

FROM THE FIELD

SALEM CHAPEL.

The first Sunday in January I was at Salem Chapel and filled my second appointment for the present conference year. The congregation here is reduced from what it was years ago. A number have moved from the community and several have died. I found Sister Sallie Matt. Marshall suffering from injuries received by being thrown from a buggy. I served this church several years ago, and formed the acquaintance of some dear friends who had long since passed over the river, while others still remain. In the afternoon I went over to

BELEWS CREEK

and preached at 3 p. m. Here the congregation has been reduced by sickness and death, and sisters J. W. Freeman and T. J. Preston are yet confined to their rooms. The year 1905 will be memorable in the history of this church and community on account of the number of deaths among the older people as well as the young.

INGRAM.

The second Sunday I was at Ingram, Va. Unfavorable weather and bad roads caused the congregation to be small. I hope for better weather and bright sunny days when the attendance will be larger. I go to

BETHLEHEM AND APPLE'S CHAPEL on third and fourth Sundays in the month. My next round will be quarterly meetings and I hope to get some new subscribers to THE SUN.

PLEASANT RIDGE.

My attention is called to an omission in the list of banner churches of my conference. Pleasant Ridge paid its apportionment in full and the pastor's salary also, but by an oversight it was left out of the list. I wish to assure my friends at Pleasant Ridge that it was not intentionally left out. I was the pastor there last year, and have some dear friends in the church that I regretted to leave.

J. W. HOLT.

JACKSON, GA.

Our church here is doing well. We organized a Sunday school yesterday with Bro. T. S. Crowder as Superintendent and H. F. Brooks as assistant. A good corps of teachers were elected. I am sure they will have a good school. We have several good boys and girls in the church that we hope will make good workers. Our congregations are large and encouraging.

RICHLAND.

Our Sunday school here and the Methodist Episcopal school held their Christmas exercises together at the school auditorium. We had a mountain scene covered with white flannel to the right of the stage. A forest scene to the left of the stage weighted down with presents covered over with white, representing snow. The overhead and back ground was covered in blue, decorated with stars and the moon. We arranged for Santa Claus to come down over the mountain. The floor was covered in white. All who saw it admired the scene. The Sunday school children were all remembered with presents. And the writer was the recipient of a timely present, a clock. Our Ladies' Aid Society here is raising money to make some improvements on the church.

RANDALL'S CROSSING.

There is no church at this place. It is four miles from Richland.

I preach for them at the school house on Saturday before the 4th Sunday and on Sunday at 3 p. m. We have here a good, live Sunday school. Our church at Richland has extended an arm here and we have several members. They had their Christmas tree there on Monday night. The tree was an honor to the community. I had the privilege of being there and addressing them. They honored the writer and his family with a nice China set. Thanks to the givers.

COLUMBUS.

The Sunday school here held their Christmas tree on Saturday evening. I could not be with them. Bro. Smith was present, however. They had some excellent exercises to render and I am sure it was a grand success. They had a faithful committee to push the work. Our work there is progressing nicely. Sister Kimbrough and her husband have been made very sad over the death of their only child. The child had been afflicted all her life. She was 14 or 15 years of age, a member of our church. I extended a pastor's sympathy in the hour of their sore bereavement.

OAK GROVE.

We have put blinds to the windows of the church, which adds materially to the comfort and the looks of the church. Bro. Robert Butts died here a few weeks ago from the effects of an operation. He was a young man in the prime of life. He leaves a young wife, a widowed mother and four brothers to mourn their loss. I was present to preach his funeral. Bro. Henry Smith was married to Miss Annie Gates, Wednesday after the 3rd Sunday in November. Bro. Smith is a farmer and a good man. He won a good Christian girl for a partner in life.

Bro. Len Thompson was married to Miss Mary Lou Middlebrooks on the 3rd Sunday in Dec. Brother Thompson lives with his widowed mother on their farm and is a good quiet young man. His bride is a most excellent young lady of deep piety.

I pray God's blessings upon these two couples in their journey through life. This church is to entertain the next Conference. May the year 1906 be the most successful year in the history of the Christian church, is my prayer.

Fraternally,
H. W. ELDER.

Meditation—An Appreciation.

DEAR EDITOR OF THE SUN.—The pride with which former students of Elon College visit their Alma Mater, and the deep interest with which they inquire after her welfare and progress, attest the esteem of those whose lives have been so greatly benefited by her existence. Association weaves a powerful net round about us all, and who would wish to be free from that which is great and good—the factor which has made so much possible for us, and opened our eyes to see higher things in life?

Doubtless almost every college man has some feeling of attachment for the walls in which he was educated. The college becomes a Mecca for the old students, and as the devout Mohammedan approaches the venerated shrine of

his prophet, so the college man, when he enters her doors again, feels impressed with a deeper reverence for the institution which has given him intellectual light, and broadened his vision with reference to the world about him.

That influences do not die, many of us are sure. We imbibe from the good and true around us certain principles or traits, which become a part of our character. To return to our own Mecca at Elon, and pass within those walls, is but to feel the power, as it were, of some spirit—the after-life of a Holmes—or to breathe an atmosphere filled with incense coming from the lives of men, whose energy, brains, and Christian fortitude are being spent in behalf of training young men and young women for life duties.

May Elon College, with all her possibilities, go ever onward and upward, and be it known that if misfortune should ever overtake her, the sons and daughters she has sent forth will bear her up.

Those who read THE CHRISTIAN SUN know what it is to have solid enjoyment. I look forward to its coming with an interest almost akin to that with which I expect a letter from home. Tonight I have been enjoying both—CHRISTIAN SUN and a letter from home. The College Notes seem like gracious messages concerning old friends and the haunts we used to know, and I am always disappointed when the local editor does not tell us what is going on about the college. I noticed in the local items this week that "the smiling countenance of our old friend Williamson" had been seen recently in Elon, and that he was of the Class of 1904. Now, the Class of 1904 would be glad to see the sunny face of our good friend Williamson and grasp his ready hand, but we do deny that he was one of our number. Being much more reverential, both in time and in manner, than we, he belongs to "The Original Thirteen," who made their appearance in 1905.

In the issue of December the thirteenth Miss Effie Iseley, our valedictorian—'04—was mentioned as the valedictorian of the previous class. My name also appeared under the head of '03. The Class of 1904 is the only class which spent four years in Prof. Holmes' department and we consider that fact an unusual privilege.

The sympathy which goes out for those of the college family who are brought to distress and grief is typical of a Christian brotherhood. It is true that another sad dispensation has befallen the student body of Elon, but why should we who are away feel the loss? Because we feel that whatever affects the body with which we are connected affects us. Our hearts have been made sad by the untimely death of students, although some of them were not personally known to us. There is a kindred spirit that makes us one, and let us hope that those who have gone into the school above have left influences which shall lead us to the Eternal.

G. C. DAVIDSON.

Jan. 11, 1906.

Holly Springs, N. C.

How we live may be a mystery to some people, but why some people live is a mystery to us.

Among Churches and People.

Rev. R. H. Holland is feeble, and not able to attend services at the church. His general health is as good as usual, but a very bad sore has appeared on his ankle, and this is a great deal of trouble to him, and renders his condition less favorable for getting about.

Major I. W. Duck, of Isle of Wight county, is still feeble, though he is able to get out to the church occasionally. He and brother Holland have often attended our Conferences and Conventions together, and their presence and helpful counsel has been missed in our public gatherings. A deep sympathy goes out for them, from their friends, in their declining years.

Rev. J. W. Rawles, a former minister of the Christian Church, but now of the Baptist Church, preached at Liberty Spring last Sunday. His discourse was very edifying, and his friends were glad to have him at his old home again. A collection for the Orphanage was taken after the sermon, and this amounted to \$17.78. We are expecting to increase this amount from this church at a later date.

We rejoice with the Berkley church in their recent success in paying off their church debt. Now we are expecting that church to make rapid strides forward with the other part of the Lord's work. They have had a hard struggle, but the light is dawning, and there are promises of brighter days ahead. So mote it be. Why not take this year to pay off all debts that are hanging over any of our churches? Would it not be a great year, if all our churches could get out of debt (if they have any debt, and some have), and then turn to the Lord in much prayer, and pay the price for a great revival of religion in our midst this year? Shall we not begin to linger at the throne of God and plead with Him for a great out-pouring of His Spirit upon us this year? Worldly interests and carnal pleasures will hinder us in the work of the Master, unless we linger hard by the throne of God. Reader, will you lift up your prayers and cry unto the hills, from whence cometh our help?

The Persian Priests came in their ignorance of God, and offered gifts and worship to the little Child Jesus. The world has a record of that fact. Many other men were just as wise as they, but failed to carry gifts to the Christ. Have you been successful in business? Then make an offering of that success to the Church of Christ, and with your offering give your worship and your praise. These prosperous times are perilous to the church, and there is great need of more consecration of ourselves to His service. While Life Insurance Companies and Political Parties are having their investigations it is a good time to have an investigation of that insurance policy many of us claim to be carrying in our hearts, which gives us promise of everlasting life. Is there as much scandal, blindness, hypocrisy and shame in our hearts as has been unearthed in the other things referred to? If so, our policy needs renewal.

I. W. JOHNSON.

Suffolk, Va., Jan. 12, 1906.

Too often fortune smiles upon those who are unable to appreciate it.

Foreign Missions.

\$1,000 From Southern Christian Convention by March 1, 1906!

Previously reported (N. C. and Va. C.) \$26.20; previously reported (E. Va. C.) \$49.22. Received since from Barrett's, \$4.00, Johnson's Grove, \$2.40, and Union Grove (Southampton Co.) \$1.40, which makes a total of \$57.02 from E. Va. C. Grand total to date, \$83.22. We trust that all the pastors and churches in the bounds of the Southern Christian Convention are taking or are arranging to take a special offering for foreign missions. We want an offering from every church. This would give us 199 different offerings from churches, as this is the number of churches we have in the South. Is there any church that could not take an offering for missions by March 1st? Who will be the next to send in an offering? Let there be a united effort to increase our mission funds. Everybody rally to the offering.

OUR PORTO RICAN MISSION.

This work appeals especially to the South, because all the missionaries upon the field, with the exception of one, are from the Southland. The mission has a strong claim upon us and we should be doing more than we are at present, for its support. It has been about four years since this mission was begun and God has signally blessed the work. The missionaries upon the field are Rev. D. P. Barrett and wife, located at Ponce and Rev. T. E. White, at Salinas. Miss Mishler has just been returned to the field. On account of the lack of funds she has been home on an extended furlough. We, now, have on this field 4 missionaries and 3 native helpers; five churches and 22 stations and out stations with a membership of 82, 8 Sunday schools with an enrollment of 320 scholars. There were 43 baptisms and 47 additions last year and the natives contributed \$74.50.

The above statistics speak for themselves. They show that our Porto Rican mission is going forward. We had nothing upon the island four years ago, but today we have a thrifty mission which is full of promise for the future. Our missionaries have already asked that a conference be organized upon the island. We trust that the way will soon open for our mission secretary, or some other brother to visit them and organize the conference.

When we take into consideration the difficulties which our missionaries have had to contend with we can more readily see that the growth of the mission has been wonderful. First of all they had to learn the language and become acquainted with their new environment. This was no little task. Then they had to meet the teachings of the degraded and fallen priests of the Roman church who had held sway in the island for hundreds of years. The teachings of the Roman church were and are tending to corrupt, degrade and demoralize the people. The church and its priest have laid burden upon the people which are grievous to be born. The Roman church has posed as Christian, while it has taught and practiced any thing but Christianity. Its influence upon the people has been most appalling. These with many other difficulties