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

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RALEIGH CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE.

EDITORIAL.

IN THE ALBEMARLE SECTION.

The section lying north of Albemarle Sound is usually known as the "Albemarle section." We see no reason, however, why the section lying immediately south of the Sound should not be known by the same name. Anyway, we will call it by this name. It is one of the garden spots of the State, peopled by some of the choicest citizenship of all our Southland.

ROPER

The mill-town of this section. A wonderful town it is. It has a population of 1200, and yet there is no organic town government, no mayor, no police, no town taxes, no town-rooms. These urban accessories are considered unnecessary. The people are intelligent, honest, energetic, hospitable, and self-reliant. Of course the little feudalistic town is made happy with the music of church bells. The simplicity of its life has not been destroyed by the wash of a certain type of nineteenth century life. They almost as a rule love the Bible, the family altar, the Sunday school, the preached Word. Roper is the outcome, the logical sequence, the concrete expression of the vast business of the

JOHN L. ROPER COMPANY.

It is here that this company whose federal habitat is in Norfolk has planted some of its great lumber mills. The following is the organization of the company: President, John L. Roper; Vice-President, George W. Roper; Secretary, W. B. Roper; Treasurer, R. D. Parrott; Superintendent at Roper, L. G. Roper a familiar figure in North Carolina Methodism; Lumber Bookkeeper, J. H. Clark; Bookkeeper, Ernest Clark. It is not often that gold mines are found in swamps. Yet the John L. Roper Company has drawn gold in the shape of lumber out of a great swamp stretching eighteen miles in one direction and twenty-six miles in another, and containing over 80,000 acres—all owned by the Company. There are daily found in this swamp three hundred men cutting down and transporting to the mills vast cargoes of the best pine and juniper. Through the kindness of Bro. J. H. Clark, Lumber Book-keeper, we are able to give the following facts concerning the three mills at Roper: Albemarle Mill, capacity 60,000 feet, board measure, per day. One hundred and ten operatives. Monthly pay roll, \$2300. Foreman, R. L. Williams. Juniper Mill. Product, shingles, 20,000 boat boards and tank planks, 20,000 shingles, and 15,000 pickets. Operatives, 50. Monthly pay-roll, \$1,500. Foreman, D. W. Merritt, a brother of our Merritt, of the North Carolina Conference, Creek Mill. Product, shingles, 40,000 per day. Operatives, 72. Monthly pay-roll, \$1,750. Foreman, J. R. Kissinger. Company Store. Stock, \$18,000, worth of goods a year. Manager, W. L. Whitehurst; H. T. Jack-

son, Wm. Towe, Charles Spruill, and Nathan Tucker, salesmen. (We rejoice to say that nearly all whose names have been mentioned are readers of the "Old Raleigh"). The monthly pay-roll in the swamps is \$4,000. The product of the mills is shipped principally to the New England States and to England. The monthly freight bill is \$6,000. The Albemarle and Pantego Railroad, running from Mackey's Ferry, on Albemarle Sound to Bellhaven, on Pamlico Sound, was built by the Company. The Company has been operating at Roper for thirteen years, and there has not been a single fire. The business is admirably managed, and runs like clock-work.

SUPERINTENDENT L. G. ROPER

lives at Roper, and is one of the pillars of the Methodist Church there. He is always seen at our Annual Conferences, where he is found hard at work. He is Secretary of the Board of Stewards and Superintendent of two Sunday schools. He shows his Pennsylvania Dutch blood in his physical, mental, and religious build. He combines religion and business in an admirable way. He was exceedingly kind to us.

"PREACHER" E. H. DAVIS

presides over Roper Station, one of the best in the Conference. The church at Mackey's Ferry, four miles distant, is connected with this station. Bro. Davis is closing his second year on this work. Of course Davis is a success here, as he always has been since we knew him at Old Trinity. He is a man of books and of pastoral and pulpit ability. He is brimful of enthusiasm, and its fire is "catching." He is blessed with an intelligent and consecrated wife, furnished by the Baptists. Our stay under this roof was only too short for us.

THE EPWORTH LEAGUE CONFERENCE

on Sunday, October 29, held in the Methodist Church at Roper, was a great occasion. The lowering clouds, the fore-runners of the Caribbean storm, whose chargers dashed up our coast a few days later, did not prevent the assembling of a large congregation. Bro. L. G. Roper was President of the Conference, which consists of two Leagues, the Haygood, at Roper, and the Albemarle, at Mackey's Ferry. Bro. Frank Wilson is President of the former, and Mrs. W. S. Davenport, of the latter. As we sat in the pulpit on Sunday and looked at the large crowd of people assembled, heard young laymen speak, and timid, retiring women read with enthusiasm their reports, which were so gratifying, our emotions were kindled, and we felt that we were face to face with a practical demonstration of the success of the Epworth League, and a certain prophesy of its ultimate success. Away down there in that land of "wind and water" are Epworth Leagues which promote the intellectual and spiritual interests of the young men and women, which make them practical workers in the vineyard of the Lord, and which carry the "cup of cold water" to the least of Christ's disciples. What has been done at Roper, can be done anywhere in the North Carolina Conference. It is a reproach to our Conference that we have not a greater number of Leagues like those of Haygood and Albemarle. Long may these prosper! They are monuments to the intelligent zeal of Bro. Davis and others, without whom they could not have been realities.

This editor addressed the Conference at 11 a. m. The music, the reports of the different officers, and the speeches of Bros. Davis, Wilson, and Towe, were highly enjoyed. The altar and pulpit were artistically decorated with flowers and the League colors. We trust that just such a Conference may be held within the bounds of every charge within the North Carolina Conference.

OTHER MATTERS.

We wish we had time and space to

speaking of the kindness of Bro. M. T. Plyler, whose guest for a night we were in the comfortable home of that elect lady, Mrs. Barden. We wish we had time and space to tell something of our homeward trip. Under skurrying clouds, amid moaning winds and fitful dashes of rain, we crossed Albemarle Sound in the majestic barge, the "John W. Garrett," built at a cost of \$75,000, and capable of transporting twenty-four loaded railroad cars. As we were whirled along under weeping skies to Norfolk, we thought of Willis, Hornaday, Beaman, Giles and others, and wondered if they were not hugging the fireside close. The memory of the ride through that wild Monday night from Norfolk to Raleigh, will long be remembered. As the winds howled and the rain beat tumultuously against the windows of the Chattanooga Special, as it sped without a break through the inky darkness, we thought of the destructive revelry along the Atlantic coast, and we thanked God for His blessings on land and on sea.

ANOTHER MONUMENT.

Doubtless very few of the citizens of Raleigh know that the building now under construction, at the corner of Hillsboro and Salisbury streets, is, when completed, to be presented to the city as a library. The generous donor, Mr. R. B. Roney, will make Raleigh a gift of which the whole State should be proud. The purpose for which the building is intended should commend it to every citizen as of incalculable value, for it will remain a perpetual monument to the public-spirited man who makes the gift, and a blessing to the rising generation, who may reap the benefits accruing to those who desire to improve their minds. There are, comparatively, few real philanthropists; men who, for the sake of doing good of a permanent character, spend their money that others, whom they never knew, may be benefited by the act. We can class Mr. Roney as one of the three men of Raleigh who have indelibly impressed their memory upon the hearts of a grateful public. We allude to the late Stanhope Pullen and A. F. Page, whose generous donations—one to the city, the other to the Methodist Orphanage—will forever remain as monuments of their love to their fellow-men.

In token of our gratefulness to Mr. Roney, we think a public recognition of this gift to the city should, at the proper time be made, to show that we are not insensible to the large liberality of those who, without recompense, expend their means for the general welfare. We would suggest to those who appreciate good literature, and desire to have the library filled with good books, to donate one or more books, so that at the opening of the library, the shelves may be well filled.

DECADENCE OF THE PRAYER MEETING.

In these days of pessimistic thought we hear of divers "decadences." The "decadence of the prayer meeting," meaning, of course, the mid-week service, is a familiar expression. Is there such a thing as the decadence of the prayer meeting? In our humble opinion, no. In our boyhood there were strong prayer meetings and weak prayer meetings. In these closing days of the decade we have the same kinds.

In the majority of cases where the prayer meeting is not what it should be, the complaint has its legitimate place at the feet of those who conduct it. We are not impeaching the mind or heart of the leader. Oh, no. But we mean to say that the leader, generally a preacher, does not adequately appreciate the value of the mid-week service nor sufficiently realize the necessity of a most thorough preparation on his part. Giving his best thought to the Sabbath service, he has a natural tendency to depreciate the mid-

week service. Consequently, in many cases there is no preparation in the way of study and prayer. He goes to the house of God with mind and heart clinging to semi-secular affairs. The whole service is perfunctory. The effect is patent and painful. The inevitable "psalm" and the few "scattering remarks" have a decidedly narcotic effect. The organ is asthmatic. The singing is from the throat. The prayers are long and tedious. The roaring of the stove, or the droning of the beetle which has ventured within the sacred precincts, sounds decidedly lonesome. The "faithful" leave with yawns visible and audible. Is it any wonder that there will be some next week who will feel too "tired" to go to prayer meeting?

Beloved, the prayer meeting is generally what the leader makes it. Let him give his best thought previously in the way of preparation to some fresh, practical religious thought, instead of relying on something akin to Hervey's Meditations and covered with the dust of the tomb; let him talk much with God and get a bountiful supply of that power which comes from a complete dependence on the third Person in the Trinity, and every one at the meeting down to the brother who sits on the doorsteps, will feel that something more than human is in the very atmosphere. Spiritual anæmia will be changed to spiritual health and zest.

Course of Events.

THE Alaska boundary dispute has not yet been settled. Canada has, however, made a proposition, whose acceptance is extremely problematical. It is, that the boundary line between American and Canadian territory in Alaska be arbitrated upon terms like those imposed by the United States and Great Britain over Venezuela. A fifty years occupation by either side will give the right to title. Occupancy of less time will be subject to consideration and settlement in an International Court of Equity. According to this, Skaguay and Dyea will be conceded to the United States, and Canada will receive Pyramid harbor. The United States will virtually trade maritime for mining interests. It remains to be seen what the adjustment should be.

THE launching of the new torpedo boat, Shubric, at Richmond, Va., last week, was a very significant event. It means that the South is expanding in her commercial and manufacturing interests, and is becoming a formidable competitor with the North in something else than the manufacture of cotton goods. When the Trigg Company, of Richmond, bid some time ago for the building of the new torpedo boats, and underbid the great Northern firms by \$30,000, great surprise was expressed, and for awhile the Government was in doubt as to the wisdom of giving this important matter into the hands of the Richmond firm. But the Trigg Company has demonstrated its ability to compete successfully with older firms. Industrial distinctions are being rapidly obliterated, and it has been well said that "it is no longer Yankee ingenuity and Yankee enterprise we boast of, but it is American ingenuity and American enterprise to beat the world." We are glad that the South has been recognized as an integral factor in the Union.

THE latest news from South Africa is that the British have suffered a severe defeat near Ladysmith. A large number of British soldiers have been captured by the Boers under General Joubert. The British army is now surrounded at Ladysmith. At the present writing, the Boers are bombarding the place, and General Buller is bending every energy to hold the place until he can be reinforced. General Buller, it is said, has

arrived at Cape Town, and is making his way northward. General Symons is dead.

THE storm which swept the coast of North Carolina last August was unusually severe, being marked by great loss of life and property. But from all accounts, the Caribbean storm which swept up the Atlantic coast on Monday night, the 30th ultimo, was equally severe. The damage done at Carolina Beach and Wrightsville was very great. The wind blew at the rate of seventy-five miles an hour and the tide rose unusually high. As yet no loss of life has been reported.

A GREAT deal has been said about the Philippine Commission. This Commission has just presented its report to President McKinley. It has no tendency to strengthen the contention that the present war is one of "criminal aggression", and that the United States should at once withdraw its troops from Luzon. The Commission, while at Manila, occupied itself in hearing statements of leading men as to the capacity of Filipinos for self-government and on other points. The finding of the Commission may be thus summarized: Dewey gave Aguinaldo permission to go from Hong Kong to Manila on the Olympia. "No alliance of any kind was made with Aguinaldo nor any promise of independence made to him, then or at any other time." Before the outbreak persistent attempts were made by the Filipinos to provoke the U. S. soldiers to fire on them. Hostilities were inaugurated by a party of insurgents attempting to pass the American lines: The rebellion is not a national movement, and trouble exists only at points to which armed Tagalogs had been sent. The only island apart from Luzon where serious trouble threatens is Panay. The Filipinos cannot assume self-government without training and experience under the guidance and tutelage of an enlightened and liberal power. Should our troops be withdrawn at this stage, the government of the Philippines would speedily lapse into anarchy. We cannot, from any point of view, escape the responsibilities of government which sovereignty entails.

Getting Into Trouble Through Religion.

Most men who get into trouble do so through neglect of religion. Drunkards, brawlers, burglars, and all law-breakers have themselves to thank for their disasters. For every one who gets into trouble because he has stood for duty, there are a thousand who do so because they have been faithless to duty. It is true that "godliness is profitable unto all things", and yet is also true that at times fidelity to duty may bring a man into severe straits. This is because this world is hostile to God, for it does not love righteousness any more now than in days by. Daniel was the most upright man in the kingdom, and yet to-day we find him, just on that account, the only man in the kingdom in a den of lions. But he is not the only man who has suffered in this way. Joseph went to prison rather than do a wrong thing, and John the Baptist lost his head because he dared to tell the truth. Paul and Silas went to jail because they did a good deed, and, in doing it, antagonized some wicked men. In fact, if we could assemble all those who have suffered for righteousness' sake, and march them in one army, we could form several regiments each a thousand strong. Among them we should find those who had been beheaded, those who had been stoned, those who had been sawn asunder, many who had been burned at the stake, many more who had been tortured, many who had been slain with the sword; while, at the head of all this "army of martyrs," would march their great Captain, who Himself suffered the death of a manefactor on the cross. But, if this is so, how then is "godliness profitable?" In this, that even those who thus suffered had a rich reward in the deep consciousness that they were on the side of the right. This brought to them a spiritual joy and even triumph that nothing else could give.