

Raleigh Christian Advocate.

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

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EDITORIAL.

ONCE MORE.

Once more the "Old Raleigh" greets its readers. It has had no Rip Van Winkle sleep during the last few years. It has not lost its individuality; neither has there been any cessation of activity.

A few years ago, with an enlargement of the paternal territory, it joined hands with a Western neighbor, moved its residence, and, with its neighbor, took the name of the present worthy sister across the line—the North Carolina Christian Advocate.

For reasons accepted by both parties, on a basis mutually satisfactory, and outlined in another column, the "Old Raleigh" has returned to the ancestral mansion, and wearing the ancient patrimonial, presents in this issue the fullness of an affectionate heart to its numerous readers.

The "Old Raleigh" under the new name is not the off-spring of an excited impulse, nor even the result of a newborn purpose. It has not been quickened by connection with any special experience through which the church has lately or remotely passed.

Over three years ago, at the Elizabeth City Conference, plans were formed for the establishment of a paper as the organ of the Conference. At the next Conference at Kinston, a Commission from the Western North Carolina Conference was present, and urged the continuation of the North Carolina Advocate as the organ of the two Conferences. According to an agreement which embraced the presence of a representative of the North Carolina Conference on the editorial staff, the North Carolina Advocate was continued as the organ of the two Conferences. The North Carolina Conference elected its editor for a term of two years.

At the last session of the North Carolina Conference, it was seen that the best editorial arrangement was no longer possible. There seemed to be no chance for the establishment of one paper for the two Conferences. The general interests of the church appeared to demand a separate organ. The Conference passed resolutions which are published in another column. In accordance with these resolutions the Raleigh Christian Advocate has been re-established. The mutual good-will and Christian charity characterizing the parties on both sides before, during, and after the deliberations and final transactions are a matter of congratulation to the whole church. The Raleigh Christian Advocate wishes its neighbor the North Carolina Christian Advocate the utmost success in its great work of building up Methodism.

In assuming the editorial control of the Raleigh Christian Advocate, I feel the weight of a very grave responsibility. The hand that guides the journalistic vessel of a great Conference with all its precious freightage of interests and possibilities must be under a true and vigilant eye, and controlled by a Christ-directed mind and heart. Yet there is a fact which brings to me a sense of relief. It is this. Under the present arrangement the paper is an institution of the Conference, and every member of the Conference is responsible for the well-being of our organ, just as he is responsible for the other institutions and enterprises of the church. This fact guarantees the prayers of the Conference for the editor and the most earnest cooperation with him for the success of the Advocate.

The Advocate is not the official mouth-piece of any party or faction. It is not the advocate of any one, but of every interest, of the church. It is the official organ of the North Carolina Conference. It is a sentinel on the tower of Zion. It is a servant of

the church. It looks for support to every son and daughter of Methodism in the North Carolina Conference.

Cornelius Vanderbilt used to say: "In any enterprise never say what you are going to do until you have done it." This is a good rule. It is one thing to form plans. It is another thing to execute them. I can go so far, however, as to say that it is the purpose of those in control of the Advocate to make it the equal of the best in the sisterhood of Conference organs—pleasing to the eye, helpful to the mind, and stimulating to the heart. The press-work will be done by one of the best printing establishments in the South. Our business manager, Rev. N. M. Watson, a member of the North Carolina Conference, a successful preacher and business man, is well fitted for his position. The Raleigh Advocate Company is an unusually strong one. With the earnest and immediate co-operation of the ministry and laity, the paper must be and will be a success, the sub-pastor of every charge, a well of joyful strength springing up by thousands of hearthstones and the helpful advocate of the church militant in her contest with sin.

T. N. IVEY.

A YEAR OF OPTIMISM.

God, in his boundless love, has granted us the privilege of entering another year. A few milestones have been passed and the main part of the journey is before us. It behooves us to look forward, as well as backward and around, with optimistic eyes. The optimism which is needed is not that which shuts its eyes to palpable facts and revels in unrealities colored by heated fancy. The optimism needed is that which, wide-eyed and intelligent, sees everything tipped with sunshine from thunderclouds to the wings of the butterfly.

Optimism with the Christian means faith in God. It is ever asking in exultant strain, "If God be for us, who can be against us?" It sees the crown above the cross and, in the light of an eternal sun-rise, catches the outline of a farther shore. It means once and for all, the Christian's hope, and the Christian's strength.

As a Conference, as workers in the "vineyard of the Lord," as sky-born men and women, boys and girls, we have many and pressing needs. But it seems to us right now, the threshold of the new conference year just passed, that one of the most pressing needs is that of a spirit of healthy optimism. An abstraction, you say. Well, abstractions sometimes hold very concrete realities. Sighing, croaking, and dire prophesies are sentimental and useless, but they generate upheavals and revolutions. The shaking head is generally followed by the quaking heart. A pessimistic church is not the one that received its baptism at Pentecost. A pessimistic church means a plethora of triumphs for Satan. True optimism is not only the best cure for pessimism, but is the natural inspiration and robur of the spiritual life.

We need now this cure. We advertise its merits in this first issue of our Conference organ. We recommend it as a specific for many evils.

Signs of growing hysteria with a tendency to melancholia are visible here and there in the body ecclesiastical. The cry is wafted on the winds that the world is growing worse. Tears are dropped over smouldering revival fires. Such a decrease in the number of conversions! Such an absence of apostolic zeal in pew and pulpit! Things are truly against us! These are echoes coming from columns of religious papers, pulpits, prayer-meetings, experience meetings, divers gatherings, and private conversations.

In the face of this condition, we need the spirit of optimism. There is no reason why we should not have it, evil prophets to the contrary. We bid every son and daughter of Methodism look to the sunrise and see what great things God is doing for us. The world is growing better and God's hosts are marching on. God blessed us as a Conference last year. If He had not done so, death and depravity would have left us in a decimated condition at the annual summing up. New churches are being erected, new Sunday schools are being established, new shouts

of praise from regenerated souls are going up. Our educational institutions were never more largely patronized. The spirit of Christian charity is abroad. Plans for the establishment of a home for our orphans and worn-out preachers will soon be materialized. We have Corneliuses and Dorcas in our laity. We have heres of apostolic zeal among our preachers. We have Rough Riders of Christ, who before the falling of the coming leaves, will make more heroic charges against sin than were made by Roosevelt's men up the slopes of San Juan. In many ways God is shining on and through his people.

We will not presume on the strength of past and present blessings. We will be glad, hopeful, and active. We will "look to the hills whence cometh our help." We will look forward to making the present year a beautiful picture in the calendar of years. We will be Christian optimists. This means that we will have faith in God.

THE COMPANY BEHIND THE ADVOCATE.

One of the most important elements of the strength and character of the Raleigh Christian Advocate is the Company behind it.

The Raleigh Christian Advocate Company is composed of the following: Dr. J. T. Miller, Revs. J. W. Jenkins, R. B. John, M. T. Plyler, B. H. Black, N. M. Watson, and Messrs. L. L. Smith, B. N. Duke, J. S. Wynne, J. G. Brown, F. P. Brown, W. B. Harker and F. K. Ellington.

Mr. J. S. Wynne, of Raleigh, is President. He is one of the most solid, wide-awake business men of Raleigh, and is one of the financial pillars of the capital city. Dr. Miller, so well known over the State as a large-hearted, progressive physician, Superintendent of the Hospital for the Insane at Goldsboro, is the Vice-President. Mr. F. P. Brown is Secretary. He is one of the younger business men of Raleigh, who are aiding the city so greatly with their enterprise and push. Rev. N. M. Watson, our Business Manager, who has demonstrated his fitness for his onerous position, is Treasurer.

Board of Directors: J. S. Wynne, J. W. Jenkins, J. G. Brown, R. B. John and N. M. Watson.

Executive Committee: J. S. Wynne, J. G. Brown, and N. M. Watson.

All the above mentioned are loyal Methodists, having the good of Christ and His Church at heart. Their moral and financial character guarantees a successful management of the affairs of the Advocate.

A DISTRICT LIBRARY AND READING CIRCLE.

A Presiding Elder in Texas is said by the editor of the Texas Christian Advocate to be a progressive man. As an evidence of this fact the statement is made that he has among the preachers of his district a reading circle. They buy a good book each, have a quarterly meeting, discuss the contents and then exchange books for the coming quarter. It is unnecessary to say that this is a good plan that in time will work wonders for the intellectual and spiritual life of the preachers, the District, the Conference and Methodism. The plan is economical. A preacher does not have to buy a large library to receive the benefit of it. There is system in it. The discussions are mind-sharpening, and the community of interest is valuable. If such a plan can be worked in Texas, why not in the North Carolina Conference?

THE GREAT SNOW STORM OF 1899.

The great snow storm beginning Saturday, February 11, 1899, and ending the following Monday in the afternoon marks an epoch in the meteorological history of this State. For long years we have been hearing of the wonderful snow of 1857. But this will now give place in the popular mind to the wonderful snow of 1899. The latter storm was the severer of the two, although the depth of the snow was not so great. In the former case the depth was over two feet; in the latter, not more than 18 inches. The latter storm was characterized by intense cold which made the mercury drop below zero. The earth was frozen hard and the snow began to fall on the 11th. Thus nature

special preparation for the advent of the Winter Queen. When the people opened their eyes on the light of Monday morning, they were greeted by a true arctic scene. Mother Earth was folded in ermine 15 inches thick and the noiseless flakes were still falling. A stiff gale from the North was piling up parapets along the sidewalks and fences. Huge icicles decorated the pumps and fountains, while every exposed window was beautiful with the flagree work of the frost. The gale flung great clouds of snow from roof and ground and sent them scurrying in blinding fury in all directions. No sound from railroad depots and round-houses was heard for the great monarchs of the rail were bound hand and foot by the white hands of winter.

People for the first time felt fear creeping into their hearts. The situation was serious. Poor people were suffering. A fuel famine was imminent. The cattle on a thousand hills were in danger of freezing. But the news from all sections showed that Christian charity was equal to the demands. The towns and cities came up nobly to supply the needs of the suffering.

GIVE US TIME.

Not so many years ago it was our privilege to hear a sermon preached by one of the quaintest characters and one of the best men in North Carolina Methodism. The brother was apparently well up in the preliminaries, and had his sermon well written on the best manuscript paper, tied, if we mistake not, with something like ribbon. But figuratively speaking, he found himself unable to find the latch string of the door to his sermon. He scrambled violently in the bramble of irrelevant and conflicting ideas. He finally cleared his throat and looking over his glasses at his sympathetic and bewildered congregation, said: "Well, all I want is for you just to give me time. You'll give me time, wont you?" Being assured that the congregation would not be stingy with this precious commodity, the brother proceeded and preached a strong and evangelical sermon.

At this juncture, we are prepared to enter into the feelings of the brother on that occasion. We feel moved to say to our many subscribers, "Just give us time." Getting out the first issue of a paper under the most favorable circumstances is always a difficult matter. Mistake will occur at first. The arrangement will not suit you probably. The typographical appearance of the paper may not be just what you wish. Some of the matter may be scrappy. But "just give us time." We propose to have a paper second to none of the Conference organs.

JOINT LETTER TO THE SUBSCRIBERS IN THE N. C. CONFERENCE.

Through an arrangement recommended by the North Carolina Conference in the resolution looking to the establishment of a separate paper as the organ of the North Carolina Conference, and in accordance with a basis of value before suggested by Rev. L. W. Crawford, representing the North Carolina Christian Advocate Company, and agreed to by the committee appointed by the North Carolina Conference, the names of all the subscribers to the North Carolina Christian Advocate, residing within the bounds of the North Carolina Conference—and who subscribed previously to February 7th, 1899—have been transferred to the subscription list of the new paper, the Raleigh Christian Advocate, published by the Raleigh Advocate Publishing Company—which shall be the lawful owner of said transferred subscriptions and all accounts due thereon, with the title and good will of the old Raleigh Christian Advocate, so far as these may be owned by the present N. C. Advocate Publishing Company. By this arrangement the Raleigh Christian Advocate becomes the organ of the North Carolina Conference.

The division and transfer have been made with mutual good will and prayerful desire that each paper in its separate sphere may contribute largely to the cause of our common Methodism and the general interests of Christ's kingdom.

Signed: A. M. Powell, W. C. Norton, J. G. Brown, W. B. Harker,

FROM OUR BISHOPS.

To the Ministers and Members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

Dear Brethren: The General Conference, at its late session in Baltimore, Md., by a unanimous vote passed resolutions in favor of raising a Twentieth Century Education Fund to commemorate the signal blessings of God upon our Church during the past one hundred years. The minimum amount suggested as an appropriate thank offering, is \$1,500,000. This surely is a modest sum to be given by a million and a half Southern Methodists. We desire, your Chief Pastors, to earnestly commend this most important and timely movement. It is eminently fitting that we should celebrate the birth of a century of opportunity by generous offerings to the great educational work of our church. The General Board of Education is perfecting plans for a thorough canvass of the connection in this interest. We would affectionately urge you cordially co-operate with these efforts and thereby make sure the largest success of this noble enterprise. The General Conference has placed this matter before the church as of choicest concern. It is suggested, therefore, that local or other connectional enterprises should not be allowed to give this Twentieth Century Fund a secondary or unimportant place. In addition to the regular tithes we bring to the church let this be a special and liberal thank offering. By a reconsecration of ourselves, soul, body, and substance, to the Lord we may make this connectional movement monumental, and provide ampler equipment for nobler work during the next century of wider opportunity and greater responsibility.

JOHN C. KEENER,
JOHN C. GRANBERY,
ROBERT K. HARGROVE,
WILLIAM W. DUNCAN,
CHARLES B. GALLOWAY,
EUGENE R. HENDRIX,
JOSEPH S. KEY,
OSCAR P. FITZGERALD,
WARREN A. CANDLER,
HENRY C. MORRISON.

Owing to the absence of Bishop Wilson from this country his signature could not be procured.

There can be no doubt of the fact that the dispensary idea is the most prominent and popular one in temperance circles in North Carolina. Those towns which have tried the dispensary publish the most enthusiastic reports of its success. The Legislature has been besieged with petitions for the establishment of new dispensaries. Some of these petitions have been granted. It takes no great stretch of credulity to suppose that this method of restricting the liquor traffic is becoming more popular and will soon be in vogue over the whole South. The theoretical argument is with the prohibitionist. But the practical argument is with the dispensary advocate, inasmuch as prohibition is assumed to be an impossibility for the present, and the dispensary is restrictive only, not permissive, and a means to prohibition.

The commission appointed by the President to investigate the War Department in its conduct of the late war has made its report. It is a lengthy document. It exonerates all connected with the War Department, but by insinuation reprimands Gen. Miles. It acknowledges the lack of foresight and system in the loading and unloading of transports. It practically says that the embalmed beef charge is untrue. Parts of the general verdict will not be accepted by the American people. But we are thankful that the question will now rest. We have enough of which to feel proud and over which to rejoice. Our country is a great one.

In behalf of Durham and the Trinity College Association, Mr. J. S. Carr invited the State Convention of the Y. M. C. A. to convene this year at Durham. The invitation was accepted, and the convention will be held March 9-12. May it be a great success.

There is good reason to suppose that the revision of the constitution will pass.