

Raleigh Christian Advocate.

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

ESTABLISHED IN 1855.

RALEIGH, N. C., APRIL 12, 1899.

NEW SERIES. VOL. 4, NO. 8.

RALEIGH CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE.

Organ of the North Carolina Conference.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY AT RALEIGH, N. C.

Entered as second-class matter in the post-office at Raleigh.

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N. M. WATSON, BUSINESS MANAGER.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

One Year, . . . \$1.50. Six Months,75.
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RALEIGH CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE

Editorial.

If we would be true citizens of God's Kingdom we must not have the culture which avoids suffering.—Bishop Candler.

What will we come to next? Rev. Dr. Newell Dwight Hillis, pastor of Plymouth Church, New York, preached last Sunday week on the character of Tito in George Eliot's "Romola." We would suggest to Dr. Hillis and his ilk that if they are out of "grist" in the shape of biographical subjects, it would be well for them to take from their shelves their wedged Bibles and turn to the eleventh chapter of Hebrews.

The newspapers have been publishing lately an item to the effect that a visitor to his pastor's home found the son and a number of his companions playing poker. The father was away from home. Of course, if this wicked boy had not been a preacher's son, the item would not have found such publicity. We were inclined when we read the item to be somewhat indignant until we reflected that the fact of the wide publication of this item is one of the very strongest endorsements of Christianity. People believe in the reality of the Christian religion. They believe so strongly in it that they expect religion to filter through a father to a son, and when this expectation is disappointed, it is a matter for the Associated Press. Let us be hopeful.

Certain splenetic journals calling themselves religious are very effectively advertised in the South by the very parties who are most opposed to the advertising. For instance, a certain religious journal calls the South a land of "barbarism," where the Church fails to "teach the sin of murder." Some religious papers reply to the slanderous statement, and, in doing so, give the name of the slanderous journal. The only effect of this is to advertise a paper, which, as long as it holds its prejudice, should have few Southern readers. Let our brethren of the press reply, if they wish, to the untruthful statements of their prejudiced contemporaries across the border, but let them withhold the names of the latter. Let us advertise only those papers that are worthy of being advertised.

"There is retribution in history." Last week we were rash enough to espouse the cause of Dr. Black, of the "New Orleans," in his encounter with an irate correspondent who preferred an "are" to an "is." This week the blow has fallen on us. A writer who does not sign his name addresses to "Dr. Ivey, D. D.," a few words in which he reflects on the taste of the editor in publishing last week the poem, "Apele For Are." Now, really, our beloved Mentor should move up a few pegs his or her opinion of us. That "poem" was clipped from one of the most cultured religious newspapers in the South, and its publication in the Raleigh Advocate was requested by one of the most cultured ladies of our church in North Carolina. Then, too, in spite of our lapse in taste, we have never written the same title both before and after a name, nor failed to sign our name to an article containing a personal criticism. We trust that this explanation will find its way to our nameless correspondent and mollify to rased aesthetic sensibilities.

UNSAFE TEACHING.

The strongest foundations on which nations as well as individuals can build are hewn from the quarries of unselfish devotion to duty. A nation cannot evade responsibility on the plea that the course of action involved in this responsibility will bring storms and end in sacrifice. We must confess that we are unable to appreciate the morality of that doctrine, so widely promulgated in the religious and secular press, which bases its argument against territorial expansion on the ground that our nation must have quietude, and freedom from further responsibility. This is national Epicurianism which, in its ultimate development, must breed a weakened form of national life. The influence of this teaching is not wholesome for the young manhood and womanhood of our country. Argue against territorial expansion and "imperialism," if you please, but in doing so, do not place a discount on the strength of responsibility and the glory of duty in newer ever broadening fields. We want no insipid, nerveless, stationary life of ease.

It has been wisely said that "any great crisis which demands, intelligence, leadership and mental power creates schools." Such a crisis creates more than schools. It creates moral manhood, and all that goes to make up the true strength of a nation. Success feeds on crises. The brightest days in our national life were born of the longest and darkest nights. Every monument of civilization lies this side of blood and tears.

May there be a stoppage of this outcry against those whose official position carries with it the responsibility of trying to solve in Asiatic waters the great problem which God in His mysterious Providence has written out for us on the international blackboard. The problem will be solved. Let us help to solve it by exercising an abiding faith in the doctrine that there is a "God of Nations." We rest serenely in the belief that the current of our national history, so tinged with blood and covered with wreckage, runs parallel with the grand purposes of God, and that in some way, at some day—be it never so far, it will broaden into a more glorious life for Christian freedom.

A STRANGE KIND OF LOSS.

Within the last few weeks we have seen much in the religious and secular press relative to the reported loss in the membership of the M. E. Church, South, for the year 1898. It was stated that the decrease was 8,300. We had wrestled in months gone by with statistical tables made up from Conference reports. We had found out enough to induce us to receive the news of the decrease, "with a grain of salt." In fact, we "took no stock" in the statement. We had no patience with the sundry croakings arising all at once from the Methodist meadows. We felt that if there were really a decrease, that the fact would not necessarily indicate spiritual or ecclesiastical decadence. A decrease in membership coming from a purged roll often causes a church to rise in the empyrean of spirituality, just as a balloon, freed from ballast, sails with new life into the clouds.

And now to the point. We have just received from Nashville a statistical table of all the Conferences giving the additions and removals for 1898. This table shows that last year the number of members received exceeded the number dismissed by 31,879.

The table closes with the words: "We believe the figures represent the true gain. We base our faith on the fact that a Methodist pastor knows two things and reports them correctly: one thing is how many members he receives into the Church; and the other is how many are dismissed. The table will be published next week.

A FEW THOUGHTS ON THE SUBJECT OF NEWS.

The Conference organ should never lose its character as a newspaper. The organ must furnish the news of the Church or suffer in its patronage and general usefulness. We wish to make the Advocate a messenger carrying every week to our many readers, the news of the Church. We wish to publish, especially, the news of our own Conference. We have never been able to use our preachers as a news bureau

The average Methodist preacher is a failure as a correspondent—simply because he will not write.

There are some who have the ideas, and who know how to express them, but who cannot write a legible hand. We are perfectly willing to "tackle" any chirography that may come to us, provided it be not strictly cuneiform. Yet, rather than many should not write, we would suggest the purchase of a typewriter. Typewritten manuscripts are a means of grace to a printer.

There are others, who never write to the paper, for fear of criticism. It is often said that young preachers, to reverse a popular expression, are to be "heard" (in their pulpits) "not seen" (in the papers). If this criticism had been allowed to do its perfect work, the world today would be without its choicest literary treasures. A young man, if he has anything to write, has as sound a title to the columns of a paper as has the older man.

If our brethren would only write! We do not wish lengthy articles. We need the special prayers of the Church when the lengthy articles begin to pour in on us. A correspondent of the Western Christian Advocate suggests that each Presiding Elder's District within his Conference have an official correspondent. We think the suggestion a wise one of our Conference. This does not mean that this correspondent should be the only one from the District. Brethren, send us the news. Give in your newest ideas. In the words of Dr. Lafferty, "moisten your pens."

A RICH OPPORTUNITY

The Trinity College Library Association, which was explained in the Advocate a few weeks ago, possesses a deep significance, and gives promise of much that is valuable to all students and lovers of good literature. Its purpose is to spread over a whole State the benefits of a large well selected library. It is a very practical form of the University Extension idea—a combination of the school room rostrum, the lecture platform, the reading circle, the literary club. Carried to its ultimate development, and wisely utilized according to its legitimate purposes, it is pregnant with results that must prove a great blessing to Christian education in North Carolina.

It remains to be seen if this Association can claim from our North Carolina Methodism an adequate patronage. This we can say: The young student, whether in the ministry or out, has one of life's golden chances within his reach. Without great expense, in his own study, in the home, the place of business, or on the highways, he can surround himself with the choicest treasures of the shelves of a great college library.

It is to be hoped that our young preachers may seize their opportunity. Whether or not the criticism be true that the intellectual field is not industriously worked by our young preachers, it is certain that the harvests carried from this field into the granaries of Christian thought are not sufficiently ample and golden. Large areas of wonderful fertility have never been worked, and never will be, unless by workmen of rich hearts and robust, well-equipped minds.

We trust that all of our younger preachers and laymen will not delay in sending their names to Dr. J. S. Bassett of Trinity College. The expense will be small—only a dollar a year. The outcome in the way of mental and spiritual development will be surprisingly large.

SADNESS IN THE HOME AT CROZET.

Hundreds were shocked on last Tuesday morning at the news of the death of Dr. Walter B. Lafferty, son of Dr. J. J. Lafferty, editor of the Richmond Christian Advocate. He was found lying unconscious by the track of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad, near Meechum's river, with one of his legs crushed and suffering from other severe injuries. He was taken to Crozet, where he died shortly after.

It is not known how the accident happened. It is thought that he was struck by a passing train.

Thus there is sadness in the home at Crozet. We feel, however, that the Master is there with all the sympathy and consoling power that He carried to the home at Bethany. The bereaved ones have our sympathies and prayers.

WEEKLY REVIEW.

Gen. Gomez is practically head again of the Cuban army. He, Masso, and Rodriguez have been named as members of the Executive Advisory Board. There is some difficulty over the third member. This Board will have charge of the distribution of the \$3,000,000 given by the United States Government to its soldiers of the Cuban army, now to be disbanded.

It is to be hoped that the "beef" trouble is about over. Eagan, one of the chief actors, has been practically shelved with a reward by the President. General Miles, opposed so bitterly by the administration, has apparently made his charges good. He has been under a hot fire, but it is the consensus of opinion that he comes out unscorched.

The Figaro is making trouble in Paris in connection with the Dreyfus matter. This paper, in spite of continuous fines, is publishing daily, the evidence given in the sitting of the Court of Cassation, which is the supreme court of France. The evidence is indirectly in favor of Dreyfus and Picquart. The very strongest army men now concede that both Dreyfus and Picquart must be released.

It must be gratifying to the public to know that for the quarter ending March 31st, the number of business failures in the United States was smaller than for a like time in seventeen years. The volume of business is reported larger than it has been in the history of our country. It is evident that now is not the happy time for the prophet of evil. The outlook is prosperous enough to encourage the helpless.

The proclamation of the United States Philippine Commission assures the natives of the cordial good will and fraternal feeling of the President of the United States, and the American people, and claims that the object which the United States Government has in view in its present course is the well-being, happiness, and prosperity of the Philippine people, and their elevation and advancement to a position among the most civilized people of the world. It is thought that the proclamation will do good, provided it can be made to reach the Filipinos. Aguinaldo and his chiefs will intercept it as much as possible.

The Samoan affair is in statu quo. Definite trouble is over at Apia. Public attention is now being centred on the Commission which is to take the matter in hand. While Germany concedes that Consul Rose may have been in the wrong in upholding Mataafa still there is an insistence that the British and American authorities exceeded their powers. It will be some time before the Commission will be in shape to act. Disagreement is looked for.

The umpireship, however, of King Oscar is the thing which peace lovers are looking to. The latest news is that Malietoa Tamis has been made King.

THE "ROUSEMENT" FOLLY.

(Wesleyan Christian Advocate.)

To torture the lachrymal gland to get a tear, to wring the risibilities to evoke a smile, to stir the emotion with a pointless tale, to deodorize the carnal mind with a drop of lavender, to paint a dying groan with a stick of pigment, to span a gulf with a bridge of sighs, to burn in the truth with metaphorical fire, to pound the Book or storm the temple, to get up a "rousement," and then try to persuade ourselves or others, that we have got the Spirit, O the folly of it! the folly of it! It is but the impersonation of a naked deception without even the apology of a fig leaf. We can't tap the heavenly fountains with false instruments. We can't force the sap of life along spiritless arteries and avenues.

A TREMENDOUS "IF."

(Alabama Christian Advocate.)

On the other hand, sometimes the preacher makes the work of stewards easy. How? In many ways. If he is a truly religious man, if he studies his Bible closely for his personal good, if he prays much in secret, if he impresses his own family that he is indeed relig-

ious; if he, in a prudent way, talks about religion and prays with the families he visits, if he is interested in their welfare, if the people know he loves them, and cares for them, that he studies their interests and works for them, if he makes them feel that he is one of them, if he gains the love of the children as well as the parents, if he looks after the Sunday school, the prayer meetings and the general collections, if he gives his time to his people, if he does all things (which he ought to do) the people will be interested in him and will be more freely to his support. The stewards will have a much easier time.

THE GOOD OF DISCOURAGEMENT.

(Exchange.)

We may at times get discouraged. If this feeling makes us more humble and holy, if it drives members and ministers to their knees in earnest prayer, discouragement will do good. Things are not what they should be and never were. But all things after awhile are to be summed up in Christ, all things in heaven and earth—the whole universe of created beings to be one society, one communion and fellowship; not divided by differences of race or lineage or language; all one in Christ. Until then we will have to wait; but then and thereby such grandeur and glory and happiness as the universe has never known.

CONCLUSIVE.

(Herald and Presbyterian.)

We have been asked to give some counsel against "the dissipating and time-destroying habit of card-playing." We do not see how there could be any more severe arraignment of the habit than is found in these words. There are people in the world who are anxious to have something by means of which they may "kill time." Such a conception of life is degrading, and can be held only by those who do not accept God's estimate of the value of time and the inestimable importance of improving it. The apostle urges us to be wide awake, "redeeming the time." Time and life are not redeemed at the card table.

TOO LONG A TRACE.

Central Christian Advocate.)

If we had but one word of advice to give to young preachers, also applicable to some old ones, it would be about like this: "Do not get too far ahead of your people." Whenever the preacher travels at such rapid speed that he gets out of sight of his people, they lose interest in him, and he loses his influence over them. Keep with your people, in sympathetic touch, accelerate their speed as much as possible, and don't run off and leave them.

THE PROMISE IS GOOD EVERYWHERE.

(Southern Christian Advocate.)

Whether we have, like Texas, a great gathering of preachers, or not, we can have its purpose, a zeal for the souls that will not be satisfied until the Revival comes down from on high.

"The rapid rise of the land about Hudson Bay is said to be the most remarkable gradual upheaval of an extensive region ever known," says the "Scientific American." "Driftwood-covered beaches are now twenty to sixty or seventy feet above the water, new islands have appeared, and many channels and all the old harbors have become too shallow for ships. At the present rate, the shallow bay will disappear in a few centuries, adding a vast area of dry land or salt marsh to British territory in America."

A most remarkable convent is to be found in the catacombs of the Russian cathedral at Kiev. Deep down beneath the magnificent cathedral are miles of subterranean corridors, lined with cells, in which 1,500 ascetics perform their daily devotions and duties, live, eat, and sleep, in the grim company of their dead predecessors.

Fifty walnut trees in Cass County, Mich., were recently sold for \$10,000 cash. These trees have now been felled, and will be shipped to English buyers. The largest tree was seven feet in diameter at its base, and will yield lumber worth from \$700 to \$1,000.