

ANNUAL REPORT OF TRACT WORK IN NORTH CAROLINA.

God has been our refuge and strength thro' another colportage year, and now it is close we are still greatly encouraged to rely upon Him as a very present help in this time of trouble in our country.

This kind of effort must be resorted to more by Christians, that the eternal interest of thousands of souls may not be neglected and forgotten, who are being kept from hearing and reading God's word on account of their destitution and ignorance.

Surely every Christian and patriot will give to God anew their hearts, efforts and means, that those who are in neglect and error, causing present and eternal ruin, may be speedily brought under the spirit's power of the Rock, the only one foundation, the righteous of God through Christ, by which the soul, as well as the nation, is exalted.

During the year ending March 1st, I visited 1808 families in 43 counties, with most of whom I had religious conversation and prayer. Only sixty-three of this number were in the habit of holding family prayer.

A few Sabbaths ago we held four of these meetings, and had personal conversation with fifty-four individuals and only three professors of religion; one of whom, the head of a family and member of a church for many years, had no bible, and not a page in his house about Jesus.

To those able to buy we have sold over 556,000 pages; to the poor and needy we have given over 253,000 pages; supplied more than 300 Life Directors and Life members of the American Tract Society in North Carolina with 469,500 pages as annuities, most of which they have given to their needy neighbors, making a total of over 1,279,000 pages during the year.

A Life member told us that after receiving 1,500 pages of tracts, he visited every family within five miles of him, and gave them to parents; children and servants, and in three months there were forty-two converts among the white people and fifty-seven among the blacks, many of whom attribute their awakening to the reading of those tracts.

Another Life member writes that the reading of one tract has been greatly blessed to two families, who were in a state of great wretchedness—he is giving them his personal attention, and recently got his tracts for this year.

A lady in scattering her tracts through the country, gave a prominent gentleman one, "The Door was Shut," which he stated was blessed of God in the conversion of himself and two others.

One of the Society's oldest Life Members, whose heart is ready for every good word and work, recently sent us and gave \$100, by which five ministers are made Life Members, and can now draw 7,500 pages every year gratis.

Three grand children were recently made Life Members by their grand-parents, whose hearts are deeply interested in the tract work.

Two Sewing Societies secured Life Members to several young ladies, who are being interested in the good work by reading their books and loaning them to other young persons.

An active, pious lady, who is a Life Director by a donation of \$50, enabling her to 3,000 pages annually, sent us \$55, to be expended in German, Swedish and Danish Bibles and Tracts for the destitute in Wisconsin; which are now being scattered there by an excellent minister to their great joy and good.

This lady has also sent us over \$100 to supply poor Sunday Schools in North Carolina with books and "The Child's Paper," and to get books to scatter herself. Many souls have already been led to Christ by the truths which she, with others of similar spirit in the same town, have been instrumental in thus sending out. May God speedily give our State, nation and the world more such laborers to be "light" and "salt" to guide and save in this time of darkness and corruption.

An old gentleman, who is also a Life Member, sent \$100 to give the bread of Life to distant heathen.

A poor boy, fifteen years old, was made a Life Member by a gentleman who gave us \$20, requesting that we select the youth. His first lot of books was made a blessing to his soul, and he is being made the means of great comfort and benefit to his afflicted, widowed mother, and his younger brothers and sisters.

This excellent woman earned the twenty-five cents by sewing each day for this amount, (and has two small children to support,) which she gave me for a packet of Temperance tracts that were distributed by herself. One of them, "Address to young men," by Bishop McIlvaine, was the means of rescuing a young man from promiscuity and intemperance, and for several months he has led a consistent Christian life. A great many are thus buying tracts regularly, saying, "I am greatly concerned for the salvation of my neighbors, and I want tracts to aid me in talking to them on religion."

Those who have but little means, with hearts trusting to God, are frequently His instruments for greatest good. In the tract work we may do something. Ten cents will put a copy of gospel truth in 100 families, while 100 cents may be read by 500 persons. Let each

Christian use these facilities for sowing gospel seed "in the morning and the evening withhold not thy hand," warning them with thy prayers and watering them with thy tears, and God will attend to the fruit from such sowing sooner or later.

Three societies are organized in several of the more prominent towns in North Carolina, in which many of the most pious and intelligent ladies are engaged in monthly tract distribution from house to house of every class, which God has signally blessed in bringing the ignorant and neglected to the Sabbath School and public worship, and those who will not attend cannot make the charge that "he man cared for my soul;" and even some of this class are benefited by the presence and example of pious ladies; and by unceasing efforts some are brought in. By their instrumentality the skeptic and the abandoned have been saved, to which some have testified, not only in life, but in death, by saying, "those ladies and tracts are God's angels of mercy to us."

Christian ladies of every town should be encouraged to engage heartily in this blessed work.

The Young Men's Christian Association at the University of N. C. have a Tract Society and Depository, by which much Gospel leaves are being diffused, and great good will doubtless be the result of this department of Christian effort in which they have recently engaged successfully.

The Tract Society is doing an important work by giving books and tracts to the Asylums, Seaman's Homes, Bethel and Vessels, Sabbath Schools, Poor Homes, and Prisons in this State. A sea captain was led to Christ by the tract "Come to Jesus," given him by a Colporteur, and he is now exerting an influence as an active Christian.

Our heart has been filled with gratitude to God in passing over the fields of this band of dear brethren whom God has raised up for this work. In the meek and faithful spirit of Christ they are daily going from house to house, among every class, in towns and thro' the country, generally in the most desolate parts, pointing all to Christ by their own voices in counsel and prayer, and by the printed page as the various wants may demand, from the primer to the standard volume, and the Child's Paper and American Messenger, by sale or grant as the case may require. By this heaven-blessed agency we are reaching about 20,000 families annually, hundreds of whom must perish in ignorance and sin, but for Colportage to search out the scattered families, who live five, ten and fifteen miles from the nearest church, where there is preaching once a month; and nearest bookstores is twenty, fifty or a hundred miles, and in hundreds of these families there is no disposition for books, and especially religious books, until interested in them at their firesides.

A wealthy, pious mother told us that she had almost despaired of getting religious books for her children, because of the distance; and after making it a subject of prayer, one of our Colporteurs came to her home with just the books she desired to point her children and servants to Christ. She is not only getting a full supply for her own family, but she has bought to give and loan to her neighbors.

Are there not many more Christian men and women in N. C. who are able and ready with cheerfulness to give \$150, or three five \$50 each, which will send a Colporteur to that work for souls in counties of our State not yet supplied?

We have aided in organizing 87, and visited 314, to most of these we have rendered aid.—In one that we helped to organize over a year ago, a revival has been in progress for months. A minister took charge of them six months ago, and he now reports 74 members of the church, and a good building has been erected, where there was none nearer than five miles before.

In another county one of our colporteurs organized the first Sunday School in it about two years ago, amid severe opposition even by his denomination. Some others were formed, to all of which he gave suitable books; and at every place where these Schools have been, God has blessed His truths in the hopeful conversion of about 350 souls—one of the leading opposers was led to Christ by "Baxter's Call."

By this whole system of united Christian effort, which sends out only such truths "as are calculated to receive the approbation of all evangelical Christians," which hinders no other and no other system hinders this, we can most extensively, rapidly and effectually supply every destitute family with the gospel in N. C. The field is white unto the harvest, inviting and urging the American Tract Society, which is organized for the whole country and the whole world, and every Christian to look upward and press onward, co-operating in prayers, example, means and effort for the salvation of perishing souls.

Yours truly, W. J. W. CROWDER, Gen. Agt. Am. Tr. So. for N. C. March, 1861.

[From the Montgomery Advertiser.] Rates of Postage in the Confederate States of America.

For the convenience of our readers and the public generally, we have prepared the following simplified statement of the rates of postage under the act of the Congress of the Confederate States of America adopted on the 21st February, 1861. It must be borne in mind that the act is to go into effect "from and after such period as the Postmaster General may, by proclamation, announce."

RATES OF POSTAGE. Between places within the Confederate States of America.

ON LETTERS. Single letters not exceeding a half-ounce in weight.—For any distance under 500 miles, 5 cents; For any distance over 500 miles, 10 cents; An additional single rate for each additional half-ounce or less. Drop letters 2 cents each.

ON PACKAGES. Containing other than printed or written matter—money packages are included in this class.—To be rated by weight as letters are rated and to be charged double the rates of postage on letters, to wit: For any distance under 500 miles, 10 cents for each half-ounce or less;

For any distance over 500 miles, 20 cents for each half-ounce or less; In all cases to be prepaid by stamps or stamped envelopes.

ON NEWSPAPERS. Sent to regular and bona fide subscribers from the office of publication and not exceeding 50 ounces in weight; Without the State where published. Monthly, 3 cents per quarter of 1 cent for each number. Semi-monthly, 6 cents per quarter or 1 cent for each number. An additional cent each number for every additional ounce, or less beyond the first 50 ounces. Bi-monthly or Quarterly, 1 cent each number. In all cases, the postage to be paid quarterly in advance at the offices of subscribers.

Without the State Published. Not exceeding 1 1/2 ounces in weight. Monthly 6 cts per quarter or 2 cts for each number. Semi-Monthly 12 cts per quarter, or 2 cts for each number. Two cts additional for every additional ounce or less beyond the first 1 1/2 ounces. Bi-Monthly or Quarterly, 2 cts an ounce. In all cases, the postage to be paid quarterly in advance at the offices of subscribers.

ON TRANSIENT PRINTED MATTER. Every other newspaper, pamphlet, periodical and magazine, each circular not sealed, handbill and engraving, not exceeding 10 ounces in weight, 2 cts for any distance; 2 cts additional for each additional ounce or less beyond the first three ounces. In all cases, the postage to be prepaid by stamps or stamped envelopes.

FRANKING PRIVILEGE. The following persons only are entitled to the franking privilege, and in all cases strictly confined to "OFFICIAL BUSINESS": Post Master General. His Chief Clerk. Auditor of the Treasury for the Post Office Department. Deputy Post Masters.

[From the Ad Valorem Banner.] MR. EDITOR:—On last Monday two gentlemen and myself were sitting together in conversation when we were joined by Mr. Frank Strother. After the usual salutations one of the gentlemen asked Mr. S. how he came to make such a mistake in printing that oath for Mr. Cantwell. Mr. S. replied that he made no mistake at all, but printed it according to the copy furnished by Mr. C. himself and that Mr. C. himself read the proof three times.

We were all astonished at this answer, and Mr. S. was asked how he came to furnish Mr. C. with a certificate stating that the alteration in the oath was a typographical error? He replied that Mr. Cantwell made the proposition to him that if he (Mr. S.) would take the responsibility upon himself, and give him (Mr. C.) a certificate to the effect that the alteration had more printing, he (Mr. S.) should have more printing. Mr. S. gave the certificate, he stated, with the express understanding that it was not to be published, and was to be shown only to the committee appointed to investigate the charge against Mr. C. of having altered the oath. Mr. S. further stated that instead of having been a benefit to him, his giving the certificate had proved an injury. He also said that his partner, Mr. Marcom, knew nothing of the matter at the time, and had no hand in giving the certificate.

Such, Mr. Editor, is in brief the substance of Mr. Strother's statement. I think such corruption should be exposed, and for that reason, and that alone, for I have no personal ill will towards the parties, I desire you to publish this. You are at liberty to give my name, and also the names of the other two gentlemen, to any one desiring them.

It is no pleasure to us to publish the above. Far from it; but justice demands it. We say justice demands it in a two-fold sense. If these things be so the people should know them; if they be not so the parties now have an opportunity of exculpating themselves. Our columns are open to them for that purpose. The matter has been freely talked about upon the streets for the last two days. The people want some explanation.

Our correspondent is a man of respectable and responsibility, and so are the other two gentlemen alluded to. None of them are politicians. They are peaceable, intelligent, industrious mechanics, and good citizens.

It is probably necessary for a full understanding of the matter, that we give the oath prescribed by the Constitution for members of the Legislature, also the oath which Mr. Cantwell administered to them at the beginning of the last session, and the certificate signed by Mr. Strother, putting the name of his partner with his own. After the alteration was discovered, a committee was appointed to investigate the charge against Mr. C. of having intentionally altered the oath, which, acting upon the certificate signed Strother & Marcom, acquitted him.

The alterations will be seen by comparing the two oaths. We have put them in small type. CONSTITUTIONAL OATH. "I, A. B., do solemnly and sincerely swear (or affirm) that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to the State of North Carolina, and to the constitutional powers and authorities, which are or may be established for the government thereof; and that I will endeavor to support, maintain, and defend the constitution of said State, not inconsistent with the constitution of the United States, to the best of my knowledge and ability; so help me, God. I do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States: so help me, God."

MR. CANTWELL'S OATH. "I do solemnly and sincerely swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to the State of North Carolina, and to the constitu-

tional powers and authorities which are or may be established for the government thereof; and that I will endeavor to support, maintain, and defend the Constitution of said State, not inconsistent with the Constitution of the United States, to the best of my power, belief, and ability; so help me, God. I further swear, that I will support the Constitution of the United States: so help me, God."

THE CERTIFICATE. SUNDAY EVENING, Dec. 9, 1860. Hon. SAM'L J. PERSON, House of Commons: Sir:—On yesterday the 8th instant, we had occasion to refer to our copy file, and discovered the original draft in the handwriting of Mr. Cantwell from which we printed the "Oaths" subscribed in the House of Commons, on the 19th instant, [etc.] and we have ascertained that the alteration complained of was not made by Mr. Cantwell, but was a misprint of ours in "setting up."

We herewith enclose the original draft which you will observe is in the precise form required by law. You will also perceive that the words "knowledge and ability" should have been printed instead of the words, "power, belief and ability." The error was therefore ours. We feel bound to make this statement as an act of justice; and we make it for the purpose and with the request that you will lay the same before the House of Commons on to-morrow or as early as practicable.

We are respectfully, yours, STROTHER & MARCOM, Book and Job Printers, 18 Fayetteville st., Raleigh.

Papers who have heretofore noticed this matter are respectfully requested to copy the above.

We find the letter published below in the last Register. The case of Judge Lyon is not an isolated case by any means, as another three months of separate independence will abundantly develop. Nor is the present position of the citizens of South Carolina any more lamentable than that of the other Confederate States. They were not prepared to secede and set up for themselves. They would not have seceded, had they not believed as Judge Lyon honestly confesses, that by a collision with the federal government the border slave States would be forced to join them.

To use a homely expression, Judge Lyon in swapping South Carolina for Texas, in our opinion, "jumped out of the frying pan into the fire." With the exception of Florida, Texas is in as unenviable condition as her most bitter enemies could desire her to be; and that too with a more hopelessly gloomy prospect ahead.

We refer our readers to the letter below, as one of the many blessings of secession: [Standard.]

LETTER FROM JUDGE LYON, OF SOUTH CAROLINA, TO A FRIEND IN TEXAS. [From the Waco (Texas) Gazette.] The following letter from Judge Robert Lyon, of Abbeville Court House, South Carolina, speaks for itself: ABBEVILLE, C. H., January 24, 1861.

Dear Sir:—I desire you to procure for me and send by mail a Texas Almanac. Since the since I felt perfectly willing to remain in South Carolina; but I am remain here no longer. At the election of Lincoln we all felt that we must resist. In this move I placed myself amongst the foremost, and am yet determined to resist him to the bitter end. I had my misgivings at first of the idea of separate secession, but thought it would be but a short time, and at small cost. In this matter, together with thousands of other Carolinians, we have been mistaken. Everything is in the wildest commotion. My bottom land on Long Cape, for which I could have gotten \$30 per acre, I now cannot sell at any price. All our young men nearly are in and around Charleston. Then we have sent many hundreds of our negroes (I have sent twenty) to work. Crops were very short last year, and it does now seem that nothing will be planted this coming season.

All are excited to the highest pitch, and not a thought of the future is taken. Messengers are running here and there, with and without the Governor's orders. We have no money. A forced tax is levied upon every man. I have furnished the last surplus dollar I have. I had about \$27,000 in bank. At first I gave a check for ten thousand, then five thousand, and then the remainder. It is now estimated that we are spending \$25,000 per day, and no prospect of getting over this time. It was our full understanding when we went out of the Union that we would have a new government of all the slave States. Our object was to bring about a collision with the authorities at Washington, which all those would make all join us. Although we have sought such collision in every way, we have not yet got a fight, and the prospect is disquieting.

I want the Almanac, in order to see what part of Texas may suit me to raise cotton principally, but more to do good. My force is in the young negroes are coming on. The field about sixty-five, big men, I shall make no crop here, this year, and start my negroes from here to John Brown, at Shreveport, about the first of April. I will leave my lands here to grow up in pines. When we all get to Shreveport, John Brown says he will go with me all over Texas. I cannot live here and must get away. Many are leaving now; at least ten thousand negroes have left already, and before long one-third of the wealth of South Carolina will be in the West. I desire you to look around and help me get a home. As ever, yours, ROBERT LYON.

FIRE. The Mt. Vernon Hotel, near the depot, owned by Mr. John I. Shaver, but occupied by Mr. S. Benjamin, caught fire on Friday morning last, between 9 and 10 o'clock, and was entirely destroyed. Nearly all the furniture was saved. It is not known with certainty how the fire originated. A roofer had been in the building a short time before, with his hand furnace, stopping a leak; and it is supposed he must have left fire on the roof, or permitted it to fall where it could communicate with the wood-work. It was a valuable establishment, and the loss is estimated at \$10,000. Partially insured.

P. S.—We have also heard that one of the chimneys burst out the day before the fire, and some think the fire may have originated from that circumstance. We do not know how the fire started.—Salisbury Watchman.

PEOPLE'S PRESS.

SALEM, N. C. FRIDAY, MARCH 22, 1861.

The District Convention. We have received a number of communications from several counties in this Congressional District, urging a call upon the Union men in every portion of the District to hold county meetings as early as possible, to appoint delegates to a Union District Convention to nominate a candidate for Congress; and proposing to hold the Convention at Winston on Tuesday of Forsyth Superior Court, the 9th of April.

We thought proper not to bring this subject before the public, until we could arrive at something like a fair expression of the wishes of our Union friends throughout the District. Latterly we have become assured that our friends, in accordance with the usage of both parties, heretofore, desire the Convention to be held at the usual time and place, to wit: at Winston, on Tuesday of April Superior Court.

If this should meet with the approval of our Union friends of the sixth District, we hope they will at once proceed to hold primary county meetings and appoint delegates to the District Convention. There is no time to be lost; for the secessionists, although recently beaten two to one in the State, are now actively at work organizing their forces under the name of "State-Rights Men," and are holding State-Rights meetings, and concocting schemes to force North Carolina out of the Union.—Do you hear that?—Notwithstanding two-thirds of the people of the State have recently declared in favor of the Union, another attempt is to be made to deceive the people and precipitate them into the dark gulf of revolution and civil war! The people had better "watch and wait" a while longer—and put off the evil day, if it must come, as long as possible.

We therefore trust the friends of the Constitution and the Union will, every where, now proceed to appoint delegates at once, and not waste their time in divisions and bickerings about the time and place of holding the District Convention, but appoint their delegates to attend the Convention at the usual time and place where it has been heretofore held.

But a few weeks intervene between this time and the middle of April, which is the usual time for the candidates for Congress to be brought in the field; and by all means, at this dangerous crisis in the affairs of the country, the Union candidates should be brought out early to meet the secessionists who are plotting the destruction of the Union.

On our second page will be found several interesting articles.

COLD WEATHER AND SNOW.—On Monday last we had a very cold spell of weather, accompanied with a slight fall of snow, covering the fields and house-tops with winter's livery of white.—All vanished next day.

It snowed again here on Wednesday night. It is feared most, if not all the peaches "have been killed."

We notice considerable snow fell in Hillsboro' and Wilmington; and in Raleigh it was six inches deep.

On the 18th, in Augusta and Milledgeville, Georgia, was quite a heavy "dof snow."

At Norfolk, Va., on the night of the 17th there was a heavy snow storm and much damage it is expected has done on the coast.

Steamships "Adelaid" and "Ben do Baltimore," were detained.

Fruit and vegetables are produced.

Do you wish a spirited and spicy daily from Raleigh?—Then subscribe for the Banner. Specimen numbers may be seen at this office.

In the category of Lincoln apologists, with the Standard, we find the Fayetteville Observer, the Salem Press, and the Raleigh Banner.—Raleigh State Journal.

The State Journal is again misrepresenting the Press. It is not true that we apologize for Lincoln. He was constitutional-ly elected President, and we are still willing to "watch and wait" for future developments. Thus far he has given the country hopes of peace.

In the Northern State elections held a few days since, the Republican vote fell off considerably from the late Presidential election.

John H. Wheeler, of N. C. history notoriety, and Ex-Minister to Nicaragua, has been removed from the position of Document Clerk in the Interior Department.

THE SECESSIONISTS.—The duty of Union men in the 6th District.

Since the overwhelming defeat of the Secessionists in this State, on the 28th of February last, they are again mustering their scattered forces under the cry of State Rights Men!

The Secessionists, not satisfied with their late defeat, in which the Union men elected more than two-thirds of the members for the proposed Convention, by a majority of not less than twenty-five or thirty thousand votes, are still plotting against the Constitution and the Union, in the face of the expressed will of this vast majority of the people of the State,—are still laboring, with might and main, to precipitate North Carolina into revolution. Such a clan of desperate and wicked men never before disgraced the true and loyal state of North Carolina. Mr. Holden, in the Standard of the 16th, truly speaks of these men as follows:

"The truth is, the Unionists in the late campaign triumphed alike over treason, passion, fraud, and falsehood, and it may be, British gold. The people, on the 28th of February, dealt the conspirators against the Union of the State, and against the rights, the interests, and the safety of North Carolina, a mortal blow. The beast of Division was wounded unto death, but he still has power as he writes in his final agony. Let us finish him. Let the people set their mark on the agitators and disturbers of their peace. Let the good work of crushing out the Yanseities go on.—Let them attempt, if they dare, to inaugurate a revolution in North Carolina. The people have spoken, and it becomes conspirators to hide their heads. When the eagle is abroad let the bats and owls retire to their holes."

A desperate game will probably be attempted to be played in this Congressional District, by some of the defeated secession candidates.—We say, let them attempt to carry out their revolutionary plot in this District, if they dare!—The people will show them that they are the masters,—they will tell them that they have spoken once, and they wish it to be distinctly understood that they mean what they say.

We hope and trust we shall again have for our standard bearer, Hon. J. M. LEACH, to meet these disorganizers;—the same conservative, true, and patriotic Gen. Leach, who so ably and successfully bore our glorious standard aloft in the Congressional campaign of 1859;—who then achieved such a glorious victory over these same secession leaders, who then were the leaders of the late Democratic party.—That gallant achievement of Gen. Leach over these arrogant and presumptuous secessionists, who then, at the head of a proud party, had attempted to put under their ban every man who dared question their right to rule, has enshrined him in the hearts of the masses, and marked him as the standard bearer to lead the Union men to a more brilliant victory in the ensuing Congressional campaign, over those desperate, and reckless secession leaders.

The recent attempt by these Yanseey-Breckinridge secession leaders to overthrow the government, has, very naturally, led into the Union ranks a large portion of the honest masses of the Democratic party, who have been deceived by their leaders, and who will act with no party which does not march to the music of the Union.

The able speech of Gen. Leach, in Congress, in favor of the Union and against the heresy of secession, places him on a high stand among the ablest forensic debaters in that body, as he formerly stood among the ablest stump speakers of the State.—His speeches and votes in Congress in favor of the Resolutions of the Peace Convention, and in favor of the Report of the Committee of thirty-three, show that he has lost none of his ardor and devotion to the Constitution and the Union, which characterized his efforts in the North Carolina Legislature, in years past, in combating this same secession heresy which was then supported by Judge Person and others, who are now the secession leaders!

The speech of the Hon. J. M. Leach, delivered in Congress on the 7th of February, which no doubt has been extensively read, was endorsed by the leading Union papers in the country, as among the ablest and most conservative of the session; and which, with a few others of a similar tone, produced a happy effect in allaying the bitter sectional feeling between the North and the South.

Gen. Leach has also been found, on all occasions, in Congress, advocating economy and voting for a reduction of the expenses of the government. And although he with a few other zealous friends of economy, succeeded in getting through the House of Representatives a bill which reduced the salaries of members of Congress in a great degree, but which was lost in the Senate, yet his efforts, united with a few others, who stood shoulder to shoulder in battling the general appropriation bill, finally succeeded in saving to the Government several hundred thousand dollars, as the proceedings of Congress show.

Of such an able and faithful Representative, well may the people of this District be proud. And the great masses of the Union men are now looking to him to lead them to another victory over the cohorts of secession leaders, more glorious and more decisive than that which he won in the memorable campaign of 1859.