

The Messenger.

JACKSON & BELL COMPANY. FRIDAY, MAY 7, 1897.

THE BAPTIST CONVENTION.

Today the Southern Baptist Convention meets with the first Baptist church in this city. It is the largest, most imposing religious body in the south, and has no rival in the north unless it be a gathering of northern Baptists. It is a representative body of the whole family of Southern Baptists but not a legislative body. Its growth during the last half century has been immense. The census of 1890 gave the total of Baptists in the United States at 3,712,463, with 42,909 churches, each separate, governing itself and independent. The church property was valued at \$32,328,823. We searched the big almanacs of 1896 and 1897 for later statistics, but they gave almost everything else, omitting that which would specially interest Christians. The Southern Baptists in 1890 numbered 1,276,491 members (whites) with 16,206 congregations and property valued at \$18,152,599. The colored members were 1,352,564, with church property valued at \$9,082,587. The Baptists of the world in 1894 were estimated by the English hand book at 4,136,152. The increase since 1890 in the United States is very large, but we are unable to give the latest reports this morning. The Southern Baptists are an united, enthusiastic, working body—hence their growth and power. They have given special consideration to education in the last half century. They have the most colossal theological school on the continent, at Louisville, Ky. The white Baptist congregations of the south own and conduct twenty-one colleges and divinity schools, some of which have gained international reputation for high scholarship and excellence of management. The enormous aggregate capital the denomination has invested in these institutions of learning, their equipment, their endowment, etc., is not included in the item "church property," above noted. At this time their educational ministry is very strong, both numerically and in equipment. They have in great force educators and ministers who are graduates of both literary colleges and universities and of theological schools. They count by the thousand in the south. They have men of high scholarship, authors of real parts, preachers of rare power and true eloquence. Their influence upon this country and its future destiny is most potent. As factors for good they command the respect of intelligent people who understand the facts. They represent much of the wealth and intelligence of the south. The number of white people of all ages in the south are under their teaching and influence count by millions—probably not less than 5,000,000 and it may be 6,000,000.

The Baptist people are staunch friends of liberty, civil and soul liberty. They can be counted on generally to stand by the great fundamentals of a free government. They deserve the attention of all students of policies and civics. The great body that is within our gates today is one to command and to deserve the respect of all and the hospitality of every one who is able to render it! The Messenger gives them cordial greeting—a most hearty and brotherly welcome. It hopes their stay among us will be profitable to them and the great cause they represent, and that their time here may be full of pleasure and interest, and their recollections of Wilmington in the years to come may be of unalloyed satisfaction. May they make new and abiding friendships.

The Messenger office is central and easily accessible. The proprietors tender the use of their paper to all the delegates and the friends who shall attend, for making known their wishes and wants. They invite all of the officials of the great body to command us at will, to make themselves entirely at home and to lend us their assistance in all proper ways that the proceedings and events of the session may be fully reported, and even in the minutest particulars. We desire to give to them and the public a complete report and of all that shall be of interest or importance to their denomination, to Christians at large and to the greater public.

THE WRONG AND IMMORALITY OF DIVORCE LAWS. One of the cruel abominations of this country is the loose, low divorce laws. They have fallen beneath contempt or toleration. In many states the bars are almost down entirely. Why should a state so careful to observe the ancient law and to keep the bars well up as to divorce, as South Carolina, be afflicted by states having the most indecent, immoral, lax law? When a state or a country turns it back upon God and His laws then a flood of folly, of vice, of crime comes in inevitably. The Messenger all along has insisted upon the rigid limitations of the Divine law in all legislation for North Carolina relating to marriage and divorce. If all of the evil consequences resulting from the abuse of a low and corrupting divorce law could be gathered and published it would startle and stagger this land—would arouse all the churches to a united and vigorous crusade against the vicious and deplorable prostitution of law to foster lust, vitiate marriage, destroy home, and break up society. The following will illustrate the wrong of this most foul and "brazen conspir-

acy against social order and the sacredness of the marriage relation." The case happened in the enlightened and self-complacent north. The chief actor is a man of large means and "great prominence in social and political affairs," but he is evidently a cold-blooded monster who is dominated by a vicious propensity. The story we take from an editorial in The New York Evening Post. It says: "A man of great prominence in the business and political affairs of New Jersey deserted his wife and family and went to Oklahoma, where he procured a divorce in the territorial courts which virtually sell decrees to any person who will pay the cash price for them. The wife of one of his confidential employees did the same thing about the same time. She then returned to New Jersey and contracted a marriage, and are now living in Trenton in the mansion formerly occupied by the man and his first wife. The latter, deserted and dishonored for no known reason, is living in a neighboring cottage with her children, where they are witnesses of the shameless perfidy which has wrecked their home and brought scandal upon two households."

We heartily agree with the able New York city evening daily that this example, so low, so brazen, so venal, in a plea for a divorce reform—for the speedy adoption of a national law as to divorces. We say we agree to this, providing it can be done without violating the rights and monuments of the several states. We suppose if a national bankrupt law or an inter-state railroad law could be passed by the federal congress that it is also competent to enact a general law controlling divorces in all the states. The Messenger will not designly and willingly favor any law by congress that is really an infraction of reserved rights of the states. The Evening Post presents a legal point bearing upon the greatly wronged wife in New Jersey. It says most pertinently: "The question, therefore, is whether the courts of New Jersey will destroy these rights and deprive the deserted wife of her vested interests by affirming the equality of the Oklahoma divorce. To do that would declare in effect that the property rights of married women in New Jersey could be put to destruction by a divorce court in a distant territory. It would punish the deserted wife for the sins of the faithless husband, and render mothers and children powerless to protect themselves and their property from conspiracy and robbery."

Is it right, is it just, is it desirable that the divorce law of Illinois or Oklahoma, or any of the other states with loose divorce law, shall enter into other states and settle the question of marriage—shall disrupt the bonds and favor wrong doing and rascality? The New York paper says that if the "Oklahoma divorce is upheld by the courts of New Jersey it will mean that married women have no property rights in the estates of their husbands which the law is bound to respect. We do not believe it will be upheld. The principle of it is wicked, unjust and repugnant to every sense of right and justice."

THE ANNEXATION SPIRIT. There is a disposition upon the part of a class in the north to do away with the long pursued course of the United States, avoiding foreign complications and conquests, and to branch out on a Quixotic career of intermeddling and annexation. This republic is great enough in size now. It is so wide and extended that it is a serious problem with thoughtful students of passing events and modern history whether it can possibly hold together for another half century. There are so many sectional antagonisms, such a large infusion of foreign people, especially in the west, who know but little of free institutions, such a growing conflict between capital and labor, and such a steady growth of extravagance and taxation burdens and official corruption that reflecting, observing men who know something of other civilizations and epochs in history have come to think if it is possible to keep together under a republican-democratic form of government such opposing, divergent, crude, selfish, incapable elements.

The last development in the way of departure from the old landmarks of government is to annex Hawaii—filled with a few whites and thousands of ignorant natives. The late minister to that unimportant part of the world, Mr. John W. Foster, has published a pamphlet (a lecture delivered) which is intended to foster and make popular the idea of annexation. It is in the form of an historical resume. So ignorant and incapable are the natives that the notion must be discarded altogether that they can ever be entrusted again with governing that remote part of the globe. The cure, the remedy is to annex to the United States, and let it be governed from Washington. Surely this country of ours has now quite enough of ignorance and vice without going on a hunt for "green fields and pastures new." The fruit may be ripe for speedy handling out there, and anxious adventurers may be on tiptoe to pluck and eat, but to take it into this country as a part of it, thus increasing barbarism and ignorance and incapacity for liberal rule, is to be rejected by all but the office seekers and schemers. Think of 50,000, more or less, ignorant voters to be added to the already enormous body of ignorance who vote, and then view the enlarged field for the manoeuvring of demagogues and heelers and the sweep of government by boodles. Mr. Foster states that army and navy officers favor annexation. This is not surprising. The more our country seeks foreign complications and enlarges its area of conquest or purchase, the greater the opportunities for promotion and fame. Let us steer clear of all annexation. History is full of warnings. It will be safe and wise to heed them.

A CORRESPONDENT ON TRENT.

Some two or three years ago, perhaps it was, Professor Trent published his life of William G. Simms, of South Carolina. It was very offensive to his admirers and friends. We have not read the book being repelled by the criticisms upon it. Capt. Samuel A. Ashe took occasion to give it a rattling, raking review at he time, but it escaped our notice. It stirred the friends of the university of the south, but the young and gifted Professor retained his place. The merited exhortation may not have diminished his grip upon the guardians of the institution. But of that we are not informed. At any rate the gifted author is still there and has sent forth his second work in which able men of the south are philippic if not villipended. A gentleman of the Episcopal church has written us thanking us for our recent editorial on Professor Trent's last unfortunate book. The News and Courier sharply criticizes him for his last book, but if we are not mistaken, it failed to take him to task for the assault upon Simms so covetly made. Our correspondent refers to him as "the rascal." He says: I am tolerant enough of opinions divergent from my own—but there pervades his life of Simms a mean, sinister, fiendish hatred of the excellent things of the anti-bellum South; and his disregard of truth is an insult to the intelligence of the reader." He points to some of Trent's sly ways of stabbing his subject, and gives quotations to show that "all through the book is the same false suggestion. It is this falsehood in the man that makes it so contemptible and despicable that I Sewanee can tolerate such a miserable worm among its faculty." A really gifted man of letters when false to his people and the cause they espouse is capable of working much injury for he will be quoted by the enemies of the South as a true witness, who penetrates the weaknesses of Southern character and the cause that was so bravely espoused, and who exposes the fallacy and unwisdom. He will be no doubt read with pleasure by the South-haters and if he will settle in Connecticut, as Cabb did, he may be lionized for a season and enjoy a few months "immortality."

When fevers and other epidemics are around safety lies in fortifying the system with Ayer's Sarsaparilla. A person having thin and impure blood is in the most favorable condition to "catch" whatever disease may be floating in the air. Be wise in time.

SNAPS.

A republican supreme court decided years ago that any tax other than for revenue was unconstitutional, was "robbery." The case was on the case of Wallace. There was but one democrat of the court at the time, Justice Field. Good reports come from Washington. Dingley and others of the tariff mongers are discovering how very defective their plan of robbery is—that their bill will not produce the large increase in taxes they claimed at first. Of all tax and revenue producing measures this radical dragnet is the very worst, the most defective as well as the most immoral.

The actual deficit for the current year ending 30th of June next, is estimated at present at \$33,000,000. Last month reduced the deficit \$6,000,000. The next two months will no doubt cut down the estimate several millions if the baleful robber tariff of McKinley-Dingley does not intervene to wipe out the growing surplus each month.

The awful disaster that has befallen Paris by which perhaps 150 people were killed and many more injured will awaken sympathy the world over. This year of grace 1897, thus far has been singularly calamitous and distressful. Floods and fires and war, pestilence and famine have all been at work afflicting, ravaging and destroying. God help the sufferers.

The failure of the arbitration treaty in the senate has come. The speech of Senator Morgan, first man in ability in that body, had a decided effect against a measure that really has but little in it to commend. The speech of Mr. Mills seems to have added to the conviction that it was best to defeat a treaty so very defective and falling, as Lord Salisbury admitted, just at the point to avoid war. He said in such cases the usual appeal to battle would have to settle matters in dispute.

When principle is so lost sight of and men of all sections enter into a contest and scramble as to which section or class shall get the most by robbing all the other sections and classes, then decadence is come and wrong and ruin rule the day. Think of a moralist or a minister, if you can, who should advocate openly, putting no wool in his mouth, such a dogma—that it was right to rob one class to enrich another class—that

"The good old rule, Suffice them, the simple plan, That they should take who have the power, And they should keep who can."

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PUBLIC OPINION.

If the Macon Telegraph takes the position that all the complaints of agricultural effect, and not sincere, but were used simply as a basis for revolt against the present administration, and it to say of the declaration of the advance agent of prosperity himself in his inaugural address? President McKinley said: "Economy is demanded in every branch of the government at all times, but especially in periods like the present of depression in business, and distress among the people. The depressed condition of industry on the farm, and in the ability of the people to meet the demands upon them, etc." Now was President McKinley keeping up the campaign thunder and admitting a depression which does not exist, just for party clap-trap, or was he speaking without knowledge of the real situation as it is known to exist by the Telegraph and President Brown?—Augusta Chronicle.

"What effect," he was asked, "will Mr. Cleveland's speech have on the future of the democratic party?" "None whatever," he replied. "No democrat cares what he thinks and what opinion he expresses. He has separated himself from the party which he traitorously betrayed, and for his own peace of mind and that of his family he should remain in the state of innocuous desuetude to which he has relegated himself by his own acts. He has no future in the democratic party, and his following, if any, will disappear as the mist before a summer sun. With the whole administration behind him in 1896, he could not force his opinions on his party; without such a power, his opinions now are not likely to have any weight. No man ever vacated the presidential chair so thoroughly detested by both parties as he was. This is true not only of the politicians. The rank and file cannot even now mention his name without their faces flushing with rage at the manner he has betrayed a confiding party."—Senator Morgan on Cleveland.

The straight party democrats are also very frank in their expressions. Senator Gorman, of Maryland, said: "I have not read the published reports of Mr. Cleveland's speech with any degree of attention. I glanced at the headings in the papers, and cursorily read enough of the speech to see that it was the characteristic Cleveland speech adroitly adapted to the occasion, full of wholesale vituperations and iconoclastic utterances. Mr. Cleveland has spoken. His impudent and isolated position in the political world is well enough understood, and the country at large receives his declarations as they have been accustomed to do of late, mildly interested and rather scornful, but the number of democrats who are influenced by his words is small indeed. Mr. Cleveland assails everybody so generously that few can hear him without feeling a personal affront. His speech exhibits as well as anything he has ever said his penchant for demagogic and artful ability to construct or reform. The democratic party naturally does not look to Mr. Cleveland as a leader, and I can not think that the speech of last night will interest the rank and file in the least."—Senator Gorman on Cleveland.

Whatever else has or has not been done in Europe during this eastern crisis, the power and prestige of France among the nations have been markedly increased. No stronger evidence of this is the desire of democrats referred by Lord Salisbury, when he referred parliament to the speech of the French foreign minister for an exposition of the French position. He announced that Great Britain was following the lead of France, a most unusual thing in these latter years. Since then France has been figuring more and more prominently in the concert. At the present time it is in Paris that talk of intervention and of peace is centred, and it is from the Quai d'Orsay that the sultan receives his warning not to proceed too far in his invasion of Greece. Whether that warning was the warning of France alone or of the great powers speaking through her, does not so greatly matter. The voice was the voice of France and it was and is the most commanding in all the concerted babel-chorus. It is well that this should be so. The voice of the French government is the voice of the people more than that of any other great power in Europe. Great Britain herself not excepted. That is large because foreign as well as domestic policies are subject to consideration, review and control by the chamber of deputies. The system has its disadvantages.—New York Tribune.

Maude—How is Mr. Blushman getting along? Has he proposed yet? Edith—No, but he is improving. The first night he held the album in his hands all the evening; the second night he had my pug dog in his arms; last night he held Willie on his lap for an hour. I have hopes.—Pearson's Weekly.

POINTED PARAGRAPHS.

It now appears that about all that the "sick man of the East" needed was for some one to stir him up a little.—Houston Post.

Although the Greeks in Southern Thessaly seem to be engaged only in the defense of a forlorn hope, the sympathy of the world will be with them to the end.—Philadelphia Record.

The New York Times, staunchest of champions of the lost cause of Clevelandism, roundly and at length berates Henry Watterson for the latter's trenchant dissection of the ex-president's Reform Club wall.

The sentiment was freely expressed at the banquet tendered to Secretary Gage in New York the other night that the bankers of the metropolis would stand by the administration. Will the administration also stand by the bankers? Is, perhaps, the important question.—Baltimore Herald.

Neither the Americans nor the English are thinking of the arbitration treaty. It has floated down the tide of good intentions, and there is nothing to grow pathetic about. The treaty has not only perished at the altar of public negligence, but has been amended to death.—Brooklyn Standard-Union.

We of the south do not intend to adopt the republican doctrine of protection, paternalism and centralism, and certainly not the populist doctrines of worse paternalism, such as government ownership of railroads, government warehouses, and unlimited issue of government fiat money.—Mobile Register, dem.

"Here we stand—we cannot do otherwise—God help us," ex-President Cleveland said to the feusters at the gold banquet the other night. Yet they were sitting—God help them! Drinking six kinds of wine, and eating a dinner costing \$12 a plate. It may have been hard lines for them, but we know of some men who would not have squealed at the punishment.—Columbia State.

WILMINGTON, NEWBERN & NORFOLK RAILWAY CO. IN EFFECT SUNDAY, MAY 17, 1896. Daily except Sunday.

Table with columns: NORTH BOUND, STATION, SOUTH BOUND. Lists train schedules for various stations including Wilmington, Fayetteville, and Jacksonville.

CONDENSED SCHEDULE. In Effect April 4th, 1897. Table with columns: South Bound, MAIN LINE, North Bound, Daily No. 1.

Meals. Northbound connections at Fayetteville with Atlantic Coast Line for all points North and East, at Sanford with the Seaboard Air Line, at Greensboro with the Southern Railway company, at Walnut Cove with the Norfolk and Western railroad for Winston-Salem.

The Clyde Steamship Co. NEW YORK, WILMINGTON, N. C. AND GEORGETOWN, S. C. LINES. Lists ship names and departure times.

PAWNEE.....Saturday, May 8th CROATAN.....Saturday, May 15th From Wilmington for New York. CROATAN.....Saturday, May 8th PAWNEE.....Saturday, May 15th From Wilmington for Georgetown. PAWNEE.....Tuesday, May 18th CROATAN.....Tuesday, May 15th

Through bills of lading and lowest through rates guaranteed to and from points in North and South Carolina. For Freight or passage apply to H. G. EMBERTON, Superintendent. THEO. G. EGER, Traffic Manager. 5 Bowling Green, New York. W. M. P. CLYDE & Co., General Agents, 5 Bowling Green, New York.

Insurance Company of North America. Founded A. D. 1792. Fire Association of Philadelphia. Founded A. D. 1817.

FINANCIAL STANDING JAN. 1, 1897.

Table showing financial statistics: Reserve for Losses and all Claims, Capital paid in cash, Net Surplus, Cash Assets, and Assets available to Policy Holders.

Willard & Giles, Resident Agents, WILMINGTON, N. C.

ATLANTIC COAST LINE.

Schedule in Effect April 15th, 1897. Departures from Wilmington: NORTHBOUND. DAILY No. 48—Passenger—Due Magnolia 9:00 a. m., 10:40 a. m., Warsaw 10:55 a. m., Gosport 11:55 a. m., Wilson 12:45 a. m., Tarboro 1:30 p. m., Tarboro 2:50 p. m., Weldon 3:30 p. m., Petersburg 5:54 p. m., Richmond 6:50 p. m., Norfolk 6:58 p. m., Washington 7:41 a. m., Baltimore 12:53 a. m., Philadelphia 3:45 a. m., New York 6:55 a. m., Boston 8:30 p. m.

DAILY No. 49—Passenger—Due Magnolia 8:00 a. m., 10:40 a. m., Warsaw 10:55 a. m., Gosport 11:55 a. m., Wilson 12:45 a. m., Tarboro 1:30 p. m., Tarboro 2:50 p. m., Weldon 3:30 p. m., Petersburg 5:54 p. m., Richmond 6:50 p. m., Norfolk 6:58 p. m., Washington 7:41 a. m., Baltimore 12:53 a. m., Philadelphia 3:45 a. m., New York 6:55 a. m., Boston 8:30 p. m.

DAILY No. 50—Passenger—Leave Boston 12:15 p. m., New York 9:00 p. m., Philadelphia 12:05 a. m., Baltimore 2:10 a. m., Washington 4:30 a. m., Richmond 9:05 a. m., Petersburg 10:00 a. m., Norfolk 6:40 a. m., Weldon 11:30 a. m., Tarboro 12:12 p. m., Rocky Mount 12:45 p. m., Wilson 2:12 p. m., Goldsboro 3:10 p. m., Warsaw 3:30 p. m., Magnolia 4:36 p. m.

DAILY No. 51—Passenger—Leave Boston 12:15 p. m., New York 9:00 p. m., Philadelphia 12:05 a. m., Baltimore 2:10 a. m., Washington 4:30 a. m., Richmond 9:05 a. m., Petersburg 10:00 a. m., Norfolk 6:40 a. m., Weldon 11:30 a. m., Tarboro 12:12 p. m., Rocky Mount 12:45 p. m., Wilson 2:12 p. m., Goldsboro 3:10 p. m., Warsaw 3:30 p. m., Magnolia 4:36 p. m.

DAILY No. 52—Passenger—Leave Boston 12:15 p. m., New York 9:00 p. m., Philadelphia 12:05 a. m., Baltimore 2:10 a. m., Washington 4:30 a. m., Richmond 9:05 a. m., Petersburg 10:00 a. m., Norfolk 6:40 a. m., Weldon 11:30 a. m., Tarboro 12:12 p. m., Rocky Mount 12:45 p. m., Wilson 2:12 p. m., Goldsboro 3:10 p. m., Warsaw 3:30 p. m., Magnolia 4:36 p. m.

DAILY No. 53—Passenger—Leave Boston 12:15 p. m., New York 9:00 p. m., Philadelphia 12:05 a. m., Baltimore 2:10 a. m., Washington 4:30 a. m., Richmond 9:05 a. m., Petersburg 10:00 a. m., Norfolk 6:40 a. m., Weldon 11:30 a. m., Tarboro 12:12 p. m., Rocky Mount 12:45 p. m., Wilson 2:12 p. m., Goldsboro 3:10 p. m., Warsaw 3:30 p. m., Magnolia 4:36 p. m.

DAILY No. 54—Passenger—Leave Boston 12:15 p. m., New York 9:00 p. m., Philadelphia 12:05 a. m., Baltimore 2:10 a. m., Washington 4:30 a. m., Richmond 9:05 a. m., Petersburg 10:00 a. m., Norfolk 6:40 a. m., Weldon 11:30 a. m., Tarboro 12:12 p. m., Rocky Mount 12:45 p. m., Wilson 2:12 p. m., Goldsboro 3:10 p. m., Warsaw 3:30 p. m., Magnolia 4:36 p. m.