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The World As We See It.

As long as the State Prison is piling up annually such a gratifying surplus, what becomes of the argument: "The State cannot financially afford a Reformatory?"

The Fourth General Convention of the Religious Educational Association met yesterday in the city of Rochester, New York. The general theme of the programme is, "Biblical Materials in Education."

Irascibility of temper and intemperate language in the present Legislature have already almost caused a personal encounter. Legislators are assumed to be leaders of the people, and they should learn decorum of speech and mastery of self.

The American Bible Society has just received the following news concerning the famine in China: "Million and a quarter starving. Refugees already flocking into cities. In one district three million destitute. Many millions affected." Surely this is a dark picture.

It is very well that our Government refused to treat seriously the insult given by Swettenham, Governor of Jamaica, to Admiral Davis. The Governor has apologized and resigned, and all is well. It might have been otherwise had the United States treated the matter seriously.

Speaker Justice in calling upon the officials of the different railroads in the State to tell how much money has been paid by them to newspapers in the State, virtually accuses newspapers in the State of using the funds of the railroad. In not naming any special newspapers, he places all of them under suspicion. He should either name the newspapers under suspicion, or withdraw his very unjust imputation.

In these days of industrial and political meetings it is refreshing to think of the Bible Study Institute which is to be held at Trinity Park, February 15th to 17th. It is for all the educational institutions of the State. The programme is interesting. The following are some who are to take part: President Poteat, of Wake Forest College; Dr. A. L. Phillips, of Richmond; Dr. Edwin Mims, of Trinity College; Messrs. C. D. Daniel and G. C. Huntington, of Charlotte.

Surely the Committee on Penal Institutions was genuinely surprised on last Wednesday night when it met to hear the arguments in favor of a Reformatory for juvenile criminals. The chamber of the House of Representatives was packed and jammed with people, and every person present seemed to be enthusiastic in advocacy of the Reformatory. Hundreds of women were present. Mrs. General Johnson, of Alabama, who is the "good angel" in that State for young criminals, made a most touching plea. It was seen before she was half-way through her talk that the Reformatory for which many have worked so hard

for long years was practically an accomplished fact. There was no need of other speeches. We believe that the present Legislature will establish a Reformatory of some kind. But the movement will be bitterly fought. It will be no walk-over. Those in charge should have their eyes open.

North Carolina is very familiar with the story of the little log cabin that has continued for years and years to crouch in the shadow of the great Vanderbilt mansion near Asheville. The cabin was owned by a negro man named Charles Collins. He refused every offer made by Mr. Vanderbilt. The little cabin continued to sit like Mordecai at the gate and stare at the great palatial mansion. It was the only blot on the beautiful landscape. Now comes the news that Collins has sold the little cabin with its six acres to the Blitmore estate for \$2,000. A few years ago he was offered \$8,000. We presume that Collins realized that he was getting old and that it would be better for him to get \$2,000 than let Death get all.

The (New York) Christian Advocate gives the following as an example of repartee: At St. Paul, Minnesota, there was a convention for the promotion of the improvement of the Mississippi River for transportation purposes. In that convention, Ignatius Donnelly offered a series of resolutions, favoring a scheme. G. E. Cole, a man of marked ability and influence, former Attorney-General of the State, but then acting in the interest of railroads and corporations, arose and said: "I move that the Revised Version of the Bible be incorporated in the resolutions." Donnelly sprang up and said: "I would not like to have the whole Bible inserted, for some of it would not be applicable. There is one portion, however, that I would like very much to have inserted. It is the passage which says: 'The ox knoweth his owner and the ass his master's crib.'" The retort practically destroyed Attorney-General Cole's influence in that convention, nor did he hear the last of it as long as he lived.

Except in a few minor particulars we agree to the following statements made by a prominent gentleman: "I was glad to note the conservatism shown by the leading members of the Temperance Convention, recently held in Raleigh. While we cannot afford to take any backward step on this question, a step too far in advance would be equally as disastrous. The Watts and Ward laws have been the greatest temperance educators of any laws ever put on the statute books, and when the people are better educated along these lines should lead up to prohibition. The dispensary seems to solve the question, where the people will have whiskey. But I do not believe it would be going too far to commence considering the proposition of dispensary or prohibition, cut out the bar-rooms and let the Watts law stand as to dispensary or prohibition. The friends of prohibition have always been at a disadvantage in this three-cornered fight, but squarely before the people dispensary or prohibition, I believe prohibition would carry in most every instance. Whiskey is not sold in over one-fourth of the counties of the State now. But if the people are not ready for the question, let the Legislature do everything that is possible to strengthen the laws against

shipping strong drink into prohibition territory. The dispensary puts us all into the liquor business. And a good many more people are getting restless under it. But I am willing to trust to the judgment of these leaders, and to the members of the Legislature. But we must not forget that we have whiskey on the run, and that it must finally go."

The following clipped from a newspaper is a brief statement of the prohibition status in the South:

Alabama under local option both as to the saloon and dispensary, has a majority of counties wholly dry, and a majority of the precincts and towns in the wet counties are also dry.

Arkansas has fifty-two of her seventy-five counties dry and large areas of the twenty-three remaining counties are dry, fully four-fifths of her territory being now under prohibition.

Florida, with twenty-seven of her forty-five counties dry, is now making an effort to make the whole State dry.

Georgia has only twenty-seven of a total of 137 counties in which license can be granted, and under a three-mile law similar to ours, most of her twenty-seven wet counties are also dry.

Kentucky has sixty-nine of her 119 counties completely dry, and in thirty-five other counties most of the towns are dry, making at least three-fourths of the State dry.

Mississippi has sixty-six of her seventy-six counties dry, and many towns in the remaining ten counties are also dry.

Missouri, though more slowly, is coming surely. She now has thirty-seven of her 114 counties dry under local option, and many counties are now arranging for local option contests during this year.

North Carolina prohibits the sale except in incorporated towns, and many towns have voted dry.

South Carolina runs her own saloons under the dispensary law to the satisfaction of none save the government grafters.

Tennessee, having the saloon out of all towns under 5,000, now has only eight towns in the State wherein liquor sales can be licensed.

Texas is rapidly coming to the front for prohibition with over half her counties wholly dry and half the remaining partially so.

Virginia has banished the bar-room entirely from seventy of her ninety-nine counties, while large portions of her wet counties are also under prohibition.

West Virginia has banished the saloon entirely from thirty of her thirty-three counties and from many towns in the other twenty-five counties.

Oklahoma, the new State admitted, entered under a constitutional prohibition covering more than half her entire territory for the first twenty-one years.

Youth is the time of enterprise and hope; having yet no occasion of comparing our force with any opposing power, we naturally form presumption in our own favor, and imagine that obstruction and impediment will give way before us. Before disappointments have enforced the dictates of philosophy we believe it in our power to shorten the interval between the first cause and the last effect; we laugh at the timorous delays of plodding industry, and fancy that by increasing the fire we can at pleasure accelerate the projection.—Dr. S. Johnson.