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OUR AGENTS. All the traveling and local preachers in the bonds of the North Carolina Conference are our authorized agents. Any person sending us ten subscribers, for one year, will receive the paper free.

Poetry.

WE KNOW NOT WHY.

God loveth whom he pleaseth. O weary heart be still!

Let every murmuring thought be no more, and sink into His will.

May this heart too be a beacon, be through life's way.

When joy's warm with peace beams, or sorrow's sad heart wags.

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Raleigh Christian Advocate.

REV. J. B. BOBBITT, D. D., EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

The Faith once delivered to the Saints.

[REV. H. T. HUDSON, CORRESPONDING EDITOR.]

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THE ILL-HEALTH OF LADIES.

FRANCIS POWER CORRIE, IN CONTEMPORARY REVIEW.

What are the causes of the valedudinarianism of ladies?

First, of course, there is a considerable class of inherited mischief, feeble constitutions, congenital tendencies to chronic troubles, gout, dyspepsia, and so on, due to the errors of either parent, or to ruinful evil heritage of the same.

Next to hereditary taint, we come to cases where the habits of the sufferer themselves are the cause of the mischief; and these are of two kinds—

Women are generally prudent enough about their money; that is, of their own money, not that of their husbands.

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SCIENCE.

A galvanic pile, of which carbon is the active electrode, has been invented by Jablockhoff.

The petrified remains of sharp, and other interesting fossils, have been found in a quarry in Stockton, Kansas.

The waters from the warm springs of Assmannshausen contain the very large proportion of 0.0278 parts of bicarbonate of lithium in 1,000.

Scientific circles are discussing the interesting question: "Was Galileo subjected to torture by the Inquisition?"

The burden of evidence goes to support the opinion that he was.

The effect of the telephone is said to be improved by placing one or more vibrating plates about one millimeter in front of the ordinary telephone.

The supplementary plates are perforated at the center.

A new mineral substance found in the salt deposits at Stassfurt, has been called Bischofite. It contains 11.86 per cent. of magnesium, 33.04 of chlorine, and 55.10 of water.

To remedy the dull tone produced when some alloys of tin, hardened by antimony, copper, etc., are struck by the hammers for a minute into a paraffine or oil bath heated to 50 degrees Centigrade below the boiling point; allow the alloys to cool slowly.

The supposition that tubes conveying hot water for heating buildings can become so hot as to set the building on fire implies that the pipes can stand the pressure which water can exert when raised to a temperature of say 950 degrees or 1,000 degrees. Wood-work, however, nor ordinary heating-pipes may be so heated, and tried as to become highly inflammable.

An interesting addition has lately been made to the geological division of the American Museum of Natural History, in the shape of some immense slabs of red sandstone, showing plainly the footprints left by the gigantic bird-like animals which inhabited the swampy lands of Connecticut and Massachusetts long ages ago.

The slabs are from a quarry at Turner's Falls, Mass., and date back to the Triassic Period.

Dr. Nichols, who has made a series of dietic experiments on himself, has arrived at the conclusions that if the stomach is allowed to rest, any case of dyspepsia may be cured; that the diet question was at the root of all diseases; that pure blood can only be made from pure blood; and that if the drink of a nation were pure and free from stimulating qualities, and the food was also pure, the result would be pure health.

deed, in truth and verity," will require the division. I fear the effect of the proposed division upon the body politic. The fact is, this division of sentiment in the past, is what has retarded the progress and prosperity of the State.

Political science teaches us a lesson of wisdom in this regard, and it behooves us to improve by it and be wise. "In union there is strength," and in the aggregate of large numbers there is intensity of power! Who ever heard of a well established government providing for its own disintegration? The friends who are so anxious for this enterprise should consider recent events in history.

The policy of nations which is the wonderful age, involves the increase of numbers, and why? because in it there is to be found great power. The Protestant Episcopal Church, in this State, entertained this policy of division, and after mature and earnest discussion, abandoned it as unwise and inexpedient.

Respectability has a great deal to do with church position these days, and I confess to the weakness of liking to be connected with a body large and strong. In reference to "Layman," I would say, that I can and do testify, from personal knowledge, he is certainly correct in his statements concerning the Charlotte District Conference, and its people generally.

Concerning his last article I would say, in my humble judgment, it is in keeping with his first. I think I know him, and if so, do not hesitate in pronouncing him a christian gentleman of liberal culture and enlarged spiritual vision, and who not only loves but is devoted to Methodism.

And now permit me to say, that in my simplicity, I had been led to the belief that the wish and desire of our brethren in the Conference was to promote the temporal as well as the spiritual interests of the "Good Old North State," by wiping out sectional lines and causing our people to feel, that so far as numbers were concerned, we, like the waves of the sea, though many comparatively in numbers, are one in nature.

This policy of "Division" proposes to effect one very opposite of this. Let us see, in the event of its consummation, we will then have a new Conference by the name, no doubt, of Western N. C. Conference, thus in its very birth, having the element of sectionalism clinging to it. I fear with "Layman," that this whole scheme of "Division," has originated in the fact that more than one has, indeed, an "axe to grind."

I furthermore believe now, as I did several years ago, that the policy of the wise men of our Conference, is a mistaken one, and if matters had been differently managed, the result now would be so also.

The advocates for division tell us they will do no noble things, and while I believe them to be "good men and true," yet in this matter, while I do not doubt their intentions, I am unwilling to risk the serious consequences I honestly believe will follow in the event of the territorial partition. Some say, already, it's a foregone conclusion. I hope not, and my humble prayer is, God maintain the right.

ITINERANT.

For the Advocate.

Dear Bro. Bobbitt: I was somewhat surprised to read the criticisms of your able and interesting correspondent, "P," of Wilmington, in the Advocate of March 29th upon the International Sunday-School lessons; still more was I surprised to hear a man urge the objections of "P," if he is the thorough-going Sunday-school worker, I take him to be. I think that where a teacher in, or Superintendent of, a live Sabbath-School, fails to see anything in the lessons, say for the past three months, but "wars and fightings," he or she certainly has failed to "study to know God's word."

"P," significantly asks, "What is the general verdict?" "Some brother 'P,'" and "let us reason together," before I render my verdict; I am well aware that we can teach our primary classes comparatively little of the history of these ancient times, but the lessons to be learned from the lives of good and bad men may be stamped upon little hearts. That we may do this effectively we need, by faithful study and prayer and prayer, to take these lessons INTO OUR OWN HEARTS.

Then, with the picture of a life to bring before a class, the faithful teacher can win the little minds and hearts to their own views.

In the study of the lesson, brother "P," I do you read, study, and pray over the Bible readings in connection with the lesson? or do you merely glance over them, or not read them at all? If such be the case, then I am not surprised that you see nothing in them, but "wars and fightings;" the command of Christ was, "SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES," not merely read them. It will occupy too much space to take up all the lessons for the past Quarter, and discuss them separately—let's be content to take the first one for January—"Rehoboth's" Rebellion, 12-12. Israel has been rent asunder, and the royal line of David now holds its scepter over but two of the twelve tribes. Rehoboth, strong in his walled cities, rich in the treasures of Solomon, powerful in the loyalty of the religious element throughout the land,

might be written in advocacy of the teaching the Old Testament, in our Sunday-Schools, but as this letter is already much longer than I expected to write, I will close by asking brother "P," to read CAREFULLY Bishop Marvin's sermon, "GOD IN THE OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURES," after which I think he will agree to a verdict of "Not guilty."

Respectfully,  
INTERNATIONAL.  
For the Advocate.ELECTION OF BISHOPS.

It is supposed that the next General Conference of our church will elect two or three Bishops, and there seems to be a good deal of interest felt in the selection. This is natural and will probably be so, as long as the office is so highly honorable and so many men are opposed to the competent to fill the position. It seems to me that certain general principles should be considered in this matter, and that while the man is the chief thing he is not all.

1. There ought to be a fair geographical distribution. Other things being equal or nearly equal, no one Conference or even section should have more than one Bishop. Any claim or tendency to the contrary, should be firmly resisted as unjust and unfair.

2. Other things being equal, a Conference that has never had a Bishop ought to be favored. It may be said that fitness will regulate this; but experience shows that it will not. Power naturally tends to centralize, and there is a visible tendency to multiply Bishops in special localities. This should be resisted and overcome as an evil that will damage the church.

3. This is an office that electioneering should never touch, and every thing that ever before, less, indeed, than the opposition to the Sunday-school itself. Any preacher, however eminent, should do or say anything with the direct purpose and intent to secure his own election, that man is not fit for a Bishop. If any preacher or others, not being members of the Gen. Conf., should go there, and by speech or otherwise endeavor to promote the Episcopal interest of some favorite; that ought to bring defeat to the parties concerned. The Gen. Conf. must not have a toby. This possible evil will be very closely watched. It is known in history that similar situations have been greatly damaged by this organized, outside lobby pressure. It is to be hoped that our church, will keep clear of this political evil, that sometimes seeks a place in ecclesiastical bodies.

4. Tell about the repentance of Judah, and its lessons concerning God's mercy to all men.

How does the picture look brother "P"? Is there as much "war and fighting," as you imagined?

As to whether it is right and proper to take the lessons from the Old Testament, please read Paul's Second letter to Timothy, III. chapter, commencing with verse 14: "But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them:

1. A good man, a man of the Holy Ghost.

2. A man of decided talent.

3. A thoroughly educated man, fully able to meet the intellectual and literary demands of the Church and the age.

4. A man of executive capacity and large administrative ability, competent to understand law and its application, men and affairs.

5. A man of good head and warm heart, not an intellectual iceberg, nor a genial soft without any head.

6. A man of good health and sound constitution. No infirm, or diseased, or feeble man, ought to be a Bishop.

7. A man that understands Conference organization and business, knows what ought to be done and how to do it.

This writer may be obtuse or unfortunate, but he cannot see how a suitable Bishop for this great M. E. Church, South, can be any less than the above, and yet it must be admitted that few can meet such requirements; even approximations are not as abundant as some suppose.

This is not intended for or against any man, but for the Church; and most probably embraces a part, if not all of the ideas, that will in the end control the selection.

ALPHA.

A reasonable suggestion is that young pastors ought to qualify themselves to manage church finances with discretion, accuracy and success. Several important charges have been recently brought to our notice as examples of the demand for pastors possessed of financial skill. Perhaps this ought not to be so; but a fact is always entitled to rank a theory, and it is a fact that such pastors are wanted. Some of our very successful ministers would fail, though they are gifted preachers, if they could not manage the finances. The Laymen ought to do this work; but there are many cases in which they do not, and some in which they cannot. The young pastor who wants to be thoroughly equipped should study this part of his work.—New York Methodist.

The Georgia Young Men's Christian Association will hold their annual Convention in Gainesville about the 15th of June.

with her broom trying to sweep the Atlantic ocean from the coast of England, they imagine that they can at least fix new bounds to the irresistible. But their task is hopeless. There was never so little hostility to, or so little dissatisfaction with, the International Lesson system, since its inception, as to-day. It never before had so many intelligent and enthusiastic supporters and advocates. It would be an easier task to overthrow the republican system of government in the United States, than to abrogate, at this time, the International Lesson plan. No great denunciation has been made, and no one is talking of abandoning them. The question of the continuance of their series will not even be deemed worthy of serious discussion at the approaching Atlanta Convention.

Of the different methods of Bible study which find earnest advocates among friends of the International Lesson system, we shall say something next week.

THE RULE OF HOSPITALITY.

Wm. M. F. RYAN, IN SUNDAY AFTERNOONS FOR MARCH.

True hospitality is a thing that touches the heart and never goes beyond the circle of generous impulses. Entertainment with the truly hospitable man means more than the mere feeding of the body; it means an interchange of soul gifts. Still it should have its laws as all things good must have laws to govern them.

The obligation to be hospitable is a sacred one, emphasized by every moral code known to the world, and a practical outcome of the second great commandment.

There should never be a guest in the house whose presence requires any considerable change in the domestic economy.

However much the circumstances of business or mutual interests may demand in entertaining a stranger, he should never be taken into the family circle unless he is known to be wholly worthy of a place in that sacred sanctuary of social life; but when once a man is admitted to the home fireside he should be treated as if the place had been his always.

The fact of an invitation gives neither host or guest the right to be master of the other's time, and does not require even a temporary sacrifice of one's entire individuality or pursuits.

A man should never be so much himself when he entertains a friend. To stay at a friend's house beyond the time for which one is invited is to perpetrate a social robbery.

To abide uninvited in a friend's home is as much a misdemeanor as borrowing his coat without his permission. It is debasing the coin of friendship to mere dollars when a man attempts to make it pay his hotel bills.

The fact of two men having the same occupation and interests in life, gives to neither a social right to the other's bed and board. A traveling minister has no more right to go uninvited to a fellow-preacher's house than a traveling shopkeeper or shoemaker has to go uninvited to the house of his fellow-craftsman. Men are obliged to the industry as preachers, teachers and pastors, and not as private hotel-keepers.

They who go into the country in summer as uninvited guests of their former friends should be rated as social brigands and treated accordingly.

These few social maxims are by no means to be taken as a complete code of laws. Others quite as important will spring out of the personal experience of every reader of this article, and the justice and equity of all may be tested by that inflexible standard of society—the Golden Rule. There can be no true hospitality that in practice is a violation of this rule; and you may safely rest assured that you have given the fullest and most perfect measure of entertainment to your neighbor if you have done exactly as you would be done by.

Waxes the valley of dry bones was shown to Ezekiel, he saw in vision (a form of object teaching) the sad condition of the house of Israel, resulting from sin. The terrible effects of disobedience upon the noblest and most favored people on the face of the earth, were thus shown to him in a manner that must have been very suggestive. Frightful and dismembered skeletons thrown about in wild disorder, taught him in thrilling tableau, the fearful results to the nation and the church of wrong-doing.

What sin was then, it is now; and what it did for the Hebrew Church, it will do for the Methodist Protestant Church, or any other. It ruined Israel, it will ruin us, if indulged. It kills every where and always with unflinching certainty. The fairest are blighted and perish by its touch. The individual, the family, the church or the nation that gives place to sin, is certain to be brought to sorrow and desolation. The fiery poisons breath of sin paralyzes all upon which it comes, changing the noblest forms of beauty and strength into shriveled, unbecomingly bone-fragments and hideous skeletons.—METHODIST BROTHERS.

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