

OUR PRINCIPLES.

- 1. Christ, the only head of the church. 2. The name Christian, to the exclusion of all party, or sectarian names. 3. The Holy Bible, or the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, our only creed, or confession of faith. 4. Christian character, or vital piety, the true scriptural test of fellowship, or church membership. 5. The right of private judgment and the liberty of conscience, the privilege and duty of all.

The Editor of the Sun will attend the quarterly and sacramental meeting at Suffolk on Saturday and Sunday next. Preaching on the Sabbath at 11 o'clock, A. M., and at night.

Elder James W. Wellons will preach at Pope's chapel, Granville Co., N. C., on the 4th Sunday in the present month.

NORTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE

We had the pleasure of attending the annual meeting of this body, which convened on Wednesday the 9th inst., at Hank's Chapel, Chatham Co., N. C. We did not arrive on the ground until Friday afternoon, when we were pleasantly surprised to find so large a number of ministers and brethren present, the impression prevailing, that the unsettled and distracted condition of the country would make the attendance meagre.

There were 22 ministers, 58 lay-delegates representing 30 Churches, in attendance, about 20 Churches being unrepresented. Elder Solomon Apple, presided and B. N. Hopkins and C. A. Apple, acted as Secretaries. The business of the Conference was conducted in much harmony, and several important subjects elicited much discussion. Four young ministers were licensed, one Elder from the Virginia Conference joined the body, and one minister was allowed to withdraw from the body.

The Brethren and Friends about Hank's Chapel displayed much hospitality and kindness, and asked that the Conference should convene with them the next year.

Clerical and lay-delegates were chosen to represent the body in the next session of the Southern Christian Convention, appointed to be held in May, 1862.

One of the most important measures adopted by the Conference, was the distributing of the Churches, throwing them into ten associations with four stations each, each association and station to unite in the employment of a minister and cooperate together in his support. All the districts, not being represented, only a part of the ministers entered into engagements at Conference. We hope all the associations thus formed will at once hold a co-operation meeting, and carry out in good faith the plan proposed by the Conference. If we receive the minutes in time, we will publish the report of the Committee on distributing the Conference, in our next issue.

Interesting reports on Missions, Temperance, Sabbath School, Periodicals and other kindred subjects were presented and discussed. A report of a Committee on the distressed condition of the country will be found below.

The next session of the Conference was appointed to be held with the Church at Damascus, Orange County, N. C., to commence on Wednesday, before the 2nd Sunday in October, 1862.

The proceedings of the Conference will be published in a neat pamphlet, for circulation among the Churches, as soon as the minutes can be prepared.

The preaching during the session of the Conference was listened to, by large congregations, who seemed much interested. On Sabbath a large concourse of persons were in attendance, and were addressed by Elder S. Apple, the Editor of this paper, Elder J. N. Manning and Elder B. N. Hopkins. The effect produced we hope was good.

Arriving home the day before going to press, we can give no further notice of the session of the Conference. The dear friends and brethren who were so mindful of our comfort while among them, will please accept our sincere thanks.

COMMITTEE'S REPORT

On the present distressed state of the country, presented and adopted at the late session of the North Carolina Christian Conference. Elders John R. Holt and Thos. J. Fowler and Dr. S. J. Moffit composed the Committee.

The Committee on the present distressed state of the country, beg leave to report the following:

Whereas, All religious denominations receive protection from the civil government, and thus, Provisionally enjoy all their denomination rights and privileges undiminished, when that government is in a peaceful and healthy condition; And Whereas, All Churches must suffer an identical decline, or enjoy a common prosperity just as a condition of misfortune or salutary progress is suffered or enjoyed by the country; And further, Whereas, Causes have arisen which have led to a separation of the Southern or slave-holding States from the old Union,

and the two sections are in a belligerent attitude, engaged in a solemn and sanguinary war; And

Whereas, All the Churches in the land must necessarily share the anxieties, burdens and distress of this momentous crisis; Therefore,

Resolved, That we as a denomination through the Confessors, would give expression of our views and feelings briefly upon the subject.

1. That the Southern Confederacy is not at all responsible for the war that is now raging

2. That we well understand the motive which has induced a me e section of the former government to assume to constitute that government still, and to attempt to coerce the other section into an involuntary connection with it; and that the one ruling idea of abolition unjust and unholy as it is, has urged them to this unadvised, mad and fratricidal policy, and that they alone are responsible for the war with all its calamities and horrors.

3. That without claiming any further right than belongs to every individual and every community peaceably and publicly to express opinions upon all matters of any public importance. We would meekly, though decidedly give expression of our sympathies with and for the Southern Confederacy, in her struggle for independence.

4. That the cause of our injured country should be made a subject of prayer; also, our public officers, both civil and military, and our noble army should be made special subject of prayer, by all our ministers and members, in the true spirit of prayer, with our oppressors ashamed of their iniquitous work, shall abandon it, peace be again restored, and our independence secured.

5. That we have many reasons which give us confidence to believe, that a gracious Providence is smiling upon us, hence we will still look to Him for help. We will be careful that inflation and pride shall not follow the issue, that the glory of God and the good of man may be the result.

J. R. HOLT, Chm.

EASTERN VIRGINIA CONFERENCE

We again announce that the next annual meeting of this body will be held at Hebron, Isle of Wight County, to commence on Wednesday, the 30th day of October. We hope every Church will be fully represented and every minister will be present. Delegates are expected from the North Carolina and Central Virginia Conferences. The introductory sermon will be preached on Wednesday at 11 o'clock A. M., by Elder Thomas Bashaw.

Hebron is only a few hundred yards from Carrsville, a depot on the Seaboard and Roanoke Railroad. The people of the neighborhood are very hospitable, and we doubt not ample provision will be made for the entertainment of all who may attend. Delegates from the East will arrive at Carrsville at 4 o'clock P. M., and those coming from the East will arrive at 8 o'clock, A. M.

Brethren, let us meet in annual session, in the spirit of Jesus, our head, and may the session be made profitable to the Church, and the cause of Christ in general.

OUR FUTURE COURSE.

No class of men are expected to perform so much gratuitous work as Editors. Everybody wants to get into the paper just a little piece to "fill up" We wish it understood that we do not need any such pieces. We cannot find room for our own selections. Good articles or news letters are always welcome, but long obituary notices and Tributes of Respect annoy us exceedingly. We are willing to publish all deaths free, but beyond the simple announcement of the name, age, time and place of death, we should be paid for. Societies and Associations sending us resolutions of respect must pay for them as advertisements. Our expenses are 50 per cent higher than heretofore, and we must in future be paid for all our work.

DEATHS.—There have been three deaths in the 1st South Carolina Regiment stationed here during the past week. James A. Harrell, a native of Guilford Co., N. C., a member of Capt. Alston's company, the Horry Rebel, died on the 11th, aged about 25 years.

James R. Clamp, a member of the Rhett Guards from Newberry District, S. C., died on the 13th. He was about 25 years old. Capt Walker commands the company of which he was a member.

J. S. Webb died on the 16th, aged about 20 years. He was a member of Capt McCreary's company, the Gregg Guards from Barnwell District, S. C.

All quiet about Suffolk, Norfolk and Smithfield. It is believed by some that the seeming attempt to attack our troops on the Peninsula, is to attract attention from a proposed attack on this side.

A Correspondent writing from the 28th Regiment of North Carolina Volunteers at Wilmington says the health of the Regiment is good and all are in good spirits, willing to undergo any thing that will give independence to the South.

Dr. Thomas K. Dashiell, of Suffolk, committed suicide on Saturday last by taking morphine. He was about twenty-five years old.

See the cards of Col. D. J. Godwin and S. N. Wilson in another column.

HYPOCRISY IN THE CHURCHES.

We certainly know of nothing more detrimental to the successful advancement of the cause of Christ than the hypocrisy which is manifestly shown in almost every set of some of the pretended followers of the meek and lowly Jesus. It is, we believe, a greater stumbling block over which erring sinners have fallen into eternal perdition than any other found within the limits of the church. The pharisaical demeanor of the canting hypocrite, who by every outward expression says "stand aside, I am holier than thou," but whose practical life is a direct contradiction to this sanctimonious show, has done more to serve the cause of the devil and build up his kingdom in the hearts of the children of men than any other influence which is calculated to turn aside the footsteps of an earnest enquirer after truth. The inspired Word clearly teaches us that we cannot see God and mammon—that we cannot give our hearts to Christ while we are tenaciously holding on to the world. The sinner, reasoning upon these premises, is so confounded at such a manifest difference between the teachings of the scriptures and the course pursued by the avowed followers of the same, that he becomes first a doubter and then a confirmed unbeliever in the reality of religion. Oh, the enormity of the sin of hypocrisy! Words are inadequate to portray its magnitude! Not only closing the pearls gates of Heaven against our fellow man forever, but consigning his immortal soul to the desolate regions of the damned! Pause, hypocrite, and reflect! Think of the course you have deliberately chosen and the final results of the same. If, Judas-like, remorse should come too late, your burden will only be the greater to bear, and your punishment, like his, the more severe.

The sinner, ever on the alert for inconsistency in the followers of Christ, notes and rebukes both the theory and practice of professed Christians and is enabled thereby to discover the true disciple from the false. This scrutinizing observation which the sinner takes of all who identify themselves with the church, arises solely from the loud-mouthed pretensions of the hypocrites found therein, who, contrary to the assurance of Christ, expect to be heard for their much speaking. Hypocrites are always most prominent in the display of self sanctity; always most zealous in the cause of religion when some private end, which will redound to their secular interest, is to be attained; always "in season and out of season" when self-promotion is to be the result. Such is the character of the

hypocrite who so severely rebuked while he was on earth; and such is the character of those whom the scriptures recognize as "stumbling blocks in the way of sinners." Though the sinner is not excusable, (neither will he be so considered at the great day of final accounts) for disregarding truth and purity where it really exists because error and falsehood abound, yet the sin of hypocrisy will meet its just reward—eternal banishment from the presence of God. Seeing then the deleterious effect which the hypocrite has upon the building up of the church, does it not behoove us, as true Christians, to look around us and see who they are that are thus impeding our progress in the great mission of love and mercy to fallen man; and following the example of Christ, rebuke them with no less severity, warning them of the judgment to come. When the pulpit and the church shall be effectually cleared of these wolves in sheep's clothing, then shall the good Shepherd behold his flocks prosper in all parts of the earth, and many be daily added to the fold.

News of the Day.

Since the date of our last issue, no great battle has been fought on the Potomac as was expected by many. The two grand armies are in sight almost but both lie still and wait. McClellan will not attack Beauregard and Beauregard seems not inclined to march upon Washington. A great battle is anticipated, but when it will come off nobody is at all likely to know, save the commanding Generals. Great impatience is manifested by the people on both sides, but so far as the South is concerned, we hope all are willing to trust Jeff Davis, Beauregard and Johnson. In due time a decisive blow will probably be struck.

It was reported in Richmond, that on Tuesday several Federal steamers attacked the batteries at Evansport and were repulsed. It may be before we go, to press we shall hear farther from this engagement.

From the West, we learn that Gen. Rosecrans has retreated from his position, leaving Gen. Lee still at his old place, not in a condition to pursue his enemy. It is believed that Gen. Rosecrans was no better protected, he might have taken him and all his force, but the bird had flown before he could know his unprotected position.

From the South we have good news. Col. Anderson attacked the Federal forces on Rosa Island near Pensacola, and after a pretty severe battle drove Billy Wilson's Regiment of Zouaves and the whole Federal force from the Island. The loss on our side was about 40, while the loss of the enemy was much larger. The victory on our side was complete.

A naval battle was fought on Friday night and Saturday last at or near the mouth of the Mississippi river. Com. Hollins with six vessels attacked the Federal blockading fleet and succeeded in sinking the Vincennes and capturing another schooner and a launch. The blockading vessels were driven from their position and the victory was in all respects a brilliant one. Com. Hollins figured some months since in the capture of the St. Nicholas in connection with Col. Thomas. These two victories in the South will do pretty well for one week.

LATEST NEWS.

Exciting news from the Potomac—Our army has retired to Centerville and Manassas and the Federals are advancing. The great battle is expected to commence every hour.

From the Peninsula, the news is also exciting. Gen. Magruder has learned that the enemy has just received 70 R field cannon and 500 artillery horses. Heavy firing was heard in the direction of Yorktown on Wednesday.

Events are opening. The next week will tell upon the father of our country.

It is said that Mr. Corwin, the Minister for the Lincoln government, has received permission from the Mexican government to pass Federal soldiers through their territory to attack the Texas, and it is further reported that Spain backed by England and France will assume authority in Mexico, and a war will be the result, thus defeating Mr. Corwin's plans.

Rumor says that Lord Lyons, the British Minister, has left Washington, owing to a difficulty between him and Seward. We hope it may be so. Nothing would make us rejoice more than to see Lincoln at war with England.

Gen. Henry A. Wise is very sick at Richmond, and fears are entertained for his recovery.

No letter from our Correspondent "Alamance" has been received this week.

Contributions.

For the Sun, Antioch, (Near Harrisonburg) Va., October 11, 1861.

BRO. WATSONS:—Knowing you only by reputation, and having no personal acquaintance in your section, (save Brother Jno. N. Manning, who was reared by my side) we have ever desired an intimate acquaintance with the connection South. Having been supplied in past years with ministers from the North has been the safe cause of no further intimacy with the Christians in your section. But now social necessity compels us to seek an acquaintance with you, since the time has come when nothing good (at least agreeable to the southern mind) can come from our own northern brethren. I at least can never, consistently with my present state of mind, place implicit confidence in any human being north of Mason & Dixon's line. There are, peradventure, congenial hearts, but after dissecting them, we would doubt our judgment and therefore could not believe. I speak with particular reference to the church North. There is one thing apparent and too plain for any one to contradict, viz: They are not our friends and have no human sympathy for us in our struggle for liberty. In view of this fact, I, for one, am willing that they be separated from us in order that we may have all the Sunlight of this prayed-for free Confederacy.

You are likely unacquainted with the state of things in this Valley conference. First, we are weak and in reference to ministers; we are very weak. At our last Conference there were only four ministers. Bro. Lohr, I believe, joined at that time, which added one to the number. This number would have supplied us. But hear me farther—Elder Almagor is far in the decline of life and is unable to do much for us. Elder Lohr, has, of course, gone home to Ohio. Elder Barney, of Pennsylvania, who has recently joined our Conference, and since has preached alternately in Hampshire County, Va., and Bedford County, Pa.,—when the curtain fell he too was found on the other side of Mason and Dixon's line. Elder David R. Richter, a foreigner by birth, and educated in Germany, is now living in Hampshire County, Va., and is a man of fine talent. But I am informed by letter that he takes part with neither North nor South. "Those that are not for us are against us." Elder Ward, of Hampshire County, Va., is said to be sound on the great question. He labors but very little, and is feeble. Antioch in Rockingham County and Liberty in Page County, Mt. Zion in Rago, Joppa in Shenandoah, Christian and Ebinger in Hampshire Co. These Churches lying in a circuit of eighty miles, having near if not four hundred communicants, and, as far as I can learn, are, and will be true to the South, and most of these Churches are destitute of preaching. Antioch at least, has none.

Mr. Bell, a Presbyterian minister, has been kind to preach to us a few times. I judge it proper and highly necessary to consult with the ministers and Churches also, to have the aid of the Editor of the "Sun," which is a welcome visitor among us, and I judge taken by a great number of the connection, and indeed, should be taken by all. My aim is to call a meeting

of Delegates from the Churches composing this Conference, (whenever practicable) to agree upon some plan for future influence. As it is evident that our present order, if we have order at all, is lending little or no influence I would much like to hear from the ministers and brethren, and especially from the Editor, as to whether or not a minister could be procured from his section. In answer to your query in the Sun of last week, I, for one, can say, that I will make an effort to be present at the sitting of your Conference, and if circumstances prevent, owing to the distracted condition of affairs, &c permit me to assure you that I will visit your section at some future date (hoping that you may say the same). Receive, sir, the expression of my very deep consideration. Yours, &c., JOHN BURK HOLDER, Pres't C. C. Conference

Temperance.

INTEMPERANCE AMONG THE SOLDIERS.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wakefield of the English army, recently delivered an address at Victoria Hall, in London, at the request of Lady Havelock. The Lieutenant was for thirty years a companion in arms of Gen. Havelock, in his Indian campaigns, and gives a number of interesting and hitherto unpublished facts, illustrative of the career of that noble Christian soldier, Gen. Havelock was a strong temperance man, and made strenuous exertions to induce the troops under him to abstain from all intoxicating drinks. Among other incidents, the speaker related the following striking illustration of the rapid demoralization which strong drink brings into an army:

"A curious circumstance happened to this force. It happened in this way; the inaccessibility of the country made it almost impossible to carry one load of baggage more than was absolutely necessary. The consequence was that instead of having a long train of camels loaded with grog barrels—the force entered the country without any spirit rations. We entered that country; the old drunkards were the first men to go off; they could not get stimulants, and very soon, no doubt, they died. Among other places we had to take, was a very strong place called Ghuznee; we had to blow in the gate, and we lost a good number of men. The men, after entering the place, spread to right and left. Of course, as is always given on these occasions, the order was, 'do not commit any outrages.' But I tell you plainly that when men are under fire, and are a little fuddled, they just care as much for their officers as they do for any body else, and I tell you what they will club their muskets, and say, 'You hold your jaw!' Not so at Ghuznee. Although under fire from the houses, they received their orders from the officers not to fire. Not one of them did, and there was not an outrage committed in Ghuznee—there was not a woman or child maltreated, there was not a single complaint. Time rolled on, our forces had to undergo all sorts of vicissitudes, a climate of extreme heat in Summer, and extreme cold in Winter—the commissaries could not reach them from Bengal, for they had to go through the whole of the Punjab; and up those passes which were constantly filled with hostile tribes. The consequence was that half the men in the regiments were without shoes or coats—they got what they called the 'posteen,' or sheepskin dress of the country. They wore these sheepskins.

I merely mention all this to show you the privations they had to undergo. They had to sleep on the ground and march through the snow, to go through snow at one time and under a blazing sun at another that would take the skin off your face before you could think—they did it all on cold water—(beers). Now comes the painful part of my story. The wise men of those days—I hope we shall never have such another generation—(laughter) began to say: 'Oh, but the poor soldier is without his grog; we must send him some grog.' The Governor-General, who of course is the greatest man in all India, very soon writes to the commissariat, and he says: 'Make arrangements to send up 1,400 camel loads of rum into Afghanistan.' I happened to be at the place where all these camels were being got ready and the grog being arranged. The camels started; they got their passage through Runjeet Singh (the king of the Sikhs) country, and through these passes up to Cabul. The commissariat officer was a friend of mine, and a recollector. I am sorry to say it nearly broke his heart, for he had to serve out their rations. What was the consequence? From that day there were courts-martials—from that day men were guilty of striking their officers in the execution of their duty—coming under the frightful lash—coming under the sentence of transportation for life, just for one act of passion, simply arising from drink—which they never would have done if they had been sober. I never knew a thing that so convinced the officers of the army I belonged to of the truth of Havelock's crotchet as they called it. They said, 'it is a wondrous crochete! There is a great deal of truth in it.' After they had seen the army sober for upwards of eight months, with the greatest freedom from crime, the officers not constantly in their regiments sitting on courts-martials trying their men—then comes in the liquor and the old story—I say they had overwhelming proof, and I will defy any man to overcome it—it is stronger than an axiom of Euclid.

A GUN FIRED BY ELECTRICITY.—At Edinburgh, a wire has been stretched between Redinburg Castle and the Galton Hill 4,000 feet long, which fires a gun at the Castle daily at 2 o'clock. The objection to firing a gun at the observatory at Calt Hill was that it would derange the instruments there. Accordingly a wire was stretched clear across the city without a rest. The electric current passing on it carries a clock at the Castle, which at 1 o'clock, drops a weight that discharges the gun.

Miscellaneous.

WHY THE CONFED ERATES ABANDONED THE HILLS.

The following correspondence in Augusta (Ga.) Constitutionalist, explains for the first time, so far as we have seen, the reasons for abandoning Munson's Mason's Hills. The writer, under date Sept'r 30th, says:

On Friday night all our advance fell back from Munson's and Mason's Hills to a point three miles this side of Church. The movement was executed at night, in the face of a furious storm and in the absence of any demonstration on the part of the enemy. Our position extends from Accotink, on the right to Vienna and beyond, on the left, and some five miles this side of the line abandoned. The enemy has already occupied the position we left. He has also cut off or destroyed all the movable property belonging to the people living in the neighborhood, and burnt their dwelling houses, barns, &c. Women and children have been turned out without a change of clothing or anything to eat, and many are now wandering through the country in search of shelter and food.

It is understood that Generals Johnston, Beauregard and Smith were in consultation on Thursday, and that they decided to retire our advance forces to a point three miles this side of the line abandoned. This was not done on account of any demonstration actual or threatened by the enemy, but because the new position was the old one. So near were they to Munson's Hill, that it would be impossible for us to meet the enemy half way, had he been disposed to battle, without getting within range of his posts. An advance on our part was the question, unless it was intended to storm his works. And yet it was not power at any hour of the day or night, to fall out from his forts and entrenchments, give us battle, and fall back under cover of darkness, if he found the fire too hot for comfort. This was the policy of the Confederates at Sebastopol; and you remember how harassing and damaging their den attacks were to the British and French troops. Should McClellan offer us battle hereafter, which is not to be expected, will have to come out from five miles, in which event the Confederates successful, might inflict serious injury on his forces, with all their acknowledged fleetness, could regain the cover of the hills.

The movement was ordered to be executed at night, to prevent the enemy from passing our rear, and then claiming a great victory, and from the hills and a bad driven us from the hills and a bad victory. The truth is, nothing of what had been done up to that day morning. His surprise must have been great, as well as his apprehensions for Prof. Lowe's balloon was kept nearly all day Saturday.

WHY HAVE WE NO NAVY?

A Florida Exchange thus comments upon the above interrogatory: Nearly eight months have elapsed since the Government of the Confederate States was duly organized and assumed a de facto existence. Its strength has been only augmented by the addition of States. Large armies, comprising the fighting material in the world, have been raised as if by magic, have met the hordes of the North on ground of own selection, and sent them panic-stricken to their sheltered entrenchments. Illusion of Yankee superiority in arms has been happily dissipated, their prestige gone, and Southern valor stands upheld by that of any nation.

Yet, it seems, that our successes on various battle fields have tended to enervate, or at least render us negligent, the employment of other means of warfare. Our situation, demands and circumstances justify. In our opinion, we should have had at least two or three iron-plate war propellers months ago, with which scattered navy of the United States, engaged in the blockade, could, one by one have been captured or sunk. With the immense iron factories in the South, the railroad and water facilities for transporting iron plating, we do not see why such vessels had not been made and fitted out from New Orleans. Two such vessels starting from that point could easily capture the blockaders off the Mississippi first, then visit and bag those off Mobile, Galveston, Apalachicola, Fernandina, Savannah, and Charleston. And by having large surplus forces of men on board, as adding the captured vessels to their force, they might repair and repair damages in short time, the fleet would be strong enough to cope with any that old Ab might send out. Besides, breaking the blockade, it would forever stop the marauding expeditions which now threaten our coasts. If iron clad steamers are in progress, starting with two such vessels, under competent officers, (and we certainly have such,) who will deny that we will capture or destroy the whole Lincoln navy in less than three months.

MUNITIONS OF WAR FROM EUROPE.

There reached this city on Saturday evening, from the South via Petersburg, a great number of boxes and bales, containing Enfield rifles and fixed ammunition, con-signed to Col. Wade Hampton, percussion caps, and about 30,000 excellent army blankets, comprising a portion of the cargo of the British steamship Bermuda, which recently arrived at Savannah. These munitions were said to have been nearly three weeks en route from Savannah, and it is the fact, they were in risk "in heavy water" on the part of the shippers. Several heavy rifled cannons, of an English pattern, are expected from the same steamer, in a day or two at the utmost.—Richmond Enquirer.