

The Atlantic Messenger.

EDITOR:

M. P. DAVIS, New Bern, N. C.

A monthly Baptist newspaper started in May, 1899, as the organ of the Atlantic Association; twice enlarged and improved within a year; in January, 1902, its field was so extended as to embrace the "Baptist Destitute" of about twenty counties in Eastern North Carolina, the territory lying mainly in the bounds of the Atlantic, Neuse, Wilmington, and Tar River Associations.

Terms of Subscription:

Single copies, each .25 cts. per year. 25 copies to one address. \$3 per year. 100 copies to one address. \$10 per year.

Entered at New Bern, N. C., as second-class mail matter.

AGENTS

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A blue pencil mark here is to tell the subscriber that his subscription is past due and that all such are respectfully invited to send in at once or pay to the local agent.

A red mark asks you to subscribe.

"Man is immortal, until he has completed the work God has assigned him."

The trustees of the Atlantic Institute, Morehead City, recently held a meeting in the law office of Simmons & Ward and elected the teachers for the incoming year. Our pastor at Morehead City, Bro. A. W. Setzer, was elected principal at a guaranteed salary. He was asked to give his entire time to the school. Bro. Setzer has accepted. We regret to lose Bro. Setzer as an active pastor, but rejoice to know he has accepted a work so near the hearts of our people. Bro. Setzer has been principal for the two years past, and has managed the school with a wise hand, tho' his pastoral duties called for a good portion of his time. We look for a marvelous growth under the management of Bro. Setzer. May the people rally to his support.

A State Temperance Convention has been called to meet in Raleigh July 7th. This will be one of the greatest gatherings the State has ever had. Thousands of the very best people of our State will meet together to discuss the quickest way to save the children of our State from the curse of strong drink. The members of the last Legislature who were Temperance men but —, are beginning to see the hand-writing on the wall and are afraid. Some of them will be found among these thousands, we hope, fully repenting.

It is desired that every community organize an Anti-Saloon League. If you have no saloons, to enforce the laws. If you have, to drive them out and keep them out. Do this and send delegates to Raleigh, July 7th. If you can't do this, elect yourself a delegate and go. Reduced rates on all rail roads.

A large number of young men and maidens have said farewell to books and faculty this week, and stand facing life's stern realities. We hope that not a single one of them will be laggards in the race, but that all may realize their fondest hopes and dreams.—C. & C.

AN ABSURD CONVERSATION

In an exchange, of a recent date, a so-called conversation between a "Primitive" Baptist minister and one of the editors of said paper, was published. We do not put ourselves up as a defender of the Anti-Missionary Baptist ministers; for they are generally able to defend themselves. They generally know what they believe and why, and it is no easy matter to throw them off and close their mouths. But the writer of this so-called conversation puts words and thoughts into the mouth and brain of this minister, that an intelligent twelve year old child would be ashamed of. It is the most ridiculous and absurd conversation the writer has read in many days, and yet many of the readers of said paper will believe the conversation and doctrine put forth. I give below one question and answer:

B. Don't you think the thief on the cross was saved without baptism?

D. Certainly, the thief on the cross, John the Baptist, Moses, Abraham, and thousands of others were saved without baptism, but they all died before Christian baptism was instituted.

To me this is Mormon doctrine. In fact, the conversation reminds me of a Mormon Elder, in some back-woods, teaching his doctrine.

The plan of salvation has never changed. God cannot change. If He saved people before Christ in a different way to what He saves them now, He is a changeable God and cannot be trusted. But He is unchangeable, and Abel was saved just as we are to-day. The thief on the cross certainly did not die before Christ was baptized. From this article it seems that some man started christian baptism after Christ died, for Christ died before the thief. The writer did not say by whom or when christian baptism was instituted, but according to his answer, it was after Christ's death. I suppose he meant that christian baptism was instituted about seventy-five years ago in what is known now as West Virginia.

My dear brother, let me tell you that the thief on the cross, Moses, Abraham, and the many others were saved just as we are to-day—by faith. They believed in the Christ that was promised—accepted the promise by faith. The thief accepted the Christ as the promised Savior. We are saved by faith in the Christ that has already come. We look backward to Christ, they looked forward to Christ. Not that baptism saves, but Christ. Not that baptism aids Christ in saving souls; for, "we are saved by grace through faith and that not of ourselves, it is the gift of God." "There is given no other name by which we can be saved."

Commencement at Wake Forest College has just closed. Dr. Taylor's report, to the trustees, was the best in the history of the College. There were enrolled 313 young men. The graduating class numbered —. The law department is still prosperous and growing—the best law school in North Carolina. The medical depart-

ment, one year old, was a success. There is a great need of a large endowment and a new building.

Wake Forest men are being felt in every part of North Carolina and in all honorable professions. The head of the Raleigh branch of the Medical department of the University, is a Wake Forest man. The head of the Pharmacy department of the University is a Wake Forest man. Several of the Superior Court Judges are Wake Forest men. Many of the Solicitors of North Carolina are Wake Forest men. Three of our Congressmen are Wake Forest men. The finest lawyers, doctors, teachers, farmers and preachers are Wake Forest men. Who could be ashamed to own that he was a Wake Forest man?

IS BAPTISM A DOOR?

T. P. Edwards, Wagersville, Ky.: "Is baptism a door into the church. If not, how is it essential to church membership?"

The inclination which prompts the fixing upon some overt act as a procuring cause is a tendency to ecclesiasticism, to Catholicism and Discipleism. Mr. Campbell and the Pope make baptism a door, but Christ never did. A man should be redeemed, be in the spiritual kingdom or spiritual church before he is baptized; he must be, say the Scriptures and Baptists; and he may be baptized when there is no local church to have a door, as in the case of Philip. No, brother, baptism is not a door, but only baptism (immersion) an act imperative to the understanding, redeemed man, and its purpose is to symbolize the redeemed man's death with Christ to sin and his resurrection with Christ to life everlasting.

Baptism is essential to church membership because it is one of the things Christ commanded of all who would follow Him. Understanding Baptists drop the overt act as a procuring cause as they would the vipers of Egypt.—*Baptist Argus*.

As time comes and goes, we are moving along on the great ship of time which makes its mighty and speedy tours over rough and smooth surveys, and it seems that we so seldom converse with one another concerning the trip we are making, and when we will reach our journey's end.

This should be a voyage which brings seriousness upon us, notwithstanding we make a pleasant and delightful trip.

If the business men in our church looked after their business like they do the business of the church, they would go into the hands of receivers in a short time. Are our brethren going to let this condition of things continue?—They are too indifferent to church work.—*Baptist Bits*.

The debt on the Female University has been reduced to about \$15,000. It ought to be wiped out, and we hope it will be before the leaves have turned to crimson and gold. The school is the pride of our people, and it is as near their hearts as Wake Forest College ever was.—*C. and C.*

Wash - Fabrics !

Never lose their charm for women of taste, and we are really proud to be able to show so fine a collection of summer stuffs as the one to which we invite your attention this week. Patterns, colorings and qualities are a distinct advance over any previous showing we have ever made.

Aristo Batiste in beautiful designs and colors, at 10c yd.
Dainty Dotted Swiss in the most wanted colors and white 15c.
Mercerized Silk Stripe Lawns at 19c. yd.
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A PATTERN FOR YOUR DRESS FREE.

We will furnish free of charge a McCall pattern with every dress bought from us costing \$1.50 and over.

BARFOOT BROS.,

43 POLLOCK STREET, NEW BERN, N. C.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

Prof. C. W. Wilson, '93, Wake Forest College, has been elected Superintendent of Scotland Neck Graded Schools. For the past two or three years Prof. Wilson has been principal of the Rocky Mount Graded Schools. We congratulate both, Prof. Wilson and Scotland Neck.

The census of 1900 tells a woful tale of ignorance in North Carolina. Out of every 100 people over ten years old, 28 people can not read and write. Is it not time our people were awaking from their slumbers?

The following figures are taken from Government reports and the Census bulletin, showing the money we spend in a year and what for:

Liquor, more than \$1000,000,000.
Meat, \$915,000,000.
Iron and Steel, \$600,000,000.
Sawed Lumber, \$530,000,000.
Tobacco, \$525,000,000.
Flour, \$370,000,000.
Public Education, \$175,000,000.
All Church Expenses, \$150,000,000.
Foreign Missions, \$5,000,000.

There were ten full graduates from the Baptist Female University, Raleigh, N. C., Dr. R. T. Vann, president.

North Carolina gave for Foreign Missions, last year, through the Board at Richmond, \$15,541.20. Georgia led all Southern States with \$33,658.06. The Baptists of the Southern Convention gave for Foreign Missions \$218,512.62.

There were 1790 baptisms by the Foreign Missionaries of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The First Baptist Church of Macon, Ga., gives \$3,000 to erect a hospital at Hwang-Hien, China, to be used by Dr. T. W. Ayres, who is supported by the women of Georgia.

Rev. A. L. Betts, of Warsaw, N. C., has been called to the pastorate of our church at Mt. Airy, and has accepted. Mt. Airy is one of the good mountain towns of North Carolina, and the church is composed of some of the best people of our State, but not developed to give and work as they ought. Bro. Betts has a great work before him, and this writer will follow him with a prayer, as Mt. Airy is near his childhood home.

According to the Census of the U. S., almost every State in our Union has female saloon keepers. The States with the largest numbers are: New York, 348; Ohio, 337; New Jersey, 208; Illinois, 196; Pennsylvania, 183; California, 129; Maryland, 126; all the others below 50. Even North Carolina has women saloon keepers. What is to become of a people who protects a "woman" in her diabolical life. All who vote for men who are in favor of such a business, aid in the protection of this great curse.

Free Baptist: "A new law in Switzerland forbids all Sunday excursions. There are some clear and righteous thinkers in those Swiss mountains."

Lansing Burrows, Nashville, Tenn.: "We Baptists have a lot of blessed old maids who are doing the Lord's work as freely, nobly and effectively as any of these women who dress so as to suggest tombstones."

Many of the counties are planning to have a four weeks Institute for teachers this Summer. Thousands of dollars have been thrown away on week (weak) Institutes. Four weeks will tell for good. Two years ago, while the writer was Superintendent of Greene county, the schools cooperated with Pitt county and held a four weeks Institute. It proved a wonderful success. Other counties are following. The four weeks Institute originated in the middle West.

Rev. C. A. Jenkins, of Goldsboro, has been called to the pastorate of the First Baptist church, Gastonia, N. C. We are afraid Bro. Jenkins will accept. He has done a great work for the Baptists of Goldsboro, and has been the leader of the Temperance movement which has permeated every part of Wayne county, and which points to a near day when Goldsboro and Wayne county will be free from the open saloon.

Bro. J. E. King has recently held a good meeting at Woodville church. Six were baptized and three restored. Many of the brethren thought it useless to try to resuscitate this church, but Bro. King thought otherwise, and with God's help he has, and is doing a great work. Only eternity will reveal the good Bro. King is doing.