

The Asheville News AND MOUNTAIN FARMER.

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AGRICULTURAL.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE DISTRICT CONFERENCE.
HELD AT MILLS RIVER, HENDERSON COUNTY,
ON THE 12TH, 13TH AND 14TH OF AUGUST.

REPORT ON THE SUPPORT OF THE MINISTRY.

The Committee to whom was referred the support of the ministry, beg leave to report—That they have carefully and prayerfully examined the subject, and have to regret exceedingly that our Ministers are so meagerly supported throughout the District. With but one or two exceptions, the claims have not been more than one-third or one-half met, and in one instance not one-fourth. Your committee have labored to ascertain the cause of this awful deficiency, and endeavored to suggest a remedy, that the like may never occur again. We are thoroughly of the opinion that "they who preach the Gospel should live of the Gospel;" that the "ox should not be muzzled which treadeth out the grain;"—that the Pastor should be a man of but one work—that the Church should understand that his only work is to do good; and that he should be well supported in, and for his work. This deficiency is, in our judgment, traceable to two causes: First, a distrust in the Preacher, which leads him to mix some other calling or pursuit with the glorious work of saving souls, which seems, in the minds and acts of the people, to lessen their obligation to contribute to his support. Secondly, to a want of proper system among us. There are hundreds of our people who never give any thing to this noble cause, while a great many others have no system or regularity in their contribution. If every member would pay a few cents weekly, according as God has given him or her means, all the obligations in this respect could be met, without any embarrassment upon the part of the members or their Pastor. All should be brought to feel that they are individually interested in this matter; that God requires them to do something. In order that we more effectually succeed, we would recommend the following plan for our adoption to wit;

1st. That as soon as the preacher reaches his work there be a meeting of the Stewards on each work—his claim be agreed upon, and apportioned among the different classes, according to their strength and ability.

2d. That the Stewards of each class call the class together at once, and let them select two or more judicious members who shall apportion their amount among the different members, according as God has blessed them with means, and that the steward then ascertain from them individually whether or not they will pay the amount assigned them.

3d. That the Stewards collect one-fourth of this amount from each member quarterly, and that the claim be met regularly.

4th. That we labor to impress upon the minds of our people the obligations that all are under to do something towards the support of our ministers.

5th. That we further urge upon them the great necessity of regularity in their contributions; and in order to this, that they give one-fourth of their contributions quarterly.

6th. That we would further recommend that this report be read by a Steward in each class in his charge.

J. A. REAGAN, Chairman.

REPORT ON EDUCATION.

The Committee on Education beg leave to submit the following:

We do not deem it advisable to argue the importance of education in the abstract, nor of blending the sanctifying influences of christianity with the development of intellects of the young, the which are generally admitted.

We are therefore of the opinion that

are not fully alive to the importance of furnishing as a denomination their full share of the facilities necessary for a liberal and thorough education of the rising generation. To say nothing of our duty in the premises, in common with other denominations of christians, labor and means expended in educational enterprises, are very remunerative.—That Church which educates the greatest number of children of the present generation, will command the labor and influence of the greatest number of vigorous, matured and polished minds in the next. The time has passed when any church can live and flourish in this country, without doing its full share in the work of education.

We have no denominational school within the bounds of the District, for the education of young men, which is to be much regretted. However, as a special committee appointed at your last session, will report upon this subject, we refrain from saying more.

We are pleased to learn that the H. C. F. College, is increasing the number of its pupils and giving satisfaction to its patrons; and heartily recommend it as worthy of the patronage of our people. Your committee are of the opinion that the arrangement being gone into with a joint Stock Company, by which this College will, for the present at least, pass out of the possession of the Holston Annual Conference, is the best that could be made, under existing circumstances, and that the ladies and gentlemen composing this joint Stock Company deserve the thanks of the church.

FRANK RICHARDSON, Ch'n

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

The Committee on Temperance beg leave to submit the following report:

The Methodist Church has always born its testimony against the sin of Intemperance. Every member has pledged him or herself "to abstain from drunkenness or drinking spirituous liquors unless in cases of necessity." A true Methodist therefore cannot be intemperate; he cannot be a dram drinker or a drunkard. But the church must not merely abstain itself but as the Heaven-appointed light of the world, it must try to form a correct public opinion; and also save all it can from the meshes of this fell destroyer. To do these things every legitimate agency should be employed. The Press and the Pulpit, should all speak the same thing and give no uncertain sound.

While we heartily approve all organizations which throw around men Temperance influences yet we must not leave the salvation of men from drunkenness entirely to them. The only complete remedy for this as well as all other sin, is THE BLOOD OF CHRIST. Therefore

Resolved, 1, That we regard the M. E. Church South as one of the most efficient of all Temperance organizations.

2, That as such it is her duty—both in Ministry and membership—to reclaim those already snared, and prevent all she can from contracting intemperate habits.

3, That we request our Ministers to speak out boldly against this, as against all other forms of vice.

W. M. KERR, Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON HIGH SCHOOLS.

The Committee appointed by the District Conference held at Salem last year to receive proposals for establishing a High School beg leave to report. That some time after that Conference, they held a meeting in Asheville, and resolved not to recommend any point as a place for the location of said School, where a subscription of at least \$3000 had not been secured, and placed at the disposal of the Conference. Your committee have to report that no such proposal has been made to them, they are therefore not prepared to recommend the School. Upon due thought best to

recommend that the subject be laid on the table indefinitely, and to ask that the committee be discharged.

R. N. PRICE, Chairman.

REPORT ON BOOKS AND PERIODICALS.

The Committee on Books and Periodicals beg leave to report as follows: In looking over the entire grounds we are pained to find a great deficiency, both in the reading and circulation of our church publications. A very small number of our books and periodicals are in circulation among our people within the bounds of this district.

While, at least one copy of our church paper should be in every Methodist family, there is not one pastoral charge on the district that is as well supplied as it should be, and we are sorry to find two charges in which not a single copy of any one of our excellent church papers is taken. We are gratified to hear that our little readers at Asheville, Salem, and perhaps at one or two other points are well supplied with our Sunday School books and papers; but we regret exceedingly to have to make the humiliating report that the major part of the district is almost entirely destitute of Sabbath School literature. We can find but four copies of the *Sunday School Visitor* within the limits of the district outside of the communities above mentioned; and the few books that are found in our Sunday Schools are generally of an inferior character, and not of our own publications.

In view of this deplorable state of things we desire to call the attention of our Ministers and people to the importance of waking up upon the subject of reading, and extensively circulating the literature of the church. Brethren, let us labor actively, and perseveringly to supply our people with a sound theology, and a healthy literature. All our church papers are ably edited, and week after week, their columns are filled with the most interesting matter relating to the prosperity of our beloved Zion, throughout the entire connection. Let us be diligent in recommending them to the patronage of our entire membership.

J. R. LONG, Chairman.

REPORT ON CAMP MEETINGS.

The Committee on Camp Meetings submit the following:

We are pleased to know that a new interest is being awakened throughout our District on this subject. Our old Camp Grounds, where our fathers and mothers worshipped, and where many of us were converted, are being rebuilt.—New tents and new arbors are rearing themselves in the old waste places, and active preparations are being made to once more make the forests vocal with the praises of God. This is a matter of devout gratitude to the Giver of all good, and well calculated to create within us the brightest hopes for the future. Thousands in this our land, and in other regions of our Zion, began the journey Heavenward from the Camp meeting. It was one of the primitive modes of worship adopted by our fathers, and which was kept up until our people began to yield to fashion. The great benefit of Camp Meeting result from the fact that our people leave their homes, and for the time being lay aside their business, and go up to the grounds, free from care in a measure, to serve God, and to avail themselves of the opportunity to bring their children under the influence of the Gospel. Many other reasons might be brought forward in support of these meetings, but we deem it unnecessary.

Resolved, that we heartily recommend to our people the propriety of rebuilding our old Camp Grounds and of making new ones in proper places.

ROBT. B. VANCE, Chairman.

REPORT ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

The Committee on Sunday Schools regret to state that sufficient data was not furnished them to enable them to

make a statistical report of the cause in the bounds of the District. This was desirable in order that we might compare our present standing with that of the past. From the verbal statements of the pastors we learn that Sunday Schools are on the increase in the number of schools and pupils. A large per cent. of the conversions, reported for the year past, are from among the pupils, which fact alone should encourage us to renewed efforts. The work abroad, also, in and out of our State, is of such character as to stimulate us to the highest exertions. Sunday School celebrations and conventions have been more numerous during the last year than ever before. The greatest and noblest of the land, and in fact of all the lands in christendom, have regarded it as legitimate and eminently wise to aid in this glorious work. Sabbath School books, music and papers have largely increased, and the prices of these sources of knowledge and happiness, have been, in many instances, reduced to the cost of publication. The songs of Zion, simple and sweet, are sung by millions of happy children, and we feel constrained to join them in saying—

"Should coming days be cold and dark
We need not cease our singing;
That perfect rest naught can molest
Where golden harps are ringing."

We earnestly recommend the *Sunday School Visitor* as a charming paper for our children, and can scarcely express our surprise that so few copies are taken in our bounds.

This is not as it should be. We are solemnly called upon to feed our children with a pure and holy knowledge, and to neglect them is criminal. Complaints of a very sad character come to us from many of our children, from necessity, to turn aside from their appropriate work to support their families. Here is an opportunity to remedy this state of affairs. Train up our children that it is not only a duty but a privilege to support the Gospel and they will do so gladly. To accomplish this, and many other desirable and excellent things, which we cannot now mention, the children of the Church must be educated and brought up thereto the facilities of acquiring knowledge and of learning to love their duties must be placed within their reach.

Resolved, that superintendents of S. S. be requested to furnish the preachers in charge with full reports of their respective schools, embracing number of schools, officers and teachers, pupils, conversions, papers taken, books in library &c., and that the pastors of stations and circuits be requested to bring them up to the next session of the District Conference.

ROBT. B. VANCE, Chairman.

The following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That we recommend to all our Preachers and Stewards to procure, read and circulate, Dr. Garland's pamphlets on the support of the ministry and kindred subjects.

Resolved, That we do cordially endorse the American Bible Society in its efforts to multiply and spread the Scriptures in all languages available, from the river to the ends of the earth; and that we do cordially commend to all our people, their Agent for this State, the Rev. I. T. Wyche, as worthy of their confidence and hearty co-operation, and that he be invited to visit our portion of the State in furtherance of this great and vital interest.

Resolved, That the next annual District meeting commence on Wednesday night, and that the same one be appointed to deliver an Annual Sermon on that occasion.

Resolved, That the thanks of the Conference are due, and are hereby tendered to R. M. Stokes, Esq., for his kindness in offering to publish the proceedings of the meeting free of charge.

Resolved, That the Secretaries, John Boring and L. K. Haynes be appointed a committee to prepare an abstract of

our proceedings for publication in the "Asheville News."

Resolved, That the thanks of this Conference are hereby tendered to the citizens in this vicinity, who have so handsomely entertained the delegates at their homes.

Resolved, That our thank are due to Rev. R. H. Chapman D. D. and his congregation for the use of the church on their regular day of service.

A FEW WORDS ABOUT DITCHING.

MESSRS. EDITORS—I am glad to see your Illinois correspondent (B. F. J.) urge the necessity of drainage. He does this, I believe, generally in his correspondence. In this respect he agrees with John Johnston and the English cultivators in this country and England, and all other thoroughly good and instructed farmers. The editorial department of the *Country Gentleman* has been insisting upon the same thing. All the best, the advanced farmers, are here joined; and they should do one thing—more largely advocate the necessity of this branch of husbandry. We fear they have themselves—many of them—not yet fully seen the benefit. To keep urging this matter, explaining it, giving examples, multiplying the examples—this is what we ought to do. We cannot too much insist upon this leading principle in farming.

People can ditch much more than they do, and with but a little increase of actual expense. Much can be done in this way in moments that would not otherwise be employed, both by the hired man and the proprietor; or work changed, as is the case with some farmers; or a hand may be hired and a small debt turned in; the good farmer knows how to do these things. Rather do the work in winter—much rather than not at all. Even let there be less other work on the farm—less land put in for a year or two, and ditch the bad places first. These are generally less, and sometimes a damage. It costs but just the same to ditch these as better soil, and the expense will generally be paid back in a year or two, or three at the most; for such soil (that most needs draining) is usually rich, and its wealth will at once be developed. Instead of a swamp, here is a rich tillable soil—soil that pays largely at once, and that is durable.

And let the work be done thoroughly; in this consists the success. Generally, we do not ditch deep enough. Three feet is the least that should be practiced; four feet is much better, and five feet still more so. We have a cellar and its drain on one side of a grapevine, and a descent of the ground and a sink drain on the other, and that grapevine is the best in the neighborhood. It seems to stand everything, and do everything (that is good)—healthy, expensive, bearing fruit that is a wonder, both in quality and size. The soil is ordinary soil, treated to leaves and vegetable rubbish for manure. The rest of the ground is a garden, equally successful.

I hold that it is on this account that we often find unusually good vines, fruit, gardens &c., in villages or large towns—the cellars and subterranean conduits carrying off the water. Thus we want depth, and we want a security of drainage—good tile, carefully laid.—F. G. in *Country Gentleman*.

IMPURE WATER.—It is well known that the waters of many streams, apparently free from deleterious ingredients, will yet cause sickness in those who habitually use it. Ordinary chemical analysis fails to reveal any specific cause to which these effects can be ascribed, and the most perfect filtering is ineffectual to remove the sources of the difficulty. In many such cases it has been found that the injurious effect is due to clay in an extremely minute state of division; so fine, indeed, as to pass without any difficulty through ordinary filtering paper, and to carry with it many injurious organic substances. The proper remedy for this evil consists in adding an extremely minute quantity of alum, which in a short time gives a flocculent precipitate of alumina or its sulphate, which carries with it all the other ingredients of the water, leaving it clear and very pure. In a river of Holland, which had always been noted for its injurious effect upon the population living on its banks, the experiment has lately been tried by using alum to produce this precipitate, and it has been found that the noxious agencies were entirely removed, and that the water could be used for all culinary purposes without inconvenience. Perchloride of iron may in some cases be used with even more satisfactory results, for the same purpose.

RAISING CLOVER SEED.—I would like information as to the best manner of managing clover to save seed from it—the best time and manner for cutting, curing, storing and threshing. What is an average yield of seed per acre? What is the best clover huller? Will the "straw" do to mulch strawberries with? Can the few seed remaining in it be kept from germinating by stacking and drying in the stack? If so, will the seed hurt strawberry plants?

Select a good crop of clover the second year, or first year after seeding, free from weeds, or on clean land, and cut it for hay when in flower. The second growth will then make a handsome, uniform seed crop. At the north, this is done about the middle or 20th of June, but much depends on the length of seasons, latitude, and the earliness or lateness of the variety. A little experience will be necessary for good success. The seed crop is cut in Autumn, when most of the heads have become brown. The best way to cut is to take a combined mowing machine, put on the platform, make the knives sharp, and then, with a good hand-raker, keep the cut crop on the platform until there is a good pile, when it is thrown off. At the next passing, drop the bunch at the same place, so as to make winrows. When dry, draw in or cock it, or if not quite dry, let it stand in quite small cocks, turning over when necessary. Draw in on a dry day, and thresh it out with a good holler. At the north, these machines are itinerant, and thresh for a certain sum per bushel. When a mowing machine cannot be had, it must of course be cut by hand; and when a clover huller is not accessible, let the hay be very ripe (and if it has been wet, it will shell all the better,) and resort to the more imperfect mode of threshing and passing through the fanning mill. The threshing should be done in frosty weather. The average yield per acre is three to four bushels; sometimes five bushels are obtained, and in bad seasons very few. These are generally the best machines for threshing. No practicable amount of salt will prevent the seeds from germinating, nor will it injure strawberries when the straw is used as a mulch.—*Albany Cultivator*.

TO MAKE SUCCOTASH.—Take the husks and silk from a dozen ears of sweet corn, and with a sharp knife cut the kernels from the cob, scrape gently what remains on the cob with the knife blade; string a quart or more of green beans, and cut them in inch lengths or shorter; wash them, and put them to the corn; put them, with the corn, in a stew-pan, add half a pint of boiling milk or water,—milk is the best; cover it close, and let them boil rather gently for three-quarters of an hour; then add a teaspoonful of butter, a teaspoonful of salt, and a saltspoonful of pepper; stir them well together; cover it for ten minutes, take the beans and corn into a dish with more or less of the liquid, as may be liked, and serve hot. Lima beans and sweet corn make the finest succotash.—T. J. C.

GALLS.—In the first place, you must dispense with the use of a collar. The following lotion should be applied daily to the sore: sulphate of zinc, 1 drachm; acetate of lead, 1 drachm; water, 1 pint. Where it is very difficult to dispense with the use of a collar, some of the stuffing may be removed from it so as to make a hollow opposite the sore part, which is thus relieved from pressure.

WOUNDS IN HORSES.—One of the best washes that we know of for ordinary wounds on horses, is to take one quarter of a pound of saltpetre, half a pint of turpentine, and put them into a bottle; shake up well before using; apply to the wound three times a day with a feather.

LOOSE BOWELS IN HORSES.—In all cases of chronic diarrhoea we have found putting powdered charcoal in the feed a very good remedy, and if the disease depends on a digestive function, the liver included—give a few doses of the following: Powdered golden-seal 2 ounces, ginger 1 ounce, salt 1 ounce. Dose, half an ounce twice a day.

BONE SPAVIN.—Apply a blister to the inside of the hock, one part of powdered cantharides to eight of oil makes a suitable blister. Give the horse three or four weeks' rest after the application of the blister.

WARTS.—Mix equal quantities of spirits of turpentine and sulphuric acid, stirring slowly, afterwards bottle the ingredients. Rub the grease around the base of the wart with a feather once or twice a day; it will gradually eat it off.