underwear, per suit, \$2.75. Quality guaranteed. Send for price list and directions for self-measurement. No stamp required.

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BEAUTIFY YOUR HOMES—MAKE THEM ATTRACTIVE to yourselves and families, is a duty as well as a pleasure.

The experience of nearly a life-time as HORTICULTURISTS, enables us to offer to lovers of the useful and beautiful in nature a CLASS OF PLANTS THAT WE ARE SURE WILL GIVE SATISFACTION.

Home-Grown & Adapted to our Climate, COMPRISING

Fruits, Flowers & Ornamentals,

Both Deciduous and Evergreen.

Our collection of ROSES is the best and most extensive in the State.

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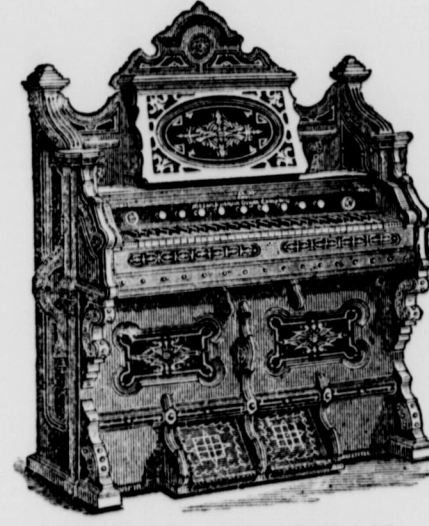
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Fine Farm for Sale! 400 Acres of as Good Land as there is in Texas. 275 in FINE STATE OF CULTIVATION. Good Barns and Out-lots, with Good Wells.

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Buy the Genuine "Scovill" Hoe. It is acknowledged by all to be the best. Notice TRADE-MARK AND LABEL. Beware of "SCOVILL PATTERNS," so-called.



Texas Christian Advocate

It sounds strangely to hear of an "escaped nun" of the Protestant kind. But there are "Sisters of Mercy" in the Church of England, with a "Lady Superior." They wear a costume, and have crosses on their breasts. Lately one of them changed her mind, after having had some stolen interviews with a young man and threw aside the conventual dress, escaped from the convent, and was married.

A meeting of the clergymen of the Evangelical churches of Cleveland, Ohio, heartily and unanimously indorsed the proposal lately made by Mr. Wood and the clergy of Baltimore, that a united effort be made by all the churches in the United States in the month of January, following the week of prayer, toward a general revival throughout the land, and expressing the hope that the response will be general.

The San Antonio Herald describes a portion of Menard county as follows: The head springs of the San Saba are near Fort McKavett, in the western end of the county, and for 50 miles this clear, limpid stream runs swiftly through its centre, in one of the richest valleys in the State. In Menard, this valley is from one to three miles wide, is composed of rich mesquite soil, level and easily irrigated from the river. Heavy bottom timber is usually found on the side of the stream opposite the valley; back from the river as far as the eye can reach, extend the uplands covered with grass and affording most excellent pasture. In some places, the limestone ridges, covered with oak, jut in upon the stream and add much to the beauty of the scene. Menardville, the county seat, is a small town on the banks of the San Saba river, a mile below old Fort San Saba. Two stores, one hotel, courthouse and jail, a law office and some dozen dwellings make up the village.

There has been a disagreement in England between the two Bishops of the Reformed Episcopal Church—Bishops Gregg and Studden—and a published card states that all communications relating to the Reformed Episcopal Church must now be addressed to the latter. Bishop Gregg has on his own motion, consecrated another Bishop, hence his virtual excommunication.

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BYRANT.—A. R. Bryant was born in the State of Arkansas on the 21 day of January, 1851; died at Bellville, December 1, 1878. Bro. Bryant joined the M. E. Church, South, at Rocky Mount, in Grimes county, in 1876, and has since been a consistent Christian from that time. He was a faithful sabbath-school worker, having served either as teacher or superintendent during his entire life. He was a member of the M. E. Church, South, since that time, he has been a consistent faithful good man. A man of decision of character—one of sterling worth in all the departments of life. As a husband—kind, and a father—affectionate, and as a friend—always the same. Bro. Bryant was twice married; his last wife lived with him a short time, and then passed away to his reward. We are poorer now than when he lived.—A. A. KILGORE.

BRONKHORST.—Alec James Bronkhorst was born in Belmont county, Ala., December 21, 1829; died at his residence in this county, Texas, November 25, 1878. Bro. Bronkhorst was one of his day—an everyday Christian at home as well as abroad. He was a devoted family man. May God help them to follow his example. D. S. WATKINS.

KONE.—Died at the residence of his brother, E. R. Kone, Esq., in San Marcos, Texas, Oct. 21st, 1878. Bro. Charles L. Kone, aged 21 years, six months and eighteen days. About ten days before his death, he accidentally fell upon a rake, a tooth of which entered one of his feet, resulting in lockjaw. Three days before his death it became evident to his friends and friends, that his sufferings, then became painful and distressing in the extreme, must prove fatal. The announcement of his danger created no alarm. He felt, as he told the writer, that the Lord would do right with him. At our last evening meeting he had consecrated himself anew to God and to His service, and was living a more satisfactory Christian life than at any time since he joined the church.

During his illness he was visited and prayed with by a number of the preachers then in attendance on the session of the Conference. He enjoyed these visits very much. Many of the preachers he had known from his childhood. His father's home had been their home. They were with him in his dying hour. As the final hour approached, the convulsions became agonizingly distressing and protracted, but each interval was improved by prayer, and the exercise of faith in God. "For Christ's sake, Amen," were about the last words that fell from his lips. A large concourse of people, led by his remains to the family graveyard. His sorrowing mother, brothers and sisters may look forward to a reunion with him in heaven.—O. A. FISHER.

SHEPHERD.—Died at Elysian Fields, Harrison county, Texas, on the 8th of December, 1878, of cholera, Mr. Josiah L. Shepherd, in his eighty-eighth year of his age. The death of Mr. Shepherd requires from his friends more than a passing notice. He was a man of no ordinary talents, and his acquirements were distinguished, and to many who knew him and who embraced all his friends—his memory is cherished as a sacred legacy. He was a native of Virginia, where, in his childhood, he became an orphan, but found kind friends, who protected, cared for and educated him during the tender years of childhood and youth. He afterward lived for several years in the State of Georgia, and in 1839 removed to Elysian Fields, Texas, where he engaged in the mercantile business, which he continued to the close of his life. As a man, a citizen, a merchant, he was without reproach. His social habits were excellent, and his business transactions with the world was ever characterized by a high sense of honor and uprightiness. He was, in truth, an excellent citizen, and in every sense a true and noble man. But while these qualities attached to and distinguished him in his relations to and with the world, it was in his domestic life, in his own household, that his self-sacrificing and devoted character was most conspicuously and prominently exhibited. While he was liberal in his public and private benefactions, and to nothing more so than to the cause of religion, he yet seemed to realize the fact that a great and important responsibility rested upon him, that of providing faithfully and honestly for his own household—those who were dependent upon him. This sacred duty he did most faithfully perform to the last hour of his life. Mr. Shepherd was a Christian; a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. His Christian faith was sincere, and his Christian faith and character were revealed more by deeds than words. He died fully assured that he was going to a better world and to a higher and better life. No one who knew him doubts this. To society to the community in which he lived, to the Masonic Order of which he was a member, and to his church, his loss is a heavy one. To his wife, the partner of his joys and sorrows, he had no children; his loss is, in this world, irreparable. Let her remember that he is not dead, nor even sleeping, but that in spirit he still lives, and is perhaps even nearer her, and will yet meet her "beyond the River"—the River of Death, which we must all cross some day. May God grant divine protection, and that peace that passeth understanding to the bereaved and sickened ones. H.

MARY K. BOWMAN, whose maiden name was Hall, was born in Adams county, Miss., Oct. 25th, 1814, and grew up amidst the luxuries of a Southern opulence. She was married to T. H. Bowman, in Texas parish, La., March 13th, 1837, with whom she came to Belton, Texas, in 1851, from which place she removed to Adkins, Texas, in 1874, where she departed this life Dec. 9th, 1878. Such is the brief outline of the natural life of one of the most estimable of women. But in short does such an account consist of stating even a title of what might be written. If we thought, if we could find out some way by which the hidden life of some people could be photographed, the pictures would reveal a vast area of highly colored, but vulgar sort of tapestry which decks the chambers of our dwellings and of our minds. The biography of the best is not written, because it is so often happens, and that by no casualty, that a certain modesty and humility causes these to be little seen, and less understood, in the world. Sister Bowman was of this class. A few knew her, and they loved her. The crowd dreamed not that there lived among them, and mixed in the throng, and social and church life such a being. We learn that she first made a public profession of faith when she was eleven years old. A very proper time of life to make such a profession in the great congregation, and before the world. But I dare say that this was not a gleaming out of the pent fire of the child-life. If we could go back of this, we would see the potted child of fortune surrounded by the trappings and trappings of wealth, and indulged in her every natural whim; but above all of these things, loving, and thinking, and dreaming of Jesus, the all-glorious King, and of the joys of heaven, and of the things that are to come, and why it was He loved us so much, and praying and striving to love Him with all her heart. But we can know nothing of the beautiful mysteries of piety childhood, until we have years. They blend with the baby-love of mamma and papa, and compose the loveliest picture that angels ever look upon, and which things that mortal eyes can not see, nor mortal ears hear, because they are not circumscribed, and a veil is drawn over them to this extent; because, as the things that are heard in heaven, it is not likely that they should be reported to this life. Some may smile at these things. But whoever has not seen a vision he could not report because he had not been entitled to express it, there has missed a blessing and it is to-day poorer therefore? It may come and go and be altogether a spirit of the mist that rises and falls, but it is a thing of inspiration; and sometimes its bright wings, cleave the mists of fog and mist till light shines the way back to the cradle, and heaven. Sister Bowman was known to the writer as the mature Christian of thirty years of age, as a wife, and mother and friend. And as a mother of one who reaches posterity, taking the life at thirty, we would conclude that it had developed under the smile of God from a pious childhood to a devoted youth and ripened to maturity amid the adversities of the last decade. From what we know of our friend and sister, we would not be afraid to go back upon the things that are argued, increased in strength, and not weakness would be the result. We would not fear that we would find here and there, patches of wild outcroppings. It was with them like dead, under the urgent persuasions of gallant or friends, had gone to the dance or the theatre. Oh, no! There was too much symmetry in that character of thirty, and too great solidity to admit of any such thing as all at all probable. Of course, she loved her husband and child. To say such things is trite, but she loved only a true woman and a sincere Christian can love. Alas! how few there are that know that this means. They asked the Lord, "Are there few that are saved?" He said, "strive to enter in." If you that read would know the strength and the joy of such a love and how it lightens toil and suffering, and how it leads to a devoted youth and ripened to maturity amid the adversities of the last decade. From what we know of our friend and sister, we would not be afraid to go back upon the things that are argued, increased in strength, and not weakness would be the result. 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Texas Christian Advocate

PEN AND SCISSORS.

Resumption appears to be an accomplished fact, after sixteen years of depreciated currency. During the last week in December, national currency rose to par, and has continued at that figure. On the 31st ult., when business closed at the Treasury Department at Washington, the available coin balance in the Treasury was two hundred and twenty-six millions of dollars: of which two hundred millions was gold, and the balance silver. The currency balance was twelve millions of dollars.

The recent vigorous pursuit of vagrant Indians on the south side of the Rio Grande, by Mexican soldiers, and the visit of General Trevino and staff to San Antonio and Galveston, will have a happy effect in promoting harmony between Mexico and the United States. We trust the distinguished Mexican officers left our soil perfectly satisfied that we have no desire for any further acquisition of Mexican territory; and that we desire peaceful commercial relations with that government and people. This conduct, inaugurated by General Trevino, on the Rio Grande, will do away with the necessity of keeping so many American troops on that frontier. It is hoped, also, that the new measures adopted by the government at Washington will restrain the Indians on reserves, and in the nation, so that Texas will be no longer compelled to keep a battalion of State troops on the frontier for the protection of the pioneers.

The "Occasional" correspondent of the Wesleyan Advocate at Washington, pronounces "lobbyism" an unmitigated nuisance and curse to legislation. Let it be abated. The same writer, who is well informed, thinks Tilden and Grant will be the two rival candidates in the next presidential race. The same correspondent thus speaks of the odd congressman from Indiana: "Dr. De LaMaty, the Greenback Independent, of Indiana, is here, and he creates a sensation wherever he goes. As you know, he is also a Methodist preacher. He made a visit a few evenings since, and his first greeting was: "As a Methodist, it is a great pleasure to meet Methodists, my brother." He may be eccentric, peculiar, etc., but he does not wear his Methodism on his sleeve—he is not ashamed of it. He has an earnest, rugged, hard-featured face, but has also a good, clear, deep-set blue eye. He is the seventh man in Indiana politics. There are six Democratic and six Republican members; he is the odd man, and if one vote is needed to make the Great Unknown the Chief Magistrate of the United States, who knows but Indiana's Independent Greenbacker may be the king-maker of the American government? He holds the balance of power in that State to a certainty—if the election falls in the House." In a sermon just before leaving home for Washington, Dr. De La Maty said that what the country wanted to arrest the prevalence of lawlessness, was some good wholesome hanging.

The year 1878 has been a year of peace-making, of revivals, of growth, in all the branches of Methodism. In Ireland, union; in America, peace. At the Southern General Conference, in May, all the sister branches, white, colored and mixed, were represented for the first time in the history of that member of the Methodist family. This work will go on; no man can stay its progress, and few desire to do so. Let us take courage. Our Lord's peace is given unto us; in increased measure He will pour it upon us.—Methodist.

Only six Jews have ever been elected to the United States Congress, three from New York, (one this year) one from Pennsylvania, one from Massachusetts and one from Louisiana. A fight recently took place in Guadalajara between a party of Mexican soldiers and a clerical rebel leader. The latter was killed and several of his subordinates were hung. It is proposed to erect a monument to the memory of Admiral Coligni in the court of the Louvre, in Paris, where he fell in the massacre on St. Bartholomew's day. Owing to the extreme cold weather, there has been an unusual number of applications for relief among the poor in all the cities. In Manchester there was application from 3,000 families. Socialist democrats have elected nearly all their municipal candidates at Liepsic. Lord Beaconsfield is reported quite ill with gout. It was expected that the British forces would enter Candahar about the 10th. On the 7th, the King of Holland was married to the Princess Emma of Waldeck-Piermont.

Texas Items.

There is not a case on the criminal docket in Kerr county.

The city of Austin owes about \$90,000 to its bondholders.

The debt of San Antonio is put down by the Courier at \$1,127,000.

Experiments are to be made with a view of lighting Austin by electric light.

Bastrop county is out of debt and has assets enough on hand to run next year without any county tax.

A destructive fire occurred at Austin on the 26th ult. Loss, about \$50,000. Insurance, \$30,000.

Montgomery county farmers will pay less attention to cotton and more to manufacture of sugar and molasses.

D. A. Smith, of Johnson's Bayou, Orange county, has realized over \$500 this year from half an acre of orange trees.

The colored citizens of Goliad have under way a two-story building intended for a school house and a temperance hall.

Ellis county is not only out of debt, but has \$13,000 in the treasury. The State and county tax will be only about 62c. on the \$100 this year.

On the 8th, the wind at Fort Worth was reported to be at the speed of fifty miles per hour; mercury 5° below zero, and good sleighing.

A heavy snow storm prevailed at McKinney on the night of Dec. 26, attended by the severest weather of the season. A negro froze to death at the poor farm.

A family of immigrants, consisting of parents and two children, were frozen to death between Pilot Point and Sherman. They had not a blanket to cover them.

Not more than one-third of the convicts in our State Penitentiary have received the rudiments of an English education, and less than half are able to write their names.

The immigration to the western part of the State is so great that the regular trains on the Texas Pacific cannot accommodate the travel, and extra trains are run over that road.

The Grand Lodge of A. F. & A. M. of Texas, has decided that no man who does not believe in a Deity, or that the Bible is divinely inspired, can be a working member of the craft.

Texas has fifty wheat producing counties, one-fifth of which are capable of yielding 86,000,000 bushels. It has 69,000,000 acres cotton lands, capable of yielding 7,000,000 bales.

According to the published returns the total vote of the State is 226,000 in round numbers, and the democratic majority about 80,000. Upon this basis, and counting one voter to every six of population, and making allowance for those who did not vote, Texas has to-day over one and a half millions inhabitants.

Judge Edwin Waller, of Waller county, is one of the land marks left standing of the early days of Texas. He is now very old—nearly or quite an octogenarian.

Huntsville Rem.: Quite an excitement occurred at the penitentiary a few days ago, by an organized attempt to get to the armory and take the guns away. It was headed by John Wesley Hardin, and some fifty convicts were involved. They had dug through a floor or two, and one of the walls, when the alarm was sounded, and Hardin is now an occupant of the dark cell.

Houston Telegram: A meeting of the Teachers' Association of Texas will be held at Austin, January 28, 1879. It is hoped that every teacher in the State will in some way be represented at the meeting. As many as can possibly be present in person should be there. Arrangements have been made with the railroads for cheap transportation. Two, the Central and the New Orleans, will carry those who attend at half fare. All others charge six-tenths full fare for the round trip. Tickets will be on sale at all stations on the 26th of January.

W. D. Parish's Angola goat ranch in Bexar consists of 4000 acres of rough, hilly and rocky land, with 1000 acres under fence and substantial and commodious improvements. Mr. Parish embarked in the goat business in 1874, by importing four head of Angoras from Asia and crossing them with a flock of imported goats brought into this section by Peters, of Atlanta, Ga., in 1847. His flock is now one of the finest sights ever looked upon, numbering 1250 head. His fleece in March averaged two pounds per head, and was sold in New York at 65c. per pound.

The whisky dealers in Hearne, numbering some seven or eight in all, were arrested, Dec. 27, by Deputy Sheriff Scott, and bound over to appear at the next term of our county court to answer the charge of not paying occupation tax.

News of the Week.

WASHINGTON.

Mr. Thurman responded to the call of the Teller committee, and pointed out the data which justified his amendment, calling on them to investigate alleged violation of rights of citizens in certain elections in Northern States. The Teller committee was to go to New Orleans on the 3d to get information. Thurman declines to run for Governor of Ohio. It is intimated that there will be congressional investigation of certain charges against Admiral Porter, to the effect that he violated the neutrality of this government by aiding Germany with torpedoes during her late war with France. The department of justice was draped in mourning as a mark of respect to the late Caleb Cushing. On the 7th Congress re-assembled after the holidays. It is thought that the river and harbor bill will be less than last year. Alex Stephens, who is quite ill, was reported worse on the 7th. Among the numerous petitions presented to the Senate were several from women, asking Congress to enact laws which will make effective the anti-polygamy law of 1862. Bills were introduced for a more efficient collection of postal revenues; for interchange of subsidiary silver coin and United States notes; to authorize taxation of outstanding legal tender United States notes; a resolution declaring the thirteenth, fourteenth and fifteenth amendments, in the judgment of the Senate, were legally ratified. Mr. Voorhees called up his resolution instructing the Judiciary Committee to inquire into the expediency of making the trade-dollar a legal tender, and providing for its recoinage into the standard silver dollar. It was laid over without action. In the House the death of Representatives Douglass and Williams was announced and the House adjourned. A telegram to the postoffice department states that no mail-boats are running on the Mississippi north of Vicksburg, nor in the Arkansas, White, St. Francis or Upper Ouachita. Giddings, of Texas, applied at the War Department for a full battery to be issued to the Galveston Artillery Company. A decision of an appeal from the Supreme Court of Utah of Geo. Reynolds, which involves the question of the constitutionality of the law passed by Congress to suppress polygamy, decides that Congress had power to pass such laws. A reduction of 20 per cent. on price of stamped envelopes has resulted in largely increased requisitions. Death of Julian Harbridge, of Georgia, was announced in the House the 8th. Mr. Schleicher, on the 8th, was quite sick of erysipelas. At New York the funding of five-twenties averages \$6,000,000 per day.

FOREIGN.

After the fall of Alimusjid, the Emir of Afghanistan held a council and decided that further resistance was useless; and leaving Yakobkhan, his son, in charge, withdrew from Cabul, for the purpose of seeking Russian protection, and placing his case before the European Congress. Yacob having yielded to English power, will probably be utilized as a tributary prince, and will establish her rule in that region. A common understanding has been reached by all the societies in London, connected with engineering, to resist the lengthening of the hours of labor. There is a speck of unpleasantness between the Danish and German Courts, owing to the attitude Denmark has taken towards the Hanoverian liberals. Great destitution prevails in Lorraine and Alsace. The Bey of Tunis has been advised by the Porte to make favorable terms with France. Among the candidates for the Bulgarian throne, Prince Vogarides, a Greek, claiming Bulgarian descent, is named. Prince Battenburg is said to be the candidate put forward by Russia. The assembly which will elect were not elected by a direct vote of the people, but by an indirect method, which secured the election of persons holding office under the Russian government. The Greco-Turkish commissioners are holding their sessions at Athens. The Porte holds the prin-

ciple that Turkey retains a strategic line, and the powers are to preserve neutrality in event of disturbance on the part of Greece. A dispatch to London from Rome says the Pope will notify Germany of his readiness to a compromise in regard to the appointment of the German clergy. The late thaw caused high floods in England and Scotland. An enormous reduction of Turkish paper money has caused the closing of a number of bankers' shops. Small-pox is raging in Brazil; very fatal. One hundred thousand colliers are concerned in the strikes in England. Another war is brewing between the Caffres of South Africa and the British. A Chinese envoy has reached Russia to adjust differences between the two powers. A plague has appeared among the Cossacks of Astrachan; 145 have died.

Commercial.

TEXAS CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE OFFICE, Galveston, Texas, Jan. 9, 1879. COTTON. At New York, the market opened weak and closed weak. Sales to-day 500 bales. Quotations for all grades are as follows: Ordinary, 7 1/2c; Good Ordinary, 8 1/2c; Low Middling, 9 1/2c; Middling, 9 3/4c; Good Middling, 10 1/2c. At New Orleans, market is weak and irregular. Quotations are as follows: Good Ordinary, 7 1/2c; Low Middling, 8 1/2c; Middling, 9 1/2c. Sales, 3,200 bales. At Liverpool, the market for spots opened dull, and also flat; Middling Uplands, 5 1/2c; Middling, 6 1/2c. The market here opened quiet. Sales 500 bales. Quotations nominal for all grades: Low Ordinary, nominal; Ordinary, 7 1/2c; Good Ordinary, 8 1/2c; Low Middling, 9 1/2c; Middling, 9 3/4c; Good Middling, 10 1/2c. Bills were introduced for a more efficient collection of postal revenues; for interchange of subsidiary silver coin and United States notes; to authorize taxation of outstanding legal tender United States notes; a resolution declaring the thirteenth, fourteenth and fifteenth amendments, in the judgment of the Senate, were legally ratified. Mr. Voorhees called up his resolution instructing the Judiciary Committee to inquire into the expediency of making the trade-dollar a legal tender, and providing for its recoinage into the standard silver dollar. It was laid over without action. In the House the death of Representatives Douglass and Williams was announced and the House adjourned. A telegram to the postoffice department states that no mail-boats are running on the Mississippi north of Vicksburg, nor in the Arkansas, White, St. Francis or Upper Ouachita. Giddings, of Texas, applied at the War Department for a full battery to be issued to the Galveston Artillery Company. A decision of an appeal from the Supreme Court of Utah of Geo. Reynolds, which involves the question of the constitutionality of the law passed by Congress to suppress polygamy, decides that Congress had power to pass such laws. A reduction of 20 per cent. on price of stamped envelopes has resulted in largely increased requisitions. Death of Julian Harbridge, of Georgia, was announced in the House the 8th. Mr. Schleicher, on the 8th, was quite sick of erysipelas. At New York the funding of five-twenties averages \$6,000,000 per day.

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