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THE editors are under special obligation to Bro. R. T. Gray for valuable services rendered by him in getting out this issue of the paper in their absence.

CORRECTION.—In the article of Bro. Brooks, near top of third column, for "righteous civilization," read "hightoned civilization."

A NEWSPAPER in this State says: "The chickens have all left town. It is a matter of safety with them. The Methodist District Conference meets here next week." Funny, isn't it? and exceedingly novel?

BROS. CALL and Culbreth have each sent us a club of subscribers since the Newberne District Conference. Bro. Culbreth sent 12 and says he hopes to send 12 more soon. Such men mean something when they pass resolutions.

REV. T. H. PRITCHARD, D. D., pastor of Salisbury St. Baptist Church, has been elected President of Wake Forest College. The Board of Trustees have done the very best thing for their noble college in calling this popular divine to the Presidency of it. Dr. Pritchard will carry to his new position decided culture, a pleasant address, fine knowledge of human nature, and untiring energy. We wish him abundant success in building up this cherished institution of his church.

## THE DUTY OF EDUCATION.

The Fall sessions of our schools will soon begin and many a parent is now discussing with himself the question whether he can afford to send his son or daughter back to the academy or college. The times are so hard, the price of cotton and other produce is so low, taxes are so high, and the expenses of his family are so great, it seems that he cannot see how the board and tuition of his son or daughter can be met any longer. The question is an important one and much depends upon how it is determined—more, perhaps, than the parent realizes. If he decides against the son or daughter's education, he will save one, two, or three hundred dollars, which, if nothing takes it away, he will leave a few years hence to his child. But is it better for that child to have that

money without an education, or an education without the money?

It will not do to postpone the matter of educating until you are better able to bear its expense: twelve, or even six months, is a large slice to take out of the time that ought to be devoted to informing the growing brain and training the moral nature of a child.

It is false and foolish economy that would cause a father to withhold the advantages of education from a child because of the expense incurred; nay, it is injustice and cruelty for which punishment, in some form or other, will be meted out to the recreant father. Money spent in educating is not lost;—it is simply changing the form of an investment from money into increased intelligence, brighter refinement, higher culture and stronger morality.

As of a father, so of a State—the first duty, as it is the best policy of government is to crush out the ignorance and enlighten the minds of its citizens. No taxation for educational purposes can be called heavy and burdensome. Idleness, pauperism, contempt of law, and other crimes, the outgrowths and parasites of ignorance, flourish in proportion to the prevailing ignorance in a State. Intelligent men are apt to be good and law abiding citizens, while all forms of law are continually transgressed by those whose moral sense has never been quickened by moral and mental culture.

## DISTRICT CONFERENCES.

[Editorial Correspondence.]

Number 3.

In these days of sharp Rail Road competition, rapid transit is the great desideratum. We had this in our trip last week from Raleigh to Reidsville, the seat of the Greensboro District Conference for this year. Leaving Raleigh about 4 o'clock, P. M., on Wednesday, we had the pleasure of taking supper at "The LaBarbe House" in Reidsville at 9 P. M. At Greensboro we were joined by several of the brethren and had a delightful time with them to the end of the journey. The District Conference convened on Thursday the 10th inst. at 9:45 A. M., with Rev. M. L. Wood, P. E., in the chair, and Rev. J. R. Scroggs as Secretary, the Secretary being assisted afterwards by Rev. A. P. Tyer. The attendance upon the Conference on the part of the ministers and laymen was good, better than usual heretofore. Only two ministers were absent: Rev. C. H. Phillips and Rev. M. C. Thomas.

The presiding officer, Rev. M. L. Wood, certainly knows how to develop all the interests of the church on his District. Although suffering with his foot and ankle, yet he presided every day with ease, dignity and evident satisfaction to the members and visitors in attendance upon the Conference. The reports from the various charges made by the preachers, and in several instances supplemented by laymen, were highly gratifying. The District is in

an excellent condition spiritually, financially and every otherwise.—Although the last eight months have been noted for peculiar stringency in money matters, yet the preachers on the District are better paid to date than they were last year at this time, or in any previous year for a long time. And as is always sure to be the case, all the other interests are keeping apace with this improvement in financial matters. Rev. N. M. Jurney was present representing Trinity College with great satisfaction. Drs. Jones and Craven delivered most excellent addresses on the subject of education, which will result in much good. These brethren are rendering valuable service to the cause of education and to the church by attending the District Conferences and addressing the people. Let them go on in this good work.

The interests of the ADVOCATE were attended to carefully. Every preacher in the Conference reported as to the number of copies taken on his charge and as to the estimation in which the paper is held by the people. Not one word of complaint was uttered and the Presiding Elder and the preachers assured us that they had not heard one word of complaint against the paper during the present year.—To say that this was highly gratifying to us, feebly expresses what we feel. Resolutions heartily endorsing and recommending the paper, signed by Rev. D. R. Bruton and Dr. B. Craven, were unanimously adopted by the Conference. The Greensboro District, to a man, is all right on the Advocate question. We had the pleasure of receiving a handsome list of renewals and new subscribers. The preaching during the Conference was of a highly profitable character. As a result the community was stirred, souls were converted and there are strong indications of a gracious revival of religion at Reidsville. The Conference was evidently a blessing to the place. And what shall I say of the hospitality of Reidsville? Any man, who has ever been in Rockingham county, knows what Rockingham hospitality is. The people of Reidsville threw open their houses and entertained the Conference in charming style. Every one of us felt perfectly at home. It was our good fortune, at the special request of the Landlord, to be a guest at "The LaBarbe House," and if we had a thousand friends to direct to a first-class hotel we should send them every one to the "LaBarbe House" at Reidsville, N. C. Gently in his bearing, full of energy, kind and attentive, we term Mr. LaBarbe a Prince of Landlords.

Bro. Sharpe is doing a good work and is making a fine success on the Wentworth circuit, in the bounds of which Reidsville is situated.—At Reidsville they have a nice, new brick church and a noble people. It was an especial pleasure to us, to revisit the scenes of our childhood and boyhood, and, as we mingled with the noble men and women who stood side by side with our now sainted father and mother

in the conflicts of life and who had many a time fondled with us upon their laps; as we grasped their hands and saw the unbidden tear as it welled up in their eyes and as we received, in choked and broken utterances, assurances of affection, and interest, our heart was stirred with mingled emotions of joy and sadness, and many precious memories of the bygone days came crowding in upon us, until, in imagination, we lived over those happy days again.

But we must not indulge these reflections. Grateful to the P. E., the P. C., our kind host, the brethren of the ministry (and a noble band of them they have on the Greensboro District) and to other friends for many undeserved courtesies and kindnesses while there, we boarded the R. & D. R. R. train for the city of Danville, Va., within the stirring, busy limits of which place we pen these lines as we await our departure for Yanceyville, N. C., to attend the session of the Hillsboro District Conference.

## Personal Mention.

The brethren are moving as will be seen from the fact that Rev. Dr. Charles H. Malcolm, Secretary of the American Peace Society, and formerly a Baptist minister, has joined the Episcopal Church, and the Rev. W. S. Tucker, for four years pastor of the Baptist church at Hopkinton, resigned on Sunday, May 18th, closing his labors with the Baptist denomination. He will join the Episcopal Church and the Rev. M. W. Darling, a successful and excellent Methodist minister, stationed this year at Cambria, Michigan, has just resigned for the purpose of connecting himself with the Congregational body, and has accepted a call to the First church at Elkhart, Ind.

Hampton Sidney College has conferred the degree of D. D. upon the Rev. Wm. A. Wood, the pastor of the Presbyterian Church, in Statesville, and a graduate of Davidson College.—The 12th annual convention of the Baltimore Conference Sunday-school society, M. E. Church, South, met at Lexington, Va., July 8 at 9 o'clock. President T. J. Magruder, of Baltimore, called the body to order. A large number of delegates and visitors were present from every portion of the Conference. Rev. R. A. Young, D. D., of Nashville, Rev. A. W. Wilson, missionary secretary of the Church, South, and others, addressed the convention.—Rev. W. A. Darden was the efficient Secretary of the Newberne District Conference. He is a prominent layman of that District.

We learn that the Rev. A. P. Tyer will soon have a new brick church at Union completed. When finished it will be the finest church in the county. There are some noble men at that point in and out of the church.—Rev. T. W. Smith and family, of Louisville Station, passed through the city last week en route to Clinton, Sampson county. They will spend a few weeks with relatives and friends in that hospitable community.—We had the pleasure of a brief call, a few days ago, from Rev. D. R. Bruton, pastor of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, in Greensboro, N. C. He is a very pleasant and genial gentleman, and a neighbor of our old friend, Rev. J. L. Michaux, editor of the Central Protestant. We found he was well acquainted with many

of our old friends in North Carolina, from whom we were glad to hear. We trust he found his visit in our city agreeable.—Methodist Recorder.—Rev. E. S. Gregory, of the Episcopal church in Virginia, was formerly editor of the Petersburg Index and Appeal and was converted, it is stated, while reading the proof sheets of notes of a sermon preached in that city by the late Bishop Marvin and reported for that paper.

Hon. Henry W. Blair, the new United States Senator from New Hampshire, is a layman in the Methodist Church.—The salary of the Bishop of London is \$50,000 a year, but we venture he is no happier than an itinerant Methodist preacher down on the Atlantic Coast, who fights miasma, mosquitoes and Satan, and gets a promise of two or three hundred dollars.—Dr. T. O. Summers and Dr. A. W. Wilson with their families are summering at Abingdon, Va.—Dean Stanley has horrified English Churchmen by officiating at a wedding in a Non-conformist church.—Prof. Wm. M. Fontaine has been elected to the chair of Natural History and Botany in the University of Virginia, recently endowed by W. W. Corcoran, of Washington City.

The following honorary degrees were conferred at the late commencement of the Southern University, at Greensboro, Ala.: The degree of LL. D. on Bishop J. C. Keener and on Senator John T. Morgan, of Alabama; the degree of D. D. on Rev. John S. Moore and Rev. Oliver R. Blue, of the Alabama Conference; the honorary degree of A. M. on J. W. DuBose, of Birmingham, Alabama. At the recent Commencement of Centenary College, the degree of D. D. was conferred on the Rev. C. W. Carter, of the Louisiana Conference.—Sir George Campbell, member of the English Parliament, who visited Raleigh among other Southern cities while on his tour last Fall, has written a very full and readable book, containing his observations of the people and institutions of America, especially of the South. The book is entitled "White and Black" as the principal object of his coming to America was to study the relations existing between the white and colored races of the Southern States.—

The Charlotte Observer says that Col. Walter L. Steele is under promise not to run next term for Congress. We hope it is not true; if it is, Col. S. will, as far as he is concerned, keep his promise. But to whom was the promise made? And will the people of the District be willing to recognize a trade in which they are the thing traded? We opine not.—Bro. Robey and wife are summering it in the mountains of Watuga.—One of the most cultured and valuable men of the State passed away last week when Col. Rufus L. Patterson, of Salem, died. In the prime of life, of a genial nature, large hearted and public-spirited, highly educated and of courtly and polished manners, he was an ornament to the State and his loss will be keenly felt by the community in which he lived and for whose prosperity he had done so much.

Rufus S. Bynum, son of B. F. Bynum of Stokes Co., and a nephew of Judge Bynum, recently died in Texas whither he removed some years ago. He had acquired a good practice at the law and was rapidly attaining the distinction which his talents merited. Though only 28 years of age and a resident of Texas only four or five years, he had gained the warm esteem and confidence of the people among whom he settled and was a Solicitor of the Court of his county.