

The Christian Advocate.

OFFICE—Corner of Dawson and Hargett Sts.

THE ORGAN OF THE NORTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE OF THE M. E. CHURCH, SOUTH.

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RETAIL, N. C., - - - - - APRIL 3, 1878.

THE ORGAN (Mark is to remind you that your subscription has expired. If you want the paper continued, renew promptly.)

THE RELATION OF THE PASTOR TO THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

In closing our articles on this subject, we have reserved one article in reference to the pastor's relation to it. The Discipline defines very clearly the duty of each pastor to this institution. It says: "Let Sunday schools be formed in all our congregations where ten children can be collected. Let the schools be under the control of our own churches, and it is recommended that our publications be used. And it shall be the special duty of preachers having charge of circuits and stations, and with the aid of the other preachers, to see that this duty is done to engage the cooperation of as many of our members as they can; to visit the schools as often as practicable to preach on the subject of Sunday-schools and religious instruction in each congregation; to lay before the Quarterly Conference, at each quarterly meeting, a report on the progress of the Sunday-schools in their respective circuits and stations, and to make a part of the same their several Annual Conferences."

Let us sum up the special points of instruction given here: (1) The organization of schools—(2) put them, when formed, under Methodist control—(3) use Methodist literature—(4) enlist the cooperation of the members—(5) visit the school in person—(6) make special sermons on its value—(7) make reports of progress. A primary duty among these items is to form a school in each congregation where ten children can be collected. To this point let us speak a few words. Now, we suppose there is not an ordinary congregation in all our members where ten children cannot be collected. We need not the torch of old Diogenes to find ten children in any neighborhood where a church is located. For this kind, from the sea-board to the mountain-top, we have no lack of children. The number is 2,200,000. You can not get more than ten, twenty, fifty, a hundred, in our towns and cities. Sunday schools are formed according to the directions of the Discipline, but in our circuit work, there are scores and hundreds of churches having not a vestige of a school. In the Minutes, we have 745 organized churches, but only 922 Sunday schools are reported as having been formed—leaving 113 churches destitute of schools. Whose fault is it? We are not able to say. But it is evident that the pastors or people of these congregations are not doing their duty in the important work of collecting the children and teaching them the Word of God. How many children may be in these places having no Sunday-school privileges, we have no means of knowing, but we do know that of the 422,928 white children in N. C., there are 105,771 of them not gathered into the green pastures of the Sunday school. All the denominations combined have not upon their rolls one half of the children in the State. And while the Methodists are in advance of others, yet we are not doing our whole duty in this matter. Think of one hundred thousand children—having immortal souls within them, capable of growing up into trees of righteousness to bless and enrich society, and then of being consigned to a better life of heaven to bloom in eternal beauty—meaning about as readily in our midst, with no kind hand to lead them to the school of Christ. Remember, too, that they are not children born of heathen parents, trailing the hot sands of dark Africa, but children born in a Christian land, many of them in Christian families—in our own native State—under the shadow of Christian churches. Is there not a world of delinquency somewhere? On these shoulders is this fearful blame to be laid, ministers or laymen—or both? The harvest is truly great, but the laborers are few. How many preachers are going round and round, preaching and laboring in behalf of the adult population, but doing nothing effectively for the children's spiritual welfare. Many preachers think that their whole commission is to the sheep. They forget that the commission of Christ—First, your lambs—is equally binding with the one first of sheep. The pastor is to be as harmless as a dove and wise as a serpent. What sort of wisdom does the minister need? That which enables him to win most souls to Christ. Who are most easily won—children or hardened adult sinners? Is it not infinitely easier to gather the lambs straggling around the door of the fold when they are gentle and manageable than to wait until they are grown up, wooded away upon the mountains of sin, formed hard, its wilderness, and become horned, and then go out to hunt them up—preach and convert them to persuade them to start back to the fold they left when young? And after all is done that can be done, only a few in a hundred are converted, and not many of the few by reason of evil habits can be kept in the fold into final salvation. Of course

A CLASS-LEADER'S EXPERIENCE.

A correspondent of the New York Advocate, gives the following interesting experience as a class-leader: "I have a class of twenty-five members and one probationer, and nearly all of them are regular in their attendance, and they enjoy the class-meetings very much. I have been leader of this class about nine months, and during that time I have never invited any member to attend class or scolded any one for non-attendance; but endeavor, with the aid of the members who scarcely ever are absent, to make the meeting so interesting that all the members will think it a privilege to attend, and regret it when they are not able to be present. I have a few members who do not attend regularly, and I make it my duty to see them, sometimes after public worship, at their homes and I say to them: 'Brother or sister, you have not been to class-meeting for some time. I don't like the reason of your absence. I don't like excuses; no doubt you have a cause that has kept you away. The object of the class meeting is for the leader and members to understand the religious state of each other. Will you please tell me how you are progressing in your religious life, and I will report for you next Tuesday evening if you cannot be present yourself?' Sometimes they will not report for them, so that the spiritual condition of all the class is known to every member and the leader. I have no particular plan in regard to the manner of conducting my class, and no two meetings are held exactly alike. Sometimes I will begin the meeting by reading a portion of Scripture with an exhortation; sometimes I make a few observations on some of the verses, and sometimes after reading the Scriptures, I pray without singing. At other times I begin by singing, followed by a short prayer by the leader, and sometimes call upon a brother, sometimes on a sister, to pray. Sometimes, after speaking to part of the members, I call for a few very short prayers (all my members will pray when called upon) for the descent of the Holy Spirit. Sometimes during the progress of my meeting I call for a season of silent prayer.

As to speaking to the members, I strive, according to the philosophy of our General Rule, to give "those judgments from time to time which I judge most useful for them." My opinion in regard to these matters has very much changed. I used to think that I must give an exhortation to every member after he had spoken, but now I take the liberty of keeping still when I have nothing to say, and when something is said that calls for advice or exhortation, I find that I can speak with freedom. Upon the whole, we find it good and profitable to meet together in class-meeting. Some of our members come regularly two and a half miles, and we have times of refreshing from the presence of the Lord.

Dr. W. J. Neveling, of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, is now on a visiting tour among the mission stations in China and India. We quote a recent letter from him: "I have been impressed by the broad, healthy Christian spirit of the Churches; by the enormous work they undertake; by the freedom with which they adapt themselves to meet the changing circumstances of the people, and by the noble spirit of co-operation and mission-ary zeal that is characteristic of so many of the Christian people. Missions occupy a far larger place in the affections and services of the Churches than with us. The missionary prayer meeting is common; numbers of congregations, and sometimes Sunday-schools; support each a missionary; missionary tidings are expected from the pulpit. It is held an honor to go out and join the missionary band, and where a man at home would give five shillings after a missionary sermon he will give often five pounds."

Bishop Keener says: "We have 40 workers in the Mexican City Mission, six, exclusive of Sabbath school teachers, in the Mexican Border Mission, 90; say in all 145 preachers, 501 members, 14 Sabbath schools, 22 teachers, 357 children, 2,950 persons preached to, 3 houses of worship, valued at \$16,900, 8 Circuits and 1 Station—which includes a number of preaching places. All these services and sermons are in the Spanish tongue, and the congregations are Mexican. Here is a germ of life which promises an ample return to the Church at home for all her zeal and generosity. Six years ago all this was in the spirit and person of a single Mexican, Aljo Hernandez."

At a meeting of the District Stewards of Raleigh District, held at Franklinton, N. C., March 4th, 1878, the following appointments were made for the present year. Preachers and Stewards will please clip from the Advocate and keep for future reference:

Table with 4 columns: Name, Salary, and other details. Includes entries for Edenton, Person, Gaston, Solersville, Smithfield, Tar River, Yonville, Lumburg, Oxford, Graniteville, Henderson, and Nashville.

At a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Insane Asylum, Dr. James Craven was appointed second assistant physician of that institution. Dr. Craven is a graduate of Trinity College and a son of the able president, Rev. Dr. B. Craven.

NOTES FROM THE BROTHERS.

Rev. Jno. N. Andrews, writes from Washington, Me., 20th. "A gracious revival is in progress here. Twelve have joined the Church—others converted. The good Lord is also blessing our Presbyterian brethren. Yesterday they had 8 inquirers, and great seriousness."

Rev. L. Phillips, writes us from Fair Haven, March 23. "Six weeks ago or thereabout, I took charge of this office as Deputy Post Master. At that time there was but one copy of the Advocate coming to this office, and that was my own. Now we have nine, which number I hope to increase as rapidly as possible. Everybody likes the paper as soon as they see it. I think the real merits of the Advocate needs only to be presented to increase the circulation. It should be read by every Methodist family in North Carolina."

Rev. F. J. Caraway writes from Winston, Me., 22d. "I do not ask space in your paper to give an extended account of a 'pounding,' but merely to give it as an item of news, that the good people of Winston gave brother Allen and myself the usual attentions in that way, on the 19th inst, and did it in a splendid way."

The church here is still growing in numbers, and I think is doing well. We have a very large congregation, and would, I think, have more in attendance if our church was larger. We are crowded too much at times for weak nerves and consequently some of our good members give way on Sunday nights. I have received the first number of the Carolina Messenger. While I do not find any particular fault in the paper, I do regret the enterprise, as it is premature. If the Conference is divided, the new Conference, I think, should have expressed its preference in the matter before a paper was started in its interest. I very much doubt its success. My opinion in regard to a division of the Conference is not the popular one. We labored twenty years to get a respectable Conference and now we are going to destroy our glory. The Western Conference will be inconvenient and weak. The Eastern Conference will be small and feeble. Methodism in the State will not be benefited by the change."

I like the improvements in the Advocate very much. I am also pleased to see so many renewals and new subscribers announced."

FROM MT. AIRY. Dr. BOBERT: At last we have gotten fairly under way with our work for 1878. We returned to this place on the 4th Sunday of Dec. last. For nine consecutive Sundays from that day, the weather was so exceedingly inclement that we did not get little more than December, January, and the most of February. Our congregations were very small when we preached at all. But during this month the weather and operations have been altogether different. Our congregations have been large and attentive.

Our 1st Quarterly Meeting was an occasion of much interest. Bro. Britton was with us and preached four excellent gospel sermons. He is a man "abundant in labors"—eminently useful in the position he occupies. Our Sunday schools are doing well. Those that were daily winter quarters are coming out under favorable prospects. We truly hope that efficient Sunday schools may be established in all our churches. The maximum of March coming in like a bolt, gave out like a lion, is working out true this year. During the first of it, we had very mild, pleasant weather. Last Sunday was exceedingly boisterous. Now it is clear, cool, and rather windy. My letter published in the Advocate in November of last year, and giving the results of the operations of our church in this section for that year, caused quite a stir among our friends of the close communion order. It was intended to be an offensive sense. But the leading minister of that communion in this section saw proper to annul it upon this very bitterly in the N. Y. Visitor, and characterize it as "unkind, unfair." He disputes several statements in it, especially as the open communion gives of many of his brethren. But what I stated remain facts, nevertheless. Several letters have been exchanged upon the subject in the paper of this place. He says "the church has no right" upon the subject of close communion, but "it is in the Bible." I asked for it in a tangible form, but he has never given it. There are eleven appointments on the circuit at which the sacrament is administered. At nine of these some of that communion have communed with us. We have heard of members being disciplined at one place for this. But it does not appear where their criminality lies, or by what rule they are judged.

Yours truly, JAMES WILSON. March 26th. The revival at Edgerton Street Church continues to grow in interest. A large number have professed faith in Christ. Bro. Black, the faithful and laborious pastor, received twenty into the Church on Sabbath. We give praise unto the Father for his gracious visitation.

A man in a *blow*, once said, "I have no more influence than a lightning flash." "Well," was the reply, "a lightning flash can do a good deal. It can set a haystack on fire; it can burn down a house; it can give a man a new creature to reap a chapter in God's book. Go your way, friend, and let your lightning flash shine before them that are blind, seeing your good works, may glorify your Father which is in heaven."

CONFERENCE MINUTES.

Our pastor handed us, a day or two since, a copy of the Minutes of the North Carolina Conference for the session held in Salisbury during the week from Nov. 29th to December 5th 1877. It is a neatly put up pamphlet of 98 pages exclusive of the advertisements and cover. The mechanical execution is fair, not first class—the proof-reading being defective in some places and the register not perfect.

The ordinary routine business of the Conference, together with the resolutions offered and passed, the reports from the committees, the appointments, and statistics, are all given in detail. The year's work shows a gratifying self-improvement. The labors, toils, and self-sacrifices of the preachers were rewarded by a rich harvesting of souls into the Master's vineyard. Making all allowances for deaths, removals, and imperfect statistics from some charges, there was the clearing increase of 2,574 white members and of 78 colored members—a decrease of two Local Preachers. These add up an aggregate, inclusive of Local Preachers of 59,057 members in the Conference. Doubtless, if the statistics had been sent up accurately to the last figure, we might have counted 60,000 members within the bounds of the work. The Sunday Schools show an aggregate of 34,934 pupils and teachers. We are fully persuaded it all had been carefully reported, there would have been many thousands more to the aggregate.

The amount collected for Foreign and Domestic Missions was \$5,946.54, a little over 10 cents to each white member of the Church. The amount of the Conference Collections was \$4,212.33, "being 70 per cent of the claims," a little over 7 cents per member. There is a discrepancy between answer 28 on page 40 and the first and second columns of the Financial exhibit on page 66. The former says that the whole amount assessed for the Bishop's fund was \$1,425.50; the latter states it at \$1,488.47—a difference of \$62.97. The former states the total amount raised, including the Bishop's traveling expenses, at \$1,425.50; the latter at \$1,488.47—a difference of \$62.97. The former states that the whole amount assessed was \$1,425.50; the latter shows a deficiency of \$113.14. The whole amount assessed for Presiding Elders was \$12,908; the amount collected was 10,522.31, showing a deficiency of \$2,385.69—being something over 18 per cent of the assessed amount. The total amount assessed for Pastors was \$88,387; the sum collected for up \$72,194.20, being a deficiency of \$16,192.80—that being also something over 18 per cent of the amount assessed.

The amount collected for Presiding Elders and Pastors was \$2,766.51. This is an average of one dollar forty-one cents and something over six mills per member. Raleigh District paid one dollar and seventy-four cents and four mills per member; Hillsboro District, one dollar fifty-nine cents one mill; Greensboro District, one dollar twelve cents seven mills; Salisbury District, one dollar twelve cents seven mills; Shelby District, one dollar one cent three mills; Charlotte District, one dollar forty-seven cents two mills; Fayetteville District, one dollar thirty cents three mills; Wilmington District, one dollar fifty-one cents three mills; Newbern District, two dollars twelve cents four mills; and Washington District, one dollar forty-nine cents.

Including missions and Districts, the average salary of the Preachers was \$555.81. Judging the amount raised on missions from the total salaries raised, and also those sent to missions, and the salaries will average \$306.52. Adding amounts paid Bishops, Presiding Elders, Conference collections, Foreign and Domestic Missions, and there will be an average of one dollar sixty-one cents and seven mills to each white member. Add to this amount the sums collected for the poor, Sunday Schools, Publishing House, Building and Repairing Churches and Parsonages, and Incidentals, and there would work out an average of TWO DOLLARS TWENTY-FOUR CENTS AND SIX MILLS for each white member in the North Carolina Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. Such a cheap gospel one might say—but what a good amount of good might be done by adding just one dollar and fifty cents to the average per member. It would pay off all our College debts—our proportion of what is called for from the Publishing House, cheer up the hearts of the Superannuated, and worn out preachers and the widows and children of those that have died in the work; by a more generous provision for their necessities; build and improve many more parsonages and Churches, and put the entire Conference on a higher vantage ground for usefulness and position. And how much would it detract from the means of the membership? It would add the blessings pronounced upon the giver. The Church does not understand its power, either in the bestowment of means for good, or in the exercise of a living faith in the Son of God. Were we all up to the full glory of our duty, the dark places of sin, crime and ignorance would soon be lit up by the genial beams of the Sun of Righteousness; the waste places of our languishing Zion would be built up by a people chosen of the Lord; and the deserts and solitary abodes of darkness would rejoice and blossom as the rose.

There are many interesting points in the Minutes to which it might be pleasant and profitable to call the attention of your readers; but your space and our time will not now admit of it. One thing that strikes us with much force, however, is the late date at which the Minutes were issued. It can be seen by looking at the Minutes, that there was

BOOKS AND PERIODICALS.

The April number of *Hogden's Magazine* has been received. It is an ably conducted Magazine and is deservedly popular. The table of contents is attractive to the literary eye.

CONFESSIONS OF LIBERALISTS TO ORTHODOXY, by Daniel Doehring, D. D., D. Lothrop & Co., Publishers, Boston. The confession of the work is a happy one; the analysis of the authors' comprehensive and clear; the concessions pertinent, and wide enough in the range of authors to give them great credit. The plan and execution are alike admirable. 12 mo. cloth—\$1.25.

RUSSELL MORTON: A Story of Real Life by Timothy Truman, author of "Fred Bronning." Published at the Nashville Publishing House of the M. E. Church, South. We have received from Rev. V. A. Sharpe a beautifully bound copy of this charming little volume. It is especially designed for Sunday-schools and the young people. As we have on a former occasion noticed this publication, we purpose now simply to call attention to it, and to commend it most heartily. Send your orders to Rev. V. A. Sharpe, Reidsville, N. C.

THE PREACHERS' WIFE—By A. H. Redford, D. D., Nashville, Tenn. This is a volume of thrilling interest. It is dedicated to the wives of the traveling preachers of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, by the author. Of course every preacher's wife will afford them unusual interest. A review was given of the book soon after it was issued from the press. We commended it then—we do so now. Rev. V. A. Sharpe, Reidsville, N. C., will take pleasure in filling your orders.

HICKORY SUNDAY SCHOOL. Mr. EDITOR: It affords me much pleasure to inform your many readers of the great success which has attended the Sunday School in the Methodist Episcopal Church at this place during the past twelve months. The school had been languishing for several years, the attendance being small and but little interest manifested—until at the beginning of last year a young man, Mr. W. A. Bowles, only twenty years of age, was chosen superintendent, and he being an active and worthy Christian gentleman brought about a praiseworthy change. He was careful in the selection of teachers, got a full supply of International Lesson Papers, and added other attractive features. Considerable interest was at once awakened, the number of pupils increased, and it was only a short time until this was the largest school in the town.

Today there are over one hundred children members, which is a very fair showing in a town of only twelve hundred inhabitants and where there are six different organized denominations. It is quite a treat to all lovers of good Sunday Schools to be present Sunday mornings, for the children and young ladies and gentlemen are promptly at their places at the hour of opening and their lessons are always well studied; and to a visitor the most interesting feature is the singing. This department is under the management of another worthy young man, Mr. H. Blair, who is his assistant superintendent. The AMARANTH note book is used, and as a natural result of much practice and good training, the school makes splendid music.

The school is thoroughly organized, has a corps of competent teachers and is conducted in a very systematic manner. Much praise is due Mr. Bowles, and those who faithfully aided him, for the efforts put forth in bringing the school to its present status. It is now the means of leading many children into the path of duty. Within the past week Mrs. O'Connell, of our present society, Quarterly Conference, has been visiting in the gentleman's Magazine, Benedict de Spinoza, Nineteenth Century.

A new volume begins with the first number of April. For fifty-two numbers, of sixty-four large pages each (or more than 3000 pages a year), the subscription price (\$8) is now less than any one of the American \$4 monthlies or weeklies is sent with The Living Age for a year, both postpaid. Littel & Gay, Boston, are the publishers.

WIDE AWAKE, for April, has a Special History Supplement of sixteen illustrated pages, containing "Tom and Others," by Mrs. Swislocka, a very exciting and well told account of her own experience with her husband's pet wild animals; "Australian Opossums," by Miss Prigg; and a striking proof of the "Vitality of the Shark," witnessed by the author, Dr. Payne. These Supplements will interest the children in Natural History, and there are to be given during the year. \$2 Edited by Ella Farman, D. Lothrop & Co., Publishers, Boston.

RESOLUTIONS.

Resolved, That in our judgment, he combines in an eminent degree, all the elements that constitute the Christian, the man, and the gentleman.

Resolved, That we regret the necessity of his removal, feeling that he has a great loss to all the interests of the Church, and the community at large, in which he formerly lived.

Resolved, That we will ever cherish an abiding interest for the welfare of the self and family, and do, most heartily, recommend them to the confidence and esteem of the Church and good citizens of Raleigh.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be forwarded to the Raleigh Christian Advocate for publication, and also that they be spread upon the minutes of the Conference.

T. P. ROBEY, Chairman. G. L. NICHOLSON, M. D., J. F. E. K. K. K. LOCAL AND STATE NEWS.

The Winston Standard says: Col. M. L. McCorkle is spoken of as a candidate for Judge in the tenth district.

Two old citizens of Person are dead, Elijah C. Brent, aged 81, and Wm. R. Handlett, aged 76.

Charlotte Observer says: Col. T. H. Long, Special Agent of the Postoffice Department, arrested at Hertford, on the 21st inst., Charles W. Smith, postmaster, upon the charge of embezzling money order funds.

The Free Lance says Colonel Wortham is writing a "history of Granville county."

LOCAL AND STATE NEWS.

The Richmond & Roanoke Railroad Company has subscribed \$25,000 to the Lenoir & New River, George Railroad, and the Clyde Steamship Line is expected to subscribe liberally.

Wilson Advocate: Our farmers are going to plant wheat quite extensively this year, judging from the quantity of seed received.

Henderson's Weekly: On last Thursday, Raleigh-Lyda, of Clear Creek in this county, was thrown from his horse, and as he fell his head struck a tree standing near the road, and fractured his skull.

Rocky Mount Mail: We learn that the spirit of improvement has taken new impetus at Selma, and that a number of new and valuable enterprises are in contemplation. We saw a letter from our Deputy Sheriff, M. C. H. H. H., of Halifax, to Mr. S. P. Hilliard, and he states that a number of oxen had been stolen in the southern part of Halifax and in Warren.

Raleigh News: The Secretary of the N. C. State Agricultural Association reports the prospects for the next Fair as being exceedingly good. Very many liberal donations have already been made from all sections of the country—from Massachusetts to Georgia. There is no doubt that the program list this year will be fuller, and more valuable than any ever offered.

Charlotte Democrat: A correspondent informs us that the barn and stables of Mr. Alex. Allen, living near Denver, Edgecombe county, were burnt on Sunday night, the 17th inst. Mr. Allen saved his three horses which were in the stable, but lost everything else. It is supposed that the fire was caused by an incendiary.

Milton Chronicle: We hear that Capt. Broadbent, who is exploring a railroad route from this point to Rocky Mount, is very favorably impressed, and thinks the road can be graded from here to the mouth of Hycor for \$600 a mile. We can't exactly realize that we have a railroad to Milton, although we've made over it and tried our level best to settle down on it as a fixed fact.

Newbern correspondent: Raleigh News: Quite an industry has developed in the cutting and shipping of what is known in all parts of the state as "sholly." This timber is in great demand North for piano keys and engraving blocks. Almost every steamer carries a freight of the logs of this timber. A representative of an English firm is here for the purpose of procuring "sholly" wood, which is taken away, converted into handles for cheap cutlery, and then sold back to us. A shipment of sholly wood of dogwood timber was made this week. From a point just below the city, where the timber is abundant, it is found that there was not as many feet to be found in the county around. The price paid for the wood on the railroad is six dollars per cord. Steps have been taken to induce the government to purchase the Westminster Building for a United States Court House, Custom House, and Postoffice. The building is one of the most complete free-proof brick buildings in the State, cost \$30,000 to erect in 1862, and is now valued at \$100,000. Less than \$10,000 will repair it to the purposes of government requirements, and when so arranged will be, to all intents and purposes, as good as the building at Raleigh, which cost \$100,000.

INDEX TO NEW ADVERTISEMENTS. Notice—R. C. Manly, Mayor. The Magic Coin Box—Humbleton & Co. New Spring Style of Hats—D. S. Wait & Bro. See the advertisement of the General Conference in May in another column. To Soldiers of the War of 1861 and their Wives—Jno. M. Rose, Fayetteville, N. C. Eclectic Magazine—E. R. Phelps, Publisher.