Gospel Plea, Volume 5 (1900)

Joel Baer Lehman
Helpful To All.

A Subscriber writes to know about the doctrine of "Once in Grace always in Grace," saying that in his neighborhood, a person, who believe that if a person is converted he is sure of heaven no matter how he steals, lies or lives immorally. Seventy-five years ago in all preaching, great stress was placed on the Grace of God. It was purely an act of grace that God gave us a scheme of salvation which included the gift of his Son. No work of our own could merit this. It was purely an act of Grace.

The much preaching on this line made many people believe that everything was grace, and no works of our's could do anything. They did not realize that there is a vast difference between working to produce a scheme of salvation and working to comply with the conditions of that scheme and growing in it. The doctrine of "Once in Grace always in Grace" was advanced purely as a theory. They reasoned that if it was all the Grace of God, his grace would be sufficient to keep them in paths of righteousness. But these people of whom this subscriber writes do not hold it a theory but a practice in its most literal application. Nothing could be further from the truth or more repugnant to a true follower of Christ.

Nearly two hundred times in the New Testament it is said or implied that we should work lest we fall from grace into condemnation. One example will be sufficient. "But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means when I have preached to others, myself should be a casta-way." (I. Cor. 9: 27.) If such a man as Paul was in danger of becoming a casta-way if he kept not his body in subjection, how shall it go with those people who deliberately give their body over to, do licentiousness, drink whiskey, steal and lie? Surely they have already become casta-ways.

All the above illustrate how very necessary it is to send men out to teach the Bible to the People. If they were taught to read the Bible in a rational way, they would soon learn the true spirit of a Christian life, and such repulsive doctrines as the above would not find a place among them. We need to send men among them who will open up the Bible to them without the authority of a creed or principles of men.

The great mass of our people have not yet dreamed of the vast responsibility that rests upon us. No people in the world needs the doctrine and morality of the Bible so much as this people. The next hundred years will bring them to very difficult questions to decide which they can never decide right unless they learn much of the Bible they do not know now. Give the gospel a fair chance in the Bible and we will demonstrate its power to the world.

At the great Missionary Conference at New York was an old gray-haired man, Dr. Payton, who was the first missionary to the New Hebrides Islands. When he first went there the natives were cannibals and sought to eat him up. Now they rank among the highest civilized people of the East. They can be seen clothed and in their right mind sitting at the feet of Jesus. The Gospel has wonderful powers. It modifies the physical features of the face, and puts a new heart in the man.

This idea should be held uppermost in our minds as we prepare for the August Missionary Conventions. The one purpose for which they are convened is to plan and devise means for reaching the Gospel to destitute places in different states. If this is lost sight of, then the meetings better not be held. The principal feature of these conventions should be the secretary's report, work accomplished. This should inform the brethren how much has been received and what has been done with it. Special mention should be made of the most inga held and the number of souls added. If the record is poor let us reason with it. If it will not provoke us to good works, possibly it will shame us to good works. The plans for the future must have only one thing in view, evangelization. A careful selection of men must be made to most effectively carry this out. There ought to be a revival from Kansas to Florida and from Virginia to Texas. If we claim to have the message of the pure Gospel for the people, and fail among ourselves, we become a laughing stock among the people. We cannot boast of our sectarian brother is wrong in doctrine, if he carries the Gospel to the people and we do not, wherein are we as good as he is?

But perhaps it is well that we say that we do not need more plans. Usually there abundant plans at all these conventions, and then nothing is done. We need more consecration, not more plans; true men who will hold the one purpose uppermost in their minds, not men of eloquence. In fact when every one of these missionary conventions gets on its knees more, the work will prosper better. True humility must pervade the assembly of the people of God.
THE GOSPEL PLEA.

A WEEKLY RELIGIOUS NEWSPAPER, published every Wednesday from the S. C. I. PRINTING DEPARTMENT, in the interests of the cause of primitive Christianity and the general interests of the Negro Race.

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Say whatever evil you will of the Bible, but this fact remains, that no man who has ever made its teachings the guide of his life, has ever been a wreck.

Beauty of feature is admirable but what is its worth if it is not coupled with beauty of character. The possessor of it is, as Christ said of the Pharisees, like a well polished sepulcher.

Marriage life no doubt is good, but in order to lessen the multiplicity of cases of the after life and to facilitate the progress of our young men it is better for them to make more preparation the they do now, before they enter this life.

The illiterate man is now respected and has a right to be because his opportunities were few but when golden opportunities are opened to young men and women everywhere for an education, the world will estimate us according as we lay hold of them.

It becomes all men to think twice before speaking once, but it is wise for a girl to think four times before speaking once. The thought of many an injudicious girl has been read to her own misfortune and ruin through a slack and a hasty uttered word.

Now, when dark clouds are overhanging China the prayers of all Christians should go up in behalf of the native Christians and the missionaries. The lot having fallen to us in pleasant places and God having given us a goodly heritage, praises should also ascend on our own behalf.

The Jews' greatest sin was unbelief, hence they cut themselves off from Christ's favor. None glorifies God more than he who exercises faith in him, but experience teaches that none but the obedient and the consecrated have the boldness to exercise such faith that honors God and brings great results.

College Items.

The White Cross and White Shield Societies—former for boys, latter for girls—will have a conjoined meeting next Sunday afternoon. Subject for the day, 'The character I most admire.'

William Sheperd who came here a few weeks ago went home to attend some business, and has reported that he is sick.

Prof. and Mrs. Lehman were visitors at Learned, Miss. last Sunday. Prof. Lehman preached.

Mr. J. O. Baker preached in chapel Hall Sunday night. P. H. Moss a student preached in the Christian Church Edwards. There was one addition, a young man Mitchell Hill.

(Continued from page 5.)
Preaching.

Every preacher ought to know and ought to act according to the measure of the most holy position which God appoints each true minister. This position is higher and unlike the presidential chair or king and queen's office because God is the promoter. In the realm of this world people serve the king, but in God's realm the true minister serves the gospel. The end of this service is to teach all the people. So then after each preacher has learned what the gospel is, the proper concern with him must be, "By what means shall I reach the end?" The reply of course can only be found in New Testament Scripture. For the benefit of our readers, we'll attempt a few suggestive quotations. "Follow after charity, and desire spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy," Prophecying of course preaching and if any one will read the 14th chapter of 1 Corinthians he can plainly see that Paul reduces preaching to a rule. That is that all preaching be done unto church edification. That edification might be effected, he advised them to speak not in unknown tongues; that is speak so as to be understood and speak by revelation or knowledge, or by doctrine." Paul drew an illustration from the pipe and harp and showed that their sound is to be made with distinction in order to be understood.

He then puts the pertinent question, "If the trumpet give an uncertain sound who shall prepare himself for the battle? The uncertain sounding of any spiritual trumpet is simply beating the air." What is it then? "I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also; I will sing with the spirit and I will sing with the understanding also."

Here you see that preaching, praying, and singing are governed by the same rule. And compliance with this rule is to edify the church. If any are zealous of this gift, let them seek to excel in the edifying of the church.

Now this is an invaluable aid to those who wish to please God and save men. Every man, entering the ministry ought to be fully taught this. Otherwise he can not but fail and bring shame and disgrace on the holy cause. You older preachers must begin and put more store in preaching for young men who have had advantages of colleges and schools. It is shameful to crush them as well as sorely detrimental. Give the young man some encouragement by showing your appreciation and help. Don't be afraid you'll lose your bread and clothes. God is for the honest preacher. The people will rise no higher than their preachers. If all will stand together as true preachers and hold the standard where God puts it, the people will come up by nobly. In my own short experience this has been the case. God only knows the bitter feelings of my own heart at times because the people in a manner scorned my simple way of pleading for the truth. But when I reflected that such is the way of very true minister, I said I would tell the truth if it kill! in the good old simple way.

In preaching the Negro shows the same disposition as in every thing else. He is always catching after the non-essential. He has the zeal of preaching but not according to knowledge.

He is not satisfied with preaching the gospel only, but believing his paramount duty is to please the people by stirring their emotions, which is largely possessed with terror. I am not hunting faults, but trying to picture the the condition that you may see how necessary it is that we all preach according to scripture rule.

Now I wish to give you a few quotations concerning the manner of preaching. "I charge thee before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; preach the word: be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with all long suffering and doctrine," said Paul to Timothy.

I gather here that the manner of preaching must be made up of courage and patience.

Doctrine is the weapon in the minister's hand. Doctrine is the gospel. The gospel is to be courageously and patiently used in three ways viz, reprove, rebuke, and exhort. And the preacher is to keep ready prepared always by prayerful study and meditation. Let Jesus and him crucified be your all pervading subject.

A. C. Calvert.

Mortals, that would follow,
Love Virtue, she alone is free;
She can teach ye how to climb
Higher than the spheric chime;
Or, if Virtue feeble were,
Heaven itself would stoop to hear. —Comus.
Reports from the Field.

KEYES' NOTES.

Hemingway Miss. 6 | 27 | 900.
Editor—Gospel plea.

I am now in good health. The rain here is interfering much with every avocation of life. As no one had anything to say relative to something I mentioned some weeks ago I will have a little talk with Bro. A. C. Calvert; Sir, I have nearly two hundred acres of land, all paid for, I will build or have built a good School house and furnish you five acres of land beside, Yes and furnish a pasture for your horse and feed you six months the first year if you'll settle here and begin an educational Enterprise in this Community.

The churches here has no pastor, but this Call is not to Pastor churches, because there is nothing in ranging for Pastor-Ship in churches but endless strife. What our people needs everywhere is enlightenment, having this these useless demoralizing heart rending divisions will be a thing of the past.

I have been making sacrifices three years as district Evangelist and thirteen as state Evangelist, now I wish to do something a long this line before I cross over to the other side. This is my proposition, further information can be given while our people are increasing in numbers they are increasing in other things that will in the near future tell its own sad story. Under promise to Bro. Jenkins one of the old students of S. C. I. I am to hold a revival in or near Columbus after the third Lord's day in July I begin to think there will be no Convention called this year. I want to know as we may have to walk. Corinth, Booneville Water Valley and Hernando want meetings, I think we can have the church a Kileton hold the meeting in Hernando.

Financial stringency, Smallpox, rain has, and is playing havoc with heretofore flatter ing prospects.

I said the churches here had no Pastor, or minister, You ask me why, The Elders will tell you thro the G. P. according to thier resolution What about the Convention?

[We owe an apology to our readers for publishing the above notes which have evidently been written after a season of ill feeling. For three years at these intervals he has tried to get in the Plea telling the people why he did not support the Plea and the school. On our own responsibility we let those find their way to the waste basket. But this one we publish that our readers may help us bear the burden.

If Bro. Keyes really wants to give his two hundred acres of land, let him deed it to a responsible board of trustees to start a school where it is needed and many people will come to his rescue. To talk of starting a school in a locality where good people have spent thousands of dollars for this purpose, and to link with the work of desertion the name of such a worthy young man as Bro. Calvert, implies an ingratitude which is a pity, to say the least. Such ungrateful and almost child's play acts turn thousands of dollars to other fields that would come here if true gratitude were shown for the immense sacrifice that has already been made. His suggestion to pasture Bro. Calvert's horse and feed Bro. Calvert for six months can be taken in no other meaning than as a sarcasm. Six month's pasture for a horse and feed for a teacher does not start a school by a good many thousand dollars. His reference to "rangeling for Pastor-ship" refers to an unfortunate experience through which they have passed in Carroll Co., which ought not to be brought out in a paper that goes to a host of readers who have outgrown these "ranglings". His reference to the call of the convention is unjust to the brethren of the State Board and shows an ingratitude equal to the suggestion above. If he is so poor that he will have to walk to the convention he will hardly induce Bro. Calvert to start a school on funds promised by him.

In conclusion we have just one word. If a person has not developed sufficient faith and patience and long suffering to subdue his own ill temper that he may faithfully assist his brethren to overcome all these difficulties, he has no place as a state or district leader. Such men lack all the qualifications which Paul enumerated to Timothy, fitting a man for the eldership. —Editor.]

Obituary.

Bigsandy, Texas, June 8, 1900.
One Friendly sister Amanda
Walton’s, wife of Elder S.W. Walton, died after being confined a long time to the bed. Words cannot express her suffering, but God who knows best has taken her out of all of her misery. Oh! how good it is to die in the Lord! All who die in the Lord have assurance of everlasting life.

Sister Walton has been a member of the Church of Christ, for about twelve years. She lived to about forty-five years of age, and leaves a husband and a number of children to mourn her departure, and many friends of hers join in their grief. Sister Walton was a member of Union Grove Church of Christ, which is about four miles north of Bigsandy. I met a number of acquaintance and friends at the grave yard.

Her body was laid by the side of her Dear little one who departed this life some years before I first saw her. I know the loss of Sister Amanda is heavy to the friends of hers join in the Church of Christ, for she was well thought by all who knew her. Sister Amanda was a good and lovely Christian at home and abroad.

T. H. MERCHANT

A Call to the Members of the Christian Churches of the United States (Colored)

Dear beloved Brethren in Christ Jesus, Greetings: The annual National Convention of the Christian Churches will meet at Kansas City, Missouri, October 11th-19th, 1900.

Meeting at Cincinnati, O., last year, we caught the enthusiasm of the Jubilee Convention, we resolved thereafter to meet wherever our white brethren meet each year.

The matter of rates being also a thing of much importance, railroad companies not caring to accommodate small bodies, along with other advantages which can be derived, implied us to take this step.

Our white brethren are extending to us every courtesy to make our meeting with them a success, and the colored brethren of Kansas City, Missouri, and Kansas City, Kansas, have given us the assurance of free entertainment.

We therefore invite our brethren to meet us in Kansas City, Missouri, October 11th-19th, 1900 for organization and work, at which time we hope to report the of $1,000 for Christ and Humanity.

For information on Programme and Business, adress Prof. T. Augustus Reid, State Normal School, Frankfort, Ky.

On Entertainment and Homes, Elder Wm. Haneock 1119 Oakland Avenue, Elder J. D or Pof. John R. Smith, 1009 Nebraska Avenue or Elder Wm. Alphine

933 Walker Avenue, Kansas City, Kansas.

On Railroad and transportation G. W. Muckley, T. A. Abbot or A. A. Buxton, Publicity Comitee Kansas City, Mo., or the state Evangelist or state Secretary of white Board of your state.

And, we there as workers together with him, beseech you in the name of Christ Jesus, to meet us in Kansas at time appointed.


S. W. Arkansas Letter

I have visited the church at Washington twice this year and I see a great deal of room for improvement, but they have made considerable changes since we met before. As soon as we get the people to see that they can never be great without doing some things and change the ones that want to be lost in faithful servants, we can see churches in a growing condition, but we have people that join the church of Christ because they think they won’t have to pay any money and the most of our preachers make a mistake and do it detrimentally to the cause of Christ. When they serve them without letting them know what their duties are.

The above church is in a growing condition. It is now looking

Continued on page 2.
Home Talks.

Religion in the kitchen.

A good deal is said nowadays about religion in politics, in the workshop, in the store, and on the road. Dr. Talmage speaks out, in the Christian Herald, concerning religion in the kitchen.

There is nothing but the old-fashioned religion that will take a woman through the trials of home life. At first there may be a romance or a novelty that will do for a substitute. The marriage hour has just passed, and the perplexities of the household are more than atoned by the joy of being together and by the fact that when it is late they do not have to discuss the question as to whether it is time to go! The mishaps of the household instead of being a matter of reprehension and anxiety, are a matter of merriment—the loaf of bread turned into a geological specimen, the slushy custards, the jammed or mealy biscuits. It is a very bright sunlight that falls on the cutlery and the mental ornament of a new home. But after a while the romance is all gone, and then there is something to be prepared for the table that the book called "Cookery Taught in Twelve Lessons" will not teach. The recipe for making it is not something sweetened with ordinary condiments, or flavored with ordinary flavor, or baked in ordinary ovens. It is the loaf of domestic happiness, and all the ingredients come down from heaven, and the fruits are plucked from the tree of life, and it is baked in the oven of home trial. Solomon wrote out of his own experience. He had a wretched home. A man cannot be happy with two wives, much less six; and he says, writing out of his own experience, "Better is a dinner of herbs where love is than a stalled ox and hatred therewith."

Love not all in marriage.

Aside from the divine institution of marriage, it may also be regarded as a partnership in which the two partners observe the utmost fidelity, tenderness and loyalty towards each other, there have none so close and intimate a bond, and to make the happiness and the health of each the care of the other. Women being physically weaker, and having more limitations, man naturally receives the lion's share of the profits in the partnership, and the only equivalent she can render therefore is that quality of tenderness and sympathy which compensates man for every failure and disappointment in life.

Love, then, is not enough in marriage. Mutual aid and inspiration are necessary. The wife should ever be to the husband an example of patience, sweetness and trust; the husband should be personified courage, strength, loyalty, justice and integrity. Whereone falls in the ideal relation the other is almost sure to do so; and too often the wife, growing discontented with what she considers the "narrowness of her sphere," envies her husband his wider opportunities, and replaces that she is "tied down" to home and children. This is a fatal error. For the wise woman knows well that if she so elects she makes her slightest wish law—the law of love to her husband—if she presents that attitude regarding her responsibilities that he has a right to expect.

The influence of Girls.

Knowing the evils and temptations that beset the path of the young men of today, and fully realizing that they are human and liable to err, I wish to impress upon the mind of the young ladies, the great influence they exert.

I am quite sure they do not rightly estimate it. Evil is more often wrought for want of thought, than for want of heart.

But that would be a very poor excuse to offer for the downfall of a human soul.

How many young men have died a drunkard's death, who could they have spoken, would have said, "I drank my first glass of wine in a young lady's parlor"—and perhaps by the especial invitation of the young lady herself.

Perhaps it was only the social glass, but the social glass has cost many a life. Therefore, what a sin a young lady has to answer for, when she introduces the social glass into her parlor.

Would to God they could but half realize their influence in this and many other respects.

The same may be said in regard to a daly-playing, progressive theatre if you please, which has grown so popular, but has ruined so many a young heart.

So my dear young friends, I implore you, think of the young lives you may influence for good.

No stream, however lovely its course, flow seaward but what some land is gladdened.

No star ever rose or set, without influence somewhere.

You can also have a great influence by example alone. Your words would be as the chaff, if your conduct does not speak the same.

No life can be pure in its purpose, and strong in its strife, but that many lives will be made purer and stronger by its influence.
Was It A Miracle?

"The marvellous cure of Mrs. Rena J. Stout of Consumption has created intense excitement in Camack, Ind.," writes Marion Stuart, a leading druggist of Muncie, Ind. "She only weighed 90 pounds when her doctor in Yorktown said she must soon die. Then she began to use Dr. King’s New Discovery and gained 37 pounds in weight and was completely cured." It has cured thousands of hopeless cases, and is positively guaranteed to cure all Throat, Chest and Lung diseases. 50c and $1.00. Trial bottles free at all drug stores.

White Man Turned Yellow.

Great consternation was felt by the friends of M. A. Hagar of Lexington, Ky., when they saw he was turning yellow. His skin slowly changed color, also his eyes, and he suffered terribly. His malady was Yellow Jaundice. He was treated by the best doctors, but without benefit. Then he was advised to try Electric Bitters, the wonderful Stomach and Liver remedy, and he writes: "After taking two bottles was wholly cured." A trial proves its matchless merit for all Stomach, Liver and Kidney troubles. Only 50c. Sold by all druggists.

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P. A. Danforth of LaGrange, Ga., suffered for six months with a frightful running sore on his leg; but writes that Bucklen’s Arnica Salve wholly cured it in five days. For Ulcers, Wounds and Piles, it’s the best salve in the world. Cure guaranteed. Only 25c. Sold by all druggists.

The Appetite of a Goat

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Scrofula

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Scrofula

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Helpful To All.

Believing it would be of great interest to all of our readers, we will give a history of the work at the Southern Christian Institute. This will run through two or three issues. In the near future we hope to also give a short account of the various state missionary organizations.

In 1873, just seven years after the close of the civil war the Southern Christian Institute originated. Thomas Munnel was then secretary of the Home Missionary Society and was the originator of the movement. The question of the freedmen was of so vast importance that no Missionary Society could for a moment neglect it. But the conditions were so entirely different from those in any other field that it was seen by these fathers in Israel that a special work would have to be organized.

To do permanent work it was necessary to start a school where the simple truths of the gospel could be taught as well as general truths of living and doing business.

At the instigation of Bro. Munnel, who has now gone to his reward, other godly men and women were interested. It was the spirit of God moving in the hearts of these people, reaching out to a people who had by the Providence of God obtained a freedom that they did not know what to do with. One of the things for which the people of this generation should continually thank the Lord is that He moved the hearts of these good people to come their rescue.

Among this number, the name of Dr. Belding stands out most prominent. He was to be the agent to go among the people and reach their hearts as his own had been reached. Anyone who has had no experience in this kind of work has no idea how much it takes. Some have an idea that if a building could be built, the school would then run itself. Instead of that it takes thousands of dollars to even get the work started. Then as the work grows the demands are increased instead of diminished. Dr. Belding went among the people and secured enough money to buy the plantation and erect one building. The charter obtained March 5, 1875, stipulated that the capital stock should not be less than $10,000 and not more than $50,000. Thus ten thousand dollars had to be raised before a beginning could be made. The capital stock of the institution now is about $40,000.

The first president of this institution was William Iredin, in 1881. This was before the present plantation was purchased and the school opened at Hemingway, Mississippi. Bro. J. W. Merrill, who a few years since entered into his reward, stood behind the work most nobly while at Hemingway, once or twice hazarding his life by resisting the assaults of drunken rowdies. Old Bro. Merrill served four years in the Confederate army and on many political questions was "unreconstructed" to the day of his death. But on the question of giving a Christian education to the Negroes in our land his vision was as clear as the noonday sun.

Only one session was held at Hemingway and the next year the school was moved to its present site which is now known all around as the beautiful plantation called Mt. Beulah.

Randall Faurat and his wife, Letitia, came to take charge of the work in the fall of 1882. They arrived here in August, the warm and sultry season of the year and found an immense amount of work awaiting them, and the sanitary conditions very bad. The cistern had not been cleaned out for years. Roots from the trees had forced the cement lose from the sides and the water was impregnated with an immense amount of decaying vegetable matter. Randall Faurat died, some of the other members of the family got sick and Dr. Belding who came to the rescue came near dying with the same fever. No braver heroes ever went forth to battle than these godly men who began this work. They found the people whom they came to teach, yet unable to appreciate the good work which had come in their midst, they found many of the smouldering embers of a fraternal war which made their life uncomfortable, and and they found the sanitary conditions of the place as bad as it could be. But their vision was clear. They knew that if the Lord would spare them the sanitary condition could be righted and the work could be organized in such a way as to overcome all prejudice and indifference. This completes a mere outline of the beginning of this work.

There is a tide in the affairs of men, Which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune; Omitted, all the voyage of their life Is bound in shallows, and in miseries. — Shakespeare.
The Gospel Plea.

A WEEKLY RELIGIOUS NEWSPAPER.

It is a sure sign that he is becoming dead spiritually. For he that is born of the spirit seeks the things of the spirit.

— x —

It is a departure from human reasoning and disregard to the things of nature to reject a dose of Quinine in the case of a little fever and to look for a supernatural healing. We must awake to the fact that God regards the natural means as much as he does the supernatural. He resorts to the latter only when the former fails. Christ preached to the multitudes three years, but he fed them only twice by a miracle and that was when by a natural means the necessity could not be dispensed.

— x —

Fourth of July Celebration at the S. C. 1.

July is a memorable month in the history of the United States. There are numerous battles which have taken place in July. It was on the 4th of July that Vicksburg surrendered, it was on the 4th of July, the “Declaration of Independence” was made, it was on the 4th of July that the battle of Gettysburg was fought, it was on the 14th of July that Santiago fell. But one of the mysterious facts is that Jefferson and Adams, the two men who had the most to do with the Declaration of Independence, died on the 4th of July, within an hour of each other.

In order that the Fourth of July might be observed at the S. C. 1, there was a suspension of work for a half-day.

At the S. C. 1, the 4th of July celebrations were successfully carried out under the supervision of the Matron. She had, in order to make the time enjoyable to all, made special exertions both in the selection of pieces for rendering, and in the preparation of dainties to tempt the epicurean stomach.

The day was calm and still, there being a slight shower in the morning. First the boys had a game of base-ball. After this the whole crowd set out for the spot selected for this purpose, east of the college building. Lunch and other things were carried thither.

First an exercise comprising recitations of speeches delivered by distinguished American soldiers and orators was rendered. Next came a host of amusing games, after which the time for supper arrived. Supper being dispensed with the whole assembly dispersed, some, for aught I know, wishing that there was more than one 4th of July.

C. S. Shirley.

Personal And News Items.

— John C. Wright one of our last years students is conducting a class in the study of Paul’s missionary journeys. This is a good way of teaching missionary work.

— R. L. Love of Becks, Arkansas writes: “Please send me a sample copy of your paper. I am an evangelist of the Church of Christ in the eastern district. I have not been here long. I want to know of the field of labor of my brethren.

— The present gloom which overhangs China is caused by the collision of western and eastern civilization. It is best for the civilized western nations to permeate China with their civilization and Christianity.

— A. C. Chichon, of Greenville, Miss. is writing a series of articles for the Vicksburg Light on Concubinage. Some of his statements are almost too plain for publication, but writing on this subject he cannot do otherwise. The articles are well written. It is his purpose to organize a society with a view to correcting this evil.

— Prof. J. B. Lehman left Tuesday morning for Water Valley, Miss., to attend the State Convention of the whites.

— The present campaign is exciting great interest through the whole country. W. J. Bryan is preparing to make a good stand in this campaign.

— The situation in China is growing worse and worse every day. The international troops have not yet succeeded in putting down the revolution. Time alone can tell what will be the issue.
THE GOSPEL PLEA.

Thus it seems that God has not written that law in the color of our skins, neither the form of our heads or the climate of our ancestor's abode, but in the fundamental desires of our hearts. Then it is as necessary as the air we breathe, the water we drink, the sunlight that makes fruitful, the soil we till. The out-goings of the heart after freedom indicates the working of the divine in man. And it is wonderful how this sentiment has controlled the actions of some of the wisest and best men of all ages. This as a motive served the greatness of Washington. It was the flower of hope which kept him from complaining of thrones and made him fertile in expeditious. Season could not deter him, rage could not shame him, defeat could not scare him; it was his morning and evening star. The victory of the Revolutionary War was freedom's victory. Large were the hours of freedom, and great were the hearts of heroes. This will also account for the devotion and courage of the soldiers. The spirit of their chief was infused into them.

Next to Washington stands the emancipators of thousands of helpless creatures. Earnestly did Abraham Lincoln labor for the proposition that all men are created equal. Back in their natural condition he wished to see all men. Lincoln here restored an attribute of God. God be praised for the man who conceived the full sentiment of freedom! How valuable is the thought! millions of graves testify. America's civilization is her glorious Daughter. The world has always longed for freedom to extend from horizon to horizon and from pole to pole. On every Thanksgivingday the nation ought to sing.

“My native country, thee, Land of the noble free, Thy name I love; I love thy rocks and rills, Thy woods and templed hills, My heart with rapture thrills, Like that above.”

Yes, God is the author, and the noble conduct of our just heroes have dedicated it to him. And I do hope our land will long be bright in the might of freedom. Bright in a freedom that is not color deep, nor head shaped, but everlasting heart deep.

It is quiet hard to estimate the value of freedom. To sound its length, breadth, height, or depth, is a task we purposed not. We wish now to mention the opportunity it has given the Negro. We think that its foremost privilege to the Negro is the ownership of a home. Here lies our destiny. Here is the hope of our race. We can not confide in the government we can not depend on the execution of just laws alone. Our salvation is not there. We have got to come down to that which alone pleases God. Our expectations are two fanciful. Good character is everything. This character must be built up in the home. We have only to appeal to the Bible for unquestionable evidence that freedom is a creative arrangement of God. The law of self-preservation is sanctioned by the Bible. Jesus came to make us free, that is, restore the freedom we once had in Adam. Jesus intimated this to the lawyer when he said that the first commandment is to love God with all intelligence, soul, heart, and strength and that the second is just like the first, viz. “Love thy neighbor as thyself.” Jesus said these were the foundation commandments on which is built the tabernacle of

Continued on page 4.
Reports from the Field.

Missouri Letter.

Harrisonville, Mo.,
June 29, 1900.

Editor Gospel Plea: I wish to say to the churches of Missouri in view of the fact that the general convention of Missionary workers will meet Oct. 11-19, 1900, in Kansas City Mo., we hope the state will begin to look out toward making arrangements for the entertainment of the delegates and visitors. They must be cared for. The State Board must take up this matter. Secretary will do his duty along this line. Missouri will invite and expect Kansas City to share a part of this honor. When I hear from the General Secretary Bro. T. A. Reid the possible number, I will visit both cities and appoint a committee on homes. We want to say to the general brotherhood don't fear to come to Missouri and Kansas for you will be well cared for.

We wish also to request our state to be not behind in our appointment for general work. $10. 00 is all for each state. Let us acquit ourselves as become us as missionary workers. Remember the forces are to meet in our state and city and a larger plan of operation to be formed. Brethren of Missouri the delegates and visitors to Kansas City are our guests and we must care for them. Kansas is so near that we expect her to come to our rescue. I learn that about 250 or 300 delegates will be here. I hope they will.

Come, we will take care of you. Send me your statistics. Do not fail to fill out the blanks and send them as soon as you get them.

Yours for the cause,

L. M. Scholl

Hymen.

Martin, Miss., July 3, 1900.

I was called to the residence of Mrs. Rebecca Garrison to join together in holy matrimony her daughter Flora Russell and Mr. John B. Williams. May their home be one where a Christ-like light will be always found. "What God hath joined together let no man put asunder," I hope they may consider these to be two of the things which God has joined together. A happy home is one of the most enjoyable things in our lives. We cannot be good Christians when our homes are not comfortable but if it is every one in that home cannot help being a Christian.

May their lives be as a city set on a hill which cannot be hidden, a high hill which cannot be hidden, so that it may lead others to make their homes the best place in the world, so that they can say "There is a place like home."

L. C. Wallace

At Home and Abroad.

To have nothing to do with Foreign Missionary work is indicative of a selfish spirit. Any people who say that they cannot give to Foreign Mission can never build up themselves spiritually.

Both Foreign and Home Missionary work are needed and the success of the one depends upon the other to a great extent. No church be can succeed until it begins to give to foreign work. As soon as it begins to do this, it starts the work at home also, and both grow together, one stimulating the other. Because we do not see anything mentioned in the Acts of the Apostles or in the Epistles regarding Home Missionary work, Foreign Missionary Society C. W. B. M. or church Extension Board is no argument that we are not authorized to have these boards and societies. The means of carrying the Gospel was left entirely to the circumstances of each age and the judgement of the men and women who would have to do this work in each distinct age.

Freedom.

Continued from page 3.

Moses and the prophets. Here we get the hint that to love our neighbor as ourselves is to act according to the creative right of every person.

Now this is freedom in the perfect sense. Another thing: any individual or race who tries to love God only is trying to enslave man. That is a half love and must arise out of a half heart. To be a christian is to be free, and this freedom must include loving God up to the full measure of our powers, and loving our neighbor up to our capacity of a healthy self love. Said Christ, the second is like the first. They can not be separated. What God has joined let no man put asunder. Our best
love belongs to heaven and our self-love belongs to earth. This seems to me a strong lesson to the races in America. They are neighbors. Our white brethren of the North seem to be imbued with this spirit. They are handing a helping hand to us. They have built for us schools, and admitting us even into their schools. For instance let us note what they have done for us in persons of O. Singleton and W. A. Scott. These are our own home boys but what boys! I love them for their Christly character and zeal which is according to knowledge. I am learning to appreciate what is being done by our schools and I am thanking God for the freedom of his merciful religion. It will not do for us to love God and not love these white brethren. Are we treating them like we would treat ourselves? They have and are giving us of their culture and financial means and wise examples. Whatever our boys possess is ours in general. They have given us pure freedom. We are now perfectly responsible for ourselves. To the will of God we must stand or fall.

A. C. Calvert.

Obituary.

Brother Abram Johnson died the last of June. He was sick over five months and endured much during his illness. Brother Johnson was a faithful member of the Pine Grove Christian Church. He was much interested in the C. W. B. M. work. Brother Johnson leaves a loving wife and several children to mourn his death. He lived a faithful Christian life and died as he lived. The funeral was attended by Eld. J. Lomax and Eld. G. T. Trivilet his pastor. Brother Johnsons last words were, "Meet me on the other shore"

M. F. Bridges.

Why should we stay on the Farm?

By P. H. Moss.

In building up homes I daresay that fifty per cent of the people would make the farm their last choice. They can give no good reason for this.

When I turn to the pages of history and study the lives of our statesmen, I find seventy-five per cent of them have been raised on the farm.

If a Washington and a Lincoln could be raised in a cabin on the farm, why can not we raise up men as important as they. Some people think that it puts them below the notice of the best people to stay on the farm. They always think that they are classed with the unimportant people.

It is especially true with the young. It is like hitting a half ripe persimmon for some young ladies to tell anybody that their home is on the farm. My friends the farm degrades no one but rather speaks in honor of them. There can be no more comfortable homes built than that on the farm.

Some may say that all homes on the farm are not comfortable. There is some truth in that, I suppose, but why are they not comfortable? Does not the fault lay in the owner?

If it is their privilege to build up beautiful homes on the farm and if they are too indolent to use the privilege they should be satisfied with what comes and not lay the fault to the farm.

The question that now awaits an answer is, why should we stay on the farm? To my mind the old farm is the safest home for two thirds of the people that leave it. It is very true that the farm can not be the home of all people for our factories and shops must go on and it is found best and more convenient to have them in cities and towns.

Again, I say the farm is the safest, why? Because they can get an honest support on the farm.

Although riches come in slow, but if one is thrifty and feels gratified at living by the sweat of his own brow he will find wealth on the farm. It is not found in a day of course, but all he needs is to do is to shov this land and go in the course of time.

There was a time when it was best to live in walled cities where protection could be afforded. At the present time we can demand protection anywhere we wish to have our home in the U. S. as long as we live in harmony with her laws. The farm will not allow idleness, it always leaves the question for those who pass by to decide whether one is industrious or not. It teaches a lesson by objects. If you see the house of a farmer with no garden near, or the yard gate broken off its hinges, or the wagon standing out in the sun, fowles unprotected from thieves and from the weather, no question is needed to be asked about his thriftiness. The condition of the place bespeaks the kind of owner. It is such persons that are ready to leave the farm, but where are they going? The farm would be glad to get rid of them, and cities refuse them, they are seeking an easy support but they are very apt to be defeated in this. Let us consider the support from the farm. Men who are living in a civihzed state and in a mild climate must protect their bodies from the heat and cold by means of clothes. The plant from which these are to be made must be cultivated on the farm and sent to the different Manufactures and in different places. This enables you to see the part that the farm plays in the protection of men, that is not the most important part the farm plays. The bread of men must be raised on the farm. It may be grounded in some city but it must be cultivated on the farm. This being so why should one be anxious to leave the farm and go where he wills?
Home Talks.

Tobacco was his ruin.

He was a young man, only a little past thirty, and yet by his face one would almost think he was sixty: wrinkles, scars, prematurely gray hair—all of them through debauchery. He was waiting to be taken to the penitentiary, where he had been sentenced for a crime committed when he was under the influence of drink.

When asked how he came to be in such a state, he said with a look of despair “Tobacco has been my ruin.” I kept pure company and was a clean young man until I formed the tobacco habit. I traced my downfall from the very hour I began to use tobacco. I soon became accustomed to company I would not formly have thought of associating with. Then came the wine cup. The thirst for it was created by the use of tobacco, I verily believe. Then the company of dissolute women. He was the very picture of despair. His whole life destroyed and blotted out by the devil’s hand, the devil’s instruments being used to do it with.

There are so many who look lightly upon the using of tobacco—even do not reprove the young men when they begin to use it, call people cranks who do not believe in the use of tobacco, and criticise and even persecute those who are warring against this evil.

Selfishness, unquestionable, is at the bottom of a large part of this, for when one has formed the habit it is very difficult to give it up and the temptation is to brave one’s self against all argument in favor of its being abolished.

It would be well if all such people could take a look at the wrecks caused by the use of tobacco.

Strange Bible Facts.

The learned Prince of Granada, heir to the Spanish throne, imprisoned by order of the crown for fear he should aspire to the throne, was kept in solitary confinement in the old prison at the Place of Skulls, Madrid. After thirty-three years in this living tomb death came to his release, and the following remarkable researches, taken from the Bible and marked with an old nail on the rough walls of his cell, told how the brain sought employment through the weary years:

In the Bible the word “Lord” is found 1,853 times.
The word “Jehovah” 6,555 times.
The word “reverend” but once, and that in the ninth verse of the 111th Ps. ln.
The eight verse of the 97th Psalms is the middle verse of the Bible.
The ninth verse of the eight chapter of Esther is the longest.
The thirty-fifth verse, eleventh chapter of St. John is the shortest.

In the 107th chapter of Psalms four verses are alike the eighth, fifteenth, twenty-first, and thirty-first. Each verse of the 136th Psalm ends alike.

No names or words with more than six syllables are found in the Bible.
The thirty-seven chapter of Isaiah and nineteenth chapter of Second Kings are alike.
The word “girl” occurs but once in the Bible, and that in the third verse, third chapter of Joel.

There are found in both books of the Bible 3,513,483 letters; 773,193 words; 31,373 verse; 1,189 chapters, and 66 books.

Twenty-six chapter of the Acts of the Apostles is the finest chapter to read.

The most beautiful chapter is the 23rd Psalm.
The four most inspiring promises are John 14:1-2; 7:37 Matt. 9:28, and Psalm 37:4.
The first verse of the fiftieth chapter of Isaiah is the one for the new convert.

All who flatter themselves with vain boasting should read the sixth chapter of Matthew.

All humanity should learn the sixth chapter of St. Luke, from twentieth verse to its ending.

Have a care for mother.

We often see girls who act impatiently when mother asks them to do certain work; we meet boys every day who think mother wants too much done. They do not realize how much mother has done for them, and it is well to direct their attention to their duty to her at all times in life. They do not mean to be negligent—they are only thoughtless. Still these acts of kindness and these gentle courtesies to parents can become habitual early by commencing them early in life and thinking of them every day.

There are so many little things to show that you love mother. Remember, daughter, to rub the achy head when she sits down and says “I’m so tired;” buthe the weary feet for her; pick up the unfinished garment and sew some on it; when you know she is worn out waiting upon the little ones or nursing some sick child, go to the kitchen and make a cup of tea for her; pour it into the daintiest cup and saucer you can find in the house and see if her sweet smile of pleasure will not repay you. Unless you live to become old you will never know how dear to a mother are these acts of love.

And you, dear boy, when you buy your fragrant cigar, think of mother’s favorite bon bon and take it to her; when you purchase that handkerchief case, as a Christmas gift for your “darling girl,” do not forget that mother needs an easy chair, a pillow for her couch or a stool to rest her feet on. The sweetest “God bless you,” that will ever reach your ears, will come to you from her lips, when she sees your tender regard for her. These daily remembrances of her needs will serve to develop in you a strong, sweet character, which will serve in after years as your greatest adornment.
THE GOSPEL PLEA.

Was It A Miracle?

"The marvelous cure of Mrs. Rena J. Stout of Consumption has created intense excitement in Cammack, Ind.," writes Marion Stuart, a leading druggist of Muncie, Ind. "She only weighed 90 pounds when her doctor in Yorktown said she must soon die. Then she began to use Dr. King's New Discovery and gained 37 pounds in weight and was completely cured." It has cured thousands of hopeless cases, and is positively guaranteed to cure all Throat, Chest and Lung diseases. 50c and $1.00. Trial bottles free at all drug stores.

White Man Turned Yellow.

Great consternation was felt by the friends of M. A. Hogarty of Lexington, Ky., when they saw he was turning yellow. His skin slowly changed color, also his eyes, and he suffered terribly. His malady was Yellow Jaundice. He was treated by the best doctors, but without result. Then he was advised to try Electric Bitters, the wonderful Stomach and Liver remedy, and he writes: "After taking Electric Bitters was wholly cured." A trial proves its matchless merit for all Stomach, Liver and Kidney troubles. Only 50c. Sold by all druggists.

It Saved His Leg.

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Helpful To All.

We now enter upon the second division of the history of the Southern Christian Institute. Last issue we told you of the founders and their sacrifices, this period coming to a sudden close by the death of President Parrot.

On January the first Jephthah Hobbs took charge of the school and remained seven years. This seven years represents great sacrifice and much hard work. The building which is now used as a printing office and factory was then built for a school building. This had four large school room and was prepared to accommodate about two hundred pupils. Prof. Hobbs began the enormous work of fencing the plantation and putting in well made gates. This together with the work on the farm represented much hard work.

The work of these seven years was most difficult because the income was not equal to the expenses. There was no organized system of collecting money behind the enterprise, and often Prof. Hobbs found himself facing starvation. This is a fine object lesson for those who do not believe in organized missionary work. When the demands for a work are first explained to a people they give gladly. But their enthusiasm dies down as fast as it arose and there is nothing like a continuous effort. It is an object lesson for those who think that is needed to start a school is to start it, and it will run itself. The starting is the very least part of the work.

But to resume our comments of the work of the second period, Prof. Hobbs carried on the work heroically all the time increasing it in power for good. It was during this period that a host of young men and women were given their education. These can be found scattered over the whole land. In going about we are often gratified to meet these people and always find them living a life worthy of the careful training they got. Among this number may be mentioned K. R. Brown who has done such noble work in organizing and developing the Mississippi Christian Missionary Society which has probably raised and expended for most useful purposes five thousand dollars; Walter Miller who did so much to develop the work in the North-East district who a few years since entered into life; Octavius Singleton, who has a charge of a department in the Louisville Christian Bible School, and who has during the past five years shown a patience and devotion to duty worthy of a man of far more pretensions than he, Rufus Lowery who entered the ministry and felt a victim to consumption while in charge of a church in Kansas; Willie Scott who now has a good position as one of the clerks in the departments of Washington and a great number of others who are teachers, elders, deacons, or setting noble examples as farmers or mechanics. If the school had permanently closed its doors at the end of Prof. Hobbs's work, the result as shown forth in the lives of these men would amply repay all the cost in dollars and tears and hard work it required to do it.

Sometimes we hear white men and negroes say they do not believe in educating these people. But to any careful observer it is manifest that these few who had their lives touched with higher aspirations, and a clearer appreciation of their duty in these schools, are now the salt of the earth, but scattered very thin over much territory. If it were not for these, those who profess not to believe in education would see evil days indeed. They are the hope of the race and the one barrier to a flood of vice.

Prof. Hobbs gave up the work in December 1889 to return to his home and family in Illinois. Next issue we will take up the present period of the work.

We urge the farmers and those who have gardens to remember the winter turnip patch. Now is the time to prepare the ground. Plow it deep and well and be ready for any season that may come any time between now and September. So often you say, It is too dry now and you wait for rain and when the rain comes you are not ready. If you plow your ground now you will be ready when the rain comes. It is often the case that only one opportunity comes in these months and if this is lost you will be without a turnip patch for the winter. And if you have no garden you will eat up all your fresh pork and corn before spring comes and then when you go to start a new crop you will be as bad off as ever. You have had experience enough the last ten years. When the price was not so low it was a crop failure and so every year it has been hard on you. Now take advantage of these things and things will turn out different.
The Gospel Plea.
The weekly religious newspaper.
Published every Wednesday from the S. C. I. Printing Department, in the interests of the cause of primitive Christianity and the general interests of the Negro Race.

Price $1.00.
Send all communications to The Gospel Plea, Edwards, Mississippi.

Entered as second class mail matter at the post office at Edwards, Miss.

Some people are just like parasites. They seek to live entirely off others. Such people wherever they are found are always thorns in the flesh of any race.

Our love for any one is generally the result of some favor received, but how much higher is the love of Christ, he loves us while we were yet sinners.

The C. E. is that we all may endeavor to do something for our edification, but some young people though pledged to do this duty endeavor to get out of it.

The man who sits down with hands folded expecting God to supply his needs, is expecting God to assist him in abusing those powers of mind and body which He has so lavishly bestowed on him.

To go to sleep in church or in any public gathering shows indifference to the speaker and also a sure sign of sloth and low aspirations in us. But that we may be counted ambitious we should keep awake.

To tell the truth at once whatever may be the consequence, is always better than to make false excuses, it saves us the trouble of making a boat twelve successive excuses to right each other and God delights in the truth but hates a lie.

God allowed the Israelites only a daily supply of manna in the wilderness. None was allowed to be kept over for the following day except for the Sabbath. Christ also taught his disciples that their supply of grace will be daily given when he inculcated in our Lord's prayer, "Give us this day our daily bread." The object of this in both cases is to make us realize our absolute dependence on him.

Mary and Judas.
Continued from page 3.
Let timely efforts be made to give our children the advantage of Christian schools. God bless the institutions which purpose to give students clean hearts along with clear heads.

A. C. Calvert.

College Items.
The weather is in a fluctuating condition. Some days are extremely hot and some extremely rainy.

The cellar in which the furnace is to be placed has been completed. The carpenters expect that the building will be finished by the opening of school.

The students of the S. C. I. have organised a Literary Society which is held when school is out. The girls have theirs separated from the boys. This is good summer drill, and gives those who have not yet been in school an idea of the work they will have to do.

Prof. Lehman visited the St. Peter's Baptist Church at Utica.

The time for the convention at Hermanville is not far off. The brethren in Mississippi have always been able to overcome all difficulties and we have full faith that they will not fail in this important convention. The field is truly ripe for harvest. If consecrated and God fearing men are sent in with sickels then will be a great harvest. May God send the reapers.

We would like all the states to send in programmes for the fall convention.

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Personal And News Items.
---Elder John Lomax writes:
The congregation at Union Hill has built a new edifice, it was dedicated to God. Song services were led by Bro. Robert Clark, prayer by Bro. W. M. Blackburn and dedication prayer by Reverend B. Hartfield, sermon prepared by W. R. Sneed and the pastor Jno. Lomax.
---On our first page article this week we make mention of Willie Scott, as having a position in Washington. This is not our W. A. Scott at West Point who is doing such good work in his district; Bro. W. A. Scott belongs to the later period of the S. C. I. and we will duly mention his work.
---The dry weather with a few light showers has helped the farmers out greatly. The prospect is much better now for cotton. All things come to those who wait.
---Eld'r Keys and Murray have both sent in matter for publication reflecting on each other. But this is so far as we can see a personal affair and this would be neither edifying nor entertaining to our many readers so we can not publish them. To them we would say, "A bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not self-willed, not soon angry."

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Mary and Judas.

The female name of the above subject is the sweet Mary of Bethany, the sister of Lazarus and Martha and the pure friend of Judas Iscarion, whose wicked narrative of their lives. Nevertheless the day of Mary has ended in the dark right of Judas. Jesus had gone to the house and put the same into the heart of Judas. Another thing: this head religion is noisy and bewilders people by false questions. It makes fuses and divisions. By it the reins of the temper is turned loose because hate is the motive power. But opposite to this is the religion of the heart. It must be very quiet in performance because so noiselessly was the conduct of Mary that the disciples knew not of her doings until the odor had filled the house. This is in harmony with the teaching of Jesus when he said that a good deed is not to be announced by sounding a trumpet. The humble servant of God works none the less because of quiet conduct. This seems to have been characteristic of Mary for that was the "good part" she chose at the feet of Jesus while Martha bustled about to prepare him repast. We want more quiet workers now-a-days in the vineyard of the Lord. The brotherhood will not know much of their doings until a harvest of souls is reaped.

I gather also that heart religion is beautiful. Then Jesus cares for beauty. Beauty savors of grace. I am thankful that we can have a beautiful religion. I want to see the Christian church developed by more beautiful preachers. This means that I want our master's services led by men equipped well in heart and head that they may gracefully represent the religion of love. If we can not own costly churches, let us keep them neat and clean and sometimes decorate them. Let us do whatever we can to show our love for Him and always remember that this love takes a beautiful form. Remember that the head and heart must go together; therefore

Continued on page 2.
Reports from the Field.

Kansas Letter.

Kansas City, Kansas.
The fifth annual session of the Elders' and Deacons' Institute of Kansas, was held in Lawrence, Kansas July 3-5, 1900. The churches of the state were well represented by their elders, deacons and church workers. The sessions were held in the A. M. E. church which was kindly granted by its trustees.

The session was a pleasant and profitable one. The writer is a "conversion goer" but he never attended a meeting of congregations white or colored in which there was more unity, "Down right" business and Christian courtesy prevailed. Most of our churches have paid their annual apportionment for state missions; all of them have paid some. The reports from the elders and deacons showed that the church work was in a growing condition. The advancement is slow but firm. The great need of the Kansas work is more preachers. The institute unanimously passed a resolution, that all our congregations would strictly observe all of our state and national Missionary days. This is a step in the right direction and the results must be good. If our brethren carry out, this resolution (and I believe they will,) our sister states may expect better things of Kansas.

The Institute was royally entertained by the Lawrence congregation. They certainly planned well and showed themselves equal to the occasion. This meeting of our elders, deacons, and church workers is a great help to our state missionary work. Our reports in the State Missionary Convention in August will be better than they were before as a result of these meetings.

The officers for this year; D. Weeks, Pres. Emporia Kansas; Alex Bryant, Vice Pres. Lawrence Kansas; James Carr, Sec. Wathena, Kansas; B. C. Duke, Cor. Sec., 1216 West Street, Topeka, Kansas; Mrs. S. A. Weeks, Pres. of Bible School work; Mrs. Cora Alphin, Pres. Aid Society and Auxiliary work. The next meeting will be at Emporia, Kansas.

Wm. Alphin, Evangelist.

Hermanville, Miss., July 9, 1900.

Dear Editor: Allow me space for a few words.

We brethren at Flower Hill are about to give a grand rally in the church here on the 5th Lord's day in July. We have invited Elder M. Smothers, and the congregation of both his churches, Bro. Geo. Williams, Elder Smeed, Elder Lomax, and Elder Scott, to help on the 5th Sunday in July. The Lord's Day School is in a flourishing condition, Bro. B. M. Lutes is the Superintendent.

Yours truly,
W. R. Parker

At Home and Abroad.

Missionary work is one of the most glorious enterprises in which humanity can engage. Any people who does not fully realize its importance has fallen greatly below the standard which Christ requires. Until they begin to do missionary work both at home and abroad they have not a clear idea of what Christ meant when he said, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature."

Christ's mission on earth was not to bring pleasure or satisfaction to himself. It was to transform man who had been an alien from God on account of the Adamic transgression, into a being fit for communion with God; it was to restore the life which Adam through disobedience had lost, and in order to do this he had to disregard self-love, live not for himself but for mankind, submit himself to death, even the death of the cross. If then his followers are to receive the reward which Christ has promised they must live as their Master lived. He said the foxes had holes and the birds of the air had nests, but he, the Son of man, had not where to lay his head.

In every position in which we are placed in life we have the opportunity to do good, to root up sin and superstitition, to extend this blessed gospel of Jesus Christ over the whole world and glorify his name on earth.

Christ the Light of the World.

"I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness but shall have the light of life." (John 8:12)

By P. H. Moss.

In these words Christ declares himself the light of the world.
He employs the most glorious and beautiful object in nature to illustrate his perfection, and as an emblem of light and gave to fallen and benighted men.

The first we might consider is the state that the world was in which required the manifestation of Christ as its light.

By the disobedience of one man the world was made to group in darkness. So great was that darkness that it almost hid men from the presence of God for 4004 years. Men were saved only by believing on the promised Messiah. The scriptures represent man as a wanderer going astray, and forsaking God. Man was travelling just in a ruinous desert; his way was benighted, though he had eyes he saw not.

We look back in the past and see men with all their learning knowing not God but would fall down to idols and in their dark understanding worship them in place of an intelligent God. Egypt with all its learning worshipped a bull, crocodile and many other things. Greece and Rome, the seats of science and literature, acknowledged not less than 30,000 gods And even now how few have the proper conception of the nature of the great creation! God looking into a dark world and seeing men going the downward way promised a redeemer—yea the dearest to heaven, the Prince of Peace, God's only son.

The prophets foretold of him for nearly 4004 years. They told how the world would be lit up by his advent. God told Eve of him as recorded the book of Genesis 3:15: "And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy heel and thou shalt bruise his head." We can scarcely see that prophecy pointing to him, but Eve understood it so much that she thought she would be blessed with the privilege of being his mother. Jacob could look as through the telescope of time and see his coming, when he called his sons together upon his dying bed and told him that the Septer shall not depart from Judah, nor the Law Giver from between his feet until Shiloh come, and unto him shall the gathering of the people be. Gen. 49:10.

That meant that all people should look up to him as a Savior. The seers all saw him in different ways; but they all saw and knew that light would shine through eternity.

Balaam, having promised Balak that he could not curse Israel, still sought to do so by enchantment, but when he saw that God was determined not to curse his people, turned the curse into a blessing, yea he looked into the future and saw Christ coming unto a dark and benighted world, and said:

"I shall see him but not now,
I shall behold him but not nigh:
There shall come a star out of Jacob,
And a Septer shall arise out of Israel,
And shall smite the corners of Moab,
And destroy all the children of Seth."

The people that heard these saying were expecting him to come through a royal family but he came not as they hoped; he came through an humble family. One who did not dress in splendid and ride in their fine chariots, but one who was poor and could but ride on an ass colt and as we can see he was as the light of the sun making everything happy in nature. So was the world made glad by that new born child that was born in Bethlehem of Judea who had his place among the lower animals. Yea he was wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger, because there was no room in the inn.

As the shepherds watched their flocks by night, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round them and they were sore afraid, the angel told them to fear not, for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all the people for unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior which is Christ the Lord. And as they spoke a heavenly host caught the strain and began to praise God, saying glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will towards man. The world never had such a light in it before nor could she comprehend it just then. Christ came as the light of the world. Hence how ever dark the world he is its light. The Bright and Morning Star, the Sun of Righteousness. Had Bethlehem ever had such a light before? No. As the rising sun dispells the darkness of night so does the Sun of Righteousness. He came to light up the path-way of every one who looks up to him.

Soon after his advent into the world, they sought to take his life, but oh! that all knowing Father destroyed the plan of that blood-thirsty King, and caused the child to be turned out of his way until his death.

Continued next issue.
Home Talks.

Home Talk with Girls.

"The world is wide, these things are small. They may be nothing but they are all right.

You want to be popular and you want to be admired; that is all right; but you don't want to lower yourself in the estimation of your male friends by familiarity, which is destructive of all that is exalting and ennobling.

Do not permit young men to talk on any subject that cannot be discussed before the third party. Young ladies often, even on slight acquaintance become very confidential and familiar, quieting their conscience by the thought "he will never tell." There never was a greater mistake, your first duty is to be a lady; you cannot afford to be familiar, bold or wild in order to appear smart (?). Let your conversation be pure.

When writing to your friend, don't grow gushing, don't tell him all your personal affairs, and don't call him "darling," "dear," and sign yourself "yours forever," "thine only," or send any loving message. Write a common-sense letter, one for his friends to read as well as himself and "remain sincerely," etc.

Take a little care, and remember while you are having a good time this summer, while your pleasures and enjoyments are innocent, yet "the world may see evil where it does not exist." Don't toss your head and put on airs that you don't care if it does; you do care, and you ask you to think over our suggestions for good conduct makes our golden spots.

If you go walking to the woods, driving or beating, go with a party. A young man may urge you to go alone, he may urge you to stay out late, but he would not allow his sister to do this, and he will think much more of you if you insist upon it and remain where all the rest of the people are. If you entertain your friend at home in the evening, do so in the presence of your mother and family; he will not remain so long, but what is much better, he will regret that the time was so short. Keep your self respect and arow of unfamiliarities in many manners, and believe me you will never regret but if you commit the privileges that are given many young men, you will always have cause for remorse.

Be a true, womanly girl, your own merry-hearted self, but let your conduct be such that men of high degree will look up to you for approval; then if time separates you from your new gentleman friend, the time spent with him, will always be pleasant, bright spot in your memory and no blush will need to overspread your face.

Religion for Young Men.

Shall I speak of the beauty of holiness in youth? I fancy that young men are, most of all, inclined to fancy of the whole thing; to some it savors of grave restrictions, to others of a sort of cant. All very proper for a divinity student, but a young man looking forward to the common work and pleasures of the world, and rejoicing in vigorous life—ah, wait awhile! And yet it is that very life of vigorous youth—youth with its keen sense of life; youth brave and skilful in manly sport—youth just entering on the strong temptations of the world—it is in just such a life that earnest, unaffected religiousness brings the very finest grace of real manhood. It would not make him weak, but gentle and helpful with his strength; it would not lessen pleasure, but keep it sweet and wholesome; the very merriest laugh that comes ringing to me through the halls of memory, is that of one of my early friends who always seemed to me the most like Christ of all, I ever knew. Religion—earnest, unshamed religion—does not make a young man less brave but more, adding to mere nerve and pluck that finer courage which can stand up squarely against wrong, say, "not," to profanity and dissipation, and say it so as to be respected. And so, to the whole opening life, religion gives a richer zest, a finer appreciation of all things great and good, and that interest in higher things which keeps bringing to the front the strong and helpful men of each new generation.

Cheap Religion.

I entreat you do not covet a cheap religion. What costs nothing is commonly worth nothing. To become a new man, and a better man, and a strong man and an heir of glory, means more than signing a card or "rising for prayer," or going into an inquiry meeting. It means the thorough uprooting of old sins and the implanting in you of a new nature. The whole question of your salvation must be settled between you and your Savior; the inquiry you need most is on honest hour with the loving Jesus. No book, no sermon, no friend, no pastor, can save you; as he speaks through your conscience, do it! The loving Savior who has waited for you too long already, says now to you, "Follow me;" start at once, and you will find the path of obedience is one straight road to heaven.
Was It A Miracle?

"The marvellous cure of Mrs. Rena J. Stout of Consumption has created intense excitement in Cambridge, Ind.,” writes Marion Stuart, a leading druggist of Muncie, Ind. "She only weighed 90 pounds when her doctor in Yorktown said she must soon die. Then she began to use Dr. King’s New Discovery and gained 37 pounds in weight and was completely cured." It has cured thousands of hopeless cases, and is positively guaranteed to cure all Throat, Chest and Lung diseases.

White Man Turned Yellow.

Great consternation was felt by the friends of M. A. Hogarty of Lexington, Ky., when they saw he was turning yellow. His skin slowly changed color, also his eyes, and he suffered terribly. His malady was Yellow Jaundice. He was treated by the best doctors, but without benefit. Then he was advised to try Electric Bitters, the wonderful Stomach and Liver remedy, and he writes: “After taking [sic] was wholly cured.” A trial proves its matchless merit for all Stomach, Liver and Kidney troubles. Only 50¢. Sold by all druggists.

It Saved His Leg.

P. A. Danforth of LaGrange, Ga., suffered for six months with a frightful running sore on his leg; but writes that Bucklen’s Arnica Salve wholly cured it in five days. For Ulcers, Wounds and Piles, it’s the best salve in the world. Cure guaranteed. Only 50¢. Sold by all druggists.

The Appetite of a Goat

Is envied by all who see Stomach and Liver are out of order. But such should know that Dr. King’s New Life Pills give a splendid appetite, sound digestion and a regular bodily habit that insures perfect health and great energy. Only 25¢ at all Drug Stores.

Queen & Crescent Route

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Geo. H. Smith
GENL. PASS. AGENT.
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Helpful To All.

We now come to the third and last period of the work at the Southern Christian Institute. This begins with the fall of 1890, when J. B. Lehman and wife took charge of the work. At this time there was a great and crying need for a school which should teach the Bible without restraint of creed, to the youths of the Negro race that a sufficient number might be trained to become leaders for their people. With all the great sacrifice of hard work and patient endurance of those who had labored before this time the work was but begun and yet much remained to be done before the school was properly equipped with buildings, and had gained the full cooperation and sympathy of the Negroes to whom the school had come as a blessing.

The first year a new girls' dormitory and a dining hall was built and Elder K. R. Brown was employed for two months to go among the churches and agitate the question of co-operation in building a school which should send out hundreds of young people to lead the people in their struggle for advancement. The hall was built and a good attendance was secured. In the first and second year a large number of the young men and women who have since started out so successfully entered. Of this number are W. A. Scott, A. C. Calvert, Robert Brooks, Thomas B. Frost, John E. Bowie, Mattie Briggs, Malinda Campbell, who are well known to our readers.

The institution owned eight hundred acres of land and to make this help sustain the school and build an industrial department, it was necessary to build and repair tenement houses and prepare for farming. This work together with the completion of the college building consumed the larger part of the year.

Thus the work went on from years to year until we now have five large buildings including a two story college building with ten large recitation rooms, a chapel hall and a library. This building will accommodate over four hundred pupils. The farming was developed until a large number of boys were enabled to earn their way in school. The department of carpentry was added which enabled these young men to develop true skill of the hand which will make them far more efficient in whatever station of life they may find themselves. The department of printing was added which enables a large number of girls to earn their way in school and provide a means by which the Institution can get its work to school which should send out hundreds of young people to lead the people in their struggle for advancement. The hall was built and a good attendance was secured. In the first and second year a large number of the young men and women who have since started out so successfully entered. Of this number are W. A. Scott, A. C. Calvert, Robert Brooks, Thomas B. Frost, John E. Bowie, Mattie Briggs, Malinda Campbell, who are well known to our readers.

The institution owned eight hundred acres of land and to make an enterprise of this character. And then we had not fully counted on the obstructionists who thoughtlessly have made it the habit of their lives to indiscriminately oppose everything. Instead of five hundred regular subscribers now we had counted on two thousand by this time. Of course we were too sanguine, but we cannot help reflecting on what vast good we could accomplish if we could send the PLEA to two thousand families.

Last year a sewing department was added. Here all the girls in the institute spent an hour a day learning how to sew. Some have their first lesson to learn, the threading of a needle, while others are learning to make neat fitting dresses and suitable children's clothes. This is one of the most important departments in the school. Within a few years we expect to introduce a nurse training department for girls and blacksmith department for boys.

It is a vast work we have before us. It is our purpose to send properly equipped teachers and preachers in all our Southern States that the work of leading the people to the great truths as revealed to us in Christ Jesus may be more universally accomplished.

At this writing a large new hall is being erected. This will be a girls' dormitory and dining hall. Another year we hope to erect a large boys' dormitory and a hospital.

Every church in the land should awaken to the great opportunity. Earnest young people should be encouraged to enter school and by one of this great band of soldiers of the cross.
The Gospel Plea.

A WEEKLY RELIGIOUS NEWSPAPER,
published every Wednesday from the
S. C. I. PRINTING DEPARTMENT,
in the interests of the cause of primitive
Christianity and the general interests
of the Negro Race.

PRICE $1.00.
Send all communications to The
Gospel Plea, Edwards, Mississippi

Entered as second class mail matter
at the post office at Edwards, Miss.

The first thing a young man or
woman ought to know is that they
know nothing.

It costs nothing to treat our
companions with politeness but it costs
a great deal to treat them with icy
coldness.

The evil that one does is recorded
on brass, his good deeds are
written on water." We should
therefore strive to let our good
deeds exceed our bad ones.

A man who is resolute and always
stands firm for the right, does not prove that he lacks meek-
ness. Firmness is an indispensable
principle in every man.

We believe the early disciples
were called Christians because of
the similarity of their principles
and actions to those of Christ. And
our christian profession is perfect
deception if our principles and ac-
tions are not kindred to Christ's.

The christian who fails to in-
fluence his worldly associates for
good, will surely be influenced for
evil by them. We can only prove
worthy christians when we let our
light shine for others, but no sooner
than we attempt to keep it secret, it
grows dim in us.

THE GOSPEL PLEA.

The failures that come to many
people both in secular and religious
business are often due to the lack of
stability in their character. A
double minded man is unstable in
all his ways. He changes his plans
and purposes with the changing
tides he sows but never stays to
reap.

Christ compares the religion that
he brought us to a well of water
springing up into everlasting life.
One great thing about water is, it
will always rise again to its own
level, that is it will seek to be on a
level with the source from which it
has been conducted, so if our life is
from Christ it will rise till it brings
us to stand with Christ in glory,
but the mere moral man or any
man who has not Christ has nothing
that can take him to this higher
realm. His religion is of the earth
and can take him no farther than
the earth.

College Items.

We have heard of Louis Thomas
and Arnold Shirley's safe arrival in
Jamaica. Louis Thomas has sent
a letter giving an account of his travels, but owing to lack of space
we could not insert it this issue.

Eld. Wm. Scott held services
two nights this week in the
christian church, Edwards. He
expects to hold a series of revival
services in August.

The health of the Institute, so far,
is much better this summer than
last. We hope this may continue un-
til the more healthy season arrives.

The list of scholars at the S. C. I.
includes students from Jamaica,
West Indies, Georgia, Alabama,
Tennessee, Arkansas, Texas Louisi-
am and Mississippi. Thus the in-
fluence of the school is far reaching.

Personal And News Item.

—The Catalogue for this session of
the S. C. I. are out now and will be
mailed to our patrons soon.

—Do not forget the Mississippi Mis-
sionary Convention which meets at
Hermanville on Thursday before the
third Lord's day in August. This is an
important gathering and every church
should send a delega-
t.

—Texas recently held a convention
at Waco, but we have received no re-
port from them yet.

—T. Augustus Reid of Frankfort, Ky.,
is making a special effort to get out a
goodly number to the great Kansas
City Convention. The managers at
Kansas City have failed to get the
Hall so the great gathering will divide
up into four or five churches.

—What we need now is reports from
the field. For a long time we have not
heard from Texas, Alabama or Ken-
tucky. Let us hear from you.
THE FRIENDSHIP OF GOD.

Let every soul write the proposition upon the fleshy tables of his heart: "He loseth nothing that keeps God for his friend." Let the christian remember this to be the grandest of joys, the purest of hopes, and the greatest stimulus to trust and courage. Let the christian consider the sweetest and closest possible relationship as well as the most valuable, then let him sing with better knowledge, "What a privilege to carry, every thing to God in prayer." Solomon certainly said to God as a candle light does to the effulgence of the noon· day sun. Blood relation fails ill, the comparison. Yea, verily, and it sticketh closer than a brother. Blood relation fails in the comparison. Ye are yours. Blood relation compares with the friendship of God as a candle light does to the effulgence of the noon-day sun. Like air that pushes its way everywhere into every recess of empty space not only, but like ether which glides through every least conceivable crevice and fills the universe, so is the friendship of God to him who owns it. And he serves, knows, and shares every sorrow and joy of the heart. Let a man be an outcast, the world frowning upon him, rags disgracing his body, and it withering under pains of disease, if his heart is right toward God at the call of his fever parched lips will come blessings as well as to any King or Queen. Do you ask why I think so? Because such is the bearing of conscience, the testimony and example of all ages, the verdict of authority, the glad tidings of the best thought. How much we need to keep this thought near to our hearts. Having the friendship of God we do not lose one thing. If we get interested in this as we should, we will ask the question, How can I keep the friendship of God? The only solution of the question is found in the plan of Jesus. "Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you." To be a friend of Jesus is to be God's friend, and God yours, because Christ and God are one. Hence, the friendship of God rests on the condition, that, "Ye do whatsoever I command you." "Obedience unto him secures the friendship of God." Right here is great power and a holy privilege delegated to man. Such a man may seem to own nothing, yet possessing all things. As Paul said to the Corinthians, "Whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas, or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come; all are yours.

We are led to see that the one who loses his life for Jesus is he who finds it. For only by forgetting self in obedience to what Jesus commands can God's friendship be retained. Also the pertinent question can be well inserted here: What will it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul? What can a man give in exchange for his soul? My brother, if it were possible that you could own the world as your property, with God as your enemy, the time would come when all would vanish as a shadow before the coming light, or the shedding of the bloom when the flower is plucked. There you would stand the filthiest before the purest, sin before glory, owning nothing but enmity of God and the love of satan. You might look up as the rich man did and see some Lazarus in Abraham's bosom and sadly beg the holy Saint to just let Lazarus come and cool your parching tongue. But Abraham will not obey you. You always were an enemy of God, and you are one still. Whether in hell or heaven, a man is the same that he was on earth. Lazarus was a friend of God on earth, yet he owned nothing apparently, the rich man's crumbs his sustenance, dog's his only physician, but now he is in possession of all eternal glory.

In short a man ought to keep a friend who is able to save him, make the best of him, and give him happiness. Christ laid down his life for his friends. A greater love can no man have. He is our greatest friend that makes the largest sacrifice for us. This is what Jesus did. Jesus is the gift of God. The power of God is absolute. Salvation is in his hands. Jesus came to the earth to not only redeem man's soul but to relieve man's body of all maladies and deformities. Good bodies or health is a part of the gift of God. True religion is a necessity. Long life accompanies health. Think of it! A long life now, and an unlimited life hereafter.

In point of growth bodily, intellectually and spiritually, man needs the aid of God. This is also a part of holy arrangements. In the friendship of God, man has growing ability. Verily, as a reed cast into the soil springs up to maturity and brings forth the most precious fruit, so does the life of every friend of God, God is a friend whose advice stimulates unto the labor that is never without just reward. And as labor is the price of excellence.

Continued on page 5.
Reports from the Field.

Programme
Of the Mississippi Christian Missionary Convention,
Held at Hermanville, August 16–19, 1900.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 16, 1900.
10 A. M. Devotional service, conducted by Brother J. Gaiters.
10 A. M. Introductory by the President. Enrollment of delegates, Arranging the affairs of the Convention. Adjournment.

AFTERNOON SESSION.
4 P. M. Sermon.
5 P. M. Adjournment.

NIGHT SESSION.
8 P. M. Devotional service.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 17, 1900.
9 A. M. Devotional service.
9.30 A. M. Various reports.

AFTERNOON SESSION.
2 P. M. Devotional service.
2.30 P. M. Reports of committees. Church Reports continued.
4 P. M. Sermon or Address. Appeals. Adjournment.

NIGHT SESSION.
8 P. M. Devotional service.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 18, 1900.
Saturday morning will be devoted to the Women's Work.

AFTERNOON SESSION.
2 P. M. Devotional service.
2.30 P. M. Unfinished matters.
4 P. M. Address by Prof. W. A. Laster. "The Delta as a Mission Field." Adjournment.

Night Session.
8 P. M. Devotional service.
8.30 P. M. Address by Prof. T. J. Williams. Other speeches.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 19th, 1900.
9 A. M. Lord's Day School.
10 A. M. Address. "Relation of the Lord's day school to Church."
10.30 A. M. Song service. Appeals.

CLAIBORNE NOTES.
It has been several weeks since we wrote. The surrounding circumstances almost prevent our writing.

The articles of A. C. Calvert are so rich and logical that they alone furnish stimulus enough to move the pen of any one who is interested in the Master's cause.

On the first Lord's day in July, we preached to a good audience at Christian Chapel. A number of strange faces were seen in the audience. Mr. Floyd Blackburn of Greenville was among the number of visitors. He was formerly a member of the Christian Church. For several years he has resided in Greenville and no doubt has become weak in the Christian faith, since the disciples of Christ have not a congregation in that progressive city. There are enough disciples there to be organized into a band and commence to keep house for the Lord. Brother A. C. Chichon made a wonderful start for the master. Some two years ago he was stricken with fever and left for West Point to recuperate. While there, he attached himself to the Methodists and when he had fully regained his health, he returned to Greenville, quite a different advocate. Those who have heard Bro. Chichon know him to be a strong gospel preacher, that is, he knows the truth. It is hard for a Christian preacher to do anything else, even though he may stray away. Bro. Chichon has found this to be true, and is now making his way back to Jerusalem. Of course his changing over to the Methodists gives our plan a little back set, yet the good seed, the Bible facts, that he sowed in Greenville some two years ago, must germinate and bring forth fruit for the Master. Therefore our strength should be turned in that direction. Paul entered into the center of influence that the truth might have its never dying hold upon the world. To successfully plant the cause in Greenville, means that the truth will be in the near future, spreaded over the Delta. Then let us hasten to do our Saviour's bidding.

Saturday before the second Lord's day, we were called to attend the funeral of Bro. Henry Whitney a member of Rose Hill congregation. On Lord's day we spoke to a large and appreciative audience. Two were reclaimed, two made the good confession. The revival will commence at Rose Hill on Tuesday Lord's day night and continue one week. We hope to have many preachers with us.

The convention will convene at...
Hermanville. We hope to have a good delegation. Remember the 16th of August.

A word to the women. The 28th and 29th of July are the dates of your meeting at Christian Chapel. We trust that the preachers and members would be on hand. We should make a marked impression. Take away the work of the women in this state and the sad story will soon be told for the disciples.

Misunderstandings, ranglings, bittings and warfares should not be known among the Children of God. If the devil should steal in among them and cause such to be our condition, we should at once consider our standing and resist him. "Resist the devil and he will flee from you."

Remember the convention, August 16th, at Hermanville.

K. R. BROWNE

THE FRIENDSHIP OF GOD.

Continued from page 3.

in anything, man gets the key which unlocks the chambers of every secret charm and worth.

Lastly, true happiness resides only with God. Its seat is found in individual character. God is a friend that can make a man happy by giving him a clean character. Out upon the mountain of such a character a man dwells amid the glory of God keeping company with Moses and Elias while beneath his feet are the howlings of evil spirits, perplexities of faithless and prayerless heart, and the broken and discordant voice of troubles sorrow and sins and with joyful pride he apostrophizes. "O, death where is thy sting? O, grave where is thy victory?"

A C. CALVERT

A Faithful Friend.

The following letter from J. D. Starn of Bryan, O., will interest all our readers. On the same day this faithful worker in the Lord's vineyard sent us $50 for the new Girls' Dormitory which is now in process of erection.

Bryan, Ohio.
July 18, 1900.


Dear Sirs and Brethren: I have been receiving the Gospel Plea regularly and reading it regularly for the past four or five years. That is if it has been published that long. While I did not order it or subscribe for it and have been very glad to get it and to keep in touch with the work there and in the several southern states from which it is receiving reports and contributions. And it is doing a good work. Of course it can be improved, and some of the editors or writers instructed in the way of the Lord a little more perfectly, which we hope and trust and pray for, and will probably exhort or write some to that end. In the mean time enclosed please find N. Y. draft for ten ($10.) dollars to pay my past subscription and for future improvements in the paper. And may God add his blessings is the prayer of the writer. Love to all.

I remain Your Brother,
J. D. STARN

At Home and Abroad

A church first begins to be independent when it can support its own pastor. This is indeed a great step in home work. There are some churches that cannot do this, but have to depend on a board for the support of its pastor. But while this is being done at home there is a great cry abroad. We can, if we listen with our imaginative ear, hear the cry coming over the waters, as distinctly as Paul heard the Macedonian cry: "Come over into India and christianize us, come over into China and christianize us."

When the present struggle in China shall have ended then will the fate of heathenism be determined. Civilization in company with Christianity is making its way westward as quickly as possible. Conceited China, having her government built on heathenism, is right in the way of these two conquering forces. They cannot go over her, go around her, or go beneath her in order to avoid her. They have to go right through her. This is what they are now doing, and if the Word of God is powerful like a two-edged sword dividing asunder, the result will be that when the present uprising shall be put down we shall see China clothed in her right mind, sitting at the feet of Jesus.

C. S. S.
Washing children's faces.

"Go away, Nellie, you sha'n't wash my face, you hurt me so," screamed a little fellow who was called in to make himself presentable for company.

I felt so sorry for him, for I could see Nellie snatch him up, wet a corner of the towel, rub on the soap and rapidly work all over his sweet little face until the soap was in his eyes and the skin on his face was sore.

Try it on yourself once, and you will know just how it feels.

And then the soap! Most people think any kind of soap will do for children to wash with, and I have seen their faces and hands fretted and sore from some coarse, rough kitchen-soap that was not fit to wash dishes with, much less to put one's hands into. Even all good soaps do not agree with the skin. One that has a suspicion of glycerin in it will fret the skin for days at a time, so when I find a soap that agrees with my skin I hold on to it and am never persuaded to change.

Then, too, the wash-rag used is the cause of much discomfort. I never found any so soft and pleasant as a piece of old, soft, white flannel; next to that is old linen. We save the old table linen for this purpose, and the old gauze shirts and whatever is used should be washed out and rinsed carefully, hung up straight to dry so that it will not sour. Each one, too, should have their own. Skin-diseases are often communicated from one child to another in this way.

Try a more gentle way of performing these ablutions and see if the little folks will not deem it a luxury to be clean.

Rainy-Day Dress.

When I first saw the much-talked-of rainy-day dress I said, "Oh, I'll never wear that!" But you know "wise people change their minds; fools never do," and to-day I would not give up the comfort and cleanliness of my abbreviated gown.

Dragging skirts may do in the house, where it is clean, but dragging skirts along a dirty avenue, catching all the filth along the way, are an abomination. Think of taking all that into one's clean home! Of hanging such a gown up in one's wardrobe to breed all sorts of noxious vermin.

Those who are obliged to be out in all weathers should be provided with suitable gowns as well as umbrellas.

There are, of course, a variety of materials, but to one who has known the durability of a real good piece of cassimere, or clay worsted, purchased of a tailor, no other goods would appeal to them.

Very few, if any, of the materials sold as women's wear will stand weather, and only the best the very best of material will come out of storm unharmed. So do not deceive yourself into thinking that a cheap material will do for a many-day costume. It should be tailor-made, a good, felt walking-hat to go with it, and leggings of the material or of waterproof goods to be worn over the shoes. Some prefer a close turban, as often wind accompanies the rain, and it is less liable to be blown about. A pair of chamois gloves and a good umbrella and rubbers complete the outfit.

Rainy-Day Dress.

I have seen the much-talked-of rainy-day dress. It seems to me that it is a luxury to be clean. I would not give up the comfort and cleanliness of my abbreviated gown.

For those who are obliged to be out in all weathers, suitable gowns and umbrellas are needed. There are many materials available, but to one who has known the durability of real good pieces of cassimere or clay worsted, purchased of a tailor, no other goods would appeal.

Very few materials sold as women's wear will stand weather, and only the best material will come out of storm unharmed. So do not deceive yourself into thinking that a cheap material will do for a many-day costume. It should be tailor-made, a good, felt walking-hat to go with it, and leggings of the material or of waterproof goods to be worn over the shoes. Some prefer a close turban, as often wind accompanies the rain, and it is less liable to be blown about. A pair of chamois gloves and a good umbrella and rubbers complete the outfit.

What to Teach Boys.

A philosopher has said that true education to boys is "to teach them what they ought to know when they become men.

1. To be true and to be genuine. No education is worth anything that does not include this.

2. To be pure in thought, language and life—pure in mind and body.

3. To be unselfish. To care for the feelings and comforts of others. To be generous, noble and manly. This will include a genuine reverence for the aged and for things sacred.

4. To be self-reliant and self-helpful, even from childhood. To be industrious and self-supporting at the earliest possible age. Teach them that all honest work is honorable, that an idle life of dependence on others is disgraceful.

When a boy has learned these four things, when he has made these ideas a part of his being—however poor, or however rich—he has learned the most important things he ought to know when he becomes a man.

Make Reading a Duty.

Reading should be made one of the necessary duties of life. There are too many good and helpful things printed for anyone to miss them all. You cannot afford it. Subscribe for all the good magazines, books and religious papers you can afford and then find time to read them. Do not get the idea into your head that money spent in this way is extravagant, or that you are treating yourself to luxuries. They are essential to mental growth. They stimulate thought and help one to a wider range of knowledge generally. The man or woman who reads will never be relegated to the background by better informed children. Read practical things as much as possible. Remember that what we read, as well as what we eat, should be digested.
THE GOSPEL PLEA.

Queen & Crescent Route
ALABAMA AND VICKSBURG BY
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