

The Atlantic Messenger.

MONTHLY.]

Devoted to the Relief of Baptist Destitution in Eastern North Carolina.

[25 CENTS PER YEAR.]

VOLUME THREE.

NEW BERN, N. C., JANUARY, 1903.

NUMBER NINE.

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—ADDRESS—

THE ATLANTIC MESSENGER,
New Bern, N. C.

God knows what we do not; this is our consolation. We know not what God knows; this is our hope.

DO YOU BELIEVE THESE PROPOSITIONS?

(1) If drink prospers in my town, it must be supported by church members.

(2) The church should be the strictest of all temperance organizations, and the strongest pledge to abstain from all intoxicating drinks should be the covenant that Christians have made and the obligations they have assumed.

(3) Any church member who needlessly uses intoxicating liquors and by so doing fosters this diabolical traffic and spits in the face of decency and insults the church of the living God should speedily make confession and change his ways, or be promptly excluded.

(4) Every Christian who respects himself loves his family, toils for the peace of his community, and worships God according to the dictates of his conscience, should unite in the expulsion of this horrid demon from our society.

(5) Every man, woman and child, saint and sinner who is wedded to the interests of mankind, should, heart, soul, mind and body, espouse the cause of sobriety and enlist in the armies of temperance.

A man's integrity may stand in the way of his success in small matters; his lack of integrity will stand in his way for success in great matters.—Exchange.

This paper aspires to be a well-doer rather than a money-maker. But to keep alive and do its best work, its finances must not be overlooked. Moral: Subscribe!

OUR WORK AND WORKERS.

MOREHEAD CITY.

Rev. A. W. Setzer, Morehead City.

Our work here has been going steadily on. The Bible Study class has been re-organized with Prof. W. H. Cale as leader. A change has taken place in our Sunday School since our last communication. Bro. L. L. Leary for four years our faithful and efficient Superintendent, resigned and Prof. W. H. Cale was elected in his stead. A Teacher's meeting has been set on foot for the especial purpose of taking a course in teaching. This movement promises to be of untold value in our Sunday School work.

The Spring term of Atlantic Institute will begin on the twelfth of January. The total enrollment during the fall term was one hundred and twenty-one. There will be a number to enter for the spring term. There are a number of Baptist parents who will read this that ought to put their children in school in this institution. I will take pleasure in answering any question that the brethren may wish to ask regarding the school, board, etc.

OUR ASSOCIATIONAL SCHOOL.

I would call attention to the resolution passed at our last Association asking the Churches to take up a collection as early as possible for the "Atlantic Institute." Remember brethren that this is our School and it should be the wish of every Baptist in the Atlantic Association to make it second to no Associational school in our State and to do this we must be personally interested—in other words we must take stock in it—and therefore we desire every Baptist in our Association to contribute to this worthy institution. Please don't defer this; but take up a collection at your earliest opportunity and send the money to brother L. L. Leary, Treasurer at Morehead City, N. C. Pastors can help us by talking up and bringing this matter before their churches and strive to have every member make a contribution. The Sunday Schools are generally loyal to our Institution and they too should have an opportunity to help in this work.

Brethren urge this matter please.

J. C. WHITTY,
Chmn. Board Trustees.

NEW BERN—TABERNACLE.

Rev. M. P. Davis, New Bern.

DEAR BRO. MOORE: The work at the Tabernacle is still going on, though slow, I have always been taught that a great work could not be accomplished in a day, and I hope and pray a great work is being done by our little band of true and faithful brethren. We have the promises of God and upon these we stand and work and pray.

Our Sunday School and congregations are some larger than when we first began to work with the brethren. We are asking and working for all whom the Lord has for us.

Our thanksgiving offering for the Thomasville Orphanage was about twelve dollars.

The first Sunday in January—the first Sunday of the new year—we remember the heathen by giving of our means to send the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ to

them. We are praying for a great meeting.

Our Sunday School children gave a nice Christmas entertainment, Friday night of Christmas week. Santa Claus gave each S. S. student a box of candy and an orange. All seemed to enjoy themselves very much.

My people, soon after our arrival, gave us a nice pounding and they have kept it up almost continuous ever since. The many Christmas presents received by my family and myself will remain long with us and be a stimulus to greater service.

Would it not be wise for our churches to begin now and pray for a great ingathering this year? We have been pleading and working for our people to consecrate their pocket books to God and may we not pray and work for a great revival in our churches this year. I am afraid we do not trust God enough. May we lose sight of self and look to Christ as All and in All. If we will do this He will pour out His Spirit upon us in great power.

THE NEEDS OF THE ROBERSONVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH.

Robersonville is a town of about five hundred inhabitants, located in Martin county, on the Plymouth branch of the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad, about twenty miles from Tarboro, Greenville and Washington, and about twelve miles from Williamston. The town has somewhat been on a boom for the last two years. Several new brick stores have been erected, a bank opened, a brick hotel built at a cost of \$5,000; a large two-story academy has just been erected, in which a good school is running with a corps of three teachers and six grades, including the high school course; also a music department.

We have a good tobacco market with three warehouses and a fine corps of buyers. The commercial receipts last year, including the sales of tobacco, amounted to about \$400,000. Robersonville is a leading town in Martin county, which was recognized as the banner tobacco county of the State last year.

Christianity, I am sorry to say, is somewhat at a low ebb in this town, there being only two small churches, one Methodist with about twenty-five members, and a Disciples Church with about the same number. The Anti-Mission Baptist is the leading religious sentiment which largely predominates in Martin, Pitt, Edgecombe, Halifax, Washington and Beaufort counties. They oppose Sunday-schools, protracted meetings and missions with all their might.

Therefore the Missionary Baptists are weak, both numerically and financially. We have but one or two real strong churches in all the territory embraced in the above named counties. This region is recognized as the great destitution of Eastern North Carolina.

The people are well bred and intelligent, and when converted to our faith, make loyal Baptists, many of whom are very liberal. A very small per cent. of the people are members of any church, only about one out of every ten of the whites. We often find families of eight and ten in number, with grown children, and not a single church member among them. A large number of our baptisms is from new families that have no Baptists in them. Up to last November (1901) there had

been no Baptist preaching at all in the town of Robersonville.

Under the appointment of the Executive Board of the Tar River Association and of the State Board of Missions, I took up the work; but could only give Sunday afternoon and week night services. Early in the Spring we began to plan for a church building. We secured a most excellent corner lot on Railroad street. About the middle of August we laid the foundation of the Robersonville Baptist house of worship. On the 3rd Sunday in September we held our first service in the new church. The following week we organized the Robersonville Baptist church with nine members. We have just got the house shut in with floor, windows, doors and pews, so we can hold service.

The property as it is, including the lot, is valued at \$925.00. We owe on the property \$525.00. It will take \$300.00 more to complete and furnish the building. We have about \$200.00 of outstanding pledges.

Brethren and sisters of the great Baptist host of North Carolina and our Southland, you see our condition. This is the Lord's cause and you are the Lord's people, and the Lord has intrusted you with His money. Help us as the Lord has prospered you in this our struggle for His cause.

As you see below, this appeal is approved by the Executive Committee of our Association, also by the Secretary of the State Board of Missions and Sunday School.

Money sent to the undersigned will be duly acknowledged in the Biblical Recorder.

JAS. W. ROSE,
Missionary.

Plymouth, N. C., Oct 1st, 1902.
We heartily approve of the above.

NOAH BIGGS,
Chmn. of Ex. Com. Tar River Association.
LIVINGSTON JOHNSON,
Cor. Sec. Baptist State Convention.

THE PAMLICO FIELD.

Rev. J. R. Taylor, Bayboro.

DEAR BRO. MOORE:—We have just started on the work of a New Year (1903). It is our intention to do more in faith and faithfulness this year than ever, and to render our best service to God. The wrongs of (1902) can not be recalled, but we can use them as stepping stones in climbing higher. We have much before us to do, and so much that needs to be done.

We have some wrongs that must be righted. At some points in our county there are more goods sold on Sunday than on Monday. This is wrong and should be stopped. The merchants do wrong in a threefold way. First, he violates the law of our God—Exodus 20: 10.

Second: He helps the man who does the buying to violate the law of God. Third: He shows to the world that he does not care for God or His word or the Christian's feelings. Therefore, he ought to be shunned before he draws the honest man from honesty.

The man who plays around until Sunday to do his shopping is no better than the worst outlaw we can think of. He not only breaks the national law, but the law of God delivered to Moses on Sinai. Shall we as Christians allow just such to go on without

showing them the Word of God that our skirts may be clean? Nay! I say it is our duty to condemn sin in every garb. Six days shalt thou labor and do all thy work; but the new Theology is to work until Saturday noon, sleep or loaf until the stores are closed then do the shopping Sunday morning. They say the Sabbath was made for man and not man for the Sabbath. Right is the best policy for all people in all things. Let us do right.

God charged Israel to let the land rest every seventh year and because they disobeyed Him, he allowed Nebuchadnezza to conquer Jerusalem and capture her people and keep them until the land had rested the seventh year. From history we learn that God's laws must be obeyed.

We are troubled with drunkenness in some parts of our field. It seems to me if the town authorities and the Christian men and women in these communities would put their foot on his neck they could shake him out. But we tread so lightly on the devil's head he only laughs at our weak kneed Christians.

It is wrong to make wine, and it is two-fold wrong to adulterate it so as to make people drunk. Church members making wine to damn their own children and their neighbours too. Your lot is with the angels of darkness. The drunkard has a beginning place. It is at mother's table often in the glass of syllabub.

The Charlotte Observer of Nov. 13, says a good text can be furnished for temperance preachers at the city jail "seeing a large goods box, almost filled with bottles, flasks and ticklers. Chief-of-police Scott explained that they were captured from parties locked up for various crimes from drunken men to burglary. I can tell you another thing said he, nine-tenths of the parties, male and female, arrested for violation of law by my men, have either a bottle of whiskey or the odor of it on them, nearly all of them have a pistol or a razor or some form of deadly weapon, but generally speaking a pistol and razor." These boys belong to some dear mother and father. How are you training those at your knee? You say my boy will never do so and so; this mother might have said the same. Let us keep the Sabbath Holy and crush the monster drink from every closet and make the closet the house of secret prayer.

All my appointments have been filled with usual interest. We spent quite a pleasant Xmas and now down to work. Grace and mercy be with you all. Amen.

—Unfermented wine for communion purposes may be had of the American Baptist Publication Society, of Philadelphia. 25 cts. per pint; 50 cts. per quart; shipped best in cases of half dozen pint bottles. Express or freight extra.

—The only individual communion set we know of in the Atlantic Association was secured some months ago by our Bayboro church, Rev. J. R. Taylor, pastor.

If you are not already a subscriber to The Messenger, you are most cordially invited to become one. Enclose a quarter to-day to the editor of The Messenger, New Bern, N. C.