The Christian Sun.

EMMETT L. MOFFITT, Editor and Proprietor.

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THE CHRISTIAN SUN,
Raleigh, N. C.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 6, 1898.

If you are made of the right kind of material, properly adjusted, you will profit by the mistakes you made in 1897.

It is fortunate for good people that their eternal destiny does not depend upon the protessed opinion of modern critics.

The woman who marries a drinking man need not be surprised to find herself the widow of a man who fills a drunkard's grave.

He who has not the courage to do what he knows to be right and honest, will not be troubled with many inclinations to do the proper thing.

If anything in this column fits your case, please consider it a personal communication from one who is interested in your eternal welfare.

Those who appreciate the work of their church paper, should not fail to show their appreciation by renewing their subscription and getting others to take a trial subscription.

It man should always judge from appearances, and draw his own conclusions from what he cannot fully understand, a large portion of our population ought now to be in a pen and almost ready to be slaughtered.

We are glad to learn that some of our Sunday schools which have formerly suspended work before Christmas are still in progress. We trust that they will continue in the good work and become evergreen schools.

Be sure that you fully intend to carry out your resolutions if you make any at the beginning of the New Year. We need a greater number of men who are willing to act their resolution and not be content with the mere formality of making them only to be broken.

If the women of our land would have the courage to endorse goodness, honesty and uprightness in man and to despise and condemn all the unchristian traits of man's character, our dockets would not be crowded with divorce cases, but the number of true and noble husbands would be greatly increased.

What is often termed economy in a person is nothing in the world but plain, up-to-date, despicable, indefinable, selfishness, born of the flesh, prompted by the over-ruling power of satan; and no power under the sun is able to transform that person into a true and loyal citizen, save the love and mercy of the one all-powerful God of the Christian.

Five-cent cotton has given rise to a great deal of complaint among our farmers, but still there is much that should cause them to rejoice and praise God for his wonderful goodness to the children of men. Let each one who is inclined to grumble, think for a moment and see it his condition might not be a great deal worse than it is, and if it is net even better than he really deserves. Oh, that man would learn to look at matters from some standpoint other than his poor little perishable outlook.

MISSIONARY SECTIONS.

The Eastern North Carolina Conference, at its last annual session, set a good example for the other conferences when it divided its territory into three sections for the purpose of holding missionary meetings. The ministers are required to attend all these meetings, and all the churches are urged to send delegates to the meetings in their sections.

Our people are becoming more and more thoroughly aroused to the importance of missions, both home and foreign; but there are yet among us many who have not been awakened on this subject; and it is for the purpose of reaching these, and encouraging them into line that this new movement has been started in the Eastern Conference.

Home and foreign missions are recognized and authorized enterprises of the Christian Church; and he who accepts membership in that church at the same time assumes, in fact, if not in acknowledgment, his proportionate responsibility in this work; and until he does all that he can in the way of moral and financial support he has not discharged this sacred obligation, either in the sight of God or man.

Our people are a noble-hearted and a generous-hearted people; and all they need is to be made to see and to feel what their duty is—and they will stand ready to do it. Regular and systematic missionary meetings in our conferences will supply the missionary education that is needed; and then the accomplishment of our work will be an easy task.

No cause has ever succeeded, or will ever succeed, without universal agitation. This is especially true of any cause that appeals to men's pockets. We need to hold missionary meetings regularly, have our most representative and influential men on the program, let them present the facts as they are before the people, teach them what their duty is, and then help and encourage them in its performance.

The missionary enterprise—and the same is true of all the other enterprises—may be started in the Convention; it may go down to the conferences and be endorsed and agitated there; but even then the work is not complete. It must be carried on down into the local church, and impressed upon the hearts and minds of the individual members. After all, it is with the individual that the telling effort must be made. Generalizations may enlighten, but it takes particularizations to move to action. It is the "thou art the man", rather than the "you are the men or the churen", that brings home the sense of responsibility, and leads to conviction and readiness for reformation.

It is now nearly a year before the conferences will meet again; but we would like to see the executive committees of the various conferences divide their territory into convenient sections, as the Eastern Conference has done, and hold regular missionary meetings in each section at least two or three times a year. It will be very little trouble or expense, if the divisions are properly made, and these gatherings will quicken the work along all lines. It will help the ministers to get together oftener, and it will help the churches. The exchange of ideas and the personal contact will be both enlightening and encouraging. It will create a more intimate relationship, and bind pastors and people together in a closer and sweeter spirit of brotherly love. Brethren let us make this year the greatest missionary year in the history of the Christian church. Therein lies our surest hope of numerical and spiritual growth and strength.

A BROKEN VOW.

The season of repentance and good resolves is now on us; and many are the hearts that have saddened over the review of the past year's experiences; and about as many are those that have stifled the sobs with heroic vows of a changed life during the coming year.

Few of us can honestly review our past year's life without sorrow over some misdeeds, and sore regret over the many opportunities that we have allowed to slip by unimproved. It is true that we cannot recall the past and live it over again, but so long as we are willing to take an honest retrospect of the gone year, so long as it brings us down upon the knees of repentance, and causes us to make higher and nobler vows for future guidance, there is hope of reformation and greater usefulness hereafter. But when you find a heedless, reckless fellow who will not stop to think over his sins of omission and of commission, who does not want to repent, but who prefers rather to continue in his sins, there is very little hope of him. He has sold himself to the devil, and the devil will take him home.

If you have not already taken this reprospect, you had better do so—it will enable you to make the coming year richer and fuller for yourself and for those with whom you come in contact.

It will not be long, though, before many of these new year's vows will be broken. As we get farther and farther away from the past, many times our mistakes become less hideous—in fact, we "don't see much harm in them anyway"; and the transition back into the old ways is quick and easy. It is sad to think of the weaknesses of human nature that many of us have fallen heir to and built up within ourselves, but there is some re-assurance in the fact that, though we err, many of us are willing to try again—though the vow be broken, we quickly set about its mending. But how much nobler to vow your reformation, and stand by that vow like a man. You can do it if you will. How many broken vows will you have to weep over next year?

INTERESTING NOTES.

—Bro. J. R. Prince, of Apex, N. C., was in the office Monday, and before leaving, subscribed for THE SUN.

—The editor and his wife were delightfully entertained one day last week by Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Morris, in their new home at Central Falls.

—Miss Ulabell Edwards, of the Berkley Military Institute, spent the holidays with her parents in Durham, N. C. She returned to Berkley Monday.

—Rev. J. L. Foster has decided to preach at Wentworth the second Sunday morning of each month. He will, as heretofore, preach at Raleigh in the evening.

—Rev. W. S. Long, D. D., of Elon, N. C., preached a very interesting sermon to a large and attentive congregation at Antioch Christian church last Sunday.—Suffolk Herald.

—Rev. W. D. Harward was in the office Monday, and gave us a nice list of renewals to THE SUN from his field. Bro. Harward filled his first appointment at Catawta Springs, Wake county, Sunday, preaching to an appreciative congregation.

—We asked a brother who attended the Christian Missionary Association to give us a report of its meeting for THE SUN, and he promised to do so; but as yet, we have heard nothing from him. It is late now, but "better late than never," brother. Let us have the report yet.

—Dr. Herndon goes back to the Valley again this year as our general missionary under the auspices of the Christian Missionary Association. He has done a fine work in the Valley, and we wish for him even greater success during the coming year. He should have the sympathy and prayers of our people.

—The editor of THE SUN was at Randleman the evening of the fourth Sunday in December, and delivered his address on the "Origin, Government, and Principles of the Christian Church." Rev. J. W. Parker, the pastor, was away at one of his other churches, but we met with a good congregation and a cordial reception.

—We had the pleasure of hearing Dr. Newman preach two very able sermons in the Asheboro Christian church last Sunday. His text for the morning was from John 15: 16, and for the evening from 2 Cor. 7: 17, 18. Dr. Newman is very much appreciated in Asheboro, and we feel sure that the church will prosper under his leadership.

—Rev. J. W. Holt in a private letter to THE SUN says: "I was at Lebanon last Sunday and found that the people generally were so well pleased with the conference that they want it again next fall. But as that is now out of the question, quite a number say that they are going to Hebron next Nov. I called to see our venerable brother, S. Apple, who has been very sick since conference, but was some better, and his friends think he will rally again."

—Mr. Ricks, of THE SUN, returned Monday from a very pleasant visit of ten days to relatives and friends in Eastern Virginia.

—Editor Moffitt and Mrs. Moffitt have returned to Raleigh after a pleasant holiday sojourn with their mother at Asheboro. They will make their home with Mr. W. B. Mann, corner Wilmington street and Newbern avenue.

—Mr. D. J. Mood and family were in Raleigh last week, the guests of Rev. and Mrs. J. L. Foster. They were on their way from Suffolk, Va., to Burlington, N. C., where they will reside in the future. Bro. Mood has purchased an interest in "The Burlington News". We wish him abundant success in his new field.

—Rev. N. G. Newman preached an excellent sermon in the Franklin, Va, Christian church last Sunday after-noon. Bro. Newman has accepted a call to serve this church the ensuing year, and will preach there the first Sunday after-noon and the third Sunday evening in each month. Both Bro. Newman and the church are fortunate: Bro. Newman in having such a pleasant people to serve, and the church in having such an able and earnest man for pastor. It is probable that Bro. Newman will make Franklin his home.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Holland Items.

Last Saturday was quarterly meeting, and Sunday communion day with the Holland Christian church. The attendance was not large on Saturday, being Christmas day. Business of importance was transacted in much harmony; and the report of the finances of the church was encouraging. One good brother, capable of much usefulness, presented a letter of transfer and was received to church fellowship. Sunday morning was very rainy and inclement and no services were held at the 11 o'clock appointment, to the regret of many. Being disappointed in having our regular sermon and communion services in the morning and mission meeting in the evening, we have appointed 4th Sunday in January for these services. Brethren who take THE CHRISTIAN SUN will please make the appointment known, so that there may be a general understanding as to the matter. Our pastor, Rev. W. J. Laine, remained with us till Sunday night and gave us a good Christmas treat in the way of a Christmas sermon. The congregation was quite good, notwithstanding the very muddy roads and the dark night; the attention was marked, and evinced general appreciation.

Our Christmas has been very quiet, though much enjoyed, and unlike the lowing of the herds at the return of Saul after his victory, many fine turkeys have ceased to gobble since Christmas, and many rich cakes, with much fruit and confections, have been despoiled, whilst Santa Claus has made many homes glad and many children joyous by the distribution of presents.

Rumor says the wedding bells are ringing in the Holy Neck neighborhood. The marriage supper is being prepared, invitations have already gone out, and the invited guests are living in pleasant anticipation of a "feast of fat things."

We are pleased to note that our pastor, Rev. W. J. Laine, has much improved in health since his last appointment here.

Mrs. R. H. Holland, the writer's wife, has been for several days suffering quite much from nervous and sick head-ache. She is improving some, but still feeble. She has those attacks frequently, but generally of shorter duration.

R. H. HOLLAND.

Berea Items.

In my last notes I failed to mention that Bro. F. L. Curling not long since while on his way to Norfolk had the misfortune to have the horse he was driving run away. It became frightened at a passing train on the Norfolk and Southern Railway. His wagon was badly smashed, but happily he was not hurt.

As statements of the recent marriages in this community have already appeared, I will not attempt to add more. I simply extend my best wishes to the happy couples.

The banner on best lessons in our school on the 18th was awarded Class No. 6, the writer, teacher.

Our Christmas entertainment came off last night. The church was beautifully decorated with evergreens. Upon the rostrum was erected a beautiful resemblance of a real chimney. Upon either side was placed a large table containing presents for the school. On each end of the mantel was a candle slowly burning, and in the centre was a clock ticking off the time. On each side of the fire-place hung a well-filled stocking. At the hour appointed the church was filled and several had to remain standing. At 8 o'clock the exercises, which consisted of recitations by the little ones and songs by the choir, began. The singing was done well and the recitations surpassed the expectations of many. At the conclusion of the last piece, "Welcome to Santa", spoken by little Henry Wrist, Old Santa knocked away the fire-board and came crawling out of the fire-place, at which scene the little speaker suddenly sprang from his standing place and quickly left the rostrum. Just here the entire congregation joined in merriment and laughter. Soon Old Santa began the distribution of presents, and we believe that most every one in the honse received something. As usual Miss Lela Stout was the leading spirit in getting up this pleasant occasion, and yet there are many others who deserve much praise for assisting her.

On the morning of the 28th ult. little Beulah, the four-year-old child of Bro. and Sister M. W. Hodges, passed away to the spirit-land. She was the joy of their hearts, and in this sorrow their hearts have been sorely rent, but they find comfort in trusting in Jesus, whose they are. They have our sympathy.

M. W. HOLLOWELL.

December 26, 1897.

Washington Letter.

One of a series of meetings under the auspicies of the National Bureau of Reform was held last week in Luther Place Memorial church, and was presided over by ex-Civil Service Commissioner Lyman. Mr. Lyman explained that the purpose of this and other meetings to follow was to get the public interested in the reform legislation asked of Congress. Dr. Crafts, president of the bureau, spoke on the family and the Sabbath, laying emphasis upon the fact that purity and sacredness of the family relations were the most marked differences between the most enlightened Christian civilization and the highest yet attained by the heathen. Bishop Satterlee spoke on "Marriage and Divorce," especially advocating the bill which has been introduced in Congress providing for one uniform divorce law for the entire country. He said that the present easy methods of obtaining divorce were rapidly breaking up the most sacred ties of the family, and that the popular ideas of marriage were constantly getting lower and lower. He said that during his entire career as a minister he had made it a rule to refuse to marry any couple secretly and had always informed his people that if they wished him to marry them it must be done in presence of their relatives and friends; also he had invariably advised those who had sought his advice in their domestic troubles against divorce, telling them that it was better for the individual to suffer in silence than to disrupt the ties of home and family. Representative Ellis, of Oregon, author of the bill to prohibit the sale of liquor in the Capitol building; also to prohibit its sale in any building owned or controlled by the United States and upon any government reservation, spoke on the evils of intemperance. He said the presence of saloons in the Capitol building made a bad impression upon visitors to Washington, and that the lawmakers of the United States should set a better example to the public than that of permitting two saloons to be conducted in the building in which the laws were made. He said that in his long experience as a prosecuting officer in the courts he had found that more than one-half of the divorces applied for could be directly traced to intoxication, and expressed the opinion that if the saloons were abolished the precentage of divorces would decrease one-half. He also added that he was in favor of legislation prohibiting the smoking of cigarettes in public places, because they were offensive to him, as he believed them to be to more than one-half of the people of the United States.

President McKinley sets a good example to church-goers everywhere by not allowing bad weather to keep him away. He and the rest of the goodly sized congregation who braved the disagreeable weather of Sunday morning to attend the Metropolitan church were amply repaid by the able sermon preached by Bishop Cranston, from the text—"And God saw everything that He had made, and behold it was very good." It was a sermon calculated to make its hearers think, just as the bishop told them it would be when he said: "It is not considered proper nowadays for the pastor to say anything that will make his congregation think. One should speak only of the light and trivial things. But away with your lazy preachers and your lazy congregations. I shall endeavor to suggest some thoughts for you that may result in good." The object of the sermon was to show that when God created the world he builded into it everything that was needful, and consequently nothing that is done is a surprise to him. Space forbids an extended review of the sermon, but the following quotation is given: "God does not require any function of His creations that was not provided for in the plans. The law of the duties and the requirements of man were builded into him. He was constructed to love, to grow, to aspire, to worship, and to have dominion. He was thrust upon the stage of life to work out his destiny fully equipped to reach his highest ambition. Some one has said, 'Oh fatal gift,' to which I answer in return, 'Oh glorious gift.' Man is no surprise to God. The advent of sin was the possibility of the free man."

As far back as the memory of its oldest employe goes, the insidious form of gambling known as raffling has been, from time to time, openly carried on in the Pension Bureau, the number of raffles usually being most numerous just previous to holidays. This year there was no raffling in the Pension Bureau, although I am told there were raffles in some of the other government buildings, and there will be no more as long as Hon. H. Clay Evans remains commissioner of Pensions. As soon as Mr. Evans learned of the practice he issued an order forbidding the raffling of any article in the building or the soliciting of clerks or other employes to take chances in any raffle held elsewhere. The example of Mr. Evans was good enough to be followed by every official in charge of a government building.

An indication of the educational progress of the negro was the first annual meeting of the "Negro American Academy," held here this week. The object of this organization is thus given in its programe: "This academy is an organization of authors, scholars, artists, and those distinguished in other walks of life, of Atrican descent, for the promotion of letters, science and art; for the creation, as far as possible, of a form of literary taste; for the encouragement and assistance of youthful, but hesitant scholarship; for the stimulation of inventive and artistic powers, and for the promotion of the publication of works of merit."

An Inquiry.

"Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us." 2 Thes. 3: 6.

Now the question I wish to ask is, How can any company of ministers and laymen assembled as a conference, association, convention, or under any other name, for the purpose of transacting the business of a church, expect the guidance of the Holy Spirit when they know they have in their midst a brother minister whose word can't be relied on, who does not hesitate to tell an untruth when it suits his convenience to do so, whose general conversation is filled with exaggeration, never mentioning in the homes he visits the subject of religion, but engaging in an almost constant flow of vituperation? If the pen of the great apostle was guided by inspiration when he penned the above lines, then these brethren are on the wrong road if they do not withdraw from such a brother unless he promises amendment. INQUIRER.

—Miss Lucy Barham, of THE SUN office, spent the holidays with relatives near Youngsville.

Thanks.

On Christmas Eve just as I was ready to leave town, Mr. I O. Hill, Suffolk's progressive furniture dealer, sent to my study a magnificent lounge, a Christmas gift from Oakland church. Oakland always knows how to make her pastor feel good. Last year it presented me with a beautiful gold watch, and often since I have been preaching at Oakland I have been brought under obligations to them for personal gifts and special favors. I understand that our dear sister, Mrs. S. E. Rogers, was the leader in presenting me with the handsome lounge. May heaven's richest blessings rest upon her and all who contributed for this purpose. My appreciation and gratitude lies deeper than words, and I hope and pray that when length of years shall make them weary with life's toils, that the pillow of peace may kiss their cheeks and bring to them even sweeter rest than comes to me when, weary, I recline upon the lounge.

I wish also to return thanks to Mrs. E. C. Ramsay and Bro. M. W. Crumpler, of the M. E. Church, for beautiful and valuable gifts this Christmas. They are both regular attendants at Oakland, and render valuable service in the choir.

My thanks are also due to Mrs. C. C. Thompson and Deacon J. H. Parker of Oakland for nice Christmas presents.

These expressions of kindness bring me under renewed obligations to this dear people, and I hope and trust that my services in the future may prove worthy of the favors.

W. J. LAINE.

I have been from home since the 24th inst. till to-day, and on my arrival I found that the friends in the congregation of Bethlehem Christian church had given my family and myself a nice pounding. Bro. Coley Pritchett was the Santa Claus who brought the following good, nice, and valuable articles: Coffee, tea, pickles, apples, turnips, flour, potatoes, dried pears, prunes, canned fruit, and chickens—twenty-one packages in all. The following were the donors: Sisters Mamie Horton, Guynn, and C. Pritchett, and Bros. J. M. Summers, the clerks of the Altamahaw Store, Markel, John Kernodle, Morton, C. Pritchett, S. D. Lamb, W. M. Troxler, Gillespie, W. S. Sutton, and Morton. The good will of these dear friends thus expressed in their gifts is most highly appreciated, and we trust that we may always enjoy their love and confidence.

May God bless these dear brethren and sisters with the bread of life in this world and a home in the world to come.

I want, further, to return my sincere thanks to Dr. Kent, of Ingram, Va., for a real nice hat; Aunt Henrietta Pounds for the eighth or ninth annual jar of nice honey, and Sister Cora Lindsay, of Damascus, Orange county, N. C., for a lot of canned fruit and vegetables. To these dear Christians we feel greatly indebted, and pray God's blessings upon them as kind and thoughtful friends.

P. T. KLAPP AND FAMILY.

Dec. 29, 1897.

Notice.

Having been appointed an organizer of Sunday schools for the Southeastern District of the Western North Carolina Christian Conference (see report of committee in THE CHRISTIAN SUN of November the 25th), and being desirious to aid as best I can in this good work, I have decided as this is a new work to us all that it would be best that I call upon the ministers, superintendents and Sunday schools—by delegation—to meet at Antioch church, Chatham county, on Saturday before the 5th Sunday in January, 1898, at 11 o'clock, and continue our meeting on Sunday, and thus have a mass meeting, or convention, and discuss the best ways and means to carry out the wishes of our convention. I insist that every school in this district be represented by at least one delegate, and that all the superintendents and pastors attend, and also any worker in Sunday schools. The church at Antioch cordially invites us to meet with them.

As we will have no program until we meet and arrange one, I ask that each one who wishes to speak on any subject will be ready and feel called upon to do so.

The churches as I have them on a list from the committee are;