

THE Christian Advocate

OFFICE—Corner of Dawson and Hargett Sts. THE ORGAN OF THE NORTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE OF THE M. E. CHURCH, SOUTH.

RALEIGH, N. C., FEB. 20, 1878

The Cross (X) Mark is to remind you that your subscription has expired.

The Work of the Stewards—No. 2.

In our article of last week, we closed our remarks on the class of apologizing stewards. We come now to notice a third class of delaying stewards. Their work of collecting is put off until the very last part of the year.

1. There is the moral evil of allowing our people to contract the habit of violating disciplinary laws. The non-observance of all wholesome laws—it is oftentimes the leak that sinks the ship.

2. This delaying policy heaps upon the preacher the burden of troublesome debts. He is obliged to have his family bread for his family. He is obliged to have shelter and raiment for them.

We know of nothing meaner than for a people to enjoy the services of a preacher a whole year, and fail to pay him his rightful dues, and then flip-pantly talk about him going away in debt, and insinuate by a hundred gossiping tongues, that he lacks the common virtues of honesty.

er to be made weekly, monthly or quarterly. This delaying policy makes the payment of the preacher, for the membership, much harder than the law of the Discipline. Every man's experience teaches him that it is much easier to pay in small and frequent installments, than the whole of any given sum at once.

It will be seen now how many troubles grow out of a procrastinating stewardship. Having the times filed as the Discipline directs, and making prompt collections at the times agreed upon, would sweep away all of these financial calamities. And we earnestly and solemnly urge upon the stewards throughout our Conference connection, that they conform strictly to the law of our Discipline.

What confusion, what chaos, what interminable disorder, what a stupendous failure this world would be, if it did not move in harmony with exact and appointed seasons—Such a world would be worthless; we could do nothing with it, and simply because it had no fixed time of performing its complicated work.

\$300,000 to \$7,000,000.

There is quite a war in New York city over the enforcement of their excise law. Some friends of the whiskey business plead that "the noble charities" of the city "need large revenues" from licenses.

But to suppose—that of this paper bill of \$7,000,000 only \$300,000 is due to the pauperizing influence of the whole whiskey traffic, were the gain to society?

means the heaviest burden that it entails. Indeed, this is the least afflictive and troublesome feature of the case. The evil of pauperism is not measurable by the poor house accounts! In fact, it is not measurable by any money values whatsoever.

But the supposition that the whiskey business, paying in license fees to New York city, \$300,000 per annum, is responsible for only \$300,000 of the pauper bill of \$7,000,000, is out of all relation to the facts. No man doubts that this whiskey business reduces vastly more pauperism than \$300,000 of the \$7,000,000 paid out to relieve it.

Should the license then be fixed at \$50? Not at all, for this is the smallest item in the account. This paper—made so according to our supposition by the bar room—should have been, had he remained a man, a producer to the extent of \$300 per annum. But this is lost. The license fee cannot then, in common justice to society, be less than \$350.

All informed people have long ago reached two conclusions on the subject of this whiskey business—conclusions that cannot be shaken. First, a large proportion of the pauperism of the country originates in intoxication. Second, the vast majority of crimes originate in intoxication.

Now the relief of pauperism and the prosecution of criminals make up a very large proportion of the expenses of government. The present status of the case is easily stated.—The whiskey business costs the government millions; the whiskey business pays to the government hundreds. In other words the honorable and useful industries of the country are taxed millions to pay the costs entailed on government by the dishonorable and injurious whiskey business.

Our firm conviction is that society has the right to protect itself. Therefore, we believe that society has the right not only to repress but to suppress the liquor traffic. But if it is not suppressed it should be vigorously repressed. If drinking houses are to be allowed to exist at all, they should exist under conditions that limit as much as possible their power to do mischief.

The Church Officer.

We fully endorse the sentiment expressed in this editorial, taken from the N. Y. Christian Advocate. Our beloved Methodism is made to suffer by the nomination and election of improper, and sometimes ungodly men, to fill official positions in the church.

As our churches increase in numbers, wealth, and position, it becomes important that our official boards be composed of men of ability and judgment, and good standing before the community at large.

The preachers, to whom is accorded the right to nominate, have much to do in avoiding or remedying this evil. They should put forward only representative men who are capable, and who will do honor to the church.

Several brethren write that they will make an earnest effort to secure 50 subscribers this year.

A loyal Methodist will not drop his own Church paper to take any other. He will be true to his own colors.

Rev. C. C. Dodson writes us pleasantly of his work and of the reception given him by his old friends in Wilson.

A telegram of the 16th instant announces the death of Rev. Dabney Ball, D. D., of the Methodist Church South, aged 57 years.

Our patrons will bear in mind that when payment for subscription to the Advocate is delayed six months the price is \$2.50. When paid in advance the price is \$2.20 postage paid.

There is considerable religious interest manifested in the congregation of Edenton Street Church, Bro Black is a faithful pastor, and a capital preacher.

We continue to send out bills to delinquent subscribers. Hundreds are due from one to three years for the paper. The fact that we have reposed confidence in them, should be an incentive to fidelity on their part.

Dr. J. W. McGee of Magnolia, an experienced physician, proposes to take up his abode in the city of Oaks.

Brother who have received accounts will give prompt attention to their collection. We are in need of funds to meet extra expenses incurred in laying in our new office material.

Rev. T. in the Brethren.

Mistakenly Pagan, in charge of circuit, writes us that he has been warmly received by his people, and that he is pleased with his work. An interest is being manifested on the subject of building churches.

Rev. J. J. Carden, writes that he has reached his new appointment, the Robeson circuit, and that the people gave him a hearty reception. He gives a gratifying account of his first Quarterly Meeting.

A note from Rev. E. A. Yates, of the 13th inst., informs us that he has just received a telegram announcing the death of Mr. Ramsey, his father-in-law.

Our first Quarterly Meeting was held on the 26 and 27 ult. Our Presiding Elder, Rev. Dr. Cross, was present and presided.

Resolved, That the members of the First Quarterly Conference of Nense Circuit beg leave to express our high appreciation of Rev. J. J. Carden, our pastor for the three past years, and tender our congratulations to Robeson Circuit, his present appointment.

Our Advocate.

Mr. Editor: I have had it in mind some time to write you a line or two, but have been prevented by press of other matters.

I am not writing from behind the scenes; for I know little or nothing of the real financial condition of the paper except from what is published by the editor.

Conceding the fact, then, that we need it, the next question is, how can it be sustained? Not by a joint stock company and a hired editor, nor yet by the Conference and a hired editor.

The one hundred and fortieth anniversary of the birthday of Thomas Paine was observed in Boston, Jan. 29, by a convention of free thinkers in Paine Memorial Hall.

The ladies of Edenton St. Church gave an entertainment at Metropolitan Hall on Wednesday evening, the 13th inst., for the benefit of the Metropolitan Methodist Church.

Rev. V. A. Sharpe writes: "I hope to send you 50 subscribers this year." While Bro. S. does not promise 50, we are quite sure that he will send even more than that number, before the close of the year.

We need to learn the lesson that this life is given us only that we may attain to eternal life. For lack of remembering this, we fix our affections on the things of this fleeting world.

Renew your subscription to the Advocate. Price, \$2.20 post paid.

Our Colleges.

Can we free them from debt? We have fifty eight thousand members within the bounds of the North Carolina Annual Conference. Can fifty-eight thousand persons pay a debt of six hundred dollars? One dollar and three cents and five mills each will pay it.

Da Bourn: Though more than three weeks have elapsed since the death of Rev. J. P. Moore, I can scarcely realize the sad fact.

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Books and Periodicals.

THE DEMAND FOR BISHOP MARVIN'S BOOK, "To the East by way of the West," has become so great that it is impossible for us to fill orders for agents promptly and attend to the work of publishing the book.

COOPER'S POEM, BY REV. J. A. MURPHY OF MIAMI, MO., AND J. S. WARREN, CHICAGO, PUBLISHER.

WE HAVE RECEIVED THE PROSPECTUS OF A VOLUME OF POEMS, BY R. V. A. MEANS, D. D., L. L. D. IT IS SOON TO BE ISSUED UNDER THE PRESS OF E. J. HALE AND SONS OF NEW YORK.

THE FEARFUL STORM AND CYCLONE THAT VISITED THIS CITY ON THURSDAY NIGHT, DID CONSIDERABLE DAMAGE TO THE CITY. THE COLUMBIA DEPOT AT THAT CITY, AND A NUMBER OF OTHER BUILDINGS WERE ALMOST COMPLETELY DEMOLISHED.

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