

The Biblical Recorder.

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CLEANING NEEDED.

It is quite common to hear the opinion expressed that our country is favored above almost any nation on the face of the earth; that the Lord in his providence has raised up this great republic of the western world to be the home of the oppressed of all nations; the receptacle of the purest form of religious truth, and the great palladium of civil and religious liberty. There are some things true of our land, up to comparatively a recent period, that have materially helped not only our people but also the civilized world in forming such an opinion.

The system of government founded under the American Constitution was one of the wisest and best under the sun. The American felt that he was in the true sense of the word a free man. He called no man master. He freely discussed matters of State, and cast his ballot without regard to the wishes or the gold of political or business bosses. The press of the country was absolutely free, and the humblest citizen did not hesitate to criticise with the keenest sarcasm, if necessary, the official life and acts of public officers, from the Chief Magistrate down to the petty office-holder. There was scarcely any pauperism among us in the earlier history of the republic. There were very few tramps upon our public highways. What foreign immigration we received seemed to be of the better class, and was readily assimilated by our people. Our forefathers had to develop a vast country, and many of them were pioneers in opening up new States that are now thickly settled. The large majority of them were tillers of the soil, and as they and their children were laborers in the fields they were a remarkably contented and happy people.

It was soon seen after the settlement of our country that the union between Church and State did not suit the genius and habits of our people, and hence, though the Establishment made a hard fight for supremacy, it was finally abolished. The necessity for the entire separation between Church and State became especially apparent after the Revolution, because such union cannot exist in a pure republic. For many years after the adoption of the Federal Constitution we undoubtedly had the purest politics and the happiest people on the face of the globe, and there was reason for Americans to boast of their government, and claim that they were a highly favored people.

One striking characteristic of our law-makers in those halcyon days was that many of them, we may say the large majority of them, were high-toned men, often christian gentlemen. They could not be corrupted by gold, nor by party, and they placed principle and right above convenience or expediency. To have approached such men with the offer of a monetary consideration to secure their vote or influence, would have aroused their righteous indignation, and those who were so base as to make such offers would soon have ascertained that they had mistaken their men. Luxury and fast living had made no very perceptible progress among the people, and hence the majority of them were content to live within their means. Vast railroad corporations, trusts and combines, such as we have today, were then almost unknown. There were but few millionaires among the people, and the country had been so recently delivered from the galling yoke of an oppressive monarchy that there was little disposition to ape the snobbery and exclusiveness of the "higher classes" of foreign countries. It is said that "history repeats itself," and there is no doubt of the fact that our country is now in a condition to verify the truth of the old adage in a very striking way, if the present drift of men and things continues. There is a passage of Holy Writ that carries with it more authority, however, than the wisest sayings of uninspired men, and it is: "Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean—not one." One great trouble with our government now, and one thing eminently true of our law-makers, is that so many of them are wicked men. We are glad to know that some of our Congressmen, and many members of our State legislatures, are high-toned christian gentlemen. Some are men of integrity and probity that are not christians. Would that the number of such men was so great as to control and shape legislation. Alas, we heard a distinguished man say a few days since that if there were a certain place under the sun it was "this City." We think he put it

rather strongly. We are not disposed, we hope, to be pessimistic in our views of the moral and religious condition of our seat of government, and we remember the Bible injunction to submit ourselves "to the powers that be." This we propose to do, and we desire to teach our people to do the same, whilst we do claim the right to exercise what influence we may have by doing our duty as a conservator of public morals and the establishment of pure religion among the people.

Lobbying, it is well known, has become a "fine art" in Washington City. Money, patronage, governmental positions, have been used largely to shape legislation. There is no use to disguise the fact that prominent members of Congress, not to say State legislatures, have been freely bought and sold, especially within the last twenty years of our history, like so many goods and chattels. Some men of the highest official trust "can be approached" by him who has a bribe in his hand. The immense whiskey combination is a felt power at Washington and elsewhere. Aided by governmental influence, some railroad corporations have become such huge affairs as to dictate terms to their masters, and are so oppressive and hold such unwarrantable power that some are calling for governmental control of them. The formation of immense trusts in defiance of State and Federal laws has placed such great money power in the hands of individuals, or close corporations, that many of the prime necessities of life that the poor most need are greatly advanced in price. Some iniquitous laws bearing upon the tariff and huge abuses under the pension system are striking ponderous blows at the palladium of our liberties, and so grinding the poor of the land into the dust that it is not strange that there are ominous signs of a coming storm.

"History repeats itself." Ah, very true; and there is danger that our people will soon learn the force of this remark as they have never before. We should remember that no republic can exist permanently that is not sustained by an enlightened christian people; a people who value principle above gold; a people whose law-makers love their country and their God above self; who would as soon think of selling their birth-right for a mess of pottage as to sell their vote or influence for money. Verily we have come to a pretty state of things when it is often the case that not even a town election can be held without money freely changing hands!

The remedy for this state of things is to put honest, incorruptible, and, if possible, christian men in office. That the candidate for an office is a christian man should be the very highest commendation of his character. Such a man may not always be as "cultured" as his competitor for office, yet he can be trusted behind the backs of his constituents. If there ever is a time when men need clean records it is when they propose to represent their countrymen in the halls of legislation. Some one has said, "An honest man is the noblest work of God," and the saying is especially forceful when applied to the christian man.

Put us and our children forever, while we sojourn here, in the hands of such men! "Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean—not one!" True, oh seer of God, and we cannot have clean laws, a clean government: nor will the peace and happiness of the more primitive days of our beloved country come again until we have more clean men at Washington and in our State legislatures. May the Lord speed the day!

We have spoken our honest sentiments. The editor of a religious paper cannot be utterly silent when he sees public morals being prostituted, and the ship of State drifting dangerously towards the rock of imperialism on one side and anarchy on the other; a Scylla and Charybdis, from which may the Lord preserve us.

PERSONALS AND OTHER ITEMS.

Rev. Dr. A. C. Dixon of New York was in Reidsville on Thursday of last week.

Rev. J. F. Love of Rocky Mount, N. C., called to see us en route to the Convention.

Dr. J. L. M. Curry and wife sailed for Europe last week. They will spend two months abroad.

Rev. F. H. Poston of Smithfield and Bro. J. J. Barnes of Leachburg called to see us on Friday last.

Rev. Dr. J. B. Taylor of Lexington has been called to the pastorate of the church in Salem, Va.

Dr. A. T. Cotton of Morrisville was in our office on Thursday last, and reported Rev. J. E. Maynard quite sick.

Rev. Jonathan Wood, pastor of Fayetteville Street church, this city, will leave for Colorado about May 15th, seeking restoration of health, which has for some time been failing. If benefited by climate, will accept work in Raton, New Mexico.

Hon. G. W. Sanderlin preached for the Baptist Tabernacle on last Sunday morning in place of Dr. Hall, who was in Atlanta.

Rev. J. K. Howell of Yauceyville called to see us on Thursday last. He is the best of men, and is always welcome in our office.

The Presbyterian church of Raleigh on Sunday last extended a call to the Rev. Mr. Vance of Baltimore to become their pastor.

Rev. C. W. Blanchard has removed from Morrisville to Varina, and wishes his correspondents to note the change in his address.

Hon. G. W. Sanderlin, State Auditor, will deliver the address at the commencement of Buie's Creek Academy on Thursday, May 12th.

Rev. Dr. H. A. Tupper, Jr., pastor of the Seventh Street church, Baltimore, has purchased an interest in the Baltimore Baptist, and becomes one of its editors.

Dr. George T. Winston, President of the State University, paid us a pleasant call on Thursday last. He invited us up to hear Dr. Carter preach the commencement sermon.

Rev. W. B. Morton of Louisville, N. C., says: "Having finished the work which I went to Wake Forest to do, I have moved to Louisville, which is to be my future home."

Hon. L. B. Ely of Missouri has succeeded in raising \$40,000 in subscriptions for William Jewell College, Missouri, and thus secures \$10,000 from the Baptist Education Society.

Dr. A. E. Owen of Portsmouth, Va., stopped over in our city a day on his way to the Southern Baptist Convention, and delighted the home of the editor with his charming presence.

Is it not surprising how many men were "intimate with Spurgeon?"—Western Recorder. Yes. But a brother in Philadelphia has published a book with a list of his students in it down to 1891 for your protection.

Rev. C. A. G. Thomas of Elizabeth City writes: "Bro. Bagby was with us ten days and gave us some very fine sermons. We have had as the results, seven additions—four by baptism and three restorations—all young men."

Rev. B. Cade of Richmond, Va., held services every night week before the Convention. There were three hundred and eighty two in the Sunday-school and three conversions among them, we learn from the Baltimore Baptist.

Bro. J. H. Mills of the Baptist Orphanage tells us that he has not a single case in his hospital, and the health of his orphans never was better. We trust this good luck may attend them through the summer and for all time.—Davidson Dispatch.

Dr. H. K. Carroll of the Department of the Census, Plainfield, N. J., wishes the minutes of the following Associations for 1890 or 1891 (colored): Bakersville, Berean, Mud Creek, New Berne Missionary, White Oak, Mecklenburg, Toisnot. Give this your attention if possible.

I was glad to see that article from Bro. VanDeventer on "How the Y. M. C. A. hurts the Churches." All who keep files of the Recorder (and every subscriber ought to do that) should read that article about once a week for a month.—J. T. Jordan, Troy, Texas, May 4.

A series of meetings will commence at the Baptist church on the third Sunday in May. The pastor will be assisted by Rev. J. W. Suttle, one of our home boys, late of the Seminary in Louisville, Ky. All christians are invited to attend and work in these meetings.—Shelby Review.

At the commencement of Salem Female Academy the baccalaureate sermon will be preached by Rev. W. W. Moore, D. D., of Hampden-Sydney Theological Seminary, May 22d. President Winston of the University will deliver the address before the graduating class on May 26th.

The Baltimore Baptist says: "Rev. W. L. Wright (Richmond) reports seven hundred and thirty-eight in his Sunday-school, and he received nine by letter and one by experience and gave hand of fellowship to thirty. House was full in morning and at night. Some were turned away for want of room."

Please announce that Prof. J. B. Carlyle of Wake Forest College will deliver the annual address at Roxobel Academy on June 1st. Mrs. Kennedy and I wish to thank you for the leading editorial in this week's issue. We lost our little daughter, and only child, last October, and the editorial has comforted us much.—D. S. Kennedy, Roxobel, N. C., May 6.

The Rev. Geo. H. Simmons, the evangelist, closed his meetings on Sunday night at the First Baptist church. During the series of services fifty-nine members have joined the church, besides the meetings had led to accessions to the other churches. On Sunday, nine persons joined the First Baptist church, and at night Dr. Pritchard baptized eighteen persons.—Wilmington Messenger, May 3.

Rev. Q. C. Davis was ordained to the Baptist ministry in Rocky Mount Thursday night of last week. The presbytery consisted of Revs. J. D. Hufham, R. T. Yann, J. W. Powell, J. F. Love and J. E. White. Rev. J. W. Powell was chairman of the examining presbytery, and Rev. J. D. Hufham conducted the examination, and Rev. R. T. Yann preached the sermon. Rev. J. W. Powell offered the prayer and presented the Bible, and Rev. J. D. Hufham delivered the charge.—Socland Neck Democrat.

Rev. H. C. Moore of Morehead, N. C., writes: "We have had another gracious revival. Rev. O. L. Springfield did for us fearless, faithful, effective preaching. His sermons are seasoned with intense earnestness, and are brimful of gospel truth. Our people will hold him in loving and lasting remembrance. There were several conversions. I expect to baptize fifteen next Sunday in the blue waters of Bogue Sound. God be praised."

Rev. A. A. Smith preached for the First Baptist church on Sunday last, morning and night, in place of Dr. Carter who was attending the Southern Baptist Convention in Atlanta. The morning sermon had for its theme "The Forgiveness of Sins," the text being Eph. 1: 7; and the night discourse was devoted to the discussion of Pilate's question, "What shall I do then with Jesus?" Both were strong sermons, and were listened to with profound interest.

Rev. Travis B. Thames, the able and beloved pastor of the Baptist church of Danville, assisted the pastor of the Baptist church here in his revival meetings last week. All who heard him were charmed with his earnest and eloquent preaching. His beautiful and tender appeals to his hearers to forsake the world and walk in the paths of righteousness were quite irresistible. Mr. Thomas is a big-brained, big-hearted preacher, in the prime of physical and intellectual manhood, and is doing a good work in Danville. Fortunate, indeed, is the flock that has such a shepherd.—Webster's Weekly.

The Social Union, during the commencement at Rochester, has secured for speakers Rev. Dr. Ford of St. Louis, and R. S. Colwell, D. D., of Denison University. The meeting will be in connection with the Seminary anniversaries. Dr. Ford is also to deliver the annual sermon before the Judson Missionary Society. Pres. Hill will deliver the address at the unveiling of the soldiers' monument on Decoration Day. Prof. Morey was expected to deliver this address, but by the advice of his physician he declined the invitation. Pres. Harrison and Gov. Flower will be present. The event promises to be the most noteworthy of its kind ever celebrated in Rochester.—National Baptist.

Some of our Baptist ministers are developing a taste for pulpit millinery. They think that the gown gives dignity to the preacher, and they begin by wearing the baptismal robe on the evenings when they have to baptize at the close of the services. To us there is no dignity in a man's assuming a woman's dress, and the fact that judges and chancellors wear it makes it still more ridiculous. Every Baptist preacher should seek to be a man among men, rather than an official.—Baptist. There are a great many crazy men in this world in this day of restlessness and dissatisfaction outside the lunatic asylum. But the most laughable curiosity is the Baptist preacher who wears a gown.

The Rev. Dr. Pierson has finally become somewhat nettled by the remarks making upon his relation to the Metropolitan Tabernacle, and the question whether he is to become a Baptist or the church is to have a Pedobaptist pastor. He has written two letters to the Baptist (London), in which he tries to ease off the question at issue, and avoid committing himself to anything in particular. In one of these letters he says: "When my convictions undergo any essential change, as an outspoken, genuine man, I will hope to be faithful to myself and loyal to my Lord." The Baptist confesses itself puzzled, however, when he uses such language as the following, relative to his emphasizing the duty of believer's baptism: "When I preach in a Baptist congregation, the unconverted portion of my hearers are supposed not to have been baptized in infancy, and are therefore, both according to Baptist and Presbyterian views, in duty bound to believe and be baptized." Dr. Pierson says that he expects to close his engagement in London and sail for America June 4th; though it is said that, while Mr. James A. Spurgeon is the pastor of the church, Dr. Pierson may return and act as the preacher.—Journal and Messenger.

Delightful Meeting in Wilmington.

Dear Recorder.—We have just closed one of the most delightful meetings I ever took part in, conducted by Rev. George H. Simmons and Prof. D. B. Towner and wife. Bro. Simmons is not a great preacher, but he is a good one. Some of his discourses were well constructed and might be termed superior; others were nothing remarkable as works of art or eloquence, but he is effective as a speaker and holds his audiences well. This is due as much to the intense earnestness of the man—his ardent passion for souls, as anything. He is a man of tact, judgment and taste, and it is a common expression heard here that there has been less to criticize and more to commend in the management of this meeting than usual.

As to the singing, it was a revelation to me. I never heard in all my life anything that approached it in the singing of the gospel, and could sympathize with Dr. Eaton when he wrote me that he "was never so near heaven in the flesh" as when he heard Professor and Mrs. Towner sing "Old Time Religion." They are lovely christians and most effective workers in a meeting and have special gifts for impressing and interesting children in the gospel.

I can locate about seventy who have confessed Christ, and there are others. I doubt not, whom I do not know. Fifty-nine have thus far joined our church, and more will follow.

Bro. Simmons and Prof. Towner and wife will go with me to the Convention at Atlanta, and Prof. Towner has been engaged to conduct the music on Centennial Day, which is Saturday, by the Centennial Committee, who have authority to arrange the exercises of that day.

T. H. PRITCHARD. Wilmington, May 4, 1892.

SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION.

The Convention is holding its session in Trinity church (Methodist), because it was the largest audience room that could be obtained in the city. Its seating capacity is 1,500, and a large basement with six comfortable rooms for committee.

By 10 a. m. Friday, the 8th, the audience room was well filled. Promptly at that hour President Haralson called the Convention to order, and requested Rev. W. R. Gwaltney to conduct the opening exercises.

Prof. Towner led the singing with characteristic gratings, and Mrs. Towner presided at the organ.

The enrollment of the delegates was gone through with more rapidity than usual. There are about 1,000 delegates present; and the number of visitors far exceeds that of the delegates.

On motion, Secretary Burrows was instructed to cast the vote of the Convention, and reported the election of Hon. Jonathan Haralson, the present incumbent, as President.

Dr. T. T. Eaton cast the vote for Lansing Burrows and Oliver F. Gregory as Secretaries.

The Vice Presidents were elected by ballot, and Joshua Levering of Baltimore, Gov. W. J. Northen of Georgia, Gov. J. P. Eagle of Arkansas, and Hon. L. L. Foster of Texas were selected.

Pending the counting of the votes for Vice Presidents, Dr. J. B. Hawthorne made a brief speech, explaining the disappointment they had experienced in failing to procure the large buildings they had expected to have. The house now occupied was through the generous courtesy of the Pastor and Stewards of the Trinity M. E. Church.

Dr. Hawthorne then introduced Gov. W. T. Northen, who delivered the address of welcome. The address was responded to by Dr. W. E. Hatcher of Richmond, Va. Both addresses were of a high order, the latter in Dr. Hatcher's happiest strain.

In the afternoon session, Dr. I. T. Tichenor read the report of the Home Mission Board, which was referred to four committees. The following is an abstract of this report:

HOME MISSION REPORT—ABSTRACT.

With a few words of cordial welcome to the Convention on holding its session in Atlanta, the headquarters of the Board, the report gives the following summary of the work of the Board during the past year:

The number of its missionaries has been as follows: Alabama, 4; Arkansas, 28; Cuba, 21; Florida, 33; Georgia, 17; Indian Territory, 16; Kentucky, 5; Louisiana, 27; Maryland, 2; Missouri, 6; Oklahoma, 6; Tennessee, 6; Texas, 143; Virginia, 1; Western North Carolina, 17; Western Arkansas and Indian Territory, 26; West Virginia, 2; Texas Sunday-school Convention, 5. Total, 365.

The results of our work are as follows: Missionaries, 365; weeks of labor, 10,640; churches and stations, 1,324; sermons and addresses, 46,866; prayer meetings, 14,042; baptisms, 5,274; received by letter, 5,973; total additions, 11,247; Sunday-schools organized, 342; teachers and pupils, 17,785; religious visits, 54,336; churches constituted, 179; houses of worship built, 80; Bibles and Testaments, 4,304; pages of tracts distributed, 919,472.

This report of work, like all that have preceded it, is not complete. The reports of a few of our missionaries could not be obtained in time to embody in it.

The report presents the work done among the Indians, and urges that what is done for the red man must be done quickly ere he passes away forever from his hunting grounds.

The work among the Germans had been successful and encouraging, and the report urges that it be greatly enlarged to meet the pressing needs of this population.

The work in Cuba had continued to prosper greatly—the wisdom of the purchase of the superb theatre in Havana had been fully vindicated—and the establishment of a Girls' High School was regarded as the highest value in promoting the work of evangelizing the island.

The report urges that the time has come for greatly enlarging and extending the work in Cuba, and that the Board be given the means of entering the "open doors" to be found in every city, town and village.

The report takes the strongest ground in favor of increased work among the Negroes, and urges that there should be appointed for each State an able man to devote himself to the instruction of their ministers.

The report makes an earnest plea for work among the people of the mountain districts of our territory, and in our cities, and then urges hearty co-operation in the plan for celebrating the Centennial of Modern Missions.

It insists that experience has demonstrated the necessity of Our Home Field, the organ of the Board, and urges its wider circulation.

The report pays a glowing tribute to the "zeal, wisdom and consecrated tact" of the Woman's Missionary Union, auxiliary to the Southern Baptist Convention, and gives their report in full, from which it appears that these noble women have raised for Home Missions during the past year, \$16,242.30, being an advance of more than \$2,000 on the year before.

PAST TEN YEARS.

Ten years ago the Convention, then in session at Greenville, S. C., resolved to remove the Board from Marion, Ala., to Atlanta. The condition of the Board at that time excited the greatest apprehensions. Its total receipts for the year were about \$28,000. It had but forty missionaries. Except those in the Indian Territory it had few west of the Mississippi river. The Baptist Convention in Arkansas was in co-operation with the Home Mission Society of New York.