

COMMISSION HAS CLOSED MEETING

TO HOLD THE NEXT SESSION IN THE CITY OF RALEIGH ON JULY 16.

MEETING LASTED EIGHT DAYS

No Final Reading Taken—At Next Meeting Several Proposed Amendments That Passed Second Reading Will Be Finally Acted Upon.

Raleigh.—A special from Morehead City states that after session of eight days, the commission on constitutional amendments adjourned to meet in Raleigh July 16 and take up all the measures which have passed their second reading. They are the following:

- Veto power for governor.
- A new system for taxation, allowing classification of subjects of taxation, and separation of sources of revenue.
- Allowing intermediate appellate courts between supreme and superior courts and enabling superior court judges to ride smaller circuits.
- Preventing passage of certain local, special and private acts by legislature.
- Initiative and referendum.
- Increased pay for legislators.
- Allowing Bible reading in public schools.
- Striking out the word "Rebellion."
- Prohibiting formation of corporations by special act.
- Taking away homestead from single man who has no member of his family dependent upon him.
- Allowing legislature to appropriate fines in recorder's courts to city schools.
- Compulsory school term of six months.
- Abolishing poll tax as precedent condition to voting and decreasing residence of electors from two to one year.

The commission saw that its labors could not be completed within less than a week probably, and judged that it would be better to have time for consideration before putting these measures upon their final passage.

The work by the commission has been hard and steady. Sessions were held daily all morning and evening until a late hour, while committee work was done in the afternoon. It expects to complete its labors in two or three days at the next session.

It is proposed by a member to offer an amendment killing definitely the date for inauguration of the governor.

Eight N. C. Postmasters Confirmed.
Eight North Carolina postmasters successfully passed through the fire of the senate executive session and were confirmed. Fights had been made on at least half a dozen of these, fights with which the people of the state have become familiar in the last few weeks. The following were the successful ones who now await only their commissions: Finley T. Croon, Burgaw; Finley L. Williamson, Burlington; S. P. Wilson, Fairmont; John W. Johnston, Farmville; W. F. Flowers, Fremont; Samuel V. Scott, Sanford; C. L. Harris, Thomasville, and O. K. Holding, Wake Forest. The president sent in the nomination of E. J. Britt to be postmaster at Chadbourne.

All Crops in Good Condition.
At the state department of agriculture the statement is made that crop conditions are very good throughout the state. Secretary Elias Carr of the department, just back from extensive travels through Eastern Carolina, says Edgecombe county cotton suffered somewhat from lice resulting from the cold rains a few weeks ago. The crops in Pitt county, especially the Greenville section, are as fine, he says, as they could well be. Also, on the road from Tarboro to Norfolk he saw very fine crops.

Blackwell Granted Another Reprieve.
Claude Blackwell, convicted in the August term, 1912, of Mecklenburg superior court of manslaughter, and sentenced to two years in the state penitentiary, was granted his second reprieve since the passing of sentence, the governor granting respite until August 1. Blackwell was sentenced to the state prison for the killing of Dr. Fred Misenheimer, of Charlotte, the cause leading up to the killing, was that while indulging in a poker game a row ensued and Blackwell stabbed Misenheimer to death.

Dr. Rankin is Honored.
Within the past few weeks four distinct national health agencies have honored Dr. W. S. Rankin, secretary of the North Carolina board of health and in recognition of his services in the campaign for health in the state and country, have elected him to high office in their respective organizations. At the recent meeting of the Conference of State and Provincial Boards of Health of North America, Dr. Rankin was elected secretary treasurer for a term of three years to succeed Dr. H. M. Bracken.

Moey Assistant District Attorney.
Attorney General Melkoy told Senator Owsen that he would appoint Clyde B. Hoey, of Shelby, assistant district attorney for the western district of North Carolina. The appointment will take effect in a few days, in fact just as soon as the incumbent has time to wind up the affairs of the office and put them in shape for his successor. Judge A. M. Child, of Statesville is the present assistant. It has been understood here for several weeks that Mr. Hoey would be the successor.

IN THE CAUSE OF HEALTH

Chairman of Boards of Health Name Officers to Gather Statistics of Births and Deaths.

Raleigh.—From July 1, 1913, between 1,200 and 1,500 local officers in North Carolina will act as registrars in recording every birth and death in the state and the statistics relative thereto.

For on and after that date the new health regulations makes it obligatory upon every chairman of county boards of health and every mayor in towns or cities to appoint these local officers whose duties will be to gather the so termed vital statistics relative to the life and death of North Carolina folk.

These vital statistics from every township and city in North Carolina are to be filed monthly at the office of the secretary of the state board of health. This tremendous army of health officers interested in gathering these statistics minutely both as to birth and death rate must be actively at work not later than October 1. This much margin is permitted in order that the chairmen of the boards of health and the mayors of the cities may have ample time to exercise discretion in making appointments of these local officers that are to gather the vital statistics.

However, at the present time a sixth of the area of North Carolina is engaged in the collection of these statistics and reporting to health headquarters at Raleigh.

This vital statistics collection is an experiment in the state that promises much to the ever-realizing force in North Carolina for better health. It is anticipated that these statistics will give a valuable key for a campaign against certain destructive diseases and what the percentage of deaths are due to certain maladies. Then, too, each vicinity will furnish a tab on the death and birth rate, and the causes for an unduly large death rate can be investigated with much more precision than heretofore with these vital statistics in hand.

North Carolina New Enterprises.

The Southern Tailoring Company of Winston-Salem is a new concern to transact the business of buying and selling all kinds of wearing apparel for men, women and children, with a capital stock of \$300, divided into nine shares. The names of the incorporators are: A. Shapiro, Henry Harris and Monroe Robinson of Winston-Salem. The Waynesville Mutual Benefit Burial Company, of Waynesville, Haywood county, was granted a charter for the purpose of providing "by assessments, upon its members, an amount sufficient to defray the costs and expense of a decent and appropriate funeral and interment of such of its members, who shall, at the time of the death, be in good standing, with said company.

Wrought Up Over New Auto Tax.

Automobile dealers are very much wrought up over a feature of the new automobile tax in the revenue bill whereby it is prescribed that no automobile can be sold in this state unless the manufacturer has previously paid an annual manufacturer's license tax of \$500. State Treasurer Lacy rules that this must apply to second-hand machines taken as part payment for new machines, as well as to new machines sold first hand by dealers. The dealers insist that a ruling of this sort would practically put them out of business, as there are numbers of the makes of machines in the hands of users who want to buy new machines sold first-hand by dealers, go in part payment.

Governor Grants Pardon to Two.

The pardoning power was extended by Governor Craig to two avowed criminals, both serving a combined sentence of three years and six months. Mitch Lee, convicted at August term, 1912, Transylvania court, of housebreaking and sentenced to two years and six months on the roads, was granted pardon on the condition that he live the life of a law-abiding citizen in the future. Columbus Jones, of Edgecombe county, convicted in the March, 1913, term of court of the crime of seduction under promise of marriage, and sent to the roads for a year, was pardoned with the provision that he live with wronged girl.

Wholesale Grocers Association.

Plans continue toward maturity for the great Southern Wholesale Grocers' Association, which will meet in Charlotte on July 16, 17 and 18. From the office of the Greater Charlotte Club, which by the kindness of Secretary Carraway has been tendered the committee on arrangements, word comes that the program for the convention is nearing completion. One of the features of the convention will be the banquet tendered the wholesalers at the Southern Manufacturers' Club.

Health Question in the State.

The June Bulletin of the North Carolina Board of Health is devoted principally to the presentation of advantages that come from "whole time county health officers," the insistence being that the health conditions of those counties employing efficient superintendents of health for their whole time show very marked improvement and that the additional expense is justified many times over. Considerable space is devoted to the present status of medical knowledge as to typhoid fever.

Mystery of Fires Solved.

The mystery of the series of fires at Mr. W. A. Murdock's in Cool Spring township, which has been the principal topic in the town and county for days, has at last been solved. Harvey Murdock, the 13-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Murdock confesses that he started all the fires. The confession was made to Sheriff Deaton, Deputy Insurance Commissioner Jordan and the boy's father. The child described how he slipped away from home and started all of the fires.

CONFERENCE ENDS

RELIGIOUS MEETING AT LAKE JUNALUSKA ENDS.—GOOD WORK DONE.

MISSIONARY SUBSCRIPTIONS

A More Inspiring Sight Bishop Wilson Says He Has Never Witnessed.—The Conference Was a Great Success.—Object of Meeting.

Waynesville.—With an address by the venerable Bishop A. W. Wilson, the second general missionary conference of the Methodist Episcopal church, South, which had been in session at Lake Junaluska for five days came to a close. The closing hours of the conference were featured by a remarkable outburst of enthusiasm, which added \$20,000 more to the total of \$115,000 subscribed. The grand total was pushed past the one hundred and fifty thousand mark, when it was announced that a lay worker of Mississippi had given 500 acres of land for the erection of an educational institution for the colored race. The property is valued at more than \$10,000. The total funds subscribed at this conference more than triple the record reached at New Orleans five years ago.

Bishop J. McCoy preached a special sermon at the morning service. At the closing exercises Bishop Lambur detailed the results of his personal efforts to establish mission stations in Africa, a comparatively new field of labor for the Southern M. E. church. The bishop, who penetrated the heart of the Congo country during his travels, declared that the prospects for successful missionary efforts in Africa were unusually bright.

Bishop Wilson delivered the closing address. He said that the Waynesville conference had been successful to a marked degree in point of attendance and results accomplished. At the closing exercises Bishop Lambur aroused great enthusiasm when he declared that the conference which just closed had set a new record for missionary contributions. He had never witnessed a more inspiring sight, he said, than the generous responses made to the appeal for funds when the sum of \$115,000 was subscribed in less than an hour.

Revenue Collections Increasing.

Raleigh.—With the receipts totaling the large sum of \$5,517,138.71, an increase of over a million dollars, the United States revenue department for the Eastern district of North Carolina ended its best year in the history of the department. The receipts of the fiscal year ending June 30, 1912 were \$4,377,000, the increase for the past fiscal year being \$1,140,138.71. The department has been steadily increasing its collection for the past six months, especially since taking over the South Carolina district and the department for the western part of the state has fallen behind Collector Wheeler Martin's monthly showing.

Delegation to Good Roads Meeting.

Charlotte.—Mayor Bland appointed the following Charlotte men to attend the annual convention of the North Carolina Good Roads Association to be held at the Wright Hotel in Morehead City on July 31 and August 1: Messrs. O. L. Barringer, Dr. B. J. Witherspoon, C. B. Bryant, B. Rush Lee, J. A. Jones, Thomas Garibaldi, J. O. Walker, C. C. Williams, C. C. Codrington and C. C. Hook. The circular letter announcing the convention is sent out by Dr. Joseph Hyde Pratt, secretary of the association.

Logging Train Wrecked.

Lumberton.—A log train on the Raleigh & Charlotte Railroad was wrecked three miles south of here recently as the result of a trestle being burned. The train was running backwards and on account of fog none of the crew discovered the burned trestle until the train was right on it. Nearly every car was piled in a heap. Several members of the crew were injured, but only one was hurt bad enough to be carried to the hospital.

Brown Collector For Seven Years.

Statesville.—If Col. A. D. Watts does not take charge of the office of collector of internal revenue until the 15th of this month, Collector George H. Brown will have completed his seventh year in that office, he having taken charge July 15th, 1906. During that time Collector Brown has collected in internal taxes for the government a total of \$24,613,071.70, all of which has been deposited and accounted for without the loss of a penny. Collector Brown has made a fine record in every respect.

Storms Do Much Damage.

Wilson.—Besides the killing of Mrs. Baker by lightning and damage to many farmers by hail and wind, Mr. Wiley Webb, of Saratoga township, says he thinks \$4,000 is a conservative estimate of the damage to his 10-horse crop; that his tobacco crop will not yield \$25 to the acre, and that much of his corn and cotton is badly damaged. Says that neighboring farms were badly damaged, and that half fell as large as hen eggs, and that the wind blew a hurricane and the rain came down in torrents.

Numerous Storms in Durham.

Durham.—The farmers of Durham county say that the storms of the past week have damaged young crops very much. Lightning has set fire to the barns of two farmers of the county, and Mr. Tilley, of the Cole's Mill section, lost all of his feed and some of his stock. D. S. Miller, of the northern part of the county, suffered a loss of his barn and feed. A number of the farmers of the western part of the county have been pretty badly damaged by the hail storm which followed one of the showers last week.

LAND OF THE LONG LEAF PINE

Latest News of General Interest That Has Been Collected From Many Towns and Counties.

Smithfield.—A severe electric storm passed over Smithfield recently when lightning struck the stables of W. L. Bray and killed a fine mule. There was another mule on one side and a cow on the other which were not hurt. Klinton.—Every stream in this section of the state is swollen from the recent rains. The total precipitation was over three inches, and the rivers and creeks are rising rapidly with the freshets from up state.

Raleigh.—Sheriff Sears sent deputies to search for the murderer of James Glenn, a well-known white mar in Barton's Creek township. According to reports reaching here Glenn was struck over the head with a shovel by Henry Evans, colored, who escaped.

Salisbury.—At Albemarle several days ago Spencer Watkins, agent 21, agent for the Southern Express Company at that place, was electrocuted by a live wire. In some unaccountable way a semaphore at the depot became heavily charged and he was killed when he touched it. It required three men to pull his body from the wire.

Asheville.—Secretary D. Harris, of the Western North Carolina Fair Association will go to Rutherfordton shortly to assist in the organization of a fair association for Rutherfordton county. Mayor J. P. Bean, of Rutherfordton, was here several days ago and he extended an invitation to Mr. Harris to visit Rutherfordton for the purpose.

Mt. Olive.—Up to the present time, about 30,000 barrels of Irish potatoes have been shipped to Northern markets from this point, with about 10,000 barrels still to be dug and shipped. This is a much larger yield than has ever been raised in Mount Olive's territory before, but the average price per barrel has been far from satisfactory.

Raleigh.—The time was up July 1 for receiving proposals from North Carolina towns for the location of the State Home for wives and widows of Confederate veterans, for which there was a \$10,000 appropriation of buildings and \$5,000 annually for maintenance by the recent legislature. Some town is expected to donate the site and possibly other aid in making the institution creditable to the state.

Raleigh.—T. B. Parker, director of county farmers' institutes, returning from the western section of North Carolina where he has been for the past week in the interest of the conducting of institutes during the summer months, and where his immediate interest was to aid other members of the state agricultural department in observing the work of the test farms, states that the fruit crop in western North Carolina is a failure.

Jonesboro.—The dewberry crop in Lee county has been marketed and the returns have been good. From three acres owned by A. J. Sloan, of this place, he gathered 530 crates at a netted \$2.00 per crate above all expenses of cultivating and getting on the market. This netted \$333.53 per acre, or a total for the patch of \$1,000.50, with about fifty crates left in the field for the hands after the market went down.

Charlotte.—The Mecklenburg school authorities have recently had printed a list of those attractions at the next county fair which will be of interest to the children throughout the county. The list includes the premiums and prizes offered in the various lines to be contested for by boys and girls throughout the county. The list includes all information necessary for competing for these many valuable prizes which are to be offered.

Raleigh.—Judging by the tone of the petition filed with the corporation commission through their attorney L. H. Alford, of Smithfield, the whole town of Selma are up in arms in demanding that the Southern and Atlantic Coast Line Railways provide more adequate depot facilities at this railway junction, where passengers from points south of Weldon, north of Fayetteville and eastern points stop over between trains.

Raleigh.—Robert C. Strong, North Carolina supreme court reporter, announced recently that the index of the 161st North Carolina report is in the hands of the printers and that it is anticipated that at an early date the reports will be in the possession of the legal profession over the state.

Asheville.—For the purpose of enabling the department to put a stop to reckless driving and speeding, the police committee of the board of aldermen is contemplating the purchase of two motorcycles for the use of the plain clothes men in running down violators of the speed and traffic laws.

Asheville.—The laying of the new Masonic temple and Scottish Rite cathedral, which is in the course of construction at the corner of North Main and Wooding streets, marked an epoch in the history of Masonry in western North Carolina.

Hickory.—The Business of the Catawba Co-Operative Creamery Association of this city, which was organized three years ago, has greatly increased each year. The first year of its organization the receipts were about \$13,000. For the year ending June 1, 1913, the creamery's business was \$51,935.

Statesville.—Mr. W. G. Barry, of Grover, Cleveland county, has been elected principal of the Statesville graded school, to succeed H. E. Craven, who resigned to become superintendent of the graded school at Franklinton.

Winston-Salem.—A storm of cyclonic proportions did damage estimated at \$10,000 at the mill town of Mayo-dun, Rockingham county recently. The tower on the cotton mill was removed and blown about one hundred yards falling on the cotton storage-warehouse, the top of which was also badly damaged.

BULGARIAN TROOPS REPULSE SERVIANS

REPORT DESPERATE FIGHTING IN PROGRESS JUST NORTH OF SOLONIKA.

GREEKS ARE THREATENED

A Special Dispatch to London Tells of a Most Disgraceful Incident at Belgrade. Reports of Fighting at Other Places.

Vienna.—Desperate fighting has been in progress between Bulgarians and Servians several days near Veles (Kopriv), according to the Sofia correspondent of the Neu Freie Presse. He says the Bulgarian troops repulsed the Servian southern wing with heavy losses and expect to occupy Veles shortly.

The same correspondent telegraphs that a great battle extending over an area of 50 miles is in progress north of Salonika, where 80,000 Greeks are opposed to 100,000 Bulgarians. The result is expected to be a deciding factor in the Greek and Bulgarian campaign.

The strategy of the Bulgarian commanders forced the Greeks to abandon several fortified positions near Salonika, Langasa, Lake and Beshik Lake.

Saloniki.—Greek troops captured from the Bulgarians the small town of LaHana on the railroad from Salonika to Serres. It is considered the most important position in the vicinity and the key to Serres, 20 miles northeast.

Constantinople.—The Ottoman government has not yet decided what action it will take in view of the Balkan situation but the opinion prevails here that Turkey will not allow the opportunity to escape of obtaining some material or moral benefit from the clash.

London.—A disgraceful incident marked the arrival at Belgrade of 1,384 Bulgarian prisoners of war, according to a special dispatch from the Servian capital. The prisoners were marched through the streets in the presence of immense crowds of Servians who closed in, cheering wildly at the rear of wagons loaded with wounded lying three deep, many of them apparently dying.

Desecrate Flag, Apology Follows.

Washington.—Two incidents involving desecrations of national flags which marked celebrations are expected to form the subject of complaints to the state department, though so far nothing has been heard from them.

The affair at Winnipeg, Manitoba, involving the trampling of an American flag at a British parade, probably cannot be made the basis of an official protest because the international law does not guarantee protection of flags of a foreign country except where they are displayed over official buildings. In the Tucson, Ariz., incident, however, where the flag over the Mexican consulate was torn down the state department will probably be obliged to request the local authorities to make a proper apology and amend to the Mexican consul.

Governor Mann's Denial.

Richmond, Va.—In a statement Governor Mann strongly resented the published reports that he had advocated a grand reunion of the armies of the North and the South in Richmond in 1915 on the fiftieth anniversary of the evacuation of the Confederate capital. "There is absolutely no foundation for the statement that I advocated such a reunion," said Governor Mann. "The friendly gathering of American citizens who were soldiers in both armies on the field of Gettysburg was a very different thing from the proposed celebration of the passing and fall of the Confederacy."

The Political Reward.

Washington.—A bill to take part of the appointive power from the president and lodge it in a commission of three men will be introduced by Senator Works. It is designed to prevent public offices from being used as political rewards and the chief effect would be to take from senators, representatives and party leaders their present power of recommending candidates. The proposed commission, appointed by each president at the opening of his term of office would recommend appointments.

Independence Day Tragedies.

New York.—While the movement for safety and sanity in the celebration of the Fourth of July worked wonders in the reduction of the number of victims despatches from a score of different points throughout the country account for 41 persons killed in a variety of other accidents incident to the outpouring of the holiday crowds. Twenty-eight persons were drowned, five persons were killed in automobile accidents, five in a single train accident and two killed in aeronautic sports.

Portland Ned Wounded.

Atlanta, Ga.—James W. Johnson, a notorious criminal of many aliases was probably fatally wounded by officers after he had wrecked the safe of the postoffice at Kirkwood, Ga., an Atlanta suburb, and engaged in a revolver duel with police brought to the scene by the noise of the explosion. Johnson had succeeded in blowing only the outer doors of the safe when the authorities arrived. He returned their fire until he fell with a bullet wound near the heart.

INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

By E. O. SELLERS, Director of Evening Department, The Moody Bible Institute, Chicago.

LESSON FOR JULY 13

MOSES PREPARES FOR HIS WORK.

LESSON TEXT—Ex. 3:1-15. GOLDEN TEXT—"Blessed are the meek; for they shall inherit the earth." Matt. 5:5.

Meekness does not imply any lack of aggressiveness; it does not imply a mildness of temper. Moses, we judge from a study of this chapter, was not as yet "meek above all men."

In last week's lesson we considered the birth, salvation, nursing and training of Moses as child. After Jochebed had nursed Moses (v. 9) he was returned to Pharaoh's daughter and "became her son," thereby obtaining all the rights, privileges and training of the Egyptian court.

1. His Qualifications. (1) He had a godly parentage and an early godly training. Do we appreciate the tremendous advantage of the child who is well born and well trained? True, an environment is not all-sufficient, but it is a great asset. The psalmist emphasizes this when he exclaims "thou hast given me the heritage of them that fear thy name." Ps. 61:5.

(2) Moses had a knowledge of the conditions. Born and nursed in a slave's home he knew of the oppression of Israel. Reared in Pharaoh's court, he knew how the Egyptians feared these same Israelites (Ch. 1:9, 10). Moses saw (v. 11) the burdens borne by those of his own race.

Heart of Sympathy.

(3) Moses had a heart of sympathy (v. 11). Seeing an Egyptian taskmaster evilly entreating a kinsman Moses' heart rebelled and at once he flew to his support and defence. Our Lord was "moved with compassion." A like righteous indignation impelled the Master to drive the money changers from the temple and to denounce the hypocritical Pharisees. Moses had not, however, learned self-restraint, and that he should express his sympathy at the proper time and in the most effective manner.

(4) Moses was brave and zealous, v. 12. But he acted before God told him to act. He "looked this way and that," but he did not look upward. It is evident that Moses was doubtful as to the righteousness of his anger for when he was rebuked by the two Hebrews who fought each other, he "feared and said, surely this thing is known," v. 14. In this he was correct (v. 15), for he is driven from the court and the country. At this time he had zeal without a correct full knowledge.

(5) Moses was educated. We have already seen how he was taught by his own mother and that he received the training of the Egyptians, Acts 7:22. Being brave and mighty in deeds was not enough; he was "mighty in words and deeds." Thus he was prepared to stand before Pharaoh (not the father of his deliverer, but another Pharaoh, v. 24), meet him on an equal footing, and intelligently combat his religion with that of Jehovah. God does not set any premium upon ignorance (Jam. 1:15) and the highest wisdom is to know God. Moses undoubtedly excelled in the literature and the science of his time. We ought never to forget this whenever his name is mentioned or when the books he wrote are under consideration.

(6) Moses had assurance. True, he had not as yet received God's call (see Ch. 3) for particular work and his reliance upon force, his fit-for-fall policy was not God's method of working deliverance. But Moses was obedient, and as he obeyed, God honored each step of his faith. It seems to us after reading Acts 7:22-29 and Heb. 11:23-26 that Moses had left Pharaoh's court before he slew the Egyptian. Like Abraham before him, Moses was called upon to make a great choice. Service, environment and the goal of life were involved in that choice. Read the classic language of Heb. 11:25, 26.

Moses' Mistake.

(7) Moses was meek, e. g., teachable. To us this was his greatest asset. A man may be well born, well trained and know the needs and the resources at his command, but if he lack a teachable spirit he is doomed to failure. Moses made a mistake when he slew the Egyptian. At a later date when he had learned of God he undertook the same task and on difficulties daunted him. The change from a prince's position at the court to one of a humble shepherd, a despised calling, was as essential as had been those 40 years at the Egyptian schools.

8. His error. Moses endeavored to work relief by the strength of his own arm, a mistake many Christian workers are constantly making. Our warfare is not with carnal weapons. Moses had no warrant for killing the Egyptian. He was not obeying any command other than that of impulse. The life of Moses had been miraculously spared, nor had he been subject to slavery. Yet he did not know God's method nor was it God's opportunity time to strike the blow for deliverance. It is true that the sufferings of the Israelites increased and that no one seemed to heed their cry. But God remembered. God heard their cry v. 24, and he "knew," v. 25, marg. It often seems today that poor and the oppressed are overlooked, but the "rememberers" are covetant," Ps. 105:8-10, and his promises are sure of fulfilment though they seem to be delayed, Luke 1:72-74.

9. His pilgrimage. Some one has suggested that Moses entered another school of patience which would cause him to exercise all of his meekness when he married Zipporah, Ch. 4:20-26. It is true that his father-in-law was more generous and proved a better friend than his daughter, Ch. 18:13-27. Moses gave evidence that he recognized his pilgrim character in the names he gave to his sons, v. 22 and Ch. 18:3, 4. The Christian needs constantly to be reminded that he is but a pilgrim and a stranger here below.

The Final Destiny of the Wicked

By REV. WILLIAM EVANS, D.D., Director of Bible Course, Moody Bible Institute, Chicago.

TEXT—Rom. 1:3-5.

This is probably the hardest of all the doctrines of Christianity to be received. If we ask the reason why, we receive various answers as a result. Some would tell us that this doctrine is unwelcome to many because they feel themselves guilty, and their conscience tells them that unless they repent and turn to God this awful doom awaits them. Others believe that it is because the thought of future punishment strikes terror to people's hearts, and therefore this doctrine is repulsive to them. To others, the thought of future anguish seems utterly incompatible with the fatherly love of God. Yet it is acknowledged to be a remarkable fact that both Jesus and John, who more than any one else in the New Testament represent the element of love in their lives and teaching, speak most of the future anguish of the wicked.

1. The wicked are said to "die in their sins."

John 8:21—"Then said Jesus again unto them, I go my way, and ye shall seek me, and shall die in your sins." The "death" spoken of here does not mean cessation of existence any more than eternal life means the beginning of existence. Eternal life does not mean merely to live forever, but to live in a state of blessedness forever. Eternal life deals not so much with quantity as with quality of existence. Even in this life death can co-exist with life: "But she that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth" (1 Tim. 5:6); Eph. 2:1. What men call life God calls death. Rev. 21:8 describes what "death" means: "... shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death."

2. The wicked are not annihilated. The texts most strongly urged as teaching the annihilation theory, if rightly interpreted, will be seen to refer to removal from off the earth, and not to future retribution. Here are the principal passages:

Ps. 37:20—"But the wicked shall perish, and the enemies of the Lord shall be as the fat of lambs: they shall consume; into smoke they shall consume away." This psalm is written for the encouragement of Israel, and against her enemies and their power on the earth. This earthly power shall be utterly broken, and be of no more account than the smoke of a burnt sacrifice. The great truth taught here is that the earth is the inheritance of the saints, and that the wicked shall have no part in it.

In speaking of the "everlasting punishment" with which the wicked will be visited, as recorded in 2 Thess. 1:9, the annihilationist would say that reference is made to the "results or consequences" of that punishment and not to the punishment itself. But the Scriptures state that it is the "punishment" itself, and not the consequences, that is everlasting.

What need is there of a resurrection if the wicked are to be annihilated at death, or why should they be raised from the dead if only to be at once extinguished forever? Again, there is no such thing as "unconscious" punishment. You cannot punish anything that is unconscious. Can you punish a stone or a house? Punishment can take place only where there is consciousness on the part of the one suffering.

3. The wicked are to be punished. This punishment is eternal. We read of "eternal" or "everlasting" punishment, "everlasting" fire. It is objected that the word "eternal" or "everlasting" does not mean "forever." This may be true. But we are all willing to admit that when this word qualifies the condition of the righteous it means forever, without end, e. g., the righteous shall go "into life eternal." The same word, however, qualifies the punishment of the wicked, e. g., "these shall go away into everlasting punishment." Fairness demands that we make the joy of the righteous and the punishment of the wicked—both qualified as they are by the same word—of the same duration. If there is any end to the reward of the righteous, there is also to the penalty of the wicked. The one lasts as long as the other. If "destruction" means annihilation, then there is no need of the word "eternal" to qualify it. Further, the Scriptures present the punishment of the wicked not only as "eternal" (or age-long), but as enduring "for ever and ever," or "unto the ages of the ages" (Rev. 19:3; 20:10; 14:11, R. V.). Here is a picture of ages tumbling upon ages in eternal succession.

4. "Fire." This is one of the most constant images under which the torment and misery of the wicked is represented. Fire is a symbol of the divine judgment of wrath (Matt. 5:22). In Matthew 3:10 the godless are represented as a tree hewn down and cast into the fire; in 3:12 the chaff (godless) is burned with unquenchable fire; in 13:42 the wicked are said to be cast into a furnace of fire.

5. The "fire" spoken of here literal fire? It is an accepted law of language that a figure of speech is less intense than the reality. If "fire" is merely a figurative expression, it must stand for some great reality, and if the reality is more intense than the figure, what an awful thing the punishment symbolized by fire must be.