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The Free Will Baptist.

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POETRY

For the Free Will Baptist.

WHO HATH OUR REPORT BELIEVED.

BY REV. A. R. BRAMBLE, A. M.

Who hath our report believed?
Who the record with regard?
From the Palace of glory came,
Who the mercies did frame.

Who the Whole does believe?
Who the Scriptures do receive?
How the Lord from heaven descended?
How to heaven again ascends.

Who believes Jehovah's word?
What is says of Christ, the Lord?
How he dwelt with Adam's race,
How prepares his saving grace.

Wonderful the prophet weeps,
For God's law none over sheeps,
Every one has gone astray,
No one runs the narrow way.

'Tis the saddest sight to see,
Every one deep in the sea.
Of black crimes, and every stain,
Now and then one born again.

Deep and sadly should we mourn,
Think to few ever return,
Then so many rush to go,
And sweet pleasures will forgo.

A GREAT DISASTER.

A CYCLONE INVADES, AND ALMOST DESTROYS THE HOUSES IN CHARLESTON.

CHARLESTON, S. C., August 25.—Charleston was visited yesterday by a cyclone this terrible wind destroyed all the houses in the Ashepoo, parts of the spires of St. Michael's and St. Matthew's churches are blown down, and the spire of the Citadel Square Baptist church is demolished. The wharves and warehouses are badly damaged. At Sullivan's Island two steamers are aground, and the new Ashley river bridge now constructing is swept away. Four vessels, which arrived yesterday, are wrecked. Telegraph wires are down, and there are no cars running. The loss is estimated at one million dollars. The work of restoration and reparation has already begun.

SULLIVAN'S ISLAND, S. C., August 25.—The hurricane last night and this morning was terrific and destructive. A number of houses on Sullivan's Island were blown away. The New Britton hotel had over one hundred guests, and great fears were entertained for their safety. About nine o'clock this morning the storm reached its greatest velocity. At that hour, while the hotel people were at breakfast, the casino fell with a great crash. Fortunately all the rooms in that building had been vacated, but there were grave apprehensions that the dining-room and the main building would soon succumb to the violence of the storm. Brave men were bleached with fear and their hearts almost ceased to pulsate, so fearful was the apprehension that the ladies and children were doomed to instant death. The ladies behaved with a heroism that was really grand and sublime; not a murmur escaped their lips; they faced the danger with such fortitude as to challenge the admiration of the men. At 9 o'clock the wind changed from the northeast and the storm increased from the southeast. When the casino fell it is thought that the maximum velocity of the storm was from 65 to 70 miles an hour. The main building of the hotel is intact, having stood the storm without very serious damage. It was said that that the storm was the most violent in thirty years. At 1 o'clock it was entirely over. The loss of the New Britton will be $8,000. There has been very general destruction of property on the island, but the people are profoundly grateful that their lives have been spared. The island was in the main submerged, but when the wind changed the waters receded, and all hearts rejoiced and were made glad.

WILMINGTON, N. C., August 25.—A severe storm of wind and rain prevailed here and along the coast this afternoon, blowing down trees and fences. It was particularly severe in the city. The brig San Juan, unloading ballast at the wharf, was thrown on her beam ends and a small schooner dragged her anchors and was driven ashore. The steamer Passport had a portion of her upper works carried away at Smithville. The velocity of the wind was sixty miles an hour. The telegraph wires are down all along the coast. No further information can be had.

SIDNEY, OHIO, August 25.—The storms of last evening and this morning were the heaviest ever known here. About daylight seventy-five linear feet of a 20 foot embankment of the water works reservior went out, leaving the town without water for motive power or the extinguishing of fires.

JACKSONVILLE, FLA., August 25.—Heavy storms passed over this city Monday. The wind, which was accompanied by a drenching rain, reached an average velocity of 40 miles per hour and continued for several hours, at times gusts lasting for two or three minutes which had attained 60 miles and upwards.

The news has just reached here from points of St. John's river, that the gale was terrific there. The Atlantic house was blown from its foundations. The opera was blown off and fell on Mrs. Dexter, killing, crushing, breaking her leg. Three or four large schooners loaded with stone for the jetties were sunk. Wharves were considerably damaged. One small house was blown down. No one is reported to have been killed.

The storm seems to have been confined to a small radius and was hardly felt thirty miles to the west, south, or north of this city. A great many oranges were blown from the trees.—RALEIGH NEWS AND OBSERVER.

WASHINGTON LETTER.

(From Our Regular Correspondent.)

WASHINGTON, August 25, 1885.

I have been asked why the Hon. William Dorsheimer bought the New York "Star." For a number of reasons, I suppose. But I think the most weighty was his desire to "talk back" in print to Hon. Joseph Pulitzer, proprietor of the New York "World," and successor to Mr. Dorsheimer in Congress. The story of the disengagement between Dorsheimer and Pulitzer is entertaining. When Pulitzer assumed control of the "World" he retained Dorsheimer as counsel with a view to possible libel suits. Some time elapsed before anybody even threatened to sue the "World" for libel. At last some exasperated individual did make such a threat. Pulitzer informed his counsel, and when the man brought his suit Dorsheimer contested his name as attorney for the defendant. But he did nothing more because Pulitzer, acting independently of his counsel, candidly compromised the case before it came to trial. Then he forgot all about it until he received one day from Dorsheimer a bill for $1,000 for services rendered the "World" in defending that suit. Pulitzer went at once to Dorsheimer's office with the bill in his hand. "What does this mean? he asked. Dorsheimer explained that it meant just what it said. "Well," said Pulitzer, "but you rendered no services to the World in that case." "I never discuss my bill for fees," Pulitzer said Dorsheimer solemnly. Thereupon Pulitzer, withdrew, and hurried at white heat to his office. There he wrote out a check for $1,000 payable to Dorsheimer's order, and sent it to him enclosed in a curt letter, notifying him that he should never more be counsel for the "World." Not content with that, he began a vigorous criticism of Dorsheimer in the "World," and capped the climax by having himself nominated and elected to Congress in Dorsheimer's stead. No wonder Dorsheimer thinks the score uneven.

It is stated that the Austrian government furnished no reason whatsoever for refusing to receive Minister Kelley, and that such being the case we will be represented by a chargé d'affaires at Vienna for some time to come. But there is no warrant for the published statement that Secretary Bayard has intimated to the Austrian Government that we would view with entire indifference the withdrawal of the Austrian Minister from Washington.

The hotel keepers of summer resorts are much given to advertising the fact that Cabinet Ministers and prominent officials of all sorts are stopping at their health-giving inns where the scenery is grand and the thermometer at 75 degrees. Attorney General Garland has been much annoyed at advertising of this sort, and when it was announced last week that he was at Rock Enon Springs he got mad and gave notice that he had been away and did not intend to go. He tramps down to his office often as early as 7 in the morning and seldom leaves until 6. When he goes out he rides in a street car and lives as plainly as the lowest grade clerk in his office. His idea of living are certainly wholesome, but very old-fashioned.

A rumor was current at the Navy Department last Friday, that the sentence of the court-martial in the case of Paymaster General Smith is suspension from duty on furlough pay for two years. The remainder of his term as paymaster general is little less than that time. At the end of that, he not been courtmartialed, he would have done duty as a pay inspector.

The house which Secretary Whitney has purchased is one of the highest hills about Washington. The house, which is at the junction of the Tenlaw and Loughborough roads, is about three miles northwest of Georgetown, and is a handsome, well-built house, which, the Secretary thinks, he secured at a bargain. The hill upon which the house is situated is a very high one, and the view to the west is a fine one, and on a clear day the mountain peaks are plainly visible. The Secretary is much pleased with his purchase.

According to a prominent official of the Interior Department, Mr. Secretary Lamar is once more relapsing into his old habits of forgetfulness and absent mindedness which so distinguished his days in the United States Senate. When Mr. Lamar was appointed there was a general feeling that he was not enough of a practical worker to attend to the great mass of business in the Interior Department. At first the Secretary took hold with a vim and surprised his critics. Lately, however, he has gone back to his old habits with a vengeance and the bureau officials are greatly concerned about the work.

Often have I thought with myself, I will sin but this one sin more, and then I will repent of it, and of all the rest of my sins together. So foolish was I and ignorant. As if I should be more able to pay my debts when I owe more; or as if I should say; I will wound my friend once again, and then I will lovingly shake hands with him; but what if my friend will not shake hands with me? Besides, can one commit one sin more, and but one sin more?—Fuller.

Few are qualified to shine in company; but it is in most men's power to be agreeable.—Swift.

THE EVANGELICAL WORK OF ELD. BARFIELD AND OTHERS RESULTED TO FIFTY FOUR ADDITIONS TO THE CHURCH AT BETHANY AND WATERY BRANCH.

ORMONDSVILLE N. C.
August 22, 1885.

FREE BAPTIST:—I have just returned home from a glorious meeting I had the pleasure of enjoying the last two weeks. It was quite encouraging to Christians to see returning prodigals coming to the fold of Christ. I left home Saturday before the 2nd Sunday in August, for Watery Branch Wayne Co., and preached a Funeral. Sunday, the brethren seemed very anxious for the meeting to be protracted, but owing to my family being sick I left for home by promising them if they could get some one to carry on the meeting, I would go back Thursday; so the appointment was made but they failed to get any one. We then like an earnest worker held prayer meetings till Thursday when according to promise met with them and preached, and continued the meeting till the next Thursday, which resulted to 32 additions to the church, 30 baptized and two received. Friday at 11 o'clock, one united at the water, after which the converts was baptized: thus a glorious meeting has closed that will long be cherished in memories of the brethren at Watery Branch.

We left Friday evening to attend two meetings at Bethany church Pitt Co., and on arriving we found Eds. Parker, McGlowhorn, Johnson, and Manning; we went into the house and Eld. Parker preached, after which we sat in conference and transacted the business of the church. We held service at night and commemorated the death and sufferings of our Lord and Savior. Eld. Parker left for home Sunday after noon; Eld. Johnson labored with us until Thursday; we continued the meeting until Friday night. The meeting resulted in 22 additions to the church and we met by the water side Friday morning for baptism, two united with us, making 24, and Eld. Manning and myself administered baptism to 20 of the converts. The meeting was a glorious one, and the Spirit seemed to prevail in our midst; many souls were made glad to see their neighbors and friends and dear children coming to the fold of Christ. We hear from other places where the good work has been going on. O may it continue until there is not one to advocate the cause of the wicked one.

J. M. BARFIELD.

IS CHRISTIANITY DECLINING?

So asks the Rev. Dr. C. H. Parkhurst in the North American Review for July. The article begins adroitly enough that painters find a difficulty in representing the sun in such a way that it shall not be mistaken for the setting sun. Is the sun rising or setting? That is substantially the question in this paper. It is an article of clear facts and strong deductions, the one quite apparent as the other. Reference is made to discouraging prophecies repeatedly made by eminent men concerning the survival of Christianity; among others Voltaire's remark is quoted, that "before the beginning of the nineteenth century Christianity will have disappeared from the earth," but it adds, "It is an instructive coincidence that the room in which Voltaire uttered these words has since been used a Bible repository."

For every fact or utterance indicating decline or retrograde, there are facts and figures to show how steadily Christianity is advancing and its principles increasing throughout the world. Very significant is the allusion made to the repairing to the sepulchre to anoint the body of Christ, but Christ was walking the earth alive. Just so all through the ages infidelity and unbelief keep bringing spices and ointment to the burial-place of Christianity, but there is no lifeless body to anoint. And during all this time not only are churches increasing constantly in number, but Young Men's Christian Associations have sprung up "North and South, in Europe, Asia, the Sandwich Island's Australia and Madagascar." This is pronounced a strange way of dying. Then the vast increase in the Sunday-school attendance makes an equally surprising showing.

"In the year 1800 there were, in the United States, 3,030 evangelical churches; in 1850, 43,072; in 1870, 70,0248, and in 1880, 97,090. Yet this is what the critics have been pleased to call effete Protestantism. It is refreshing to read the following declaration: 'So far from Christianity betraying the first symptom of exhaustion, there has been no time since the Jordan baptism of Jesus when Christianity has moved with such gigantic strides, and put forth efforts so vigorous and herculean, as during these years of our own century, when the disciples of Voltaire and the imitators of Paine have been most agile in their production of obituaries and accumulation of embalming spices."

A great deal is said at times about the importance of teaching the young, trusting to a well-developed system of education to give a right direction to the youthful mind, and to stimulate to a wholesome acceptance of doctrines which have been proved to be staunch and vital. The doctrines of our religion have survived through all the ages, triumphing over all the shafts of ridicule, adverse sophistry and unbelief. They give strength to the weak, and new life to the fainting soul. "Thanks be to God for his unspeakable gift!" cries the apostle, and we of later ages echo the cry, adding fresh peans of praise and thankfulness that Christ blesses his children forever with the influences of a blessed Christianity.

A MEETING AT BRITISH CHAPEL LENOIR CO.

BRO. HERN:—Eld. H. Cunningham, our beloved pastor met with us Saturday before the 2nd Sunday in August, and preached for us at British Chapel. A large congregation assembled at night, and our Bro. the entered stand and delivered a good sermon, after which he opened the door of the church and one young lady came forward and united with the church. We met by the water side Sunday morning and found a goodly number present, and Eld. C. baptized the young sister. We went to the church and Eld. C. preached to a well behaved audience; he opened the door of the church and two ladies united with us. In the afternoon, we all assembled by the water side again, and Bro. Cunningham made a few touching remarks and one more young lady came forward and united with us, after which he administered baptism to the four candidates. We returned to the church and found a good a congregation; Eld. Cunningham entered the stand and preached one of his best sermons; three more came and united with us, two for baptism and one received back. This closed a happy meeting.

G. W. DAUGHTRY.

The trouble you dread may never come; and if it does, its character may be so changed by the time it reaches you, that you may not dread it; or you may be raised above it, so that it may pass away without much affecting you.

INTERPRETING THE BIBLE.

There is one right the Baptists claim, as they take the Bible for their sole guide; and that is the right to interpret the Bible for themselves. They hold that each individual is responsible to God for himself; that is, for his own beliefs and practice. Consequently he must judge for himself what the Bible commands. The Roman Catholics will not allow that. They say "the church" must interpret the Bible for the people; and, strange as it may seem, they have tried to keep the Bible from the common people. As we understand the plain teachings of the Bible we must we act, and we must use our judgment to understand the Bible. We must not only study it all we can, diligently comparing scripture with scripture, but must ask for the illuminating power of the Holy Spirit, to enable us to understand the Scriptures. No doubt mistakes are sometimes made. Still we claim the right of each man judging for himself; and we deny that there is any power that can force or compel us to discard our opinions and believe and practice what others command. No church or state authority has a right to interpret the Bible for us and dictate what we should believe and practice. We must investigate the truth for ourselves, and believe and practice what our honest convictions tell us are the teachings of the Bible.—Sel.

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