

THE GOSPEL HERALD.

"LOOK ON THE FIELDS—THE HARVEST IS COME—THE LOVE OF CHRIST CONSTRAINETH US."

Vol. 1.

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THE GOSPEL HERALD.

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THE BOARD OF MISSIONS AT WORK IN OUR TOWNS.

"Mission fields" will perhaps exist until the end of time. At present they are to be found not only in country places, but also in cities and towns abounding in churches and chapels—very often right under their shadows, and near to the "rector's" dwelling and the Methodist or Baptist parsonage. In many towns of even our own State there are families who never attend worship, and who know of religion and God only by hearsay; while in our larger towns these may be numbered by the hundreds. Let a celebrated evangelist visit Wilmington, Raleigh, Charlotte, and how many persons will be found attending church for the first time in five, ten, or twenty years! heathens in christendom. Now, these people are by no means to be left out when we come to estimate the extent of the mission field in North Carolina. Much as the destitution in the rural districts may stir our hearts, and properly, there is occasion for as deep sympathy in the condition of the non-church goers in our towns and cities, and more occasion for alarm in view of what that condition threatens to our country and the integrity of republican and christian institutions. When our towns grow to the dimensions of cities, these, if left unnoticed by our boards of missions and by town churches, will lapse into barbarism and savagery as decided as is now found in Africa. The "British savage," and the "New York rough," are not a whit behind the old-time Fiji cannibal. He takes life as readily, and has reduced theft, burglary, arson and assassination to a science. The evil is one which needs no outside help in order to its growth and increase. If heaven is the true representative of *grace* in the heart, it is equally symbolical of *evil* there. Indeed the latter may rather be compared to those germs or spores, which mature in a night and propagate their kind by scores and hundreds and millions, in a few days. Were it not for the presence of the Lord of Hosts with his people, they could not keep pace with the Evil One. Weeds flourish *without* work, where corn languishes *with* it. Evil is infectious; good is at best contagious. The former can be absorbed from the atmosphere; the latter requires contact. Vice, like an odor, enters at the chinks and crevices; virtue needs to be invited and wooed with doors wide open. Down hill and up hill express the difference. Active effort must be put forth to reach the evil in our towns. It will not correct itself; rather in the end if left to itself it will subvert the good. Beginning with a theatre or opera-house in some deserted place of worship, thence going on to the restaurant and saloon and ending with the gambling hall or other "Hell," its course in some of our larger cities is onward—right onward and always downward.

It is this which imparts such significance to the work of Edward Judson in New York. There he is putting forth Herculean efforts to stem the tide which ought never to have been allowed to set in. Had those "up-town" churches, when they were "down-town," gone out into the highways and hedges and compelled them to come in—and find a home when they came, the same up-town churches would have been reared, but not at the expense and to the utter extinguishment of the down-town centres of gospel influence. It is barely possible to recover ground when once lost by neglect like this. And if God does "not leave a small remnant" as a nucleus, the attempt will be attended with greater difficulties than are to be met on virgin soil. And now for our towns—what are we to do? The evil is not so imminent and threatening it may be as in many Northern and Western towns. But it is nevertheless coming. It needs only to be let come. With railroads, manufacturing, commerce, comes population, and much of it foreign and infidel. Are our town

churches alive to the situation? Do they take it in? Are their pastors men of work and wise to understand the times? Can we bring ourselves to the point of erecting *two* plain churches instead of *one* fashionable, stylish and costly, which may rather repel than attract the middle and the lower or poorer classes? With the confessional and mass, the Catholic wields a power which compels all of every class to attend upon the services of the sanctuary. These, Protestants reject; but yet they are not powerless. Nay, if they wield surely and faithfully the simple gospel—with its invitations, warnings, labors of love, its unending search after lost sheep, and travels among the lanes and slums, and then provide a home for the wanderers, they too may crowd their temples with worshippers, but worshippers of a higher order, willing, loving, adoring. And it is a question worthy to be considered by Boards of Missions, whether they cannot help here, if in no other way, by giving wide direction to the efforts of churches and pastors in meeting the destitution in our towns.
W. R.

HOW TO BUILD CHURCHES ON OUR MISSION FIELDS.

Secure a good lot in the very best place possible. It is much better to pay a large price for a church lot well located than to have one given too far out, or in an inaccessible part of the town, or if in the country, too far from the public road or roads.

After the lot has been secured, adopt a plan for the building, unless the house is to be one costing very little money; it is always better to have a good architect furnish drawings of the building, the plan of which has been adopted. The money paid for the drawing is well spent, for you know just what your house will be before the work has been begun.

THE MEANS.

Raise all the means possible with which to build in the town or community. Give everybody in the community an opportunity to help in the good work. After the membership, if any, and all the people in the community, have done all they possibly can, then call on the brethren and sisters and friends elsewhere for the needed help. But if the work can be done by the people of the neighborhood, do not call on the people of other neighborhoods for help. In all the appeals for help from those who do not live in the community, tell definitely what the plan of the house is, its dimensions, its seating capacity, its cost, and what you have done or can do yourselves, and just the amount of help you will need from others, or as nearly as you can approximate it. And as you are under appointment of the State Mission Board, all will take it for granted that there ought to be a church, for the Board sends no one as missionary to a place to fill regular appointments unless there is hope of building up a church there. And as we have no church extension committee, and perhaps do not need one, it would be well for the missionary to ask the State Mission Board to second and emphasize his appeals for help to build his mission church.
W. R. GWALTNEY.

HOME MISSIONS.

This paper will reach its readers at the time when Home Missions should be uppermost in their thoughts. In this State March and April are the months in which most of our churches make their annual collections for this object. For several reasons our collections ought to be larger this year than ever before:

1. The Board needs more help than it has needed in the past. Its field of operations is larger. It has more missionaries, and they are accomplishing a greater work than heretofore, and of course expenses have been proportionately increased.

2. The success attending the work of the Board furnishes an additional reason for larger contributions. We should use the Lord's money as we do our own—where it will yield the largest returns. Judged by this test, the Home Board is entitled to much more than we have been sending to it from North Carolina. In Cuba alone 1,000 members have been added to our churches in two years. In Texas 5,379 members were added to the churches under the care of the Board during the fifteen months ending September 30th, 1887. In all the other fields the success has been alike encouraging. The Lord is thus saying to us by His blessings, "Go forward and possess the land."

3. We have more ability than we have had for several years past. Not only is our mem-

bership larger by several thousand, but our crops have been better, and we are better able to spare a liberal offering to the Master's cause.

4. We have better organization for reaching the churches than ever before. In most of the Associations a representative was appointed for us in each church whose duty it is to see that a collection is secured before May 1st, 1888, and the money forwarded to Bro. F. H. Briggs, Treasurer, Raleigh, N. C. The names of these representatives appear in their respective minutes. In Associations where no appointments appear in the minutes, the appointees of last year will be expected to hold over. Under this plan we ought to secure contributions from eight hundred churches during the year ending April 30th, 1888. An average collection of \$4.00 per church would bring in over \$3,000—much more than we have ever given the Board in any other one year.

Now, let us give the next sixty days to earnest work for Home Missions. In churches that have preaching only once a month there will be two chances for a public collection. If the weather or anything else interferes in March, see to it that the chance is not lost in April. If our representative in any church is sick or disabled, let some other member volunteer to attend to the work in that church.

Let us have for the next sixty days a long pull, a strong pull, and a pull all together, and we shall give the Home Board such a lift as we have never given it before.

A. G. McMANAWAY,
Vice-President.

SOME THOUGHTS ABOUT FOREIGN MISSIONS FOR NORTH CAROLINA BAPTISTS.

THE CONTRIBUTIONS LAST YEAR

from the North Carolina Baptist State Convention amounted to \$6,655.44, and from the Western Convention \$548.75, making in all from North Carolina \$7,024.19.

OUR AIM FOR THIS CONVENTIONAL YEAR

is to raise \$2,975.81 more, and make the amount even \$10,000.00. This is not a large contribution for the Baptists of North Carolina. We ought to raise it. Yea, we ought to raise much more than that.

WE HAVE NO PAID AGENCY IN THE STATE

for Foreign Missions. Hence we must depend upon correspondence mainly, and upon the help of the pastors and the brethren and sisters *who will help us*. We beg that pastors will preach more on missions, distribute more literature, and have some system for raising funds for this work.

LITERATURE.

Of this we have an ample supply and will send it free to any one who will distribute it *carefully and prudently*.

THE MONTHLY CONCERT OF PRAYER FOR MISSIONS

has done a wonderful work in the past. Let all our churches revive it. To discuss some mission field or some phase of mission work with prayers, select scripture readings and appropriate songs would do far more good than the regular sermon.

THE FOREIGN MISSION JOURNAL

is, by far, better than it has ever been. One article in the number for this month is worth the subscription price for five years. The paper is exceedingly cheap. Let all our pastors see that it is in the hands of their people.

THE BRYAN HOUSE.

More than \$300.00 of the pledges made to this house are still due. Let them be paid as soon as possible.

OUR CHINA MISSION

has recently lost a large part of its working force—some by death and others by broken health; and some who have been there for many years are growing infirm and are bending under the weight of years. But God be thanked there are several North Carolina boys who are going to say to us soon, "Here am I—send me." May God help us to be ready to send them to our aid.

Sincerely,

W. L. WRIGHT.

EDUCATION BOARD.

The work of this Board is distinctly set forth by the Constitution of the North Carolina Baptist State Convention Art. II, viz.: The Education Board shall, as far as it may be able, assist promising and indigent young ministers seeking to prepare themselves for the more efficient preaching of the gospel.

The necessity for this work was keenly

felt by our fathers; and in the very organization of the Convention, this was set forth as one of its primary objects: "To educate young men called of God to the ministry, and approved by the churches to which they belong."

The work was great, but, with prayer and faith in God, undertaken, and God's blessing has been upon it. Hundreds have been aided by this Board, and while some have failed, the most of them have done well, some, very well.

Not a few of our most useful and consecrated ministers, at home and abroad, are among the number. That great and good man, so recently called from serving Christ below, to reign with Him above, Matthew T. Yates, the foremost of all the missionaries sent out by the Southern Baptist Convention to preach the glorious Gospel of the blessed God in heathen lands, was among the first of the beneficiaries aided by this Board. Brethren, the work has not been a failure, but a great success.

Who can estimate the worth of one such man as the peerless Yates? What better use could have been made of the contributions given for his support while at Wake Forest, under the patronage of this Board. The Lord was preparing him for His great work? And what a privilege to be permitted by the blessed Master to take some little part in such a work?

We have now thirty-nine young ministers on the Board, and still others are asking for help. To sustain these, allowing \$10 each, it will take \$390 per month. The work is great, but the Lord's people are many, and we are well able to sustain them, and more. By the help of the Lord, and for his glory, let us do it.

JOHN MITCHELL.

COLPORTAGE—OUR PLANS.

Many letters of inquiry about this work have been received, and many applications to do the work have been made. I judge, therefore, that colportage is largely in the mind of our people, and at this time in this department (a new one for our Board) there is an open door. Shall we enter? We ought to enter and do the work. Indeed, we have begun. Colporters are now at work. They are doing well. There are more to follow. This opportunity is before us, and, if we would lay the foundation of our work, broad and deep, colportage must be made to play an important part.

Intelligence, zeal, and contributions are needed, and in the order of this statement.

WHAT ARE THE PLANS? HOW CAN WE GO ABOUT IT?

These questions have come up from all parts of the State, and I will try to answer them.

1ST PLAN.—The Board appoints the colporter for a given Association and for a designated time; becomes responsible for a small monthly salary; supplies him with books; has from him a monthly itemized report; secures contributions from the churches and friends of the work, and with these funds and the discount on the books, prosecutes the work.

This is the plan vigorously and most successfully worked in Virginia. It was made one of the objects for which their churches were asked to contribute, just as to State, Foreign and Home Missions, and they gave last year about \$5,000 to it, and the Board had twenty colporters in the field. To do this work, however, they had a Corresponding Secretary, who gave his entire time to this one work. This is doubtless the best plan possible. On it our Board has acted thus far, but now feels that it would be unwise to further enlarge the work until more of the churches make contributions to it. This, it is hoped, will be done soon. If so, a colporter for each Association can be appointed. What say the churches?

2D PLAN.—For an Association to secure a book fund of \$250, recommend to the Board their colporter, have their committee on colportage purchase all books, for cash, through us, when they can do it to advantage, and the Associational Committee pays the colporter such salary as the discount on the books will justify. This plan was worked successfully in the Mt. Zion Association for three years. It was last year adopted, and successfully worked in many Associations in South Carolina; it is now the plan of their State system of colportage. With intelligence, zeal and much hard work on the part of a judicious Associational Committee this plan can be made a success in any Association in North Carolina.

3RD PLAN.—For any church, number of

brethren, a brother, or a sister, to become responsible to the Board for \$300, recommend their colporter, the Board appoints and furnishes the books (never more than \$300 worth in the hands of the colporter, or under his order, at one time) and the colporter sells them at the catalogue prices, but by the discount secured through the Board after paying all bills, makes a living salary. The church, the brethren, the brother, or the sister, who become responsible to the Board will, if the work is honestly and faithfully done, be out nothing, and the work will have been done. If it has not been thus done, the colporter whom *they recommended* has proved unfaithful, inefficient, or, in the providence of God, has been unfortunate.

4TH PLAN.—If a man wishes to engage in colportage and can secure the Board against loss to the amount of stock he may wish to have in hand at any one time, the Board will furnish the books at the best possible discount, give all reasonable time for payments, secure every possible encouragement through the pastors and churches of his section, to his work, and aid him with such gifts of Bibles, Testaments, etc., for donation to the destitute and needy as may be in its power. The same discount cannot, many times, be secured when books are bought on time, as they would be under plan three and four, and hence the colporter could not, with the same work and prudence, as in plan two, hope, by the discount alone, to make the same salary; but he can live, and do a blessed work. Who will undertake it?

REV. M. T. YATES, D. D.

Not "Yates coming," but "Yates dead" is the cablegram. Gone from us, gone from his work, gone from China, gone from earth, gone to his rest, gone to his reward. We are glad God raised him up from our midst, spared him to us so long, and worked through him so mightily. We now pray that a thousand like him may be given us, but where even God shall find them we know not. He lived and he died for China. His life and death will not be in vain. Facts are God's fingers pointing to the final victory. The knowledge of these is a necessary condition to intelligent interest in mission work. The mission fire must be fed with facts. Judicious biographical mission history is not only most likely to be read, but most lasting in impressions for good. If we would properly appreciate the divine spirit of missions we must study the missionary biography. This teaches by example the power of the gospel to illumine and transform human character. These lives set before us new chapters in the Acts of the Apostles. To fill up our mission ranks and our mission treasuries a larger number of our people must be brought face to face with the facts in the progress of the gospel—facts in the lives of the men whom God has thrust out to the front. Let us, therefore, have, at once, a short, fresh, readable biography of Dr. M. T. Yates—such a book as could be published and sold for fifty cents or one dollar. If this could be done, thousands of our people would be benefited by it.

Could not Prof. W. L. Poteat give us such a book?

THE QUARTERS.

During the last quarter before the Baptist State Convention, the churches, very generally, are interested in taking collections for State Missions. This is done in order that the Board of Missions may close each year without debt. All agree that this is wise. From the State Convention in November to the Southern Baptist Convention in May our churches are specially interested in collections for Home and Foreign Missions. This, too, is wise, because it enables the Boards of that Convention to close their work each year without debt. Very little, therefore, has been given to State Missions, as the report on another page will show, since December 1st, 1887. Soon after the Southern Baptist Convention closes its next session in Richmond, Va., will come the Chowan Association, and from then on to the Convention in Greensboro, State Missions and colportage will be before the churches. That pastor is wisest who gives due attention to all of these objects.

POLITICS.

Those who would be wise in church work must not wait this year till the latter part of summer or the fall to hold protracted meetings and take collections for missions. This is the year of politics, politicians and elections. We can now look back over the work for the past twenty years, and every such year has made it specially hard on all of our church and mission work. Let us be wise and press the claims of these objects, before the mind of the people is too much absorbed in other things.