



EDITORIAL



CONFERENCE IS AT THE DOOR.

This means a great deal to a Methodist in many directions. The fact that most of our Churches have been closed for a month or more on account of the epidemic of influenza demands that unusual activity characterize the few remaining days. This is true with reference to every phase of the work; but we must call special attention to the Advocate in this connection. The effect of the epidemic has been seriously felt in a financial way in the Advocate office. It has not been possible for us to get out as we usually do at this season of the year, and now it will be impossible for us to do this kind of work between this and Conference. We are far short in the matter of new subscribers this year. The preachers in the Western North Carolina Conference have sent in more than 2,400 new subscribers to their Conference organ, and Brother Blair announces that practically all the old subscribers are paid in advance. What a splendid record! Why cannot we do as well? If all our pastors had tried as some of them have, we could. Will you not redeem the situation in the few days that are left? It can be done. And do not wait till Conference to send them in. It is much better to send them in now. As the ravages of the epidemic are passing, as the war seems about to close, as conditions of life promise to be more nearly normal, let us press this work with full energy and with determination to succeed. We are counting on you.

Our Great Orphanage Work

We are giving practically all of our space this week to the cause of the orphan. We are sure that there is no cause that appeals more strongly to the hearts of all our people. Methodism entered this field long after some of the other denominations did, not that we were indifferent to the orphan, but because we thought we were ministering to them through another institution. We were doing so in so far as we ministered, but it did not reach far. We were playing with our consciences in the matter. We had not looked the situation in the face and informed ourselves of the real need that was crying to heaven.

Our orphanage is young in years, but it is growing rapidly. It is not, however, yet meeting the needs that exist. We have to turn away many worthy applications for lack of room and resources with which to do the work. Among the many applications that come we have to sift and try to get the most needy until our limit is reached. It is a great philanthropic work. The impulse that is back of it is love for men; the purpose before it is to help them to realize the best that is in them. It is a genuinely religious work. It recognizes the fact that no man come to his best self except through Jesus Christ. Religion is the basis of character, and Christ is the only Saviour from sin. The orphanage work bases itself upon this fundamental truth, and offers to the helpless dependent orphan the guidance and help that he needs.

Our Church is to be congratulated in the work that is being done in our orphanage at Raleigh. We have in Brother Barnes a wise and spiritually-minded leader in this work. He is a lover of children—tender and sympathetic with them in their work and study and play. He is associated with a number of others who are giving themselves whole-heartedly to the tasks to which they have been called, and a wholesome religious

atmosphere pervades the place. It is well that at this time the attention of our people should be turned to it, and that a new impetus should be given to the work. The more money that our people are willing to invest in that institution, the larger will be the amount of good that it can and will do.

Peace!

The world is rejoicing today (Monday) over the cessation of hostilities, which occurred this morning at 6 o'clock Washington time. November 11, 1918, is destined to be a great date in the history of the world. History will also acknowledge that the United States of America has made it a great date, and of the individual names who performed a great part in bringing it to pass that of Woodrow Wilson will stand in the forefront. In the final stages of the great war after the entrance of the United States as an active participant in the struggle, his voice carried furthest in the councils of the nations. He injected into the titanic contest a higher idealism, put the purposes of the war on a higher moral plane, and under this inspiration with the addition of the spirited fighting qualities of the American soldier, the Allied forces moved with greater efficiency to the goal of victory. To indicate the greatness of this triumph of humanity over barbarism, of essential truth and goodness over the "right of might," of individual liberty and initiative over serfdom and autocracy, words are lamentably inadequate. The breaking down of the Central Powers came sooner than many of us who were keeping in touch with the dispatches from the battle front could hope a short time ago, but within recent weeks events have moved rapidly. When the alliance of the Central Powers began to crumble, it soon tottered to its fall. We cannot help recalling the words of Dr. Hugh Black at Trinity commencement last June: "The German machine will finally go to pieces upon the bare heart of humanity." It was a sentence that sounds prophetic in the light of the present moment. This crisis of peace is now upon us, and it is no less great in its possibilities than was the crisis of war; but sufficient for the present moment is the fact that the awful holocaust of war is over. We devoutly thank God for a victorious peace.

Our Fall Drive

A. S. Barnes, Superintendent.

That we should unite our forces in a "big drive" for the benefit of our Methodist Orphanage is apparent to all who are familiar with our financial condition. Some months ago we exhausted our bank account, and have been forced to borrow two thousand and five hundred dollars. Unless more and larger Specials reach us before the first of December, we shall be compelled to borrow again. For these and other reasons, it is imperative that we make a "big drive" during the next few weeks so that we can put our beloved Methodist Orphanage on a good financial basis. Our friends should remember that we have two hundred and thirty-five vigorous, active boys and girls to feed, clothe, educate and train. Such an undertaking is a Herculean task, especially when prices are soaring, and the dollar diminishing in purchasing power all the while. The regular assessment does not begin to meet our current expenses. It has several years since the ten per cent assessment was voted upon the

Church by the Conference. We have more than twice as many children to provide for now as we had then. By putting these facts together we easily see the embarrassing situation that confronts us. Specials from Churches, Sunday schools, Organized Classes, Woman's Missionary Societies and Epworth Leagues have enabled us to make buckle and tongue just about meet. In the light of these facts, I wish to urge our pastors, Sunday-school Superintendents, teachers, stewards, Leaguers and all other leaders to join hand and heart in our fall campaign and make the "big drive" a glowing success. Thanksgiving services in most of our Churches, Sunday-schools and Leagues about Thanksgiving will furnish our Methodist friends a fine opportunity to make a special offering for our worthy cause. Let all, who can do a day's work, set apart the amount received and give to the Orphanage. We need eighteen more generous-hearted friends who are able to support an orphan each. Now is the best season of the year to find that number. Our good Baptist friends waged an active campaign last year, and received for the Thomasville Baptist Orphanage more than twenty thousand dollars during the Thanksgiving season. Most of that amount was received from the income of a day's work on the part of the Baptists of the State. With everybody united and enthused, we can do as well as our sister Church and relieve our Orphanage from being handicapped and embarrassed for lack of adequate support.

Let me beg everyone who is interested in the Methodist Orphanage to read the articles published in this week's issue of the Advocate. They are right from the heart of some of our warmest friends. If we heed these messages, they will accomplish great good for the orphan children of our Church and State. With this issue of the Advocate goes an earnest prayer from the heart of our orphan children that God will graciously bless all who minister to them in His name.

Duty of the North Carolina Conference Toward the Methodist Orphanage

By Bishop U. V. W. Darlington.

To All of the Brethren and Sisters of the North Carolina Conference:

These are stirring times in which we are permitted to live, and there are many calls upon us all for service in the Kingdom of God. "Hands across the sea" beckon us to come to their relief, and we have come, and we are coming, and we shall continue to come to the relief of the starving children of Belgium, of Northern France, of Syria and other parts of the war-stricken world. These things ought we to have done, but not to have left the other undone. While we are thinking of these homeless, fatherless, motherless children across the waters, we must not forget those at our own door, in the Methodist Orphanage at Raleigh. We have 235 children to feed, clothe, educate and train in Christian service. In these days of soaring prices we have found that the income from all sources is not sufficient to meet the current expenses. I, therefore, as your brother and chief pastor, exhort that every preacher shall raise his ten per cent assessment on his charge and encourage his Sunday-schools, Epworth Leagues and Missionary Societies to make an offering for the Orphanage. When the Thanksgiving season rolls around, it would be a fitting thing, and a most gracious opportunity for the brethren to give their Thanksgiving offerings to the Orphanage and I sincerely hope this will be done. Let all our people rally to the Orphanage in these strenuous days and remember the words of our Lord when He said, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."