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Gospel Plea, Volume 7 (1902)

Joel Baer Lehman

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GOSPEL PLEA.

"PREACH THE WORD."

Vol VII Edwards, Mississippi, Wednesday, March 5. 1902. No. 10.

Helpful To All.

The Bible has a store of knowledge which is far more valuable to human society than most people realize. It has advice so fitting for every possible relation in which man may find himself that it becomes man's supreme guide. Once in a while we find a man who achieves marked success without becoming a Christian, but every success he makes is due to following out some principle laid down as law by the great Book. No avowed infidel is qualified for an office of great responsibility for he lacks the attributes required for it. Roscoe Conkling, the great New York senator who sought to crush Garfield, failed at the first serious difficulty. About ninety-nine percent of the cause of the Schley and Sampson controversy can be traced to their position on the authority of the word of God. Individuals and nations must observe the laws of conduct laid down by the Bible or make a failure of life.

These observations are of vast importance to the teachers and preachers of the negro youth. This people is only about thirty-six years out of bondage. The great majority of the people have not yet acquired a taste for literature. The Bible should be the first book to cross the threshold of every home. It ought to be read and studied until the occupants learn its language and mode of expression. To the fact that the Bible was the first literature of the Teutons and Anglo-Saxons is due their present greatness. Whatveer the teacher or preacher does, let him give the children the Bible.

The greatest difficulty in reforming men is in the fact that we can not get them to look far enough ahead. It is said Moses chose rather to suffer with his brethren than to enjoy the pleasures of Egypt for a season. Present things never caused him to make the decision. He saw a purpose in the future. The present arrangement of things will not continue forever, but should be looked upon as simply a preparation. What are we or our decendants expected to do fifty, a hundred, five hundred, a thousand years from now? Are not the experiences we are undergoing in some way fitting us for that time? Only with such thoughts can we choose the reproach of Christ as greater riches than the pleasures of Egypt for a season. Many people are so blindly wedded to the pleasures of this life that they never dream that there is a future coming. We are laying the foundation of a future Christian civilization. The amount of happiness that will be realized then is entirely dependent on the faithfulness with which we do our work now. This being true, let us take our minds from the enjoyment of the follies of to-day and fix them on the splendor of the future.

Many people think that they can live Christian lives by refraining from evil. This is a negative way of living and not in accord with the teaching of Christ. Christianity is not a negative but a positive institution. The rewards which it promises its adherents are on condition that they n t only restrain from evil acts but do good deeds. In the judgment many will be condemned not because they were liars, thieves, fornicators and murderers, but because they did not feed the hungry, clothe the naked, comfort the fatherless and widows and preach Christ to the unconverted Christianity does not consist in the knowledge of certain facts, but in the putting into practice the things known. Christians cannot afford to stay stll and see the enemy of the Lord trample under feet and vilify the representatives and the cause of Jesus Christ and do nothing to dethrone the Man of Sin. Ever since its infancy Christianity has been aggressive. Its aggressiveness must continue until the last enemy shall be destroyed and the Kindgoms of this world shall become the Kindgom of our Lord and of his Christ. If we do not join in and use drastic measures to accomplish that for which Christianity is destined, if we do not "come to the help of the Lord against the mighty," God will raise him up another people who shall do the work and receive the reward, and our names shall go down as a by-word among the nations.

THE GOSPEL PLEA.

A Weekly Religious Newspaper

Issued every Wednesday

from the Press of

THE SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN INSTITUTE.

Published in the interest of the cause of Primitive Christianity and the general interests of the Negro Race.

PRICE PER ANNUM $1.00.

Send all Communications to

THE GOSPEL PLEA,

EDWARDS, MISSISSIPPI.

Entered as Second Class Mail Matter at the Post Office at Edwards, Miss.

"Daily, with souls that cringe and plot, we Sinai's climb and know it not."

—o—

When people begin to retrograde they go by leaps, but when they develop the growth is slow and steady.

—o—

God in revealing things to us comes down on the plane of human understanding.

—o—

Reason is the highest tribunal to which man can appeal.

—o—

There is a wide difference between investigating for truth's sake and investigating for the support of some favorite dogma.

—o—

Proverbs is the Bible's inspired book on the law of the organization of human society. Read it and it will teach you how to serve yourself and fellow man.

—o—

Are you willing to do your part in making your state prosperous, wealthy, and a happy place to live?

—o—

Begin the spring missionary work as though working in the sight of God He is not unmindful of your efforts, but will reward faithful work done.

College Items.

The annual contest between the two Literary Societies will be held Saturday March 8th. The program consists of the following: Orations, Essays, Declamations, Debate and an interesting lot of music. Everybody is urged to come out and here this. The admission is free. The exercises will begin at 7:30 P. M.

Two weeks ago we announced that Miss Mattie Burgess would visit the S. C. I. about March 1st. Soon thereafter she wrote that it was necessary for her to go at once to Indianapolis. This prevented her visit to our regret

Sec. C. C. Smith is now in Texas looking after the interests of the college project there. In about ten days he expects to be here.

About three weeks ago a large flock of robins and blue birds, probably three hundred, gathered in our cedar tree for a meal on the seeds. In about five days thereafter the papers in Northern Indiana announced their arrival there. Were they the same ones?

Last Saturday evening the Y. M. C. A. and Y. W. C. A. of Mt. Beulah gave a social in Allison Hall. Both participants and on-lookers enjoyed themselves.

PERSONALS AND NEWS ITEMS.

—We notice by some of the papers that the ex-slave pension scheme is again revived. Without entering into a discussion as to whether this ought to be granted we wish to say that it is scarcely possible that enough sections of the U. S. can be induced to support it and not in the least probable.

—It should be looked upon as a trick of the politicians and the officers of the organization out of which no good can come to the poor ex-slave.

—When you write to advertisers who have ads in the PLEA mention to them where you saw it.

—Union Chapel Christian Church of Greenville, Texas has called Elder Isaac Brewer to preach for them.

—Henry Cotterell, one of our last year's graduates has been called to preach a trial sermon at the Church of Christ (Colored), Chicago, Ill. He is entirely worthy of a permanent call while he remains in school.

—Remember the Y. M. C. A. Rally on the third Sunday. President Lehman will preach in the morning and Rev. H. W. Scott in the afternoon.

—Prince Henry of Prussia, brother of the Emperor of Germany, arrived in the United States last week. He will visit nearly all the leading American cities and ere he returns to Germany will have a much clearer conception than heretofore of the marvelous growth of the American Republic and catch a glimpse of American life.

Original Contribution.

THE COUNTRY PULPIT.

That our Lord's "Go ye into all the world" is in the least illogical, not one of our preaching brethren believe; yet it does seem passing strange that so many of us would confine our work to city work and railroad towns.

I make no objection to using any or all the modern appliances to facilitate travel, but I enter my most solemn protest against the growing spirit of the age which ties the young stalwart man to the coach and street, when just over the hill or across the country are souls, precious in the sight of God, who are perishing for the word of life

The argument might be made, that if they want to hear the gospel they should call or send for the near by preacher; but such does not seem to be the spirit of the Master. His parting words to the eleven was "Go ye." A man who is sent needs no direct call. When the child is sent on an errand, even though it be to benefit the one to whom it is sent, it must not wait for such party to call it, but goes with the instruction of the sender. So we as children of God, "stewards of the mysteries of God" must carry the message into rural people who have not even heard of "the common salvation."

Our work as disciples must be in adherence to the commands of our Great Examplar, and he sends us to "All the world." How dare we not go. The unchristianized are not supposed to know their spiritual needs and therefore do not hasten to learn of Him; but those who "have tasted of the heavenly gifts" and know the value of Christianity must go uncalled and even unwanted.

I know this manner of teaching will have a tendency to strike at what some would call ministerial dignity, but when a man's idea of dignity finds no support in the word of God it ought to be struck down at a single blow.

It may be true that the city or town makes the country, but certainly not until the people from country make the city. But be that as it may, they all must have the gospel and not one to the exclusion of the other. If *go* means *go*, then all the world means all the world from the "River to the ends of earth." And when we reduce our theory to practice our voices will be heard in all our country pulpits and hymns of praise ascending from quarters now "wholly given to idolatry," and the the servants of the Lord God shall return to our Great High Priest and say, "Lord, it is done as thou hast commanded," we took another "good confession" yesterday.

Yours in the work,

C. H. DICKERSON.

Editor GOSPEL PLEA:— Please allow space in your valuable paper for the following. The Longview sub. District convetion will convene with our chapel Christian Church Gilmer, Texas, Friday before the 5th Lord's day in March. I trust every church will send delegates, and money with them. Brethren remember that the last board said that all auxiliary societies should report quarterly to the board. Sisters please stir up your women and come meet the board and let us have a grand time. I trust the committee on program will not fail to send the program out in time. I am satisfied they will do there duty. Elder T. E. Campbell and J. W. Daniels two of the best preachers we have in the Longview district are on that committee. Brethren please get the program out in time and futhermore I trust every Christian preacher in this district will be at the meeting, for we will not recognize any preacher who will not attend these meetings.

Dear brethren and sisters don't forget the 2nd, Sunday in March; That is college day in the Longview district; I trust that every member will rally on the 2nd Sunday in March, for college, let us raise $200.00 on that day. I preach at Mt. Ollie last Sunday my regular appointment, had fine audience day and night. I will preach at Fred Duglass every 2nd Sunday.

I trust more of our preachers will take the PLEA and support their work through it.

Now brethren let us do more this year for the interest of education and evangelization. Now is the time that we must do something. I will write again, success to the PLEA

W. L. MORELAND.

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Reports from the Field.

CLAIBORNE NOTES.

The quarterly meetings in district number one and two are now over. Both of the meetings were a success. A good interest was exercised by the brethren it is true. Feb. quarter is always dull in many respects; especially in finance. The secretaries of districts will no doubt write up the meeting in full. We hope to have the announcement of where the May quarterlies will be held earlier than before.

The third Lord's day in March Eld. M. Smothers and the writer will preach at Hermanville, we hope to have a good meeting. All are invited to participate with us in the service.

The fifth Saturday and Sunday in March a general missionary rally meeting will be held with the Providence congregation. Members of both districts are called on to meet the meeting. Bro. L. P. Porter, state evangelist is expected to be with us. Come out and show your interest. God is expecting something of his people.

Governor Longino has taken a decided stand against whisky. This is the best thing he has done. It is gratifying that he had the courage to come out boldly and let the world see that he is opposed to the vile stuff. Now that the ball has started not a single preacher should be silent, upon any and every occasion they should be actively engaged in condemning the sale of it.

The colored people should be the ones to fight strongest against the saloon for no race ha suffered more from the sale of the stuff, whisky, than the negro. Money, friends, homes even their lives have been lost. The sooner whisky is voted out of the state the better it will be for all the people. President has well said that nearly if not every crime that resulted in the taken of life was due to the saloon. How true. Think of it; a father kills a son, a brother kills a brother, brother-in-law kills a brother-in-law. All happened within six weeks time within ten miles distance. whisky was the prime cause of the terrible crimes. The minister who has not the courage to come out openly and fight the sale of whisky is hardly able to do much good for the Master; for drunkenness is a great hindrance to the spreading of Christianity.

A word to the disciples every where. Now is the time to make ready for war against sin the winter will soon be over the spring and summer should be spent in bringing the gospel of Christ within the reach of the sinner that they may hear believe repent and be baptized. We are commissioned to go forth and preach the gospel to every creature. If we give up that part of the work all else will fail. Fill our schools with students and much good will be accomplished in the future.

May God bless the work.

K. R. Brown.

KENTUCKY LETTER.

Enclosed you will find a few lines from the missionary field from Kentucky. Our watch-word for this year is $1,000 for Christ and humanity. With the above names of the work we will be able to accomplish a good deal of work in the field. The writer has visited the following named places and urged the churches to fall in line.

Milton, Ky. first Sunday in January; Lawrenceburg, Ky. the second Sunday, Central Christian Church, Louisville, the third Sunday; Danville, fourth Sunday; Nicholasville the first Sunday in February, Winchester the second; Mt. Sterling, the third: Richmond, the fourth. With Graham at Danville, Harris at Lawrenceburg, Dr. Robinson at Louisville Bailey at Nichlasville, Montgomery at Winchester, Brown at Mt. Sterling, George Campbell at Lexington, Campbell at Paris. Why should our work not succeed? All the above named brethren have promised to aid in raising the amount asked above.

The harvest truly is ripe the laborers are few let us still continue the prayer that the Lord may send more laborers into his vineyard.

Yours in the work,
Wm. P. Richards,
Evangelist of Kentucky.

ARKANSAS LETTER.

About a hundred and fifty miles west of Little Rock stands a church thirty feet square with

about fifteen members that will soon because spiritually dead for the lack of preaching. They are asking for some earnest man that can stir up an interest among them to call to see their situation

I know this is a field where much can be done because the majority of the whites belong to the church of Christ and assist in the work that is to be done If you can make it convenient to stay in their locality do so.

This is a place of much fruits, also a place of grain fields, woolen mills, wagon factories, flour mills and such things that make business activity. I know these people because I have worked among them, been in their homes and know the difficulties they have to overcome and material there is among them. This place is very healthy. For further information write E. J Propps Center Point Arkansas.

Yours,

John C. WRIGHT.

THE WORK IN TEXAS.

Elderville, Texas,
Feb. 21st, 1902.

Editor of the GOSPEL PLEA :—

Please allow me space in your valuable paper to say something to its many readers. I read the PLEA every week, and I love to read it because I think its so nice

We are striving to build a Christian Institute in Dixon, Texas, the place of location for the Institute of N. E. Texas, And the second Lords. day in March, is our rally day for college and we trust that every Christian hurch in the Longview Sub. District will co-operate as that is the day agreed upon in December, meeting at Bigsandy. Will do all thy can; we expect to raise more money in the Longview District this year than in any of the other three.

Our church here at Harris Chapel is getting along very well. Elder J. W. Daniels is our pastor. Sunday-school is doing fine. Our public school is good. Miss S. E. Roberson is teacher. As this is my first I will not say much now but look for me after. I mean to do all I can to help the PLEA. Success to it.

A. E. COLBET.

OBITUARY

Stanford, Ky.,
Feb 26, 1902.

Sister Mariah Carr died Feb 20 age fifty-four; she had been ill about two weeks she had been a consistent member of the Christian Church for about forty years. She died in the full triumph of the faith. She was loved by all who knew her Her funeral was largely attended. She left to mourn her loss, a husband and relatives and a host of friends.

Only good-night beloved and not farewell. A little while and all his saints shall dwell, in hallowed union indivisible, good-night. Until we meet again before his throne clothed in the spotless robe He gives his own. Until we know even as we are known— Good night.

W. T. RICHARDS.

WHERE THE GOLDEN RULE DOES NOT FIT.

A great many people who are not Christians tell us that they are trying to live by the Golden Rule. Yet when we seek to apply the law of Christ while we are living for temporal things, we will find only failure and confusion. A young man was romonstrated with for going into a saloon and drinking with some companions. His reply was that he had lately decided to pattern his life after the Golden Rule, and though he really did not wish to drink when he was invited to do so, he simply put himself in the place of his companion and found that in drinking with them he was only doing as he would wish to be done by. We can not say that the young man's reasoning was faulty. The trouble was that his desires and inclinations that to do as he would wish others to do unto him couldnot produce good results. The church of Christ was not many weeks old till it furnished an expamle of this. The beautiful picture of communism was marred because there was one man at least in the community whose heart was wholly selfish. Since then all similar efforts have failed for the same reason. Christian communism would be possible only where every man has the interest of his neighbor at heart, as though it were his own. Not only is it true that the golden age of man can be brought about only by the prevalence of the Golden Rule of Christ, but it is also true that only those who are in Chrfst can make use of this rule.

—*The Lookout.*

C. W. B. M. DEPARTMENT.

WHAT ARE "AUXILIARIES?"

We think we hear this question asked often and we will try to answer it. An auxiliary to anything is something that aids or helps it. An auxiliary, therefore, to the C. W. B. M. is something that aids the C. W. B. M. It is a society that studies the work done by the C. W. B. M. and helps it to do this work by sending it whatever money the society is able to earn. Every member of the society pays ten cents a month into its own treasury and then at the end of each quarter this much, at least, is sent to the C. W. B. M.

It is a great comfort to belong to an auxiliary and to feel that we are helping to spread the gospel throughout the world. By belonging to the aid societies, which a great many of the so-called C. W. B. M. societies really are, we may be able to help somewhat at home but this is not like having a part in a much larger work. Let us put ourselves in line with this great movement and do all we can to help it along. If you can send no more, have your society send, at least, the regular dues (10 cts a month per member) to Helen E. Moses, 152 East Market St., Indianapolis, Indiana. She will send you a receipt for your money and will see that it helps to futher the Master's cause, not only in our own land but in the islands of the sea and in the regions beyond the great deep.

A PROMISE OF A PROGRAM.

Those of the societies who become auxiliaries will, hereafter, find a program in the PLEA which may be used as a program for the monthly meeting. It is always hard to keep up the interest of the meetings unless the members have a definite plan to work to. It will save the leader, especially, much anxiety if she can find a program already mapped out for her. As the PLEA is, perhaps, the only paper that goes into some homes we will try to make it as helpful as possible in this respect. In these programs we will try to give such instruction as we think those new in the work need. Watch, next week, for the April program. In April we will print the program for the May meeting. They will all be printed a few weeks ahead so that there will be time to prepare for the meetings. As far as possible divide each program among the members of the society; giving one, this to do and another, that. By taking some part in the meetings they will become interested in them.

On Sunday afternoon, Feb. 23., the Mt. Beulah auxiliary held its meeting in the "Study." It was well attended by teachers and students and the miscellaneous program was listened to with interest. As the roll was called each member responded by reading or reciting something appropriate for the occasion. The young people like so much to hear Miss Britton read a story that she had been requested to read one this time as her part in the program. She read one that gave a lesson on grumbling. The Christian should not grumble. It is unchristian to do so. We should remember our blessings and praise God for them and not think so much about our misfortunes. The good Father may have it in mind to make even these work to our good if only we show faith and patience.

We would be pleased to hear from the auxiliaries. Let us encourage one another to good works.

But seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteouness. (Matt. 6: 33.)

"Thirty-five years ago there was not a woman's foreign missionary society; now there are seventy-five societies, fifty of which are in America. There are more than 20,000 auxiliaries and about 7,000 mission bands."

Louis Harms, in thirty-one years, put 350 missionaries into the field. The church of which Harms was minister built and manned a mission ship. Most of this flock were farmers; none were rich. Harms says: "I prayed fervently to the Lord, laid the matter in His hand, and I rose up at midnight from my knees, I said, in a voice that almost startled me, 'Forward, now, in God's name.'" The money needed has always been provided.—*From the C. W. B. M. Calendar.*

My Jesus, my King, my Life, my All, I again dedicate my whole self to Thee.—*Livingtone.*

THE MAKING OF CHARACTER.

Do not let us suppose that character requires great circumstances for the making. Character can be made in poor circumstances. There are huge manufactories in this country, with magnificent machinery, with chimneys belching forth clouds of black smoke to pollute the air, where they turn out carpets of the most wonderful aspects, which would almost make you ill to look at and which perish quickly in the using.

Far away in the East, in some poor little hut, an Eastern workman is working with threads of many colors beside him. He has been toiling for years, and when he has finished he will have turned out a single square of such beautiful coloring and such perfect workmanship that when it comes to this country it will be bought at a great price, and the owner's great-grandchildren will see it fresh and beautiful. So much for the great manufactory and the whirling wheels and the noise and the smoke; so much for the quietness and obscurity of a single workman!—*Rev. J. Watson, D. D.*

LITERARY NOTES.

The constitution of the United States of America has put a new meaning into the word citizenship. The high ideals of the fathers of our country have laid the foundation of good citizenship in such a way that the imperious, high-minded, ambitious men and women of all nations have flocked to our shores. The present prominence of our nation among the nations of the world and its new fields of usefulness and power have given to American citizenship a fresh inspiration toward true living and great accomplishment.

The high sentiments of our Chief Executive in his address, "The New Citizen," printed in *The Youth's Companion*, are fittingly published in the Washington's Birthday Number. George Washington, by his pure life and wise conservatism and ambition for the new country, fairly won his title of Father of his Country. Theodore Roosevelt, the best exponent of our twentieth century activity, has equally high ideals for the nation, and in this address and in his life he lays particular stress on the individual, his stewardship, his usefulness in home and public life.

Washington and Lincoln led our nation over its most difficult paths. It has been left in recent years for such men as Theodore Roosevelt to embody the highest ideals of private and public citizenship.

Tot Causes Night Alarm.

"One night my brother's baby was taken with Croup," writes Mrs. J. C. Snider, of Grittenden, Ky., "it seemed it would strangle before we could get a doctor, so we gave it Dr. King's New Discovery which gave quick relief and permanently cured it. We always keep it in the house to protect our children from Croup and Whooping Cough. It cured me of a chronic bronchial trouble that no other remedy would relieve." Infallible for Coughs, Colds, Throat and Lung troubles. 50c and $1.00. Trial bottles free at all drug stores.

A Fiendish Attack.

An attack was lately made on C. F. Collier of Cherokee, Iowa, that nearly proved fatal. It came through his kidneys. His back got so lame he could not stoop without great pain, nor sit in a chair except propped by cushions. No remedy helped him until he tried Electric Bitters which effected such a wonderful change that he writes he feels like a new man. This marvelous medicine cures backache and kidney trouble, purifies the blood and builds up your health. Only 50c at all drug stores.

Stepped Into Live Coals.

"When a child I burned my foot frightfully," writes W. H. Eads, of Jonesville, Va., "which caused horrible leg sores for 30 years, but Bucklen's Arnica Salve wholly cured me after everything else failed." Infallible for Burns, Scalds, Cuts, Sores, Bruises and Piles. Sold by all druggists 25c.

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Sometimes a fortune, but never, if you have a sallow complexion, a jaundiced look, moth patches and blotches on the skin,—all signs of liver trouble. But Dr. King's New Life Pills give Clear Skin, Rosy Cheeks, Rich Complexion. Only 25 cents at all Drug Stores.

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Ask for our Ladies' celebrated "DAISY KID," "ANCHOR," GOLD COIN, SILVER COIN and other Shoes, sold at popular prices. Look for Trade-Mark consisting of a figure five and two stars cut through leather near top, which is our guarantee of reliable goods. Insist on having them, and your footwear will be a comfort and a pleasure.

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Appears in a hundred different forms, such as Running Sores, White Swellings, Eruptions, Boils, Pimples, Salt Rheum, Scaly Skin, etc. The only cure is in making Pure, Rich

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F. M. POOLE, M. D.
Physician. Office on the North side public square.

Dr. RATLIFF,
Physician and surgeon, office, opposite Perry's drug store.

T. H. BARRETT,
Attorney-at-law, office opposite depot.

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J. L. NICHOLS & CO.

Atlanta, Ga.

GOSPEL PLEA.

"PREACH THE WORD."

1902

Vol. VII Edwards, Mississippi, Wednesday, March 12. 1902. No. 11.

Helpful To All.

The plea of the Disciples of Christ is the union of God's people. The position is taken on the highest possible grounds. They demand that the acceptance of Christ be the test of fellowship, and the word of God the authority in matters of Christian conduct. This is union by rising to a higher plane. All the other schemes for union propose to accomplish the work by compromise. They propose to so readjust the creeds and church customs as to be able to live together. These schemes can never accomplish the work because they seek to harmonize something that can never be harmonized. If the church persists in dealing in these humanisms it is best that these denominations remain apart. The church divided because they left the high ground of the primitive church and a re-union can be secured only by going back to the high grounds from which they departed.

But the work of bringing the people to this high ground is not a light task nor the work of a day. So far the work has mostly taken the form of contending for first principles, faith, repentance and baptism. It has been found to be a Herculean task to induce the Christian world to take this high ground in one detail, viz., the entrance into the kingdom. But in contending for these simple first principles much ground has been gained. When people were induced to accept this position in these fundamentals, it was not hard to lead them on to accept the principle in full. As a result a communion of over one million has been induced to stand out on this high ground and leave behind the sectarian principles of contention. The influence of the movement is felt throughout the entire church.

There is reason to believe that many of our own churches throughout the Gulf States do not appreciate the value or importance of the high position taken, and are not doing anything like their full duty in preaching the primitive gospel to the people wandering in sectarian confusion. The earnestness and enthusiasm that brought these churches into existence must continue to lead the masses who have not yet heard this sublime plea to take this position for union in Christ Jesus. Those of our readers who are reading some of our leading church papers know that there is much stir just now because an element at Chicago known as higher critics is attempting to lead a movement to abondon this high position and seek to accomplish the rest of the work on the lower plane of compromise, the Congregational position. If this movement should succeed, it would show that our movement for the union of God's people on the high ground of accepting Christ had spent its force. This doctrine among the disciples in the Gulf States would mark the quitting point.

But again we want to repeat what we said above; viz., that these churches must go to work. When they cease to bear fruit they will become withering branches and will be cast off. The members in these churches are not to blame. The ministers of the word who watch over them must put new life in their work. They must organize them for missionary work. New points should be opened up at every place where we have one or two disciples as a base of work. Especially is this true for the disciples in Mississsippi. The present evangelist, T. P. Porter, is well acquainted with the work in the Delta. Thousands of people have moved into that section and churches must be started everywhere. It does not take so much money to start churches there. A hundred disciples can easly be gathered together and they will support a minister. Let some of our young men go there There is a common belief that the people there is so bad that nothing can be done. This is a mistake in two ways. Some of the best people in the state live there; and even if it were so, it would be all the more argument for immediate work.

THE GOSPEL PLEA.

A Weekly Religious Newspaper

Issued every Wednesday

from the Press of

THE SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN INSTITUTE.

Published in the interest of the cause of Primitive Christianity and the general interests of the Negro Race.

PRICE PER ANNUM $1.00.

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EDWARDS, MISSISSIPPI.

Entered as Second Class Mail Matter at the Post Office at Edwards, Miss.

Never put off for to-morrow what you can do to-day.

—o—

What is dispised reform work to-day will be much praised advancement to-morrow. Every great reform whether in church or state, was first branded as fanaticism.

—o—

The credit system has been almost entirly broken down in North and South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama and Texas. It is still cleaving like vampire to the farmers in Mississippi, Louisana and Arkansas.

—o—

What awful pains and sorrows the saloon has caused. Men, women and children have been starved and murderd, men of bright intellect have lost position and honor, their offspring have filled asylums and orphanage or jails and reformatories.

—o—

The word of God has exactly the right advice for every human conduct and relation. Read the Bible often and thoughtfully.

—o—

Are you living in this life to be useful and to make this world a happy dwelling place both for yourself and for others? or are you just tarrying here making no provision for life?

The boy or girl who is always getting in trouble with other boys and girls need to have some radical change brought about in his or her life or something serious will result.

College Items.

The attendance at the annual contest last Saturday night was larg and most attentive. The program was well rendered.

Jacob Kenoly is the only one in school to graduate this coming spring. He completes both the Scientific and Bible Courses.

The Y. M. C. A. of the S. C. I. will have a public entertainment at the Church of Christ at Edwards Lord's day March 15. Pres. J. B. Lehman will speak in the morning and Eld. Henry W. Scott in the afternoon. The money is to be applied to liquidating the church debt. They hope to raise $70, about $50 of which is already in sight. This is a most valuable drill for these young men who expect some day to do this kind of word.

One of the most interesting and gratifying features of our school work is to see the rapid development of character in a large number of students. Boys and girls that a year or two ago were careless, petulent, and untruthful now take careful pains to do their work well, make no trouble whatever and are perfectly reliable in the smallest detail. Who can estimate the value of such work? What will it mean for the next two or three hundred years of our country? No state can ignore the work of character building among its citizens.

PERSONALS AND NEWS ITEMS.

—H. M. Johnson of North-East Texas sends in four more new subscriptions. This makes 23 in all.

—Roxie Sneed of Clifford, Arkansas, and Elder B. J. Goegory of Washington, N. C., send in their subscription for the PLEA. This makes 25 in all.

—A minister at Los Angelos, Cal. has a gift of practical utility and great value for every Minister in America. Send two envelopes both addressed to yourself and, seven one cent postage stamp to cover transportation and this life-long benefit will be forwarded promptly to you. Send to-day. Address, Christian Minister, 447 Temple St., Los Angelos, California

—The quarterly meeting of District No. 1 will meet at Port Gibson May 10th.

—The C. W. B. M. Department of the PLEA is having some very interesting matter each week. Do not fail to read it. Have you an auxiliary in your church?

—On the fifth Sunday in March there will be a missionary rally at the Providence church, Claiborne county.

Original Contribution.

"THOU SHALT HAVE NO OTHER GODS BUT ME."

By C. S. Shirley.

To understand the force of this command one must imagine the state of society prevailing about fifteen centuries before the Christian era.

That humanity retrogrades fast and progresses slowly is a truth we come in possession of by experience. It took only a few decades for man to slip away from God. Centuries have rooled by since he has started on his way up. He is now just where he can catch a glimpse—only a glimpse—of the paradise from which he came. The decline has been downward over a slippery path, the advance is upward on a rugged road.

It is a universal law of human nature to represent the intangible, by the tangible, the unknown by the known, the immaterial by the material. But in making use of this universal law there is danger in the tendency to substitute the representative for the thing represented. When it can be borne in mind that the seen is not the thing itself but a representative of the unseen and distinction can be made between the symbol and the symbolized the law is effectual and serves the purpose but when this is disregarded the law defeats its own end.

Into this difficulty were the founders of idolatry involved when they, after continued representation of the unseen God by seen things, unintentionally, unperceivingly and by degress, lost sight of the represented unseen by identifying it with the seen representation, finally resulting in the worship and service of the creature rather than the Creator. Thus it was that at the call of Abraham the world was groaning under the load of idolatry, and objects both animate and inanimate were deified. The human race at this age was being dehumanized deritionalized, kept in bondage by circumstances of the most vicious and degrading character. From this yoke it was as impossible for the human race to free itself without the aid of divine intervention as for inorganic matter to become organic by the exercise of its own powers.

At this stage the All-wise Creator saw fit to call one man and reveal to him certain things. From this man was to rise a nation which was to have as its central idea and ruling principle of life the fact that there was ONE GOD. The Jews were to preserve monotheism and when the fulness of time was come it was to emanate from them to the uttermost parts of the earth. Israel could not then be too frequently reminded and impressed with the admonition, "Thou shalt have no other gods but me." That this might be kept continually before their minds and that nothing might be introduced to counteract it they were given an isolated country; their mode of living did not necessitate intercourse with foreign nations. The central and distinguishing future of their religion was monotheism or devotion to the one and only true God. This was the nucleus around which the forms and ceremonies of their religion revolved, and which they were destined to keep and present to the world, "when the fulness of time should come."

But despite the repeated and forceful enforcement of this command the Jews could not withstand the influence of the age. They succumbed to temptations and soon found themselves worshipping the gods of the heathen nations surrounding them. Like as a father chastises his children so the Lord chastised Israel when they thus sinned. Eight successive invasions by foreign nations did the Jews experience as a punishment for idolatry. It took the successive invasions of the Messopotamians, Moabites, Canaanites, Midianites, Ammonites, Philistines, Assyrians and Babylonians to teach Israel that, "Thou shalt have no other gods but me." But when the lesson was once learned after seventy years' captivity in Babylonia Israel with all the Sadducaism and Pharisaism they introduced in their worship never tolerated the worhip of any god except Jehovah. Never did Israel forget the Babylonian Captivity.

We have seen in our investigation that during the patriarchial age and subsequent ages idolatry was at its zenith. All the great nations of antiquity reveled in its pollutions. Greece the seat of literature and Rome the seat of power had not less than thirty thousand gods. But the question we must now ask at this stage is this, Is the world, with the exception of heathen Africa, China, India and the isles of the sea, entirely purged of idolatry? Do Christian Europe and America need to be reminded "Thou shalt have no other gods but me?" We haven't got a Baal, a Dagon, or Astarte to which we

Continued on page 5.

Reports from the Field.

KENTUCKY LETTER.

Louisville, Ky.,
March 3, 1902.

Mr. Editor,

Dear Sir: Please give space in the accommodating columns of the PLEA for the following report.

We the members of the Cheerful Givers Society 13th and Green Streets Christian Church, beg leave to make the following report. Since the birth of this new organization twelve months ago, we have been very punctual and loyal to our duties. The object of the society is to cancel church debt to which it is connected and to help our young men and young women to become more useful and active in church work. Our time of meeting is every Sunday at 4:30 P.M. We met last Sunday March 2, in our usual meeting with the vice president in the chair, (Mr. G. H. Banks).

In this meeting the writer tried to impress the importance of adhesive quality. He also entreated the young men to be courageous. After this Mr. M. J. Mace of Anderson, Ind. arose addressing the chair. Then calling our attention to the importance of work, he impressed the fact that labor comes before exaltation and sorrow before joy. This speech was very touching to his hearers. After said speeches ended the vice-president took the floor and in his preliminary remarks he highly endorsed the speeches of the evening. We hope that this Society or one of its kind will be found in every church in the civilized world.

Yours for the cause,
J SALVADOR JOHNSON.

THE WORK IN TEXAS.

SUGGESTED PROGRAM FOR EDUCATIONAL RALLY DAY

Second Sunday in May, 1902.

LORD'S DAY MORNING, MAY 11th.

9:00 Model Sunday-school.
10:30 Devotional Service.
11:00 Educational Sermon text Prov. 3.13.

SUNDAY EVENING

3:00 Devotional Service.
3:30 Sermon, text Neh. 6.3.

NIGHT SERVICE.

7 to 7:30 General Prayer Meeting.
7:30 Intermsision
7:35 Select Reading.
Singing by the congregation.
Prayer. Song by the choir.
8.00 Welcome address.
Music by the choir. First paper ——Subject: We have made this day historical.
Second paper——Subject: We are doing a great work. Third paper ——Push on to Victory. Song by the choir. Fourth paper——What the women can do. Song. Collection and benediction.

This program may be changed if desired. But let all our churches take part in this great work. None can afford to miss this great opportunity to do something for the church, for the race, and for themselves. It will be an honor to our brethren. The Lord Jesus will love us, the holy spirit will guide us. It is hoped that all the churches in East Texas will begin now to prepare to do their best on Educational Day in May. Do not cease to work.

Yours in Christ,
H. M. JOHNSON.

THE SEED OF FAITH

The sincere desire to play the part of a man and brother toward the poorest and lowest, an endeavor to truly display the Christ spirit, may carry the Divine light into places hitherto dark, and plant the seed of faith in God and man in hearts filled only with distrust and hatred.

It was in a tenement-house, one of the great barn like structures which are the only "homes" known to hundreds. A baby had just died of cold and hunger, and many of the men and women of the house had come in to look upon one who had escaped their own hard fate.

A young man, educated, refined who was living among these people, striving to better their condition, climbed four flights of stairs and came upon the group.

"God has taken him," he said, as he looked at the baby form, wrapped in a shawl white with snow which had sifted in through the cracks and crevices of the window.

"Don't talk of God," said one of the group bitterly. "We come

into the world without choice, starving, freezing, all the way. He's got no use for us. It's only the rich folks that can afford to have a God."

The young man was troubled. "I don't wonder your faith weakens."

"It don't weaken," was the reply. "There isn't any; faith is dead—as dead as that baby."

For one short moment the young man sought a reply. It seemed no time for argument, but silence indicated defeat.

"Look," said he, and his eyes shone with the consciousness of a victory coming. "Death means life. As a seed must lie in the dark ground before it can fulfill its mission of leaves and flowers and fruits, so your faith may be there now, but its day of birth will come." Then turning to the two little sisters, whose father and mother were both drinking in a neighbor saloon, he said, "Little ones, you shall come with me and learn to live."

It may have been his words, or the earnest simplicity of his manner, or his caressingly protective way towards the little girls, that wrought the change. But just then the man turned to him and grasped his hand, saying;

"There are lots of men and a few brothers, but you—you are a man and a brother. I can have faith in you, and believe that you were sent into this world for good work."

"Now," said the other gladly, "the seed of your faith has just put forth a shoot, which shows that it is alive."

It is the business of the Christian to act in the double capacity of a Gospel sower and a Gospel cultivator—to sow the seeds of truth in human hearts, and to cultivate them, that they may take root and spring up and bear fruit. It is for such blessed work as this that the Divine Husbandman has placed him in the world.

—*Our Young Folks.*

"THOU SHALT HAVE NO OTHER GODS BUT ME."

Continued from page 3.

prostrate ourselves it is true. But anything that comes between us and God and impedes or cuts off corespondence between the former and the latter is an idol. The Christian world is therefore far from being entirely rid of idolatry. On the contrary our idols are almost as numerous as those of ancient Greece and Rome at the shrines of which we devoutly and repeatedly bow. We sometimes think that idol worship was a thing of the ancient and is a thing of the oriental world, but should we reflect deeply, should we take an inventory of our present society—Christian and civilized though we may call it—we must, if we be honest with ourselves, conclude that idolatry among us is not extinct. What makes the matter worse the ancient and oriental idolaters sin ignorantly, we sin knowingly. They were idolaters because they did not know any better, we because we do not use our knowledge aright.

Modern civilization has been of such a character that our business life has a tendency to be antagonistic to our religious life. To harmonize these two—religion and business—is one of the problems before us. Until we make the merchant a Christian, the politician a Christian, the manufacturer a Christian, and at the same time each retain his respective office, we fail to root out idolatry from among us. At present the merchant needs a week of eight days to transact all his busines, the lawyer finds that he cannot have the reputation of being the best at the bar except he uses unjust means and proves a guilty man innocent, the politician concludes that he will never be a renowned statesman unless he dabbles in the pollutions which are apparently inseparable from politics What shall we say then? If the pursuit of knowledge, the acquisition of wealth, the holding of an office, prevent us from rendering to God consecrated service are they not stumbling blocks in our Christian life and hence the same to us as idols were to the ancients?

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C. W. B. M. DEPARTMENT.

AUXILIARY PROGRAM FOR APRIL 1902.

SUBJECT:—GO FORWARD.

Song.

Prayer for wisdom and guidance in the work we are trying to do.

Scripture reading: Men of vision like Paul who will heed the world's call. Acts 16:9,10.

The true spirit of advancement:—II Cor. 10:19. Romans 15:20,21.

Song.

Two, three-minute papers: one on Going Forward by Evangelization; and one on Going Forward by Education as suggested by the quotations given below.

Song.

Business session:—Reading of minutes. Roll-call. Reports. Unfinished and new business. Reception of new members. Payment of offerings.

It might be well to have a short drill by having the members present at the meeting read the "items of information" given, and then the leader ask questions on these. For instance—In how many countries does the C. W. B. M., carry on work? Then—name them, etc.

Closing prayer.

Go Forward by Evangelization:—"We need to arouse the Church of Christ. Too long have we been at ease in Zion We need to imitate the methods of work, though not the principles of the enemy. When do the emissaries of the Devil rest? Let us send the Gospel to the cities; " " " to the country; " " " to the poor " " " to the rich " " ". In the highways and the hedges, let men, women and children tell the story of the cross. The Gospel preached, the Gospel lived will enter where mere logic and eloquence fail.

As individuals, "let us work as if all depended upon us; let us pray as if all depended upon God." As churches let us awake to our spiritual barrenness, and then, putting on the whole armor of God, hasten the coming of the time when the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea."

Go Forward by Education:—Advancement means a a quick response to these urgent calls. " " " Advancement and education go hand in hand. " " " A part of our educational work, and by no means a small part, is our schools,—the Mountain Mission schools and the Southern Christian Institute, which has so recently been given into our keeping. We find in our own country, to a certain extent, the same difficulty which confronts the missionary in the foreign field. It is hard to reach and convert the fathers and mothers but comparatively easy to teach the children. We cannot now estimate the value of this teaching. These boys and girls will be the future teachers, preachers and parents. They will establish Christian homes wherein Christian children will be reared, and then shall the cause of our Master receive a mighty impetus.

Shall we not bring to our Auxiliaries, to our homes, and to ourselves the thought of advancement by education? Is there not a pressing need here—a need of more knowledge of our work in foreign lands and in this country? If we pause but for a moment to consider we can think of the ones who are the most earnest, faithful laborers in our Auxiliaries, and the reason is very apparent. These are they who have made themselves familiar with the lives and work of our beloved missionaries. How can we be interested in that about which we know so little? Why is it we are so ready to inform ourselves along other lines and are so indifferent to this one which should claim our best attention? " " "

Remember our watch word for this year—"Information, Inspiration, Realization,"—and take notice that information leads the others. It will give us the needed inspiration, and aid us in knowing the joy or re-realization.

ITEMS of INFORMATION.

The Christian Woman's Board of Missions carries on work in the United States, Jamaica, India, Mexico and Porto Rico.

The forms of work is evangelistic, pastoral, educational, industrial, medical, orphanage, zenana, village, railway, colportage, and leper.

They have 106 missionaries in the United States, 17 in Jamaica, 35 in India, seven in Mexico, and two in Porto Rico. The total number of missionaries and assistant missionaries is 167—a gain of 61 over last year. Besides these workers, there are native evangelists, teachers and helpers.

"It is not intended that we should look away from the place we live in now, and cheer ourselves with the thoughts of the place we are to live in next; but that we should look stoutly into this world, in the faith that if we do our work well here, some good to others or ourselves will come of it hereafter."

"I went to the throne with a quivering soul—

The old year was done;

'Dear Father, hast thou a new leaf for me?
I have spoiled this one.'
He took the old leaf stained and blotted,
And gave me a new one, all unspotted,
And into my sad heart smiled,
'Do better now, my child.'"

THE PRESENT CHRIST.

There was a shadow on the sunniest sky
  Until thy feet came by;
There was hunger in the happiest place.
  Until I saw thy face
A question in dawning of the day
  Whose answer none might say;
A nameless echo, vexing land and sea,
Until thou calledst me.

Wistful and strange the summer moonligh shone
  Before they thy love was known;
The far, bright waves. were mocking in their glee.
  That held no part for me;
I knew no comfort in the gracious spring
  With her sweet blossoming,
Nor found mine heart in all the world a home
  Till thou saidest, "Come."

—*Mabel Earl, Christian Endeavor World.*

Tot Causes Night Alarm.

"One night my brother's baby was taken wth Croup," writes Mrs. J. C. Snider, of Crittenden, Ky. "it seemed it would strangle before we could get a dctor, so we gave itDr. King's New Discovery, which gave quick relief and permanently cured it. We always keep it in the house to protect our children r m Croup andWhooping Cough It cured me of a chronic bronchial trouble that no other remedy would relieve." Infallible for Coughs, Colds, Throat and Lung troubles. 50c and $1.00. Trial bottles free at all drug stores.

A Fiendish Attack.

An attack was lately made on C. F. Collier of Cherokee, Iowa, that nearly proved fatal. It came through his kidneys. His back got so lame he coud not stoop without great pain, nor sit in a chair except propped by cushions. No remedy helped him until he tried Electric Bitters which effected such a wonderful change that he writes he feels like a new man. This marvelous medicine cures backache and kidney trouble, purifies the blood and builds up your health. Only 50c at all drug stores.

Stepped Into Live Coals.

"When a child I burned my foot frightfully," writes W. H. Eads, of Jonesville, Va., "which caused horrible leg sores for 30 years, but Bucklen's Arnica Salve wholly cured me after everything else failed." Infallible for Burns, Scalds, Cuts, Sores, Bruises and Piles. Sold by all druggists 25c.

What's Your Face Worth?

Sometimes a fortune, but never, if you have a sallow complexion, a jaundiced look, moth patches and blotches on the skin,—all signs of Liver Trouble. But Dr. King's New Life Pills give Clear Skin Rosy Cheeks, Rich Complexion. Only 25 cents at all Drug Stores.

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GOSPEL PLEA.

"PREACH THE WORD."

Vol VII Edwards, Mississippi, Wednesday, October 1, 1902. No. 40

Helpful To All.

Becoming a Christian is entering into a covenant relation with God The obligations entered into by the two parties to this contract are of such vast importance that it requires the most solemn ratification of which the human soul is capable. When we buy land or borrow money nothing is binding till the deed or note is made. The prelimenary bargaining may be long or short, yet nothing is settled till the contract is publicly made and recorded. When the men came to an agreement the consent of the will was given to the contract, but nothing was binding till a most solemn public profession was made in the contract called the deed. The same is illustrated in marriage. A young man and woman may agree to take each other as husband and wife, but they are not such till they have made a public profession in the most solemn way by a marriage ceremony.

Now shall not the most solemn of all contracts, the soul and God agreeing to unite, be ratified in a most solemn, public way? Is there not something that marks the place where the soul and God can publicly plight their faith? Baptism is exactly suited for this ratifying act. A man may come to himself and determine to live a Christian life; he may pray for God to remember his sins no more; he may publicly profess by word or deed his determination to change, but he can be in no covenant relation with God till that covenant has been ratified in the most solemn way—a burial with Christ. A man may faithfully promise to sell a piece of land for a certain price, but no man can afford to advance his money on the land till the owner give a legal deed A man and a woman may agree to "take up" with each other but in doing so they sacrifice their happiness in this life and the life to come. Only in a public profession in marriage can they wish their happiness.

On account of a mistaken conception of this covenant relation, men have sadly married the procedure of divine relation making. They read that salvation is a free gift; but instead of their understanding that the offer of a covenant is a free gift, they have thought the entering into the covenant a free gift. This made them approach God as a beggar approaches a capitalist pleading for a dime. They prayed to God for a miraculous manifestation of God's approval. They believed they got this and afterwards as a mere formality, at a convenient time, ratified it in baptism. This was a serious reflection on the estimate in which God held the human soul. Would not a marriage a year after two people had "taken up" with each other be a reflection on their moral character? Would not the giving of a deed to a piece of property a year after all payments had been made, be a serious reflection on the business methods of the man who would thus pay over his money? What would the marriage ceremony a year afterwards mean? Would it not be a public profession that the man and woman had made a mistake in "taking up" with each other and were trying to rectify that mistake as far as possible? There is no reason to believe that God does not accept a a deferred baptism as a genuine ratification, but such a baptism must also be regarded as a conscious or unconscious profession that a mistake was made when the seeker after salvation supposed that a covenant relation existed before the soul had most solemnly ratified the covenant in baptism.

This then brings us to the question whether we shall rebaptize those who once believed that the covenant was fully made at a mercy seat. Suppose a man should pay for a piece of property and a year later should get his deed, and you should teach him that, that is not a business way of doing. Would you tell him to go and get another deed, or would you tell him not to repeat the bad business methods? Certainly the latter. While it would be a risk to wait a year for the deed, yet when it would be received it would be genuine and sufficient. The baptism is in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and even though long delayed on account of mistaken ideas, it ratifies the covenant and we have no right to ask a man to reratify it even though he did not understand fullly the method of entering the covenant relation with God. To rebaptize him is to assume that God has lodged in us special authority which is the old question of apostolic succession. It is ours to teach the world the truth in these matters, not to swear allegience to our authority.

THE GOSPEL PLEA.

A Weekly Religious Newspaper

Issued every Wednesday

from the Press of

THE SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN INSTITUTE.

Published in the interest of the cause of Primitive Christianity and the general interests of the Negro Race.

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EDWARDS, MISSISSIPPI.

Entered as Second Class Mail Matter at the Post Office at Edwards, Miss.

God often witholds the best gifts from men, until they are fully prepared to use them in the right way. Nothing is more dissatisfactory than to misuse real gifts.

—o—

He who learns to hope against misfortune, will live a life of peace and quiet. True faith and unlimited confidence in God will stay and keep the most burdened heart in the midst of trouble.

—o—

Do not always resent in the moment when you are opposed; for some of the greatest mistakes have been made under such circumstances.

—o—

One of the first stepping stones in the Christian life, is the knowledge of a true relationship to one another. Many have failed to live this ideal life because they ignored this vital principle. In six of the ten commands given to the children of Isreal they were taught this important lesson.

—o—

Love is the actuating principle of a good life. The heart that burns with perfect love, will be the first to help and the very last to scorn.

—o—

The desire of becoming great for a selfish purpose is in itself a failure. Those who are acknowledged great by the world are those who have done the most service.

College Items.

The important event of this week was the public entertainment of the Boys' Literary Club on Friday night September 26th. All the parts were well prepared and the thoughts were of a high order. The performence at this exhibition showed that the summer's work has been a most profitable one.

This is written on the day of opening. It is too early yet to say what the attendance will be, but from what we have already seen it will be way beyond everything we have ever had. Every train since Saturday has brought loads. In this number are representatives from Texas, Arkansas, Louisana, Mississippi. Already Allison Hall is nearly full of girls and the hall for boys can be filled out in two or three weeks. We have never had on the campus a better or more earnest class of students.

Among the number of incomers was Eli Rogers of Hermanville with his daughter and Charles Swafford of Lake Providence, La. with his daughter also. Eli Rogers was at one time a student here. Charles Swafford at one time worked here. Both were amazed and delighted at the vast improvement on old Mt. Beulah.

PERSONALS AND NEWS ITEMS.

—Kentucky has gone to work to raise money for a girls' school. Maggie L. Freeman of Paris is at the head of the work.

—Sarah L. Bostick sends in six one year's subscriptions from Plummersville, Ark.

—Geo. Ivey from Sherrell, Ark., sent in one dollar on his subscription.

—Eld. Geo. Ivey by request debated with a sanctificationist, by name of J. A. Jeter. Eld. Jeter took the ground that the Lord sent him with a commission to save his people and that men should live without sin. Eld. Ivey took the position that if he is divinly sent he must prove it by miracles. He agreed with him that we ought to live holy lives but that it would do great harm to teach that man has no responsibility in living that holy life.

—At the residence of the bride's parents near Lyons, Tex. on the 17th of Sept. 1902, R. J. Arriett of Little Rock Ark. was married to Miss Millie E. Moore.

—W. R. Sneed writes concerning the meeting at Fayette. They organized with 23 members and are now trying to build. This is a worthy cause and the other churches ought to help them. Send all money to W. R. Sneed, Port Gibson, Miss.

—The Johnson Martin meeting at Center Point closed with 2 reclaimed and 1 for baptism. Collection $12.30 The writer goes from there to Minturn after a few days rest.

—Bro. T. P. Porter Write:—Bro. Whitehead of Bobo lost his house by fire a few week ago. All who can might forward him something at Bobo, Miss. He has my aid in many ways.

STATE MISSIONS.

MISSISSIPPI LETTER.

The GOSPEL PLEA has been filled with good news from the different states. Souls for Christ and schools for the boys and girls, seem to be the highest ambition of each state.

We are truly glad to know that Bro. H. Martin, State Evangelist for the state of Arkansas has the confidence of both races. Surely with such confidence he will get ample support to do the much needed work in the state.

If the preachers in different states who are making so much sacrifice to spread the Gospel of Christ could get as much pocket-book surport as tongue and pen praise, I feel sure a greater and better work could be done. Once having been crossed over a creek by a skiffman, I politely said thank you sir. He replied "that's well for the head, is there any thing for the pocket?.,

My experiance of anti-missions converts has caused me to feel a little weak toward them. A preacher when he changes generally has an idea of being the Evangelist when a congregation is converted. They are expecting in the near future to have a new church building or the old one remodeled. When the time comes to elect the evangelist, the convert fails to get the position and when all hope of the position is lost, anti-spirit returns. When the congregation fails to get help in the way they look for it, they return to the old spirit. If the preacher is ever elected as evangelist, so long as he is evangelist the missionary spirit remains, when removed, anti returns.

The Fayette letter was a good one. To succeed at Fayette the officers must have business sure. The thi g now to do is to lay the the proper plans for building and work to that end. First every member must set a time to pay his pledge and then pay it. When it is paid let the amount be sufficient to encourage others to help. The Lord helps them that help themselves.

A very few church houses are ever built without a preacher to lead the way. Bro. W. R. Sneed is quite a builder. If the congregation will respect him for what he has done and stand by him as they should; I feel sure that in a very short time we will see a building going up at Fayette. It will be one that is worth looking on. Every man can n t preach an effective sermon and be an instrument in converting souls that can build a house of worship

The Mound Bayou brethren must be wide awake and work or we will be unable to hold our next convention with them.

The rain has set in' and farmers must suffer loss not withstanding the crops is already short. Some people are asking what are they to do? Why do your best and go on; in some way the Lord will provide.

We are glad to know that the paper which Bro. J. C. Graves labored so hard to have circulated has again come to life. Long may it live. A sample copy should be sent to a number of disciples in each state. I think such a course would get a few subscribers that would not be gotton otherwise.

We were sorry to have Bro. Shirley leave the printing office. We had learned to read with interest the current even prepared by him, however we hope the change will be better for him and in the end better for his race.

Bro. Z. W. Hooper and Mr. Gordener of Louisiana have promised to send their sons to thr S. C. I.. Both of the boys are the right age to enter school and do well. The writer looked on the young men as strong minded, and if given a chance will do much good.

Bro. T. P. Porter the state evangelist is doing a good work, and we hope to give him a better support this year than last. Bro. Porter will, before the fall closes, make a trip out east. The West Point Church should be looked after, not because there remain only a few disciples they must be neglected, no never. We held quite a good meeting at that point last year. May God help us to do much in the way of spreading his cause.

K. R. BROWN.

TENNESSEE LETTER.

Nashiville, Tenn.
Sept. 22nd, 1902.

Editor:—The work in Tennessee is moving on slowly and will continue to so do as long as there is no organized state work. I have been in the state for three years. I have tried to bring about a close union of the brotherhood and have tried to even get a state organization. But I got no encouragement.

(Continued on page 7.)

Reports from the Field.

MISSISSIPPI LETTER.

A TRIP TO THE DELTA.

Our trip to the Delta was indeed a profitable one in many respects. We were impressed as never before that it is a field that needs cultivation. There are men and women engaged in various occupations who have more to do than they can do. The farmer, teacher and preacher has more calls than he can answer. Especially is this true of a minister. The Christian Plea is scarcely known in some parts of that great Valley. When I see how zealous other churches are to establish their plea and when I see how feeble our efforts are I am almost ready to say, "One thing then lackest." We claim to be followers of Christ and say we are Christ's and he is ours, yet we fail to strain every nerve for the extension of his kingdom.

While at Lyons, I saw much zeal for Christ. When you find men and women walking and rideing ten and twelve miles to Church every night, you may say they have been with Jesus. Mention may be made of brothers Kililrew and Elmore and their wives. Brethren, when you see men and women do that much walking every night to hear the word and to persuade men to come to Christ, we ought to resolve to do more for Christ. There are other zealous members at Lyons, who are willing to do as much, and even more, if need be, for Christ.

Space will not allow me to mention them by name. But the Master knows them and the brethren know them for "By their fruits ye shall know them."

The trouble about rebaptism is settled. Let us praise God and rejoice that a division in the Church there is a thing of the past. The brethren have agreed that such things should not and cannot seperate the people of God. They say let him that comes with such doctrine be declared as walking disorderly. They know, believe and teach that they must be united to take that community for Christ. If they are Christians they must act like Christians. They say, with Christ, show me your life and I will tell you your future home. May God help and strengthen the Lyons Church for greater work for Christ.

Tuesday after the meeting we were found at Mound Bayou, where we found a faithful few. Those who left us at Hermanville in 1900 now see that the division of God's people is not for the better. Some of them are longing for the time to come when we shall be one. Bro. D. Richards said, I want to see the day. Why does he think thus? He sees the evils of divisions. He knows that God's people must be one to follow Christ.

When asked to help the few who are trying to build a Church in town, he said, I shall do so. May the Lord aid him and his wife to do so. We are sorry to see Bro. Mc. Carter and wife idle. They should be working for God with God's people. In Babylon there was and is confusion hence they came out. Brothers, we need your help and you need ours, then why not let us come together and help each other?

Bros. Duncan, Pickens, and Turner are getting out the timber for the Church. They hope to have a building soon.

While at Mound Bayou we spoke to the women who were struggling to punish an evil doer. Their cause is right. The one who takes life should be punished. May their efforts be rewarded with success.

Friday morning we came to Valley Park where there are quite a number of members of the Christian Church. There we have no church, but if the board would aid in holding a meeting there next Spring or Summer we could easily build a Church. The people are anxious for the truth. I pray the time will come when every member of Christ's Kingdom will help one another and bear each others burden. Then men will come to Christ as brave soldiers, like they did at Lyons. Before the conclusion remarks were ended two came up and gave me their hand May God bless the cause of Christ

W. A. SCOTT.

TEXAS LETTER

Circleville, Tex.
Sept 18th, 1902.

GOSOEL PLEA—At this writing I am at the above named place in a few nights meeting and have been since Thursday of last week.

I found a small band of faithful Christians; also a large community of sinful people. I believe there are more backsliders in this place than any place of its size. Yet we are glad to know that they are not beyond the reach of the Gospel. We have received five up to the present. The interest is good, and the meeting well attended. Last night we had an electrick storm and a big rain. We are preachin under an arbor, and this storm came up just as the people were gathering. We had three confessions. I will organize a C. W. B. M. before I close and will try to get some subscriptions for the PLEA. Pray for our success.

Taylor Chuch ought to have a good pastor. A good man wanting work may write Bro. T. L. Hall. The church at Lyons also wants a good preacher to come there and live among them. Write M. T. Brown, Waco.

The writer has been called to Beaumont to hold a meeting November 1st. 1902.

Churches which pledged to help pay Miss Fannie Hay's R R expences to the Southern Christian Institute, Edwards, Miss. should send in their pledge at once as she will leave about Oct, 1st.

Dear Brethren do not forget that the third Sunday in Oct. is Texas, College day. Let every church take a Collection and send it in. Each member in Texas, has been apportioned to 25 cents for the Texas College and 25cts. State Mission.

Respectfully
M. T. Brown, Pres. State board.

TENNESSEE LETTER

(Continued from page 3.)

In the country district they still held their little meetings, trying to keep alive the work. So I can not say much of the work in the State; what we need most is a state evangelist, who will visit all our little church congregations and set them in order. I am told that the most of the organizations have no officers and no system in their worship, that they just met in a haphazard kind of way. For this reason we need evangelists in both district and state I have tried to hold a district meeting and the brethren of the Gay Street Church are going to try to hold a district meeting in the near future. Rev. Preston Taylor is adding a fine auditorum to his church on Lee Avenue. When finished it will be the finest church in that part of the city.

I wish to say to the readers of the PLEA and especially to the members of the Church of Christ Since we can not or seem not to get together and run a successful State and National work, we should show our appreciation to the white brotherhood for the interest they are taking in our schools. We have four of which we should be proud and they are an honor to the colored brotherhood

The Woman's Christian Board of Mission had set Sunday efore Thanksgiving or the 23 of November as the General Negro Educational Day. Let every organization in these United States raise a collection especially for that purpose and send same to C. C. Smith, 1342 Locust St. Cincinnati, Ohio. Full explanation and a program will be printed in the PLEA later.

Now let us all do what we can in raising a good collection for the education of our people. If we will not give to support our state and national work let us show our appreciation to those who are doing so much for us by responding liberally on Sunday November 23rd. Hoping the brethren will take hold of this at once and trusting good results.

I am yours for Christ,
J. R Smith.

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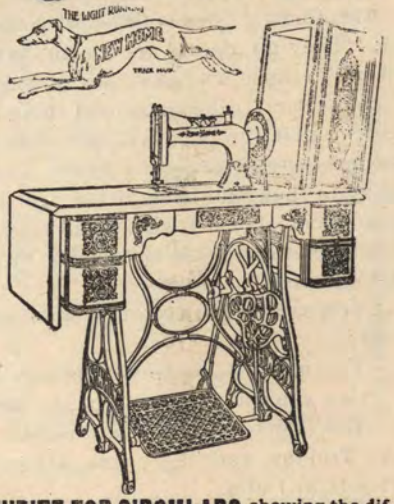

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THE CONVERSION OF AUNT SUSAN TO MISSIONS AND HOW SHE ORGANIZED AN AUXILIARY·

(Continued from last isue.)

The knitting needles that had been moving so rapidly had ceased, the knitting lay neglected in Aunt Susan's lap. She had settled herself comfortably among her cushions, the stiffness having left her back, and as she took off her "near" glasses and put on her "far' ones, she exclaimed:

"For the land sake, monkeys, the pesky things! I thought chickens was bad enough, but monkeys—do tell. Do they have any snakes there? I'm powerfully 'fraid of snakes."

"Indeed, yes, snakes such as we never see except in captivity. Miss Mary Graybiel, a lady with whom I am acquainted, who has made her home in India for a number of years, was one day conducting a prayer meeting in a room of the house in which she lived. A great snake found its way into the room, and but for its timely discovery would have killed a little child while Miss Graybiel prayed. They had to stop the prayer meeting and kill the snake."

"Oh, for the land sake!" again exclaimed Aunt Susan. 'What on earth do they go to that outlandish country for, anyhow?"

Mrs. Cadwell's eyes filled with tears as she answered: "They go, dear Aunt Susan, to tell of the love of Jesus, to those who have never heard of it; they go, because our Lord commanded them to go, because they believe that our Lord will not come again until His gospel has been preached to every creature. You know many in that land have never heard of Jesus, and they go to teach them. I wish I had time to tell you of the sacrifices they make, the risks they take to do this, but I have not."

"You say you know this woman who has gone to that land?"

"Yes, and I know several others who are there."

"Can you know what they are doing all the time?"

"Yes, I get a paper every month. It is the MISSIONARY TIDINGS, and there are always letters from our friends in India."

"I'd like to see one of them papers," said Aunt Susan.

"I think I have one with me," and Mrs. Cadwell drew a copy of the January TIDINGS from a silk bag that she carried, and, handing it to Aunt Susan, she continued:

Continued in next isue.

Dallas, Texas,
Sept. 22nd, 1912.

GOSPEL PLEA:— We organized an auxiliary to the C. W. B. M. on the 14 of inst. with 14 members. Miss Delia Mc Donald, 112 Boll St., President; Mrs. Savannah Butts, 86 Beaumont St., Treasurer; Mrs. A. E. Mitchel, 126 William St., Secretary. One addition by letter last night. The work is encourging.

Wm. ALPHIN,
Pastor Young St. Christian Church.

Arkansas Work.

Argenta, Ark.
Sept. 22nd, 1902

Please to report my work at Tolic where I made a trip on the 14th. After a good short sermon by the pastor, Joe Williams, on the text, "Then said they unto Him what shall we do that we might work the works of God?" John 9:28, I spoke to the women on thetr work in the church which gave much satisfaction to the hearers. I then was able to organize with 14 members and I wish to say that those good women are the strength of the church and I know they will make one of the best auxiliaries in the state. This is is a young church and is placed in a very hard spot and of course, it needs our sympathy very much. It It is always understood that every auxiliary member pays not less than 10cts per month and this money is sent to Mrs. Moses at Indianapolis. Officers of the auxiliary Which I just mentioned are Mrs. Sarah Vinen, President; Mrs. Almer Jones, Vice-President; Miss Hety Sobbs, Secretary; Mrs. Lizzie Harris, Tresurer.

Collection taken up. Bro. G. W. Jones, 25cts Sister Allie Bennett, 25cts; Sister Lizzie Harris, 25cts. Others 5cts which amounted to 1.00.

On the same Lord's day the auxiliary here took up a collection and sent to Mrs. Helen E Moses making for the quarter $1.25 also 50cts for state funds for organizing funds.

My next trip was to Plummersville where I met a band of good Christian workers. The people do excellently well, to have no pastor. The Elders meet every Lord's day and take the loaf. It is imposible for a church to grow strong and do well with out a pastor. Here are goodnews from that place, they took up collection which was $9.90 and six subscriptions to the GOSPEL PLEA, also $2.50 for my collection. I spoke on the weman's work and all seemed to love the work but were not quite ready to organize but want me to come back very soon which I will do in November. I spent one night with Bro. Aclen and one with Bro. Kelcey. Both families made me welcome. It is good to be treated well when from home.

May the Lord Bless us.

I am your sister in the work,
SARH L. BOSTICK.

Current Events.

JAS. L. BROOKS.

After four months in office. the President of Cuba, so reports from Havana tells us, finds that he can not count on a majority in support of his administration either in the House or the Senate, while the Havana newspapers are suggesting to him that he resign. The main trouble seems to be that Senor Palma has a larger idea of the presidential power than his critics have; and the President and Congress each thinks that the other is stepping over its limits.

President Roosevelt returned to Washington at 6:30 o'clock to night Sept. 24 via the Pennsylvania railroad from Indianapolis, where he was compelled to abandon his Northwestern trip because of an abscess on his leg, which developed as a result of the trolley accident at Pittsfield, Mass. With Mrs. Roosevelt he was driven direct to the temporary White House in Jackson Place, where, according to the present arrangements, he will remain until the wound is healed and he is again able to be on his feet.

The President greatly desired to continue his trip and make the speaches he had planned, but finally yielded to the strong pleading of the Drs. who represented that there was danger if not properly attended to; that the bone might become affected and results follow that it would take months to cure.

King Oscar's yacht, with Crown Princess Victoria on board has run on the rocks near Kalmar on the Baltic. Vessels have gone to yachts assistnce.

Upon the night of Sept. 19th, just as B. T. Washington had concluded his address to the Negro Baptist convention, Birmingham, Ala, the audience was greatly moved by an out cry in the audience "They're fig ting,. The audience mistaked the word fighting for fire, and a great rush was made for the door. The crowd being so great, for three hours the great massacre of men, women and children went on; scores of men, women and children were killed.

The navy department has received the following cablegram Commander McLean, of Cincinnati:

"Colon, Sept. 25— Wednesday forenoon 300 insurgents attempted to board train about leaving Empire Station and capture government officers, passenger, Colon to Panama. Marine knocked insurgent officer down with butt of musket Guards trained Colt gun on them, but did not fire, as they fled."

Pres. Mitchell says the troops will help to keep the men firm in their determination to stand out against the operators. The coal companies claim they are daily placing more men at work and the shipping of coal continues in s nall quantities.

President Roosevelt has signed the order providing for the taking of a census of the Philippine islands in accordance with the terms of the Philippines act passed at the last session of congress and upon the certificates of the Philippines committee that the insurrection has been suppressed

The young king of Italy is attracting a good deal of attention to himself. The vistit he recently paid to the German Emperor proved in every respect as brilliant an affair as his visit last July to the Czar of Russia.

Victor Emmanuel III. will soon attain the age of thirty-three. He is siad to be in some things a wonder fully astute young man.

Mellin's Food

received the highest awards, Medal and Diploma, that were given to Infants' Foods by the World's Fair, *but* the voluntary selection and *successful* use of MELLIN'S FOOD at the Crèche, in the Children's Building at the World's Fair (10,000 Babies were [illegible] there), by the [illegible]tron, Miss Marjory Hall, "after a fair trial of the other Foods," was, *really*, the highest award, as no other Infants' Food in the world was thus honored and endorsed.

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III. Should the ignorant and non-property holding Negro be allowed to vote?
IV. Is the criminal Negro justly dealt with in the courts of the South?
V. To what extent is the Negro pulpit uplifting the race?
VI. Is it time for the Negro Colleges in the South to be put into the hands of Negro teachers?
VII. Will the education of the Negro solve the race problem?
VIII. Does the North afford to the Negro better opportunities than the South?
XXX. The signs of a brighter future for the American Negro.
XXXVI. The American Negro's opportunities in Africa.
XXXVI. How to help the Negro to help himself.

B. T. Washington.

READ THIS FROM THE SOUTHERN EVANGELIST.

The appearance of this book is timely, as being the best possible reply to that infamous book, "The Negro A Beast." The work will furnish good reading for both races. To the negro it will offer an incentive to strive after higher ideals, and it will remind the white man that the best solution of the race problem is to recognize the intellectual and moral possibilities of his black brother.

Bishop H. M. Turner.

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All kinds of repair work promptly done. Plows sharpened on short notice

GOSPEL PLEA.

"PREACH THE WORD."

Vol. VII. Edwards, Mississippi, Wednesday, November 26, 1902. No. 32.

Helpful To All.

We unconsciously reveal the size of our faith in our work by our method of going about it If a man commands a great army, he must by some unconscious way give his spirit of sublime faith to the men of his army. If he shows fear, they soon see it and all catch it. If he by some trifle reveals that he does not conceive the magnitude of his work, they soon discover it and his leadership is nothing. This lesson should be learned by our different state missionary workers. A little petty fling at a rival is an open advertisement of the smallness of the man's conception of his work. The best way to make the work succeed is to go at it in the spirit of success. Nothing can succeed if it antagonizes good people, nor can it succeed if the promoters reveal by their actions that they do not conceive it to be a big work.

At about the time this issue reaches our readers many will be getting their first cotton money, the rest having gone to paying store accounts and rents. Some will go and carelessly spend this money, feeling that they must have a little pleasure out of it. While it is true that many things are needed and much of it will have to be spent for winter clothing, it should be remembered that the money they are now getting is the only means of relieving the situation next summer. If the same thing is to be repeated next year and the year after, there is not much prospect ahead. If a man is a bond servant to the credit system it behooves him to purchase his freedom at the great price of self deprivation. If you can succeed in owning only twenty dollars till next May it will go a long way toward your freedom. In a year from this fall you may be able to save one hundred dollars and the year thereafter may be the year of jubilee for you, if you will then use freedom aright.

The Chattanooga *Tradesman* sent a circular letter to all the manufacturers in the South asking them how many Negroes they employ, how many of them are skilled or semi-skilled, what kind of skilled work they do, what wages they receive, how they compare in efficiency with white workmen, whether they are improving, how much education they have had, what effect education has been, and whether they intend to continue to employ them. The answers were most contradictory, which no doubt was due partly to prejudice, partly to different methods of managing the work and partly to varying results. The *Tradesman* reached the following conclusion: they are most efficient in cotton seed oil mills, lumber mills, foundries, brick kilns, mines and blast furnaces. They are considered superior to any labor in these establishments. As brick masons, carpenters, blacksmiths, firemen and engineers, many have become expert It closed this paragraph by saying, "but in the textile industries, fine cabinet work, watch-making, nice tool and machine constructing, and in the professions, the number who have distinguished themselves is too small to be appreciable as effecting the possibilities of the race." Of the replies, 105 concerns employing 12,060 men say they compare favorably, while 91, employing 13,310 say they compare umfavorably. Nearly all unite in saying that for heavy work calling for endurance, the Negro common laborer is far superior to the white labor that is procurable in the South. About one half say he is improving and education is beneficial, while the other half say the opposite.

It seems to us that the following conclusions can be drawn from this. The fact that the skilled Negro laborers were able to make so much of a showing when natural prejudice was against them is a favoroable symptom. On the other hand it should awaken the Negro to the fact that the time has come for him to be measured by new standards, and that the publication of negro literature showing the remarkable success of a few in the various avenues of life will speedily cause sharp tests to be made not of the few but of the masses. Every possible means should be employed to make the showing as favoorable as possible, for such tests come only once in a century; and many years in the future will be influenced by the showing.

THE GOSPEL PLEA.

A Weekly Religious News paper

Issued every Wednesday

from the Press of

THE SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN INSTITUTE.

Published in the interests of the cause of Primitive Christianity and the general interests of the Negro Race.

PRICE PER ANNUM, $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 church and Sunday-school at Martinsville, Virginia, R A Spencer, pastor, observed the Educa tional Rally, Sunday, November 16th., and their offering amounted to $45.70. $5.00 of this from the Sunday-school. This is the first Church heard from. What Church will be the next?
We congratulate the Martinsville Church and Sunday school.

C. C. SMITH,
1342 Locust St· W. H. Cincinnati, Ohio.

——o——

Always there is a black spot in our sunshine; it is the shadow of ourselves

——o——

Pin your faith to no man's sleeves; hast thou not two eyes of thine own?

——o——

Do the duty which lies nearest to thee! Thy second duty will already have become clearer.

——o——

One life, a little gem of time between two eternities; no chance to us forevermore!

——o——

All true work is sacred; in all true work, were it but true hand-labor, there is sometning of diviness. Labor wide as the eart has its summit in heaven.

CARLYLE.

College Items.

The students are preparing to raise a good collection on Thanksgiving day. In the evening they will hold a college social in the Chapel Hall.

Thomas Frost, our plantation manager spoke at Mt. Moriah last Sunday.

Each week bring' a number of new students. The spirit of the young people who have been here is good and the new ones are brought into the work with comparative ease.

The band instruments are here now and each evening the young men may be seen marching to the beat of the drum. They make a nice appearance on the campus and will gain much benefit from their drills.

Miss Mary Lyons, secretary of the Ohio C. W. B. M. expects to arrive at the S. C. I. on Dec. 9. Sec. C. C. Smith will leave on the 1st. for Lum, Alabama and expects to arrive here about the 5th.

The name of C. S. Shirley is never forgotten by the Mt. Beulah boys and girles, especially his once co-workers in the Printing Office

PERSONALS AND NEWS ITEMS

—William P. Richards conducted an eleven days meeting at Crab Orchard, Kentucky and eight were added to the saved. He is now in a meeting at Nicholasville.

—THE EVANGELIST of Paris, Kentucky is booming educational day. The churches that have not attended to it yet should remember it will not be too late any time in December.

—The first report of the collection is good. At this rate it will leap beyond the $125 mark in two or three bounds. The disciples in Virginia are in earnest. They want a new hall and they are willing to go to work as though they had to build it themselves.

—We need more short church reports for these columns. A poastal card will hold a good report and it takes you only a little while to write it. The people want to know what is being done in the churches.

STATE MISSIONS.

THAKSGIVING PROCKLAMATION.

According to the yearly custom of our people, it falls upon the President at this season to appoint a day of festival and thanksgiving to God. Over a century and a quarter has passed since this country took its place among the nations of the earth, and during that time we have had on the whole more to be thankful for than has fallen to the lot of any other people. Generation after generation has grown to manhood and passed away. Each has had to bear its peculiar burdens, each to face its special crisis, and each has known years of grim trial, when the country was menaced by malice, domestic or foreign envy, when the hand of the Lord was heavy upon it in drought or flood or pestilence when in bodily distress and in anguish of soul it paid the penalty of folly and a froward heart. Nevertheless, decade by decade we have struggled upward and onward, we now abundantly enjoy material well-being. under the favor of the Most High. We are striving earnestly to achieve moral and spiritual uplifting. The year that has just closed has been one of peace and of overflowing plenty. Rarely has any people enjoyed greater prosperity than we are now enjoying. For this we render heartfelt and solemn thanks to the Giver of Good; and we seek to praise him not by words, but by deeds, by the way in which we do our duty to ourselves and to our fellow men.

Now, therefore, I, Theodore Roosevelt, President of the United States, do hereby designate as a day of general thanksgiving, Thursday, the twenty-seventh of the coming November, and do recommend that throughout the land the people from the ordinary occupations, and in their several homes and places of worship render thanks u to the Almighty God for the manifold blessings of the past year.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed. Done at the city of Washington this 29th day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and two, and of the independence of the United States the one hundred and twenty seventh.

HEODORE ROOSEVELT,
JOHN HAY, Secretary of State.

Christian Evangelist.

TAKE HEED HOW YE BUILD.

Walking a busy street of this city, I was suprised to see a once large handsome business house in ruins.

"What is the matter? "I asked a friend. "The walls have fallen, and I fancied that one of the strongest buildings in the city."

"It was strong," was the reply "but the adjoining building fell, and pulled this down in a genral wreck."

I looked on the silence, for strange feelings were disturbing the serenity of my spirit. Solemn questions, which I would rather not have heard, were calling loudly to my spirit-ear, demanding recognition and reply.

Why need this beautiful, stately building have fallen? The watching eye of the skilled architect had careully noted every detail. Yet it had fallen, and' mid the *debris* a young life which, a moment before, had been glad with beauty and rich with all the possibilities of the future, was ebbing fast away. What was the matter? Only this. In building the adjorning wall some other builder had not been careful. And lo! a beautiful structure was lying in ruins. while a young life, so full of promise was hurried into eternity, just because some one had blundered, or, perhaps, had not been careful. With solenm awe I whispered to my shrinking spirit, "No man liveth unto him self. Take heed how ye build."—*Epworth Herald.*

As from the lighthouse comes the glow
To ships by tempests tossed about,
So God, for tempted ones below,
Has hung His danger signals out.

Not only in the promise sweet
Of mansion fair for which we pine,
But where he warns our straying feet,
Has God revealed his love divine.

Oh, murmur not, when from above
He bids you some delight forego;
His warnings, too, are sent in love
He speaks because he loves you so.

Give thanks, for all he sends is best,
Though now he leads some darkened way
T'will end in glory in the west—
One endless, glad thanksgiving day

Reports from the Field.

TEXAS LETTER.

RESIGNATION OF ELDER M. T. BROWN, PVSTOR, CLAY St., CHRISTIAN CHUKCH, WACO, TEX.

Read by C.H.Thomas. Sunday Nov.16'th 1902.

Officers, members and friends of Clay St. Congregation,
Waco,Tex. Ggeeting.—

Dear brothers, sisters and friends.

Having accepted the pastorate of this church in response to your call, the first Sunday iu Jan.1892, it has been with exquisite pleasure that my wife and I have served you with patience, endurance and sacrifice almost, these ten years.

I am thankful to God for the general feelings that have charactrized both pulpit and pew during our stay, I am thankful to God also for the gift and guidance of the Holy Spirit for it was none other than the spirit of Christ that brought success to the work.

These ten years of hard work,suffering and sacrifising has done much in preparing us for a better work in the Master's kingdom. It has made for us many life lasting friends who will never be forgotten.

Mauy hundred precious souls have been led to the arms of Jesus and we have received many kind greetings: also we have seen the parting at the graves of many old sainted heroes, and young promising souls, all of which will be kept in sacred memory. I have seen the church succeed, I have seen the church victorious surmounting every difficulty. God was in the plan. Yet the time has come for me to resign. Why? 1st, I have been called to the pastorate of South Side Christian Church, Chicago, Ill. with a view of building another house of worship. (2) For the betterment of my cond tion physically, intellectually etc; the elevation of my dear children and the satisfaction and comfort of my loving wife. All of which I have prayerfully considered and believe God has sanctioned.

This work and the work in Texas is very dear to me. I leave you with a heart overflowing with sorrow and regret, with no ill will towards any one.

Well do you know the condition of your church and where I found you when I came.

You also know the years, the condition of your church and where I leave it.

I do not take this retrospective view of these acts from any selfish motive or from a conceited point or to exaggerate my value. But to show you that in leaving I still love you and will ever feel interested in your welfare. I believe it is God that leadeth me.

May you secure the services of one greater than I to push the work of our Christ even to greater achievements. Alas, I say to you, dear church, in tenderest tones—farewell. I ask a deep interest in your prayers in my new field of labor-

Your loving pastor and brother.
M. T. Brown.

Our meeting in Chicago closed with fifteen accessions.

We organized with a membership of 46, asplendid C. W. B. M. auxiliary. Mrs. Jessie Conrad President. A Y. P. S. C. E. society and Sunday School.

The meeting closed Oct. 26th, with a financial rally, raised in all $283.00. I arrived home Friday morning Oct. 31st., preached here Sunday Nov- 2nd., closed a financial rally raising $70.00

Tuesday night Nov. 4th, I visited the N. E. Tex. convention at Big Sandy where I met a large enthusiastic delegation. I was royally entertained. Bro. Wm. Alphine. T. W. Pratt and I who were appointed to meet this convention did all in our power in a Christian manner, to bring the N. E. convention back in union with the State convention, I feel that very little good was affected save that they promised to send another committee to the next State convention with a view of effecting a union.

It is my earnest prayer, that they will soon unite with us on our college plan, as we feel that the great ladder of opportunity is let down to us in the offer of the C. W. B. M. to help us if we concentrate our forces and continue to organize auxiliaries.

To show our appreciation and confidence, we have placed the Tex college money into the hands of the Christian Woman's Board of Missions. We have some money on hand and will soon make another deposit.

It seems to me that this is the thing for all to do. It was a sorrowful parting, when I informed the convention of my intention to leave the State. Saturday morning we gave them the parting hand and took our leave for Taylor, preached for them Sunday, added two by restoration, conducted a rally raised $155.00 and paid the church out of debt.

Monday night, I delivered my farewell adress and left them rejoicing over the freedom of debt but sorrowing over my departure.

On my way home I stopped at Circleville and preached two nights restoring two The Elders and many of the members from Taylor followed us to this place, and here was another sad parting, I arrived home Thursday evening, preached for the Waco congregation Sunday morning and evening. Notwithstanding the inclement weather and the small attendance, my paper of resignation was read by C. H. Thomas. I will deliver my farewell address Sunday Nov. 30th. and take my leave for Chicago the the following week.

I will call the board together during this time and tender my resignation as President.

Sister Brown and children will remain in Tex. during the winter Praying God's hig.st benediction upon this church and the work in Tex. and that this church may secure the services of a good man

---

In answer to Bro. Little concerning the colleage money.

I will say no doubt he is correct in the way he says money should be handled. This question was discussed in the convention, and I understood as did Brother Lehman, the arrangement to be, that all money for Texas mission and the Texas colleage be sent to M. T. Brown, Waco Texas who is to send the Texas colleage money to C. C. Smith. I refer you to the PLEA issued September 17th. By this you may see it was no arrangement of mine falsely. In conclusion no one need worry about me, I have sent all colleage money to C. C. Smith and have receipts for same, furtermore I am not in it now.

But I think the thing to worry over Bro. is the money, lift your collection and you will have little to worry about. As to the Howell movement, I hardly think you were old enough to have remember of it.

M. T. BROWN.

Waco, Texas.
Nov 17th, 1902.

GOSPEL PLEA :—

I take this means of notifying some of our churches, who pledged to ssist in defraying Miss F. L. Hay's R. R. expense to the S. C. I., which was $15.00. Waco, paid her $5.00, T. W. Pratt his $1.00. Twenty some odde dollars was pledged by churches and individuals for this purpose. Now the time had come for her to leave, as Bro. Lehman had insisted on her being there at the opening. The C. W. B. M. at Waco advanced the remaining $9.00; arrangements being made with the Pres. of State board that the money be paid back as soon as sent in.

We give Bro. Sellars credit for sending R. R. passes, which would have saved this expense had we kown in time, but they came too late. Hoping we have made the matter plain, we kindly ask that each party pay what they promised, and by this lighten the burden on one auxiliary.

G. J. BROWN.

MISSISSIPPI LETTER.

Port Gibson Miss
Nov. 18 1902.

Reports from the Distrct No. 2. Quartly meeting held at Saint Luke Christian Church, Nov. 15-16. Martin, Sta. Miss. House called to order by the Chairman:

Read for the opening of the meeting a part of the fourth Chapter of the Ephesian, Song and prayer by Bro. Balaam Williams, after which the house was anounceed in order for buisenss.

Committies aqointed by the Chirman.

Report of churches called

Union Hill church reported $7.00 publication, $4.16, raised for the Saint Luke church $6.25.

Hermanville church report	$1.15
Center church,	5.30.
Grand Gulf,	20
publication,	5.20
Providence church	4.85
Christian chapel	1.25
Publication	9.50

C. W. B. M. reports.

Cinter Church	C. W. B. M.	$1.00.
Union Hill	,,	$ 1.00
Saint Luke	,,	$ .50.
Publication		$ 2.00.
,,	,,	$ 2.25

Total amount of money raised, $48.26.

W. R. Sneed man.
R. B. ROWN, Sec.

C. W. B. M. DEPARTMENT.

All C W. B. M. dues; tha is, the ten cents a month paid by each member should be sent to Helen E. Moses, 152 East Market Street, Indianapolis, Indiana. Send the money at the close of each quarter.

THE GROWTH OF WOMAN'S WORK IN MISSION FIELDS.

continued from last issue.

A great many women have studied medicine b cause they have learned, as we have already shown, that it is a stepping stone to spiritual teaching. But we must not think from this that they go out only as doctors. They have come, more and more, to do all kinds of missionary work. They go out not only as doctors but as teachers, superintendents of Orphanges, and evangelists. In foreign lands as at home they are found to be the best teachers for children. Orphanages could not be successfully managed by men. Women alone can give them the proper care. The wisest of men has told us to "train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it'. By caring for and teaching the many children that are placed in the Orphanages, therefore, women are doing the best possible work.

And not only have women proven that they are consecrated and fitted for the lighter duties of a missionary but they have also proven that they are as able to meet difficulties and to endure hardships as men are. They have made long, tiresome journeys into lands where missionaries were not wanted and where the people were cruel and have endured all the sufferings that came to them in consequence with a courage that can not be surpassed.

Sometimes the fact of being a woman is a protection from danger. Women have been known to go unharmed where no male missionary could have gone without meeting with great insult and cruelty, perhaps even death.

Women are good missionaries because they are, themselves, examples of the fruits of Christianity. Heathen nations may do better in some resepcts than Christian nations but they all fail to grant freedom and honor to their women. "Woman is unwelcome as a babe, untaught as a child, unloved as a wife, unmourned as dead, and denied a heaven or a soul."

They marvel at the religion of Jesus Christ which places woman on an equal footing with man. They first marvel at it, then they come by degrees to admire it, and at last they desire and embrace it.

There are many more women standing ready to-day to go into heathen lands to shed the blessedness of their influrence there than there is money to send, Should not each one of us, whom Christ has blessed, be anxious to help to pass this great blessing on?

What can we render, Lord, to thee,
To whom the universe belongs?
What can we give, save reverence full and free,
Our gratitude and songs?

The earth is thine, and all its stores,
The life with which the ocean thrills,
The mines, deep veined with gold and silver ores,
The cattle on the hills.

The harvests—are they not thine own?
Man made not soil, nor seed, nor sun;
Man has but furrowed, sown and mown—
The rest, hast thou not done?

Yet thou dost bid us take and hold,
Or give thee back, as each shall choose;
Remembering only that it is thy gold,
Not ours to hoard or use.

What shall we render, then, dear Lord?
Our harvests have been stored away,
But thine await the sickle of the Word,
And still thy sons delay.

We cry, "More reapers, Lord!" in vain,
If we withhold the reaper's meed,
When thine, O God! is all our cherished gain,
And thine the crying need.

Take, then, a share of what is thine!
The harvest fruitage from thy hand;
The shining treasures of the dusky mine,
The wealth of sea and land.

Take these, dear Lord, and with them take
The thanks that words can not express;
And for the gracious Master's cause and sake,
Grant thou to richly bless.

Selected.

This is the glad Thanksgiving season of the year when all the fruits of the year's labor have been gathered in. Let us praise God for his goodness in blessing the work of our hands and while we praise him in words let us not forget to praise him in deeds. There is really no "Thanksgiving" except there be a "Thanksgiving." We must *render* something unto the Lord. The Jews gave a tenth of their earnings. Christians ought to feel it a duty, and not only a duty, but a great pleasure to do more than this for surely we have much more to be thankful for than they. It is not enough that we give a mere tenth of our earnings. Christ's kingdom can not be furthered by gold and silver alone. They are very necessary but except this "filthy lucre" be aided by the time, talents, and very best service of those who own His name, it can not accomplish the purpose for which it was given.

Current Events

By

JAS. L. BROOKS

A cablegram has been received from the Philippine commission stating that the number of cases of cholera has been reduced to 5 a day instead of 34 a day, a week ago. The message says that the commission feels much relieved and it is believed that the Maroquina water-shed which furnishes the water supply for Manila, will not be contaminated.

———

"President Roosevelt's failure to get a shot during his bear hunt in Issaquena, Miss. says, "Mr. Percy, "was of course disappointing but the President took his ill luck philosophically, laughingly remarking that it was hunter's luck, and heartily congratulated the more fortunate members of the party." He also says that President Roosevelt is a most intertaining story teller and his anecdotes of public and private life and tales of the chase after big game in the far west were charmingly related. The president relates that he would like to come back to Miss. two years hence for a 12 days bear hunt, and that if he is reelected the trip will be a certainty.

——o——

The election of Ex Gov. Stone to be United States Senator from Missouri will only emphasize the shortness of states-man material in public in the South. Even Champ Clark sizes up with Mr. Stone.

CHATTANOOGA TIMES

——o——

Mr Zack Hutchens returned from Vicksburg where he sold 375 bales of staple cotton. He relates that although staples were off half to 3-4 he got satisfactory prices. The Powers Company had an office in Yazoo city last season with Mr. Zack Hutchens at its head but sales were not satisfactory so this season they are selling in Vicksburg.

——o——

The C. W. B. M. Convention was well attended, enthusiastic and soul-elevating. Many things would be interesting and helpful to the readers but for them the reader is referred to the minutes of the convention. The salient, practical points are the following:——

The C. W. B. M. helps to maintain nearly two hundred missionaries in home and foreign fields, thirty schools with a total of [illegible]000 pupils (twelve in India, seven in Jamaica, four for the education of the Negroes of the United States, at Edwards Miss., Lum, Ala., Louisville, Ky. and Martinsville, Va.;) a Chinese mission school in Portland, Ore., two in Mexico; Bible teaching at three State Universities, attended regularly for Bible instruction by 400 university students.

They support five orphanages, caring for, and giving Christian instruction to 500 orphan children.

The fields of the Christian Woman's Board of Missions are the United States, where they assist 119 pastors evangelist and teachers. Jamaica where they help to support 16; India, where 43, besides many native helpers, are supported; 10 in Mexico, and 2 in Porto Rico. Readers, study these results carefully.

These Christian women have provided suitable property for all this work, giving suitable instruction and helpful environment to several thousand students, furnishing a Christian home to orphans, and yet besides meeting these necessarily heavy expenses, these devoted women have supported or helped to support a missionary for every $523 placed in their hands. Surely there is no extravagance or misuse of money in this work.

STATE MISSIONS.

Continued from last issue.

When we are able to turn our eyes upward and contemplate the star bedecked heavens in the light of astromy, and then remember that in the midst of those millions of dashing worlds, God watches over each of us individually, Yea, even takes note of every little sparrow that falls, we are moved to tears of gratitude by the blessed thought that " God is love." The more intelligent we are, the more readily can we appreciate and admire in reading the Scriptures the executive ability of Moses, the skill of Joshua as a warrior, the eloquence of Isaiah, the wisdom of Solomon, the philosophy of Job, and the patience self-denial and loveliness of Jesus Christ; the more easily can we find "tongues in trees, books in the running brooks, sermons in stones and good in everything."

JAMES H THOMAS,
Martinsville. Va.

THE NAME TO REMEMBER
When Buying a
BICYCLE
Is
A. W. GUMP & CO.,
DAYTON, OHIO
$30.00 to $50.00 saved on many new and second-hand Bicycles. Lists Free. Over 2,000 in stock. Cash or time.
AGENTS WANTED.
In answering ads. mention Plea.

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WRITTEN BY

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THE idea of the scope and plan of this book originated in the mind of its editor, Dr. D. W. Culp, whose picture is herewith presented. Dr. Culp is one of the wide awake negroes of the South who is devoting the best efforts of his life to the uplifting of his race. He is well qualified for the task here undertaken. Although born a slave, like many a black boy, he forged his way to the front. After graduating with high honors from Biddle University, he took a theological course in Princeton Theological Seminary. Later he studied medicine in the University of Michigan, and finally graduated from the Ohio Medical University.

DR. D. W. CULP.

That Dr. Culp is very influential and popular is shown by the fact that he has been able to induce

One Hundred of the Most Prominent Negroes

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Partial List of Subjects.

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XII—The Negro as an Inventor.
XIII—The Negro as a Farmer.
XIV—The American Negro's Opportunities in Africa.
XV—The American Negro and his Possibilities.
XVI—What is the Negro Teacher Doing in the Matter of Uplifting his Race?
XVII—Is the Young Negro an Improvement Morally on his Father?
XVIII—The Negro as a Writer.
XIX—How to Help the Negro to Help Himself.

This is a large book, 7½ by 9¾ inches, weight four pounds, 100 full paged half tone engravings of the writers; 100 Essays on vital topics pertaining to the race. It is by great odds the best piece of Negro literature ever published.

SALESMEN'S REPORTS.

I have worked four days and secured 25 orders.
J. C. THOMAS, Duval county, Fla.

I have worked 24 hours and secured 20 orders for "Negro Literature" this week, total number of orders 70.
A. A. TODD, West Carroll Parish, La.

I have received Prospectus of "Negro Literature", canvassed one day and sold the book at every house that I called at and secured 20 orders.
LEWIS COTTON, Drew county, Ark.

I have sold 30 copies of "Negro Literature" this week. It goes like "hot cakes". I am selling to everybody that I think will pay me. W. A. KNOLL, Paulding county, Ga.

I have secured 96 orders for "Negro Literature". My commissions amount to over $10.00 per day.
MISS ALICE FOGG, Pulaski county, Ark.

I have never seen such a fast selling book. I sold in three days 53 cloth and 36 half Morocco.
S. D. HEARD, Carroll county, Ga.

Price by Mail Postpaid $2.75.

Satisfaction guaranteed or money refunded. All interested in the race problem should have it. Agents sales reported from five to twenty copies per day. No competition. Magnificent canvassing outfit worth $1.50 free, if 10c. in stamps is sent to pay postage. Descriptive circulars free. Write at once.

J. L. NICHOLS & CO. Forsyth St., Atlanta, Ga.

In answering this advertisement mention this paper.

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Meat market.

The best beef cattle killed.

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The lowest prices.

Edwards, Miss.

PROFESSIONAL.

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F. M. POOLE, M. D. Physician. Office on the North side public square.

GUSTAV HARTWIG.
Edwards, Miss.

Dealer in Wagons, Buggies, and Mowing-Machines.

All kinds of repair work promptly done. Plows sharpened on short notice