





**Texas Christian Advocate.****A MESSAGE FROM THE MOUNTAINS.**

News From Along the Line-A Woman's Cave.

To the Advocate.

BURNET county is a splendid place for the raw recruit, "the boy on trial," not only on account of the earth's surface, but here he meets with every variety of human character and every phase of religious error. If the young itinerant does not learn discretion, foresight and prudence, and also have his sensibilities sharpened, it will not be for lack of grinding, for here the old "iron wheel" revolves against coarse sand-paper, and it has made the rust fly from the writer in great clouds. We trust he will only be brightened and not ground to powder by the first revolution of the "great iron wheel."

The scene is the side of rocks and mountains could inspire lofty sentiments and awaken the dormant poetic tail which some have accused us of possessing; we would long since have been soaring on eagle wing around the summit of some lofty crag. Why is this a good country for a boy preacher? I remember the boy who had one appointment in the woods and another on the open prairie. A good old brother noticing that at one appointment the boy failed, and at the other preached a rousing sermon, ventured to enquire: "Brother, I wish to know how it is that you preach so much better in the woods than on the prairie?" "Sir," replied the embryo preacher, "I kindle the fire in the brush, and with the live coal in my bosom, rush into the prairie before setting off."

So here in Burnet circuit there are many sequestered spots by the highways and around the churches where the weary itinerant may talk with God until power from on high opens his bosom and the soft breath from heaven fans the spark until it becomes a flame of love, and amidst tears of joy and glimpses of future triumph, he arises and goes to peace; then when he goes to preach the gospel, is "as fit in his bones." Jesus went up into a "rugged mountain" apart to pray. We are trying to follow him.

Having heard much of the immense cave close to this place, we organized a small party, and furnishing ourselves with a bottle (of oil) and lamps, we visited the same. After a ride of three miles we reached the spot, and dismounting, entered a large cavity, descending at an angle of 45 degrees for 30 feet. We were then in a large room 25 feet high by 20 in size. From this room there are avenues and passages leading in many directions. However, we took a northeast course and went to the "glass rooms." They are about 150 or 200 yards from the main entrance. The walls and roof of these rooms glittered in the lamp-light, as though studded with many diamonds. We extinguished our lights and could then appreciate the genius of Lord Byrons' "Dream of Darkness." We could not see, but could feel the blackness, and I imagined I could slice it with a knife, it seemed so thick and solid." We lighted our lamps and visited the "spring room." We were afraid to venture very far, as there is danger of getting lost. I suppose there are scores of rooms in this cave; in fact, no one knows its size or extent. A few years ago two men got lost in it, and after wandering several hours came out in the upper division, from the place of entrance. The spangled rock from the glass room is as clear as glass. The walls are covered with names, smoked there with candles and torches, and will doubtless be legible many years hence. We left our name, coupled with that of our fair companion, who is a Tennessee Methodist flower.

The work of the Lord advances. We have had 20 additions. We work, and as we labor cry, "The work of our hands establish them it." —C. S. FIELD.

LACY, March 6.

Sherman District.

To the Advocate.

I have closed my first round on Sherman district. All the pastors appointed by the bishop are at their posts, and all are very well received by their people. There is no special trition so far as I know. Bro. W. M. Stetson is doing well in Sherman station. Dr. Connor is renewing his youth at Pilot Point. He will have a new church to preach in by fall if he meets no providential hindrance. Our prospects are hopeful at Denison under the oversights of Bro. Goshorn. Whitesboro is moving forward in every respect under the wise and progressive Worley. Bonham station is now repairing their church-house. It will look well when completed. Bro. Riddle is a popular pastor and preacher. He has had several accesses of confinement. Bro. Reynolds is doing finely. Van Alstyne circuit, Bro. Robbins is staying much of his time on Bell and Savoy circuit; is well sustained. Bro. Clark has been sick; he will begin his rally soon. Bro. Blundworth is quite popular on Burnham circuit. Sherer is shoving to the line on Fannin circuit. He never was more popular. He reads—here preaches well. Rogers—"Old Ham," as he is called—is doing his finest preaching on Gordonsville circuit. You may look for revival notes from him this year as last. Vinsom is at home on Posto-boro circuit, but none the less popular for having lived among his people for some years. Coppelidge, on Pilot Grove circuit, is preaching and talking Methodism to his people. He will do them good and not harm. Miller and Dickson are moving off well on Whitewright circuit. Dickson has a good horse now. He did not swap for him, but bought him. I look for a fine year on their circuits. Bro. Allen, of Collinsville, is a promising young man—a son of our North Mississippi Conference, and a cousin of J. R. Allen, of Paris station. —M. H. SHERMAN, March 7.

## Our First Centenary Revival.

To the Advocate.

Our first centenary meeting starts off with a full attendance of official members. At the quarterly conference, State and General, a liberal assessment for the preacher in charge, and one-fourth of the presiding elder's salary, teacher in charge's claim met, with a balance over. Saturday night several penitents were at the altar. A large Sunday school Sunday, 9 a. m. Two sessions and \$100 for missions raised at 11 a. m. Over one hundred were out late at 3 p. m. All denominations took part, and a gracious outpouring of the Holy Spirit was granted us. The meeting is increasing in interest all the time. Bros. Graham and Follin will assist this week; Bros. Graves, Wootton and Dukes next week. Sister Park will be up Thursday to organize a woman's missionary society. Let the church pray for us, and to the Lord be all the glory.—Z. T. MORRIS.

CAMERON, March 10.

**Uncle Ike's Department.**

E. Liston Weaver, of Kosse, is most welcome to the class. May Liston be a faithful member of the church.

Nannie McLendon, of Cister, is glad that Bro. Hotelkiss is their pastor again. The pastor who wins the hearts of the children can be a blessing to the whole household. Uncle Ike is glad Nannie has a good singing teacher. He wishes there was a singing teacher in every Sunday-school.

Robert W. Sansom, of Kyle, must study his history, spelling and arithmetic faithfully if he would be a wise and useful man. We must work if we succeed in life. He who would reap the harvest must sow the seed. If Robert will always remember these things, and live up to them, he will succeed in life.

Uncle Ike is glad that Dora Shepard, of Gunright, is so well pleased with the paper. He is sorry for the parents of the two little children who eat up in her town loaf of bread, who have recently died. "We must try and be ready. The young die as well as the old." Will Dora give Uncle Ike's love to Bro. Mills and her superintendent?

Uncle Ike welcomes Richard Folkes, a little boy at Cister, who is ten years old, to the class with both hands. He hopes Richard will live that he will meet his man in "that beautiful city" of which he writes. May God bless all the motherless ones. Richard ought to be grateful to God, who has spared his pa and little brother and sister. All our blessings come from God.

There is plenty of room in the Bible school for Benton McMahon. He says they have at Lavonia a woman's prayer-meeting, a young men's prayer-meeting, a special prayer-meeting for the Lord to send more laborers into the ministry, and a general prayer-meeting every month, besides preaching. God loves to answer prayer. May he answer the prayer for more laborers by sending some from Lavonia.

Lizzie Hawkins writes that she has persuaded one more to take the Advocate for three months; but soon she has made more. Uncle Ike should be proud. For three months the Advocate will visit with its message that home every week. May it do its work faithfully. If every boy and girl would do as well as Lizzie, the usefulness of the Advocate will be greatly increased.

Charlie Gates must not think Uncle Ike has forgotten any of his little boys; if there is delay in answering their letters, sometimes it is best to postpone parts of the letter to questions in one place, the "knots to untie" in another, and missionary matters still in another. If we always have a place for everything, and everything in its place, we will always know where to find it. If Charlie and all our boys and girls will always remember that, it will save them lots of trouble. Uncle Ike is sure Charlie will read his Testament again. A good resolution well kept is worth more than money.

**KNOTS UNTIED.**

Vannie Sweet answers six questions that appeared in March 1st. She also sends "Wire-cutting" as the answer to Robert Baird's enigma.

Lizzie Carson's puzzle is answered by Vannie Sweet. Richard Folkes, E. Liston Weaver, Emma Copeland, Emma Houston, Benton McMahon, Howard Lacy, etc.

Charlie Gates sends the following answers to questions of March, 7th:

He was a Pharisee.

Noah had seven sons.

Noah was 850 years old when he died.

Aaron died on Mount Hor.

The waters of Marsh were made sweet by Moses, who cast in a tree the angel of the Lord showed him.

Joshua was of the tribe of Ephraim.

KNOTS TO UNTIE.

Vannie Sweet asks: 1. Who was the first prophet? 2. How many wives does Moses' day had an iron bedstead?

By E. Liston Weaver: 1. What king reigned one month? 2. For what did Moses pray? 3. What king was an idolator? 4. Who was a simple king? 5. Who was a devout king? The initials will spell our p'r'st name's.

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A s' Tonie takes I. X. L. Chill Cure, one teaspoonful in a wine glass of water, three times a day. It will give strength and remove all Malaria. M. D. Conklin & Co., Proprietors, Houston, Texas.

In a railway carriage: An old soldier, noticing that his pipe troubled a lady, said to her: "They don't smoke in your regiment, man'am?" In my regiment, it is possible," replied the lady, "but in my company, never!"—French Wit.

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The bronze equestrian statue of Gen. Simon Bolivar, which is to be presented to the United States by the government of Venezuela, has been completed and set up at a bronze manufactory in Mercer street, New York. Bolivar is represented mounted, in the heat of battle, with one hand reining in his horse, and with the other, in which he holds a sword directing the movements of his troops. It is expected that the statue will be placed in Central Park.

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