

# The Christian Sun.

Devoted to Religion, Morality, the diffusion of useful Knowledge, General Intelligence, and the support of the Principles of the Christian Church.

PUBLISHED SEMI-MONTHLY.

"THE LORD GOD IS A SUN AND SHIELD."

\$1 PER ANNUM, IN ADVANCE.

VOLUME VIII.

RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA, OCTOBER 22, 1851.

NUMBER 20.

## THE CHRISTIAN SUN

PRINTED BY

J. W. CHADWICK.

H. B. HAYES, Publishing Agent.

EDITED BY W. B. WELLS, J. R. HOLT, H. B. HAYES.

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TERMS. One dollar per annum, payable in advance

or one dollar and twenty-five cents if payment be delayed

six months.

No paper will be discontinued until all arrearages are paid,

except at the discretion of the Publisher.

Any person obtaining five subscribers, and forwarding

the money in advance, shall receive the sixth copy one

year for his services.

Advertisements, consistent with the character of the

paper, will be inserted at the following rates: fourteen

lines or less for the first insertion one dollar, each subse-

quent insertion twenty-five cents. They must be accom-

panied with a responsible name. A reasonable reduc-

tion will be made to those who advertise by the year.

All communications for the Christian Sun must

be directed to H. B. Hayes, Raleigh, N. C., free of post-

age, or they may not be attended to.

From the Herald of Gospel Liberty.

### First Annual Report of the Christian

General Book Concern.

BY MR. J. R. FREESE, GENERAL AGENT.

In presenting this, our first annual report, we have much to be thankful for, and but little to complain of. It is true, that we have not made so great progress as we could have desired; yet in consideration of the immense difficulties which we have had to overcome in planning and getting into operation this new enterprise among our people, I think we have cause for rejoicing that it has progressed so well. Thus far we have been but laying the foundation-stones for our noble superstructure:—from henceforth we shall commence to build above ground, and ten more annual announcements shall have been made. We hope to present our friends with a Book Concern in full and successful operation, sending forth its thousands and tens of thousands of Christian publications every year, and thereby spreading light and truth over the world, besides creating for itself a fund with which to send forth the faithful missionary and colporteur on their errands of love and mercy.

I have been much disappointed in the amount and source of assistance in this new enterprise. Many whom I had supposed would be faithful and stand aloof from the work, have come nobly up to my help, and by their kind advice, their influence and their money, have greatly assisted in bringing it to its present position; while others, of whom I had expected much, have done nothing; yes, worse than nothing, for their very silence and inactivity have prevented others from assisting us. The time will surely come when all such will repent of their inactivity! When by the struggles of a few and the upholding of many of our Book Concern shall have reached a high, honorable and permanent position then will all those who have assisted it in its early struggles look up with joy and exclaim, "I was one of those who helped to rear that noble structure; while those who have, and will still continue to withhold their support will look down with shame and confusion, sorrowing that they helped not in so praiseworthy an effort."

I cannot speak in too high terms of the faithful labors of our Sub-Agents, each of whom has been zealously engaged in furthering on the interest of our Book Concern: and when it is remembered that they do their labor gratuitously, I think all will accord to them an earnestness of spirit and a love of our Christian cause, such as should be felt and manifested by every member of the church.

There have been a few changes since the first appointment of our Sub-Agents. One of our most esteemed companions—Bro. R. P. Barry of Boston—has died, and Elder E. Edmunds has been appointed as his substitute. Some few have been added. The following is a list of our Sub-Agents at the present time:

J. E. Brush, No. 4 Chatham Square, N. York city; E. Edmunds, No. 14 Oxford st., Boston, Mass.; B. F. Carter, Herald Office, Newburyport, Mass.; Jasper Hazen, Palladium Office, Albany, N. Y.; N. Summerbell, Cincinnati, Ohio; James Williamson, Herald Office, Springfield Ohio; Wm. B. Wells, Residence, Suffolk, Va.; Alfred Iseley, Residence, Graham, N. C.

I have had frequent applications from the North, South, East and West to establish agencies in particular sections, and in each case the brethren have very kindly offered to become the Agents gratuitously; but owing to the scarcity of funds, consequent upon the newness of our enterprise, I have been compelled to decline nearly all such applications, although within a few days past I have added one other Agent in the person of our much esteemed brother, David Mann, Esq., of Harrisonville, Pa., and as soon as our circumstances will permit we expect to appoint others in sections remote from the Agencies already established. Of course it is both our pleasure and interest to have as many Agents as possible; but, as each Agency requires more or less of stock on hand, we are not in a pecuniary condition as yet to much extend our operations in that way.

Several other brethren, besides the regularly appointed Agents, have kindly volunteered their services in selling the publications of our Book Concern—some of whom have purchased our

publications by the hundred and thousand, and scattered them by sale and gifts throughout their neighborhood and State. To all such we return our very many thanks, and hope that hundreds of others will volunteer in the same good work.

The following table will show about the amount of sales up to the time specified—and by whom:

J. E. Brush, from Jan. 13 to Aug. 1,	\$111,17
J. Hazen, (no report sent in as yet) about 150,00	
E. Edmunds, from Feb. 28 to July 1,	43,31
N. Summerbell, from March to Aug.,	41,18
W. B. Wells, from April to Aug.,	50,44
James Williamson, " " "	20,88
A. Iseley, (cash sent on acct. of sales)	10,00
B. F. Carter, from April to Aug.,	45,64
J. R. Freese, from Jan. to Sep.	624,99

Whole amount of sales to date, \$1103:61  
Of this amount \$876.24 has been received in cash by our General Agent, and \$227.37 still remains in the hands of Sub-Agents and others.

The pecuniary condition of our Book Concern stands as follows:  
Received from sales and Sub-Ag'ts, \$876.24  
Paid out in cash and notes, 1217.27  
Leaving a balance due me of 341.03  
which amount is doubly and trebly overbalanced by the stereo type plates and books on hand. Having received no inventories from our Agents, of stock on hand, it is impossible for us to state the amount of profits made, but suffice it to say that our "labors have not been in vain."

We have an assurance on our stock at the general depository for one thousand dollars. Each of the Sub-Agents have some stock on hand—how much I cannot state exactly—on some of which an insurance has been effected by themselves. Bro. Summerbell wrote me that he had insured his, for us, in our name.

In considering the amount of sales great allowance must be made for the newness of the enterprise, and the many difficulties to be overcome by the Agents. When our people shall have become more awake to their own interest—more concentrated in their efforts; and more zealous in spreading the great truths they have espoused, then can the same amount of Agents, and with less labor to themselves, scatter ten, yea 20 times the amount within the same short space of time. The amount of good that has been and will be accomplished by our Book Concern, is not to be estimated in dollars and cents only; but in the vast amount of good that is to be accomplished in the scattering of its publications broadcast over our country. Already has it sent forth over 15,000 Christian publications, besides hundreds of a religious though not strictly denominational character. The 15,000 already scattered will probably be read by 50,000 persons, and who can estimate the amount of influence that the reading of them may have upon those into whose hands they happen to be placed! The reading of a single Christian book or tract has sometimes been the means of dispelling error and making men our true and abiding friends—who can begin to estimate the good effects consequent upon the reading of thousands upon thousands.

Our Book Concern, within the past year, has published as follows:

1 Pocket Edition Ch. Psalmist,	1000
1 " " do do	500
4 Editions Gen. Convention Report,	6000
1 " Lawshe's Conf. Address,	1500
1 " Ch. Hymns for S. Schools,	2000
1 " Plummer's Debates with McCalla,	1000
1 " Plummer's Debates with Burleigh,	1000
1 " Plummer's Disquisition,	1000
3 " Ch. Register and Almanac for 1852,	5000
2 " Ch. Psalms—printed by Elder Hazen for our Book Concern,	2500

Whole amt published this year, 21,500

In addition to the above, Bros. Philetus Roberts and J. E. Brush purchased for our Book Concern 1000 copies of Worcester's Bible News in sheets. We had them bound. We have within the past year received several consignments of books from publishers and others, all of which has helped and still helps to make up the assortment in the hands of Agents.

Our arrangement with the American S. School Union by which they agreed to allow us a large per centage off from the catalogue prices, has been of great advantage to our Book Concern already, and will be of still greater advantage in future. We have received orders for a considerable quantity of Sunday school books on all of which they have allowed us the per centage. Every Christian Sabbath School throughout the U. States should remember to buy their books of our Book Concern, as it can be no possible loss to them and will be of decided advantage to us.

The Eastern Publishing Association have within the past year transferred their whole stock of stereotype plates and books to our General Book Concern; and the Ohio Book Association will probably do the same within the next year. The Southern Association have pledged themselves heart and hand in favor of our Book Concern. The object is to have one, and only one general Book Concern, as all agree in expediency of concentration.

The labor already bestowed on our enterprise, by our Sub Agents and others, should induce a responsive effort on the part of every member and friend of our cause. To bring it to its present position has required a vast amount of mental and

physical effort,—how much I am not disposed to say, as the whole truth would seem almost incredible if told. I have myself received more than three hundred letters (written 319) and each of our Sub-Agents has had a corresponding work to do. I mention this for the benefit of those who have done nothing, hoping that it may awaken them to a sense of the duty which they owe themselves, to our Book Concern, to us, and the Christian cause!

Our greatest need at the present is funds with which to drive forward our enterprise. With a cash capital now to work upon, it could, in a few years, create a sufficient capital for itself; but unless it can receive some present help, of course its usefulness must be greatly retarded. I have myself offered to join nine others in loaning our Book Concern \$2000.00 for 5 yrs. at 6 per cent. interest, at the expiration of which time the money could be refunded and our Book Concern have a capital of at least \$5000.00, on which to operate. I would suggest, too, that every Christian church throughout the United States should take up a collection once a year in behalf of our Book Concern. This would bring the subject annually before every Christian congregation, and thus keep alive the interest which they should feel and manifest for our Book Concern; besides adding largely to its amount of funds and usefulness. If each congregation would send us only one, three or five dollars annually it would soon add hundreds and soon after thousands, to the fund of our Book Concern.

Of every Editor, Publisher and Correspondent of our periodicals I have a request, on behalf of our Book Concern, to make; namely: that every one of them will write at least one article in behalf of our Book Concern, explaining the principles upon which it is founded—the advantages to be derived from it, and our duty as a people to patronize it. I desire, particularly, that every one connected editorially with our periodicals, will write a review of this report, giving us their opinions, suggestions, hopes, fears, &c., &c. We shall confidently expect this request, at least to meet with a response from each, and the sooner the better.

We thus finish our first annual report and hope that the facts set forth will induce a great many who have heretofore stood aloof and doubting, to come forward and lend us a helping hand. We need more friends—more purchasers—more money with which to publish books, and we need, above all, the continued smiles of a kind Providence, and with such friends and such assistance, we shall listen to no such word as fail!

Philadelphia, Sept. 25, 1851.

## COMMUNICATIONS.

For the Christian Sun.

### A SABBATH MORNING MEDITATION.

How many interesting events does this blessed morning bring to our remembrance. Finishing the grand work of creation, the Almighty creator of Heaven and Earth, is represented as resting on the seventh day from all his works which he had made.

And God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it. It is this day, therefore, which brings to our recollection one of the most sublime and stupendous instances of divine Power, Wisdom, and Goodness. At the mandate of the omnipotent Jehovah, the Heavens in their exquisite beauty, divine order, and delightful harmony—the Earth and its variegated productions—and man the noblest work of God, with a soul and body curiously combined—all sprang into existence. On this glad day then, we behold through the volume of revelation, the beneficent Creator coming forth in the glory of his Majesty, and unfolding the perfections of his character, in speaking worlds into existence.

While dwelling upon this awfully interesting subject, our minds are suddenly arrested with a view of that delightful garden of pleasure in which the first innocent pair were placed. Here we behold them encircled with a ray of glory. In the image of God created he them. Man appeared as lord of this lower world, while the heavens surrounded him with a beam of divine light and glory, the inferior part of creation—the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, as well as every part of inanimate matter; all conspired to man's peace and happiness.

How gratifying, could we always contemplate man in this happy state. But we have hardly time to take a survey of the place and its inhabitants before we hear the awful sentence of heaven pronounced against him—we enquire to know the cause, and are informed that the Creator's law has been transgressed. By whom? by the very being who was so highly honored by his Maker. Plunged into the mire of iniquity, we now view him under the curse of a violated law. Expelled from paradise he becomes a fugitive upon the earth, doomed to eat his bread by the sweat of his face, till he return to the ground from whence he was taken.

But again, this blessed morning brings to our mind that auspicious event, when the mighty Redeemer vanquished the powers of hell, and opened a path for guilty man to come to the Throne of God.

The third morning had scarcely begun to dawn, when the celestial watch beheld the Saviour of sinners coming forth from the dark tomb, and reviving the desponding hearts of his disciples, by giving them a demonstration of his resurrection from the dead. No sooner do our eyes sa-

lute the rising Sun of this glad day, than we are carried in our thoughts to the place of the Saviour's burial; where we behold his anxious disciples after hearing their Lord was risen, collecting with speedy steps, and fluctuating hearts, to witness the fact of his resurrection. There stands weeping Mary enquiring; tell me where thou hast laid him? and I will take him away. With what pleasure did she recognize her Lord and Master, when he said unto her, "Mary?" Did not joy thrill through her heart while she responded Rabboni? receiving the joyful message from her Lord, saying "go and tell my disciples and Peter, that I am risen from the dead."

And now Mr. Editor, if the above lines should meet your approbation and the approbation of your readers, I will again resume the subject.

Yours to serve God in truth,  
W. N. BRAGG.  
Wilmington, Sept. 28th, 1851.

For the Christian Sun.

JUVENILE EFFORTS, No. 4.

BY C. H. PLUMMER.

DEATH!

Death—O! Death!—thou enemy to the human race. Thy power is omnipotent. No tide of human events can check thy progress, nor buffet thy invincible career. The thousand natural shocks that flesh is heir to, is consummated by thee. Before thy power

Kingdoms crumble,  
Monarchs quake,  
Tyrants tremble,  
Sinners shake.

Thy approach is appalling! The heart that was so stout in health in defying thy potency, and so indifferent to thy approach; by disease is brought to bow in humility to thy sway; and yield to thy superior skill in executing the high mandate of Him, with whom are the fearful issues of life and death. O Jehovah! What infinite, inexpressible strength is in thy "red right arm!" How puny, frail, subtil, are the efforts of thy wholly dependent beings, seemingly made against thy fixed and unalterable decrees! In vain may man attempt to fortify himself against death. This were madness.

The youth, whose soul is filled with ambitious ardent flame, and to whom this vast earth is but one

"Fair field of action, all on flower," gazes with an ever anxious eye, upon the handy work of God displayed in the sublime spectacle of nature, sees nought but bliss and fame before him—whose hopes are elevated and buoyant, need spend but an hour among the dust of the departed ones in the death repository in serene meditation, till the heart will be

"Sickled o'er with the pale cast of thought—"  
and shrink within itself. His pristine ambition will be brought low—yea dwindle with all earthly vanities and nothingness, by such a contemplation.

Death! the awful end of all flesh. Most startling announcement. The thought should be sufficient to melt all impetent hearts to penitence, and lift them to God in reverence and fear.

In meditating upon this most melancholy subject, we must all be struck as with the unseen power; and clearly behold the very startling attitude in which we stand; and be impressed—solely impressed with the momentous importance of placing our affections upon God—of living according to his most holy will!

Happy the man whose thoughts are elevated far above the withering, wasting, death-producing, life-consuming atmosphere that enclouds the earth—that belongs to time—and fixed in things imperishable and eternal, whose anchor of hope is cast within the veil that now separates visible things from the invisible.

Man here would find a due exaltation—would stand upon the lofty summit allotted him—exist in his truest upright dignity—be conscious of his spiritual and immortal safety, as in the immediate presence of God—feel truly happy. By such a desirable and delightful transformation all things would assume a lovelier aspect—the landscape would laugh anew in the development of fresh beauties—redecked in a clearer, calmer, and serene beauty—the arched canopy of heaven became as it were re-illuminated by the light of the throne of grace dispensing a more dazzling brilliancy—a richer radiance than was wont to glow before.

Behold him thus renewed, redeemed, regenerated, recreated—"old things have passed away, all things have become new." This heart in its broad expanding throbs encircles the whole human family—sees in religion, parties in politics, geographical boundaries of nations are entirely lost sight of—and love for all the articulation of every breath. This is the true interest of his soul. The ties of a common kindred or humanity entwines more closely around his heart, now the sanctified seat of the holiest affections—than the ivy would the oak.

His, is now the victory over the fear of death—and death itself. Said the pious songster of the night thoughts,

"We die a thousand deaths in fearing one."

When he shall be summoned to stand in the presence of the great Judge, he can exult in having obtained a triumph over the greatest of all foes—the "King of Terrors," and meet his fate without a murmur. Strong is the sustaining faith of the promises of God—he can exclaim in his expiring moment,

"Oh Death where is thy sting—  
Oh Grave where is thy victory!"  
Philadelphia, Penn.

For the Christian Sun.

THE TRIAL.

When a man violates the laws of the land, and stains his hands with the blood of his fellow-man, he is arrested and brought before a court of justice—witnesses are introduced, the trial commences and the witnesses are examined. They are now to tell "the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth." And if the evidence in the case is strong enough, "the man is condemned, and the day of execution is appointed. The day arrives, and the man is executed.

Now the question arises, was the sentence just? It depends on circumstances. If the man did not violate the law, the witnesses were false ones, the sentence and execution was unjust, and the innocent suffered. But on the other hand. If the man did violate the law, the sentence was just and the execution just. And why? Because the law was violated, and the penalty of the violated law had to be carried into effect. If the law had no penalty annexed to it, it would be useless.

Some might ask, is there any one to be blamed for hanging the offender? Answer—no one but the offender himself. It was not the jury nor the judge, nor the executioner that hung him; it was his own conduct and the law. Who then is to be blamed? No one except the man. If a man will willfully violate the law of the land, it is but just that the penalty of the law be enforced.

Now reader, I have spoken of the law of man, and if that law will punish the offender, what will the perfect law of God do?

We have a code of laws not made by the united wisdom of men, or by any imperfect assembly, but by the great and powerful Law-giver of Heaven. We have that code of laws that was framed, not at the capital of a State, nor at the capital of these United States; but at the Throne of the ETERNAL JEHOVAH. Yes, God has given his creature man, laws to govern and direct him through this life, and those laws have their penalty annexed. "The soul that sinneth it shall die." "The wages of sin is death."

Sin is a violation of the law of God, and the penalty annexed is death. If man will violate the law, and sin against God, he will be brought to trial. There is no possible way of escape. When a man violates the laws of the land, he sometimes can fly beyond the confines of its dominion, and there dwell in quietude and safety. Not so with the sinner. He may fly to the uttermost parts of the earth, and feel safe, yet justice overtakes and arrests him, and will bring him to trial. His case will be examined, every point will be thoroughly investigated by the impartial Judge. The man will be found "guilty," and the execution will take place. "The Judge of all the earth" will "do right."

Now who is to blame in his case? Is the Judge that condemns and passes the sentence to blame? No. Who then is to blame? The man who willfully and repeatedly violates God's law, damns himself. It is nothing but justice to man, and the violated law, for God to pass the sentence of death upon him.

Man may think it unjust to be brought to trial for his life, after he has violated the law of the land. But suppose he was to go unpunished, and mingle in society as ever, why society itself would cry out against him. We just as well have no law; or in the language of an eminent lawyer: "Go first and throw down your temples of justice; burn up your law-books, and let murder stalk abroad in the land."

We may pity and sympathize with the man, yet justice demands he shall be punished. Verily it may look hard for man to die the second death, yet if he violate the laws of heaven, it is but just for him to die. It would be unjust for God to suffer such a one to enter the celestial world, after having a fair trial and found guilty. If God was to suffer one to go to heaven, it seems to me the angels would gather around the Throne, and cry for justice.

There is a beauty in the law of the land that we admire. It is just—knows no distinction. Oh, then! how we ought to admire the law of the Lord. "The law of the Lord is perfect," it is just. God is just, and will deal justly with the offender. Reader, I admonish you to obey the law of the Lord, and in that day when you shall have to stand at His bar, and pass through a thorough trial for the deeds done in the body; and if you have obeyed His commandments and walked uprightly, it will go well with you, and you will not be condemned to death. But you will hear the welcome plaudit of "Well done good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joys of thy Lord."  
M. B. BARRETT.

Littleton, Va., 1851.

For the Christian Sun.

BRO. HAYES: It has been a long time since I have written for your excellent paper. In the multitude of business and appointments, and attending Conferences, I have delayed writing until now. After I left Va., I spent a pleasant time in Western Pa., preaching to the churches in that section of country. We had some meetings of interest, though there were no additions during my stay there. After I closed my appointments with these kind brethren, we took passage on a Steamboat and in one day and night we arrived safely in New Lisbon Ohio, and met with good brethren and friends to receive us into their houses. After spending several weeks there in company with Elder A. C. Hanger and other ministers of our people, we made arrangements to attend the Mt. Vernon Christian