

The Christian Advocate.

W. S. BLACK, EDITOR. F. L. REED, EDITOR. REV. W. M. ROBEY, COR. EDITOR.

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

RATES OF SUBSCRIPTION: FOR ONE YEAR IN ADVANCE, POSTAGE PAID \$2.00. SIX MONTHS, \$1.25.

TERMS TO MINISTERS: The Advocate will be sent to all the traveling ministers of the S. C. Conference free of charge.

The Cross (X) Mark is to remind you that your subscription has expired. If you want the paper continued, receive promptly.

Quarterly Conference Blanks for sale at our office, price one cent apiece. Send your orders to us.

Every new subscriber you send us will enable us to make the paper better. We can improve our paper in proportion as the circulation increases.

In deference to a long observed custom, among editors and printers, the Advocate will not be issued Christmas week.

Read the touching incident on the outside by A. L. B. under the caption "Christmas." It will touch your heart.

A MERRY, joyous Christmas—a Christmas full of pleasure and good deeds, and free from sin, to all the readers of the ADVOCATE.

An appropriate Christmas present—Send the "Raleigh Christian Advocate" to your friend, or to some poor person, who is not able to pay for it.

Just think of it! When we pray might we are talking to God and he is listening to us attentively—when we read the Bible God is talking to us, hence in reading the Scriptures and in praying we are conversing with God.

Remember this when you read your Bible and when you pray, and never do either carelessly or thoughtlessly.

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THE NEW CONFERENCE YEAR.

The past year has been to the members of the North Carolina Conference a year of extraordinary trials, labors and success. Under God's blessing, our ministry has been one of power, and through our instrumentality over 3,000 souls have been converted and added to the church, while 2,500 infants have been baptized, and an increase of over 3,000 Sunday-school scholars reported.

Let the success of the past encourage you to increased activity in time to come. In entering upon the duties of another year, let us urge each pastor to pay special attention to the pastoral work. Many of us, we fear, are sadly deficient in this department of ministerial labor. We toil with commendable zeal and earnestness for the conversion of sinners, we watch them day and night with tears, and leave no proper means untried to bring them into the Church. This accomplished, we rely too much upon the pulpit to instruct them in righteousness, and confirm them in the faith. Let us go forth in that self-denying devotion to the flock which by holy, humble and laborious pastoral effort, is constantly aiming to raise them to a higher standard of obligation and of privilege.

Let us go forth in that self-denying devotion to the flock which by holy, humble and laborious pastoral effort, is constantly aiming to raise them to a higher standard of obligation and of privilege. Let us resolve that their wants in this respect shall be fully met. Act like men filled with what Lord Shaftsbury was pleased to call, "the heroic passion of saving souls"—a passion which will not confine its influence to the pulpit, but will carry you to the homes of the aged and afflicted, of the widow and her fatherless children, of the poverty-stricken, and distressed ones of your flock. And do not simply to pay them a social visit, and to enquire kindly after their temporal welfare, but go as ministers of Christ to seek after their spiritual good. Do this faithfully among all the families of your charge, and you will witness the slumbering, bring back the erring, comfort the sorrowing, and succor the tempted. May the present year witness larger results than even the past.

CHRISTMAS. By the time the present issue reaches the most of our readers the ever-moving hand of time will have reached, on the dial, the mark of Christmas. A little over 1878 years ago the joyful announcement of a Saviour's birth rang from the angelic lips, echoed and re-echoed through the hills and plains of Judea, and fell in lingering sweetness upon the ears of the faithful shepherds. That announcement has been sounding down through the ages, as year after year this glorious festival rolls around. The birth-day of the Son of God—the Saviour of the world! When Jesus was born heaven ran over with joy and sent an angelic choir to earth to chant his natal song, and the first thing was a shout, "Glory to God in the highest." No wonder that shout! They had been looking into the mystery for years—they had watched every unfolding of the great plan of salvation and here was a manifestation of God's love and power that thrilled their hearts, and in their bounding joy, the first thing they saw in it was the glory of God, and then the peace and good-will for earth. Let us follow the example of the angels. On this festive anniversary let all our actions be such as shall redound in glory to God and be promotive of peace on earth. Let the song of the angels find a responsive chord in our hearts, and let it roll on. Let every church bell ring it out upon the morning air, let every orchestra swell with it, let every choir chant it, let every mortal tongue take it up and repeat it with sounding joy, let the arches of every church tremble with it, let every child lip it, let every bird sing it, let every zephyr whisper it—wait it out upon the seas, send it ringing and sounding through all the earth, and let it gather volume as it rolls, until the whole universe shall join in its swelling numbers and let it sound on, with joyful acclaim, until its notes shall be mingled to raise the new song in the midst of the Paradise of God.

Can you allow a dancing party at your house? You say you cannot prevent it and be polite. You ought to rule your own household, and the politeness that requires you to submit to dancing in your family at Christmas, or at any other time, is contrary to Christianity. A Methodist who allows dancing under his roof to save his politeness, brings a reproach upon his church and sacrifices the principles of his religion at the altar of worldly etiquette. The modern dance is ruining thousands of our young people, and it is time for all Christians, and especially for Methodists, to take a bold, firm position against it. We see from the Wilmington Star that Rev. Frank H. Wood was to preach in front street church Sunday morning at 11 o'clock and in Fifth street church at night of the same day. But few better preachers in the Conference than Mr. Wood. —Durham Tobacco Plant.

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It was upon the following, which appeared in the proceedings of the late Conference, that the Charlotte Observer based the statement, that with a single exception there was no minister charged with conduct unbecoming a preacher of the Gospel: "Rev. D. R. Bruton announced that he had in his possession the papers relating to the expulsion of Rev. W. B. Richardson, a local preacher, which he would place in the hands of the secretary." Rev. W. B. Richardson was not a member of the Conference—he was a local preacher, but we can very readily see how the Observer came to make the statement referred to.

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NOTICE. Stewards of Henderson Circuit will please meet me at Ridgeway, Friday January 10th, at 12 o'clock. Brethren, please see that every church is represented, as matters of importance will come before you. Yours, &c., L. J. HOLDEN, P. C.

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FROM REV. V. A. SHARPE. MY DEAR BRETHREN: Better late than never, it is said, and at the risk of being counted late I write. I wrote several weeks ago in regard to good meetings held on my circuit, at Bethlehem and at Ruffin. But somehow in the change about the ADVOCATE office, my note never saw the light—possibly it would not have seen it, under more favorable circumstances. However, revival notices are generally thought to be good reading, so far as the facts are concerned. The meeting at Bethlehem was of several days continuance, and one of great spiritual power. Eight were brought to a knowledge of the truth as it is in Jesus, and about the same number brought into the church. Progress has been marked at this church in the last two years. On meeting at Ruffin was a continuation of our 4th Quarterly Meeting—congregations large, and much good done, we trust. There were five conversions and eight accessions to the church. The 4th Sunday in Nov. was a great day with the Methodists in Reidsville. For two years they had been struggling to build a church, and now it is nearly ready for dedication; besides Bishop Pierce is here to preach the sermon. The day was bright and glorious, the congregation overwhelming—all the sitting and most of the standing room occupied. The Bishop, though feeble, and obliged to abandon arrangements formerly made in his own mind for preaching, was fully up to the demand for a pure and masterly gospel sermon. Though it was one hour long, there was but one complaint heard by the writer—that it was too short! The Bishop certainly knows how to lift a collection. There was necessity for two hundred dollars and more, in order that the church might be presented free of debt, which was raised with the greatest ease; after which the formal dedication took place. At night we had the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, and a very large number of communicants. Thirteen were admitted into the church, and some children, as well as adults, baptized. Thus we have a local habitation in Reidsville, and by the blessing of God, we hope to live and grow and prosper. At the first we worshipped in the Baptist church, and when it became necessary to seek room elsewhere, the Presbyterians received us most cordially. For kindness shown in our need, we return our most grateful thanks! Yours, &c., V. A. SHARPE. P. S. The church in Reidsville is a neat brick, 40 by 60. The best in the county, I suppose. V. A. S. Reidsville, N. C., Dec. 10th, 1878.

NOTICE. Stewards of Henderson Circuit will please meet me at Ridgeway, Friday January 10th, at 12 o'clock. Brethren, please see that every church is represented, as matters of importance will come before you. Yours, &c., L. J. HOLDEN, P. C.

THE WILMINGTON PRODUCE EXCHANGE has accepted the offer of Hon. George Davis to lecture for the benefit of the late Lt. Bennett, and appointed a committee to arrange the time and place. Gov. Brogden has introduced a bill in Congress for the erection of a U. S. Court House and Post Office, on a site to be purchased at Goldsboro. The cost is not to exceed \$200,000. The Messenger hails the effort with satisfaction. —Wilmington Star. On the 13th day of February next, the people of Johnston county will vote on the removal of the county seat to some point on the North Carolina Railroad, as provided by an act of the Legislature. —Ez. An arrangement has been made to run passenger trains through from Raleigh to Portsmouth, and the first through train made the schedule last week. Passengers now do not change cars at Weldon as heretofore. Maj. Winder, it is said, deserves much credit for this new arrangement. The Raleigh Observer says that sheriffs are settling up more promptly than usual. Is it because of the more stringent laws compelling them to settle up on time, or is it because the people are better able to pay? —Hillsboro Recorder. It is because there is no Legislature in session to extend their time for settlement. —Charlotte Observer. It is said that the legislature will have to elect about one thousand new magistrates. There are 850 townships and 2,516 magistrates in the State. The terms of over 900 of these will soon expire. The Goldsboro Messenger, in a large supplement, gives a full and valuable commercial review of Goldsboro, N. C. In this the editor gives evidence of the fact that the interests of his town is near to his heart. The supplement will do Goldsboro good. A Newborn baby heard that the plentiful use of tar in chicken coops rendered poultry healthy and a few evenings since she sneezed all the hen roosts on her premises with tar. The next morning the chickens did not respond when they were called to be fed, and the good man of the house investigated as to the cause, and found that every chicken on the lot was stuck tight to a tarred roost. —Nat. St. H. Dr. Eugene Grissom has been elected a Corresponding Member of the French Society on Penitentiary and Penal Reforms. M. Moreau, President of the Society of Cassation of France, is the President. The Society has been established by an order of the Government, and consists of Regular members and Honorary, or corresponding, Members in Foreign countries. These Savans propose to investigate, under the patronage of the French Government, the vexed question of crime. Some fifteen persons on Monday, of last week, were engaged in placing a cross on Mt. Zion church, in this county, when the scaffolding fell, throwing all to the ground, a distance of about twenty feet. Messrs. Philney Meadows and Millington Blalock were more seriously injured than the others, while Mr. Jas. Wilkinson had his shoulder blade dislocated. We are glad to announce, at this writing, that the injured parties are recovering. —Purchase Light. OTHER STATES. The production of cotton for 1878 is 5,197,000 bales. An average of 191 pounds to the acre. Gen. Grant has accepted President Hayes' offer to take passage in the United States ship, Richmond, for India. The ship goes by the way of the Suez Canal, touching at Ceylon and Japan, proceeding thence to China and the Sandwich Islands, Gen. Grant expects to arrive at San Francisco in May next. —Meth. Ad. It has been decided to hold a World's Fair in Melbourne, Australia, in October, 1880, and the merchants of New York have already taken steps toward a grand exhibition in April, 1879, the centennial of George Washington's first inaugural. —Texas Advocate. Florida will be represented in the next House of Representatives by two Democrats. Full and complete returns have been at last received from all the counties in the doubtful second district and Governor Noble A. Hall is returned elected by ninety-three majority over his Radical competitor, the festive Bishop. This result is attained without throwing out a single ballot, no matter how irregular it may be in form or otherwise. In Alachua county many votes were cast for the Radical candidate, with each different spelling of his name, but they were all counted as if for one man. Braden county was the last to hear from, and the big Democratic majority which she rolled up decided the contest. This gives us nineteen States on the united representative vote. California should make the twentieth. —Ez. PORTENEX. The Cathedral of Cologne is in a state of decay and may soon fall. Princess Alice, of England, Grand Duchess of Hesse, and daughter of Queen Victoria, is dead. A Memorial window to the late Dr. Livingstone is to be placed in Westminster Abbey. At Irechester, England, a massive stone wall has been discovered by excavation, and coins found disclosing the fact of the existence of a town during the Roman occupation of Britain. The statue of Humboldt, just unveiled in St. Louis, represents him as a young explorer, dressed in traveling costume, leaning against the broken trunk of a tree, and holding a map of South America. The face is thoughtful, the figure vigorous. —Ez.

DEATHS. Jonathan Stone son of R. W. and C. Tatum was born in Bladen county, N. C., May 7th 1871, and died of cramp in his father's arms Oct. 27th, 1878. Little Stone was a sprightly, amiable child, and a general favorite. EXAMINE ENDS. Died on the 11th of Nov. 1878, aged 80 of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Hasey, aged about 7 years. He was conscious to the last, talked of heaven, told his parents, brothers and sisters, that they had better pray and hold them that he was going home to heaven. He told them that he preferred to die and go home to heaven. It was but a child's home aweel, resting in peace. J. N. U.

PERSONAL MENTION.

Rev. S. A. Weber has been elected editor of the Southern Christian Advocate, by the South Carolina Conference. —Rev. P. L. Horman, with four of his blooming daughters, called at our office last Thursday. He was en route for his new charge, Smithfield. —The daughter of the late Commodore Vanderbilt, Mrs. Mary A. Van Rensselaer, and one of the contestants of his will, was married last Tuesday week to Francis Berger. —The Nashville Advocate says: "The Rev. T. A. Boone, of the North Carolina Conference, has the perseverance of his great kinsman, Daniel; and, like the illustrious pioneer, he is a marksman. He hits the center. During the session of the Conference he reported 61 subscribers for this Advocate." We could say a heap of good things about a good man, who would send us 61 subscribers. —Rev. M. J. Hunt, of our Conference, called to see us during the past week. He is doing a vast deal of good on his charge, we infer from the following, which we copy from the People's Press: "Rev. M. J. Hunt has been returned to the Fourth circuit again. He did good work this year and carried up to Conference a good report—the conversion of three hundred and sixteen souls, while three hundred joined the M. E. Church, South." This is nearly one convert each day for the year. —The Rev. Dr. J. B. Bahltz, late of the Raleigh Christian Advocate, while recovering his health will not be able. He takes an appointment near Raleigh, where he can combine rest at home and work for the Master. May this Conference year bring him renewed strength and many "sheaves." —Nashville Advocate. —Col. Henry G. Williams, late editor of the Wilson Advance, has been appointed to the position at Washington City made vacant by the death of Mr. Stanton. —The members of the M. E. Church and many friends gladly welcome Rev. J. Carraway back again to the pastorate of that Church for another year. —Prize of the Press. —Dr. McAnally, editor of the St. Louis Christian Advocate, is suffering from what he calls, "open paralysis" in his right arm, which was caused by too much writing. We hope that resting awhile from his manifold duties will restore him to perfect health. —We learn from the Richmond Advocate that Bishop Gregg, some months since made Bishop of the Episcopal Church, and who was so successfully operating in England, has left that Church and set up for himself. Are we to have another reformed Episcopal Church? A little more reformation would hurt in some quarters. —Rev. J. T. Harris preached a most excellent sermon in the Methodist church Sunday morning. He is one of the youngest men in the N. C. Conference, but has taken a high stand as a minister. He goes next year to Mooreville, an appointment on the Salisbury District. —Durham Tobacco Plant. —Hon. J. J. Davis, our able Representative in Congress from this District, has recently sent us two books and the Congressional Record, for which he will accept our thanks. It is pleasant to be remembered by such a pure and able Statesman as is Hon. J. J. Davis to be. —Rev. M. L. Wood is to deliver an address in Winston, N. C., Dec. 27th, for the benefit of the Orphan Asylum at Oxford. —Bishop Duggett, after an absence of three and a half months, has returned to his home in Richmond, Va., in fine health and full of hope for the Church where he has traveled. He is to write a series of articles in reference to his recent travels for the Richmond Advocate. —Mrs. Mary Mason, the quaker Revivalist, is to visit Charlotte soon and begin a revival at Calvary Church in that city. —Mrs. Bishop Marvin is the President of the Woman's Missionary Society in St. John's Church, St. Louis. —We regret to learn from the Warrenton News that Mrs. Hannah L. Cook, wife of Rev. Charles M. Cook, died at her home on Friday, Dec. 6th, at 5:29 o'clock, A. M., and was buried in her garden on Saturday, the 7th inst., at 1 o'clock, P. M. We tender Bro. Cook our warmest sympathy. —The Virginia Conference has resolved to send a missionary to China, and support him. The Rev. W. W. Royal has been appointed to that field. —We are requested to state that the address of Rev. J. C. Hartsell is Pleasant Home Lincoln Co., N. C., also that the address of Rev. S. D. Adams, for the present, is Carthage, N. C. —Judge Dick has charred the people of Charlotte with a lecture which he has recently delivered in that city before the Young Men's Christian Association. —Rev. Dr. Alexander Clark, editor of the Methodist Recorder, is quite likely to receive a consistory. —We see from the Wilmington Star that Rev. Frank H. Wood was to preach in front street church Sunday morning at 11 o'clock and in Fifth street church at night of the same day. But few better preachers in the Conference than Mr. Wood. —Durham Tobacco Plant.

RELIGIOUS ITEMS. In Japan six years ago there was but one Christian Church, now there are thirty-six. Quite a handsome and commodious church edifice is now being built in this city for the congregation of the Second Baptist Church, colored. The second Presbyterian Church building has been raised in this city and the Pastor hopes to be able to worship in the church very long. Talnage's example is proving infectious and is contaminating all New York and its environs. He has now a dozen imitators, visiting grog-shops and dancing houses and preaching thereon on Sunday. —Ez. The Southern Methodist Episcopal Church has received to its communion within the past year between 40,000 and 50,000 converts. Europe, excluding Portugal, Greece, Turkey and Denmark, contains in round numbers, in the evangelical church 64 million, in the Catholic 136 million, in the Greek 63 million and in the Jewish 5 million. A former trustee of the Brooklyn Tabernacle has brought a suit against the Tabernacle for \$13,000, the amount he subscribed under alleged false representations. The Richmond Advocate says: St. John's Methodist Protestant church in Baltimore, Md., has the