# The Christian Sun.

EMMETT L. MOFFITT, Editor and Proprietor.

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|---|---|
| One Year | $2.00 |
| 6 Months | 1.00 |
| Three Months | 50 |

Subscriptions are payable strictly in advance.

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Address all communications and letters to THE CHRISTIAN SUN, Raleigh, N. C.

THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 1898.


Man may be able to relieve you of physical pain, but God alone can heal the soul.

Many of our church members might profit by reading and practicing the parable of the sower.

In our prosperity let us praise God for His goodness, in our adversity let us look to Him for help.

He who devotes his life to good works will certainly reap a bountiful harvest of good fruits.

He who does not appreciate the goodness and love of God is not fit company for any respectable human being.

The person who complains about the natural condition of things, should remember that he is an entirely dependent being.

If you are not a Christian, you have never grasped the opportunity to experience a single peaceful day's life in this world.

An indolent, indifferent church member is a greater hinderance to the advancement of God's cause than is an active man of the world.

God is willing to help in every time of need, but a man should not be so hoggish as to expect Him to do the work that justly falls to his own lot

Unless you try to do some good in the world; you ought to have enough respect for good men to get out of their way and let them have full sway.

The man who becomes drunk and lies out in the ditch of cold nights will sooner or later be relieved of his chill, but the cure will prove even worse, if possible, than the disease.

There never was a time when the followers of Christ might do more telling and profitable work than at present. We need to put on our strength, and the only way we can do that is to put out our strength. By exercise of this power we gain power, and such power as the world most needs.

How often do we hear men complaining that theirs is the hardest lot in the world. They have to work harder and longer than any body else, and get less for it. They have more sacrifices to make, meet with more trials and temptations, and have fewer joys and pleasures than anybody else in the world. They are restless and discontented themselves, and make other people unhappy by their continual bemoanings. And how seldom do we hear men rejoicing over the successes and happiness that are theirs. Every one has something to be thankful for, and he is acting the part of an ingrate who fails to express his gratitude to Him who has so often blessed him. We love to hear men rejoicing over the goodness of the Lord toward them. It is a benediction to be in their presence. They are always contented, happy, and successful themselves; and they make life brighter and fuller and better for those with whom they come in contact.

## A "MINISTERIAL INSTITUTE."

We take pleasure in presenting to our readers this week another suggestion for the Convention to take into consideration at its April meeting. It is from Rev. S. B. Klapp, who writes as follows:

"I have been thinking of the necessity for a Ministerial Institute in our Convention. A place where all our ministers can meet and consider the most important theological subjects, in the most practical, simple and beneficial manner. It is highly important that we understand systematic, theoretical and critical theology; but we need a more thorough knowledge of the practical—applied theology. We as ministers need the most thorough preparation possible for the gospel ministry. It is of vital importance that the greatest issues of gospel light be imparted to the gospel teacher. We need that upon the Scriptures poured into the mind and heart.

We might undertake this work as a Summer Bible School, for a higher and closer study of the Bible, and for consultation as to pastoral work. We need such a school as this: a place, time and program arranged with our best teachers at the head. Elon College would be the place, at the close of the commencement would be a suitable time, and those professors who have been teaching on important theological lines all the year with some of our best ministers in the field, such as Drs. Staley, Barrett and Long, Bros. Holt, Wellons, Clement, and Butler, whose souls are full of practical work in the gospel ministry would be suitable leaders.

We, as ministers are entitled to an annual vacation, and it would be an interesting season in the year's experience to spend at least two weeks at the close of the commencement with the brethren in this work. If the brethren of the Convention could see the necessity of this work and consider its propriety at the coming session it might be well. It might be well for this matter to be considered through the columns of THE CHRISTIAN SUN before the Convention convenes. Brethren what think you of this matter?"

Youngsville, N. C.

Like the other suggestions, we deem this as eminently worthy of our consideration. Some may say that it is not necessary for the Convention to take any action upon the question of a ministerial Institute: it can be organized and put into operation by individuals who are interested in the work, without burdening the Convention with its consideration. Free, it could be set on foot without originating in the Convention; but inauguration and endorsement by the Convention would give weight and impetus to the movement that could not possibly be imparted to it by individuals, however prominent and influential.

That such an Institute would be highly beneficial will, no doubt, be conceded by all. The annual meeting together of ministers who are working along the same lines, and the mere exchange of ideas incidental to such contact would of itself be helpful—even apart from the more systematic work of the Institute. However, the regular study and research, the lectures and open conferences would be the features of the annual gathering. No one knows as much as he ought to know; for no one has improved all his time and talents as he should; and such a season of study as is contemplated in the above suggestion would be an education to all who attended—to the most scholarly lecturer as well as to the most ignorant listener.

The place suggested—Elon College—is a very appropriate one; for it is our centre of learning; we have there all the lecture rooms needed; a good library and reading room would be exceedingly helpful; and it is a healthful delightful place to spend one's summer vacation.

The time—just after commencement—is also appropriate. Our ministers could let their vacations begin with June, could go up to the commencement, and then remain over for the Institute.

We cannot speak authoritatively, of course, but we believe that the officers of the College would allow the ministers to use the Dormitory where they could board at cost, and live as cheap—and some cheaper than they live at home.

Brethren, what do you think of it?

Send in your renewal for SUN.

## INTERESTING NOTES.

—We enjoyed short calls last week from Revs. J. D. Wicker and S. B. Klapp, of Youngsville, N. C.

—Mrs. Joseph Fix and Master Willie are in the city visiting Mr. Jno. Fix, at the A. & M. College.

—Rev. A. P. Barbee favored us with a new subscriber to THE SUN last week. Cannot other pastors do so too?

—Rev. C. L. Jackson will conduct a series of revival meetings at the Christian church here in May.—Burlington News.

—Miss Lucy Barham, of THE SUN office, spent last Sunday with friends in Cary. She was accompanied by Miss Nannie Bell.

—Messrs. N. A. Kime and H. K. Trogdon have opened up a large stock of goods in the new Trogdon building.—Liberty Cor. Asheboro Courier.

—Revs. J. W. Wellons, J. D. Wicker, S. B. Klapp, and L. I. Cox kindly remembered us with renewals from their fields last week. They all report their work in good condition.

—We appreciated a call last week from Bro. A. B. Cook, Jr., of Franklinton, N. C. He brought us the sad news of the death of his brother Howell's wife. We extend our sympathies to the bereaved.

—Very interesting services were held yesterday at Christian church, in the morning Mrs. Beamon and Miss Florence Harvey sang a very beautiful duet. At night Miss Harvey sang a solo. Miss Knox's prelude was said to be fine.—Suffolk Progress.

—Rev. R. H. Holland writes us that there will be regular services at the Holland church next Sunday—sermon at 11 a. m., and missionary meeting in the evening, at which time, either Prof. Roberts or Prof. Smith, of the B. M. I., will deliver an address on missions.

—We have received the following invitation: "You are cordially invited to be present at the Eighth Annual Debate, between the Philologian and Clio Literary Societies, of Elon College, on Friday evening, April the eighth, at eight o'clock, College Chapel, Elon College, N. C."

—We were delighted to have Rev. Dr. Frank S. Child, of Fairfield, Conn., with us one night last week. He was on his way to Elon College where he is delivering a series of lectures. Dr. Child is an able preacher and lecturer, and is also the author of a number of popular books. Elon is fortunate.

—Rev. W. J. Laine, of the Christian church, who has been quite sick recently, has been advised by his physician to give up his ministerial work and go south for his health, which he will soon do. Mr. Laine is highly esteemed throughout this section for his excellent Christian character, and will carry with him the best wishes of a host of friends for his speedy restoration to health and strength.—Suffolk Herald.

—We spent last Sunday with Bro. Wellons at Durham. We were sorry to find our Bro. suffering considerably with hoarseness. We lectured for him at his church Sunday morning, and he was hoping to feel well enough to conduct his night services. We believe that the Durham church is in a much more hopeful condition now than it has ever been. There are accessions to the church about every month. We rejoice with Uncle Wellons and the brethren there over their growth in numbers and usefulness.

—We call the attention of our readers this week to the new advertisement of Messrs. Dobbin & Ferrall, who are successors to the old firm of W. H. & R. S. Tucker & Co. Mr. Dobbin has been with the old firm over thirty years, and Mr. Ferrall was with them for sixteen years. So the new firm starts out with an experience that gives them a thorough knowledge of the business. They know how to buy and how to sell in order to meet the wants of their customers. We trust that when our people are in the city they will call on Dobbin & Ferrall first for anything in their line. Orders by mail will receive prompt and honest attention.

—The revival meetings at the Memorial Christian Temple are increasing daily in interest and attendance. Last night a large congregation heard the Rev. P. T. Klapp, of Elon College, N. C, preach a stirring sermon. Services will be continued daily throughout the week, beginning at 2.30 and 7.30 p. m.—Norfolk Landmark.

—Messrs. Cross and Linehan are leading clothiers and gents' furnishers in this city; and when our readers desire anything in their line they may be sure of being suited at their store. That their prices are reasonable and their goods durable we can bear witness, for we trade there ourselves. In addition to the large stock that they carry, they also have suits made to order, and guarantee the fit. Give them a call when you are in the city. They have been in the business long enough to know how to please. Read their advertisement in this issue of THE SUN.

—Rev. W. T. Herdon recently sent us in a number of renewals and new subscribers to THE SUN from his new churches in the Valley of Virginia. The Dr. has been doing a great work for the Christian church up there. As one result of his labors three new churches have been organized, and he expects to have a house of worship built at each point during the year. Brethren, this work is made possible by the support a few have given to the Christian Missionary Association. Will you not take a ten dollar membership this year, or get up one in your church?

## CORRESPONDENCE.

### Our Norfolk Letter.

As Mr. Barrett is busy in a meeting, I have undertaken to write the Norfolk Letter for this week, which with your consent may take the place of his.

We are in the midst of a gracious meeting in the Memorial Christian Temple, which has been in progress now about two weeks. The pastor is aided by Rev. P. T. Klapp, of Elon College, N. C. There have been quite a number of conversions and several sanctifications, and the blessed work is yet in progress. Bro. Klapp has done good work, and the Lord has used him in bringing many to the light.

I wish while I am writing to say a word to those who do not know where they stand as to a definite Christian experience. I find many, alas, very many, of those whom I meet personally, are without assurance as to their own salvation, and with your kind consent, I wish to say a word to THE SUN'S many readers, whom I have not, and cannot, meet personally, as to their own assurance of their personal experience.

Perhaps you think I come to you needlessly; that all is well with your souls. To those who have been born of God, and are assured of the fact, I come not, but to the many in our churches who are not saved—who have not regeneration even—I come, and I trust with a message from my Master. It may be that you will will ask: "Are there any in our churches professing to know the Lord who have not the witness of the Spirit to their new birth?" If I could only tell you of the many cases with which I have come in contact, perhaps you would groan in agony over the state of our churches, and it does not seem to be confined to one denomination.

As I have said above, we are in a series of meetings in our church at this time, and people of many denominations are with us. The meeting is devoted principally to the saving of sinners—to soul-winning.

Many have professed Christ for the first time, but alas, how many now can only say: "I am a church-member", but cannot truly say: "According to the Word of God I know that I have passed from death unto life—that the witness to the new birth is within.

To all of this class of church-members I want to say: "I beg you to read again 1 John 5: 10 and 13, and 1 Cor. 1: 18. The life in Christ is a blessed one, and always brings with it a distinct experience, but it is sad to note how few there are who, according to their own confession, ever press on till this distinct experience is reached. So many are able only to say: "I hope I am a Christian, but I must confess I do not know it."

Recently I asked Prof. Moffitt and Rev. N. G. Newman if they knew of any passage of Scripture which indicates, even in the remotest way, that we can be Christians and not be conscious of it, and they both said they knew of no such passage. I have asked a similar question of others but in no case have I found a single person who would attempt to show that there is any such passage of Scripture. Now surely if there be any such passage, some one ought to be able to find it and point it out to those who claim that all true Christians know of what God has done for them in saving them from their sins.

I cannot believe that my Heavenly Father is so cruel as to give me eternal life and then keep a knowledge of that glorious fact from me. He told the people to whom John wrote in 1 John 5: 10 that they should know the fact. He said: "He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself." Again in the 13th verse of the same chapter, he says: "These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God." You can readily see how important a knowledge of one's salvation is, as otherwise the seeker might always be seeking for the forgiveness of sin, in which there could be no reason, if he had already been forgiven. Again, if we could not know that we had been forgiven, how could we ever thank our Father, for in the very nature of things, we could not thank Him and praise Him for what we have been forgiven places us? Possibly this state of things in the church may be questioned—you may doubt it, but I tell you it is even more alarming than many suppose. I may be classed as a "crank", and if so, it will be but a just return to me for what I said of others in the days of my unconverted church-membership. I thought people who had such notions were "cranks", but now I know I was the crank in fact. and now I know what I was, I am not, but a new creature in Christ.

Call me crank", if you wish, but I must tell you, you are in the dark—I may in fact know more about this matter than you think, and even then know not very much. I spent nearly twenty-five years in the church, an active zealous church worker, and lived according to the standard now so generally recognized, a blameless life, but in fact I always felt I needed something, and at times felt alarmed because of this lack in my spiritual experience. I even spoke of this fact to some ministers of the gospel, but they quieted my fears, telling me that I was all right, and so did many other professing Christians. Now I feel that I am indeed His child, and as such I mean in an humble way to be a watchman on the walls of Zion, and God helping me, I will never encourage any one to think they are saved when they do not know it. If you do not know it, is not a fact, because the Spirit bears witness to the truth, and if you were converted, He would give you the witness, and that witness would be true. It is a fatal mistake on the part of ministers and Christian workers generally to encourage epnitents to profess faith in Christ before the Spirit gives them the witness. Only one year of the many have I been a Christian, but since God spoke peace to my heart I have not needed an angel to tell me that I am the child of God.

There are many in our churches that confound Regeneration with Sanctification. Only last evening when I asked a man if he had the witness of the Spirit to the new birth, he replied: "I am not sanctified—if I knew I was a Christian that would be sanctification, would it not?" And I said, "No." Then said he, "I have never known I was a Christian." I could but respond in my mind, "No sinner ever knew it either." He was not a member of the Memorial Christian Temple, but I give you this incident to show you what sort of gospel has been preached to that man, or at least how he has heard the gospel. And what is true of him, alas is true of so many in the professed churches of our day. I do know that all professing Christians should have the witness of the Spirit to this new birth. I know He gives the witness to his people, for he has given it to me. Every one who will make sure of eternity with Jesus must have this witness to the new birth—to the new life in Christ.

Now, dear reader, if in the light of these facts—these truths from God's own word—you prefer to go on in the same old way without assurance, there is a sad day coming to you, and it may not be far away.

Bear in mind that I am talking of the New Birth. Have you had such an experience—have you been born again? Have you eternal life abiding in you? If you do not know it by the witness of the Spirit, then go as a sinner and give yourself to Him—seek forgiveness at his hands, and take him at his word. Believe the work is done, for he has said, "He that cometh unto me, I will in no wise cast out." Then come on that promise, and come now.

"'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus—
Just to take him at his word."

Will you do it? Will you do it now? Weighty question is that—decide it in the fear of God.

EMILY S. BARRETT.

### Elon College Notes.

Here come these Notes again. They crowd themselves into the busy student's life on Monday morning, and seem in the midst of unprepared lessons to demand our first attention. Students very often put off much of their Saturday's work until Monday morning; so our readers must pardon any defect due to lack of time, for these Notes simply will not go (?) on any mail later than the 9.30 train—it seems that they are afraid of being thrown into the waste basket.

The delegates to the State Convention of the Y. M. C. A., which convened at Asheville, March 10-13, reported a very pleasant and profitable session. It was a pleasure to many of us to be among the rock-ribbed mountains and breath the exhilarating air. It was a delight to tear ourselves away from the busy routine of school, and mingle with these consecrated men of God. Here we found a deepening of our spiritual life. The Young Men's Christian Association is a great power in the Christian world. It reaches men whom the churches cannot touch. This grand organization has shown that there is a practical side to the Christian life. The Christian men of our land are beginning to realize that religion means something more than "sailing on flowery beds of ease"—it means work; it means lifting up our fallen brother. If some of us would spend less time in discussing what we are going to do after we get to heaven, and devote more of our moments to the saving of fallen men, I believe we should find more genuine joy in our religion. The active, aggressive Christian wears a brighter smile on his face because of his true-hearted, whole-hearted life.

Yestesday at 3.00 o'clock p. m., a Memorial service was held by the Y. W. C. T. U., in honor of Miss Frances E. Willard and Gen. Neal Dow. Mr. L. L. Lassiter gave an address on Miss Willard, and Prof. Atkinson spoke on the life Gen. Dow. Miss Long, by request, sang a very beautiful solo—the solo which was sung at Miss Willard's funeral. The service was very impressive. The Temperance Union has a strong band here.

Dr. Frank S. Child, as announced in the Notes last week, is delivering a course of lectures here. He lectured Saturday morning on, "Sidney Lanier," the late Southern poet. His lecture Saturday evening was on, "Witchcraft in New England." Both of these lectures were scholarly, masterly and of rare literary value. The Dr. is a thorough student of literature. He also preached two eloquent inspiring sermons, from the College pulpit yesterday.

Mr. D. J. Sipe, who was called home a few days ago, by the death of his brother, returned Friday night. We are glad to have him with us again.

Now the bell calls us to our duties in the class room, and we must not prolong these Notes. Another week's work is before us: each do his part well. These beautiful spring mornings, with their singing birds and blooming flowers are supposed to direct one's mind from the study of text-books to the writing of poetry.

I. W. JOHNSON.

March 21, 1 98.

Did you ever hear anyone bringing charges against his neighbor, when there was really no foundation for them? Such a person either has not the right conception of his duty to his fellow man, or he has a soul within him that is too blackened and sin-besmirched to be fit for occupying the temple which God has made.

### Holland Items.

Our prayer meeting last Sunday night, though the darkness and rain kept a few away, was well attended, inspiring and spiritually helpful. It was a season of refreshing and many felt that it was good to be there. It was led by Deacon Wm. T. Parker, followed by Bros. I. A. Luke, A. L. Holland and others. Bro. J. E. Vincent will lead us next Sunday night.

Dr. Holland who was reported suffering with neuralgia, is up and going again, and Mrs. R. H. Holland is much better with her cold and cough.

We are greatly troubled at the condition of our pastor, Rev. W. J. Laine. His health is not much improved, and he feels it necessary to go farther South. His appointment will be filled next 4th Sunday. It will be quarterly meeting with us. Sermon and communion in the morning, and mission exercises in the evening. Brethren and sisters from other churches are invited to be with us. Prof. Smith, of Berkley, Va., is expected to be present in the evening at 2 o'clock, and give us an addree on the subject of missions—home and foreign. Prof. Smith is a good speaker and will entertain, and instruct us on the grand subject.

R. H. HOLLAND.

March 15, 1898.

### Berea Items.

Some weeks ago the little son of Bro. J. E. Hall, and grandson of Deacon Wesley Hall, was accidently kicked by a frolicsome colt and sorely wounded, but has now fully recovered.

The third Sunday ult., Mr. Lorrice W. Hollowell and Miss Bessie Portlock were united in marriage by their pastor, Rev. M. W. Butler. The obsequies were performed at the home of Bro. C. L. Hanbury, near Great Bridge.

In the death of Bro. S. J. Nichols (of which notice has been given) the church lost one of its faithful and loving members.

Bros. Jno. W. Creekmore and Lafayette Curling, with their families have recently moved to Berkley, Va. We miss them very much in our Sunday school and church services. Our Sunday school continues full of interest. The superintendent has recently purchased a very nice library, with which the school is much pleased.

Bro L. J. Hall who has been sick for a long time, is at this writing no better, but rather growing worse. He has our sympathy.

Rev. M. W. Butler, our pastor, was unable to fill his appointment 1st Sunday inst., but Rev. Slaymaker of the Presbterian church kindly supplied for him. He gave us an excellent sermon from these words, "Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift." A good impression was made upon the hearers. We learned at this time that Mrs. Butler was sick also. It seems that the hand of affliction is frequently laid upon Bro. Butler's family. He surely has the sympathy of his parishioners in this section, for often do we hear words of deep feeling expressed.

We are pained to hear of the protracted disabilities of Rev. W. J. Laine. Many hearts in this community feel a deep interest in him and wish his speedy restoration to health.

We were glad to see the Pulpit Corner of THE SUN on the 3rd inst., the picture of Rev. H. H. Butler, and to read such inspiring words from his pen. He was our much esteemed pastor for eight years and still lives in our hearts.

M. W. HOLLOWELL.

March 15, 1898.

### Waverly Notes.

The work in my field is moving along smoothly at present.

We held our second quarterly meeting at Bethany the fourth Saturday and Sunday in Feb. The conference on Saturday was fairly well attended and the business agreeably transacted. On Sunday we had a good congregation and held a pleasant service. The Holy Ghost manifested Himself to us in special sweetness and power which made it delightful to wait upon the Lord.

On the 11th of March, Sister R. T. Moss was called from labor to reward. The deceased was 51 years, 11 months and 25 days. Her death was very unexpected as she was ill only about three days. She was the victim of yellow chills which are very fatal. Hardly one year has elapsed since her husband pass-