

Raleigh Christian Advocate.

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

ESTABLISHED IN 1855.

RALEIGH, N. C., MARCH 22, 1899.

NEW SERIES. VOL. 1, No. 5.

RALEIGH CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE.

Organ of the North Carolina Conference.
 PUBLISHED AT RALEIGH, N. C.
 Entered as second-class matter in the post-office at Raleigh.
 T. N. IVEY, EDITOR.
 N. M. WATSON, BUSINESS MANAGER.
TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.
 One Year, \$1.50. Six Months,75
 Cash in Advance.

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 All travelling preachers in the North Carolina Conference, as authorized agents, will receive the paper free.
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Editorial.

THE CHRISTIAN'S BURDEN.

[With thanks to Mr. Kipling.]

Take up the Christian's burden—
 For a people freed today,
 In patience bear your duty
 For man to work and pray—
 Go loose the fettered soul,
 Go speed you to your goal.

Take up the Christian's burden—
 Not for the lust of conquest,
 The wealth the Orient brings;
 Untold redemption's plan—
 God's greatest gift to man.

Take up the Christian's burden—
 Send light across the path
 Of oppression, deep and baleful,
 And the light of afterbirth
 Shall shine from God on you—
 Be quick the work to do.

Take up the Christian's burden—
 Till right the world controls;
 Go, give your soul to exile
 To save these captive souls,
 The good for others sought—
 The faith of those you guard.

Take up the Christian's burden—
 Tell the story, tell it plain,
 And seek the world's profit
 And work those others' gain;
 The good for others sought—
 Shall never come to nought.

Take up the Christian's burden—
 Send out your glittering gold,
 Give your manhood to the travail,
 'Til the old story be retold—
 God gave His only Son
 That the world might be won.
 —EMILY J. BRYANT.

It is a sad thought that we are either confessing Christ or Satan.

No man can leave sin by walking backwards. Our eyes must be fixed on the "hills whence cometh our help."

It is as foolish to argue spiritual questions with one who doubts the existence and immortality of the soul as it is to try to explain the law of gravitation to one who denies that the earth revolves.

Many men "cumber the ground" in blighting by their influence the lives of others. Every bad man or woman casts a shadow on some other life. The time will come in every case for God to say, "cut it down."

We cannot measure love with an abstraction, but with a materialization. You say that you love God and your fellow man. To prove your statement show us some concrete form of this love.

It severely tries our soul to come in touch with people who repudiate all obligation to God and practically maintain by their selfishness that their only debt is to themselves. Yet we are more sorely tried when we are compelled, even for the moment, to listen to the vaporings of those who seem to have the idea that God is the debtor and they are the creditors.

That ecclesiastico—philosophical system of faith and practice known as Christian science is getting in some of its peculiar work in our State. It was only last week that a Christian Scientist lady in the western part of the State died of typhoid fever, because, as it is supposed, she refused the services of a physician.

The faith which expects God to cure every malady without the human use of the means which He has provided is a faith run mad. Christian Science is a bloated perversion of a common truth, and, when carried out to its limit, becomes a monstrosity.

IN THE FIRING LINE, BUT—

It is the glory of the Church Militant that every one of her true soldiers is in the "firing line." There are no reserves, all are at the front, steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord. Whenever you see one in the rear you may know that he is an unworthy soldier. No true soldier of Christ may retreat or rest in the great truceless war with sin.

To be in the "firing line," however, is not enough. We may be in the "firing line" with weapons turned in the wrong direction, with words that dull the edge of heroism, and with an activity that is subversive of discipline. We may be in the "firing line" and do more harm than if we were in the rear.

Evangelical activity is an inspiring thing. We love to hear of revivals attended with Pentecostal power. But how often, unfortunately, is it the case that hundreds that have been won from Satan are taught to discount the authority of the organized church in which are bound up the hopes of humanity, and to look askance at, if not to call down fire upon, those fellow-workers who are not able to pronounce with them the doctrinal shibboleth. With the aforesaid, Bishops and other church officers are tyrants, and the church, fattening upon greed is hastening to its fall. They are in the "firing line," but—

The Methodist Church is the best organized church in the world. She has much of machinery, but, thank God, she has behind it enough power to run it all and more. Her enterprises are well established and well manned. Take the Sunday School. With what ease its machinery runs! What an admirable literature is furnished by our Publishing House! Yet it is no uncommon thing to see Sunday Schools using other literature than that provided by our General Conference. The superintendents and teachers of such Sunday Schools are in the "firing line," but—

Take our Epworth League literature. The organ of this department of our church has passed through it period of darkness. It has greeted the sunlight. Under the supervision of Dr. DuBose, it is becoming one of the best religious journals for the young in the whole nation, and the subscription list is being swelled beyond the most sanguine expectation. But the Era is passing through a crucial period. To reach its highest literary and artistic development, and to rejoice in that success commensurate with the demands of the M. E. Church, South, and general humanity, the Era must receive the undivided support of the great army of Southern Methodist youthhood. How is such support possible when small League papers are springing up on the right and left? They contain good matter. To change the figure, they are in the "firing line," but—

Bishop Candler sent over our Southern Methodism a ringing appeal for men and money to be used in Cuba, where the "fields are white unto the harvest." The appeal has touched the great heart of the church, and it is through the regularly organized agencies of the church that the white banner of the Gospel must be planted in the Antilles. It seems, however, that this truth is lost sight of by some zealous ones. We heard only a few days ago of an effort on the part of some Methodists in this State to secure funds for missionary work in Cuba—all independent of our regular missionary organizations. Such effort as this will produce confusion, paralyze the missionary arm of the church, and render abortive our schemes for evangelizing the territory which God has wrested from the grasp of superstition and tyranny. These zealous, isolated workers are in the "firing line," but—

"Why place us in a straight jacket" of church rules and agencies?" you say. "Why not allow some latitude in this day of expansion?" To these questions we answer: God sent Christ into this world to build from its ruins His everlasting church. This church is an organized thing. Through this organization, the world is to be saved. This organization means coherency, autonomy, unity of action and interest, obedience to rules, conformity to regulations, and unswerving discipline. The absence of these qualities in the great working, fighting hosts of God, be the zeal never so great, means disconcertation and final defeat. You may stand in the front, but unless you shoot according to orders, your

bravery will be fruitless, as far as victory is concerned.

Men and brethren, let us stand in the "firing line," and fire according to orders. We can do this without apotheosizing the church or losing our personal freedom.

COMMERCIAL SUNRISE.

By every token this the next to the last year of the century will be to North Carolina one of marked material development and prosperity. The commercial pulse is full and steady. In spite of croakings that come from different quarters, the people in all departments of activity are bright and hopeful. Confidence in the political, social, and commercial future of the State is strong and manifest. A glance at some of the legislation just enacted by the General Assembly will prove the truth of the foregoing statement.

Take railroad building, for instance. The laws of North Carolina for 1899 will show that fourteen new roads have been chartered. Of these, the Black Diamond system is perhaps the most important. It embraces 17 branches, aggregating a total of 1,639 miles. The North and South Carolina Railroad will prove of vast importance to the State.

It will connect the Plant System with the Atlantic and Danville, whose eastern terminus is Norfolk. The other roads chartered have promise of great things for the commercial life of our State.

Numerous cotton factory plants are being established or projected. The developments on this line during the year will deepen the conviction in the mind of the New Englander that the star of New England prosperity is taking its way Southward.

There was announced last week in the newspapers of the State an enterprise the mention of which almost takes the breath away from our people. This is the enterprise projected by a syndicate composed of Messrs. B. N. Duke, Julian S. Carr, S. T. Morgan, and others, who have bought the famous water power at Lockville in Chatham county. It is expected that this syndicate will invest \$3,000,000 in developing this property. This enterprise will mean much, not only to the State, but to the South. There is one sad thought connected with these hopeful signs. Eras of material prosperity are not generally marked by spiritual and intellectual growth. We hope that there will be an exception in this case. God has placed a great responsibility in our hands and on our hearts. Let us by prayerful activity see that the church moves pari passu with the State up the shining slopes of prosperity.

THE CHURCH CAN STAND IT.

A noted speaker in expressing his views recently on the desertion of the church by the younger element said: "I doubt whether there is any church in Christendom," can stand such a desertion and live. These come from the young people, who, when they grow up, drift out of the church of their fathers, and I believe it is due in great part to the want of loyalty and love of the church by the parents. I know many parents of the Methodist church are indifferent to this wholesale desertion because of Methodism's strictures on pleasures, cards and dancing. Their children join other churches for these social pleasures, not forbidden in those churches."

We are prepared to subscribe to the view that the desertions spoken of are due in great measure to the disloyalty of the parents. That many parents are indifferent to the desertions on account of Methodism's "strictures on pleasures, cards and dancing," we do not doubt. That children join other churches for these social pleasures not forbidden in those churches, we only too well know. But we must confess that we have no patience with the statement "I doubt whether there is any church in Christendom that can stand such a desertion and live." If the desertion of the church by shallow-pates who cannot tell the difference between true religion and selfishness or by empty-hearted boys and girls who are willing to sell principle for worldly pleasure, can put the quietus on a church, that church is not worthy to live. But the Church of Jesus Christ has stood worse calamities than the desertions spoken of, and she will live until her great Head shall have put all things under his feet.

A STRANGE LAW.

We see a stone fall to the earth. We examine the stone. We do not see anything peculiar in it. We examine the ground on which the stone falls. We do not see anything peculiar in the ground. Why does the stone fall? Why does it not rise? If we should go to the centre of the earth we should not be able to solve the problem. This problem is a sphinx before which the ages stand mute.

So the law of moral gravity, which is another name for moral depravity, is a life-enshrouding mystery. Why, when, and where man came under this terrible law which draws him downward, we can easily determine from the Word of God. But a complete understanding of this law we can never have in this world. It is the sheerest folly to attempt to explain the origin of evil. When we see "face to face" in the upper world we may understand the mystery.

One of the strangest phenomena of this strange law is the soul's tendency to shun God and seek the companionship of the Evil One. God is a Father full of grace and truth. He crowns all other blessings with the unspeakable gift of Jesus, through whom we have redemption and the forgiveness of sins according to the riches of His grace. Satan is our enemy and the enemy of our Father. He crouch about as a "roaring lion seeking whom he may devour." Yet in obedience to this strange law man turns from God to Satan. He laughs at his friend, but burns incense to an implacable foe. Who can explain the mystery.

Another phenomenon of this law is seen in the sacrifice of eternal interest on the mean altar of fleeting enjoyment. Indulgence in sin can give us at best only a few perishable pleasures. Then comes eternal death. Freedom from sin through the blood of Jesus Christ will give us not only the true pleasures of this world, but the glory of that life which is to come. Yet, in the face of this fact, thousands hug sin to their bosoms, risk their immortal souls, and rush madly on in the darkness. What an inscrutable mystery in the spiritual realm!

Only when we come within the radius of the attractive and holding power of the Sun of righteousness, will we, in spite of the counter worldward attraction, be able to revolve with thought, feeling, and life around the divine centre. Let us by the help of the Holy Spirit seek that heavenly radius, and be able to prove the exultant statement of the great apostle: "Wherefore, the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall."

GOOD EDUCATIONAL LITERATURE.

The biennial report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction of North Carolina for the scholastic years 1896-97 and 1897-98 lies before us. It is a well-printed book of nearly 1,000 pages, containing 75 illustrations. In the first few pages, Superintendent Mebane makes his recommendations to the General Assembly of North Carolina on different subjects vital to common school education. Among these are some striking practical thoughts on Local Taxation, Civil Government and the Relation of the Office of Public Instruction to Private Schools and Denominational Colleges. Some highly valuable pages are those giving comparative statistics from 1884 to 1898. The lists of questions for applicants for certificates are interesting as showing that it is no easy matter for one to receive authority to teach in the free schools of North Carolina. There is a number of tables giving much valuable information. Sketches of some old or extinct schools in the counties of North Carolina by Kemp P. Battle, LL. D., are published. Part Two gives a thorough history of the State colleges and institutions and of the denominational colleges; also of the high schools and academies. In fact Superintendent Mebane has embodied in his report information touching every point of educational life in North Carolina. We must confess that we were surprised when we saw the volume. We were more surprised when we examined it. Such a volume is seldom seen south of the Mason and Dixon line. It is a credit to Mr. Mebane and the State.

In this connection, we wish to congratulate Mr. Mebane on the efficiency with which he has served the people in the capacity of Superintendent of Public Instruction. He came into his of-

fice under great disadvantages. He has wrought well. Two years ago he worked hard for an increase of appropriation by the Legislature for the free schools. In the recent appropriation of \$100,000 for this purpose, Mr. Mebane can see some of the fruits of his labor. The State would do well to keep Mr. Mebane in his present position as long as possible.

WEEKLY REVIEW.

American citizens in Cuba have sent to the United States government claims amounting to over \$20,000,000 for damages received in the recent war with Spain. The articles of peace between the United States and Spain provide that each government shall be liable for damages received by the citizens of the other government. The payment of the above-mentioned \$20,000,000 cannot receive attention until the next Congress meets.

The smallpox scare is spreading over the whole State. The disease is said to exist in over twenty counties. It is mainly isolated, and very few fatal cases have been reported. Vaccination has been made compulsory in a number of towns. This, in the long run, will prove beneficial, even though the order be disregarded by a large proportion of the people. It seems to us that if compulsory vaccination be ordered, it should be done before the disease makes its appearance.

Our evangelical churches should watch lest enemies from our shores outstrip us in the missionary race. The Mormons have successfully planted themselves in the island of Hawaii. There are nearly 5,000 Hawaiians who are members of the Mormon church. The missionaries sent forth are strong and active. They find no difficulty in having access to the hearts of the natives. A Mormon colony has been formed at Laie. With 45,000 Buddhists already in the island, the outlook for Christianity is none of the brightest.

The question as to what should be done with the criminal insane of the State has been a very vital and pressing one for some time. It is contrary to reason, it seems to us, that this class of persons should be placed with the rest of the insane. The Senate passed a bill appropriating \$6,000 for the care of the criminal insane, but the bill, through carelessness, failed to pass its third reading in the House. This is to be regretted. The need is so pressing, and there was nothing in the way of supplying it. The only thing that can be done is to wait for the next session of the Legislature.

There seems to be some difficulty just now between General Otis and General Rios. General Otis has ordered stopped all negotiations of the Spanish General with the Insurgents for the release of the Spanish prisoners in the custody of the Insurgents. General Rios protests against this action of the American General on the grounds of humanity, claiming that the prisoners are exposed to many privations and are in danger of death. General Otis claims that the large ransom to be paid to the Insurgents would so strengthen them that the American cause would be weakened. In the meantime, the American troops have captured the city of Pasig, and are preparing for the final blow.

The proposed constitutional amendment prohibiting polygamists from being elected to Congress has met favorable consideration at the hands of the committee having it in charge. The committee in its report says:

"Enough has been presented to show that the people of the United States, through Congress, have placed on the statute books their unequivocal and uncompromising hostility to the crime of polygamy. Therefore, shall the possibility be allowed to continue to exist of a State electing to a Congress a person who is a polygamist, to participate in the framing of laws for a people who have unmistakably, in no uncertain way, but deliberately and positively, declared that polygamy is a crime and a disease which should not be tolerated in a civilized community, but extirpated in the interest of the homes of America, which constitute one of the nation's strongest bulwarks against moral decay?"