

ARKANSAS METHODIST.

{ Devoted to the Interests of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, in Arkansas. }

REV. A. R. WINFIELD, D. D. { Editors & Proprietors,
REV. JNO. H. DYE.

"Speak thou the things which become sound doctrine."

TERMS, { IN ADVANCE.
One Year, \$1 50
Six Months, 75

VOL. 3.

LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS, JULY 19, 1884.

NO. 13

General News.

Our Country will be the scene of great excitement for the next four months. The Democrats have met and put forth two of their strongest men, Hon. Grover Cleveland and Hon. Thomas A. Hendricks, for President and Vice-President. Now comes the tug of war. Can our country stand the strain of another heated political campaign. What a wonder this republic of ours is to the nations of the old world. Over one hundred years old, and every four years all her millions decide at the ballot-box who shall rule them for the next four years—and how very often since its formation, has it passed from the government of one party to another. Its possibilities are marvelous—its endurance the marvel of all thinking men. But how long will it continue. That depends entirely on our own action. If we continue to be, as we should be, the asylum of the oppressed, and do not take greater pains to enforce our laws and to protect our civilization, then we are doomed to decay. "Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty." We should never forget the lessons of history. Stick to the Constitution and the laws.

Cholera is raging in Toulon and Marseilles, France, and has again appeared in Alexandria, Egypt. That city seems doomed. It has had a most wonderful history. Named for that ill-fated man of history, Alexander the Great, and at one time the great center of another chieftain's exploits, to-wit: Napoleon Bonaparte; it was also once the seat of the great Alexandrian Library of over 700,000 volumes. We found it in 1881, a city of 250,000 people and the most of it new, and in the European style; but since then it has felt the thunder of English guns and the scourge of cholera. The immortal Pharos is gone, and the once proud harbor is again in ruins. During the twenty-four hours ending July 13th, at 9, p. m., there had been fifty-seven deaths in Marseilles, and thirty-six at Toulon. A few cases of cholera in Paris, but the sanitary condition of the city is good, and not much fear is entertained.

The bill retiring Gen. Grant and pensioning him did not pass; so he will have to live on the interest of that quarter of a million donation from friends. I guess he can do that; it would be a very fine thing for many a Methodist preacher, that has done more good for the world than he ever will.

Our kinsfolks over the blue deep are having some trouble. In England there is a prospect of a breach between the House of Lords and Commons on the franchise bill, and the end is not yet. The compromise offered by the Earl Wymess, on the franchise bill, was rejected by the government.

The Panama Canal is being built at an expense of many millions. It will be a wonderful triumph of mechanical genius and scientific skill, almost equal to the Suez, which connect the Red and the Mediterranean, and pours the wealth of the Indies into the lap of England.

France has presented her ultimatum to China and given her minister two days to consider; and if he refuses, she will immediately open fire on the forts at Shanghai. We hope a general war will be averted.

There is much complaint being entered now against Congress—not so much for what they did, as what they did not do.

Terrible tragedy at Dallas, Texas, in which two noble young Virginians lose their lives. Guess it was bad whisky.

Mr. Moody, the great evangelist, is en route to the United States.

State News.

Monticello is fast improving, and is among our most thrifty little cities.

Primaries all over the State in a few weeks. Look out, temperance folks.

Hon. C. E. Mitchell will make the race for Congress against J. K. Jones.

No epidemic in any portion of the State that we hear of. Health generally good.

Republican Central Committee of this State were in session in this city last week.

The crops in Drew are good but very late. A late autumn, however, will make all well.

Clarendon is calling loudly for a school house. All right—but be certain to build that church.

Pine Bluff is taking the preliminary steps for the establishment of a cotton factory. A step in the right direction.

Arkansas had a noble delegation at Chicago, and our fellow-townsmen, Hon. U. M. Rose, distinguished himself.

Ashley county has not a single saloon within its borders. May all her sister counties imitate her noble example.

Arkansas City has a new Methodist Church that will be a perfect beauty when completed. There is a great future for that city.

Sorry to see a bitter, personal controversy springing up in White county. All such should be avoided. Let the press frown it down.

Ft. Smith will have another Fair in October, and it will be a grand affair, for the great City of the West never does things by halves.

Helena is one of the wealthy cities of our State, and if the old debt could be provided for, it would soon be one of the most prosperous.

Hon. Greenfield Quarles, of Helena, was nominated for prosecuting attorney, at Brinkley, last week. Over 400 ballots. Hot work for hot weather.

Drew county will have a Fair in October, commencing on the 15th, and lasting three days; and it will be a grand occasion. We hope to attend.

Jonesboro, the county site of Craighead county, will soon have a new court house. A step in the right direction. Brother Cobb makes a live paper.

Somebody writing in the Booneville Enterprise; calls Gen. S. P. Hughes a "farmer in a small way." I wish they could see his fine farm on Surrounded Hill.

Prairie county has had a long and bitter fight on the county site question, but I reckon Des Arc will keep it—though she has a powerful rival in Hazen.

District Conference at Booneville this week. Wish we could be there, but our good Brother Boswell will be present, and work for us, and I hope all the brethren will help.

We see a great deal of good likely to grow out of the Wheelers and Brothers of Freedom if they will let politics alone. It will not do to mix these or temperance with party politics.

The Browns had a bad day in Memphis last Sunday. They fell among the roughs. Sorry for you, boys—can't approve such conduct anywhere or at any time, but we advise you to let base ball alone on Sunday.

"Dr. A. R. Winfield and Rev. John H. Dye are editors and proprietors of the ARKANSAS METHODIST. They certainly make a team capable of drawing a heavy load."—Bentonian. Thank you, Brother Womack, but I tell you it will take a strong team and a hard pull.

PERSONAL.

Bishop Pierce is reported as preaching a sermon of great power, at a District Conference in Augusta, last week. A great deal of advice has been wasted on him, for he can and will preach. Bishop, send your old friend a letter for the METHODIST.

Rev. J. B. West has furnished a splendid article to the St. Louis Advocate, on the Doctrinal Integrity of Methodism. He is one of our ablest preachers and best writers. Send me some copy, friend Joseph.

Rev. James A. Heard, D. D., President of La Grange Female College, La Grange, Tenn., was in Jonesboro last week. He had better hurry here and advertise—several are ahead of him. We shall look for you, Doctor.

Rev. E. M. Bounds, of the St. Louis Advocate, will be at Booneville this week, and Springdale next week. He is a very clever gentleman, and will help the ARKANSAS METHODIST.

Jno. P. Lowry, former manager of this paper, has accepted a position with Quinn & Gray, of this city. His numerous friends will call and see him.

Rev. J. S. Brooke, Walnut Ridge and Corning station, sends us some subscribers, kind words and good wishes, to be followed by another list soon. Many thanks.

Judge John W. Slayton is a candidate for the Senate, from Jackson, Poinsette and Mississippi counties. He has been our bosom friend from our early ministry.

Rev. Mr. Willbanks, of the Presbyterian, and Rev. Mr. Eagle, of the Baptist Church, are candidates for the Legislature in Lonoke county.

Bishop Keener is holding District Conferences in the bounds of the Memphis Conference. Bishop, come to Carlisle next week.

Bishop McTeyre is seeing his History of Methodism through the press. It will be the richest donation of Centenary year, I dare say.

Rev. R. P. Wilson made a splendid speech on the Temperance Report at Monticello. O, for more like him, and prohibition would sweep Arkansas.

Rev. H. Jewell has gone to Dorsey county this week. He will return in time to fill his pulpit next Sabbath.

Bishop Hargrove will preside at the Fort Smith District Conference this week, and then on to Springdale.

Rev. E. A. Garrison is playing in a new role—he has turned lecturer. Well, he is a versatile genius.

Rev. J. H. Gold read a splendid report on temperance at the District Conference at Monticello.

Rev. Shelby Deener, one of our Vanderbilt boys, has been preaching in Searcy.

Rev. J. E. Godbey is still attending District Conferences in Arkansas. We wish him success.

Hon. George Thornburg is a candidate for representative in Lawrence county.

Rev. J. B. Hickman preached the Opening Sermon at Booneville this week.

Shade Jno. H. Dye went to Evening-shade last week.

Rev. J. M. Cline passed through our city on Monday.

Rev. T. H. Ware is a born presiding elder.

Rev. Frank Ritter has been preaching in Brinkley—he is a live man.

Rev. P. B. Summers was at Cenway last week. He is a fine worker.

Hon. J. K. Jones has been renominated for Congress in his district.

NOTES FROM THE FIELD.

Rev. Robert Atchley writes a real brotherly note, and remits \$3.00 on account. Very kind and brotherly. May many imitate him.

Rev. S. D. Evans sends two new subscribers, with the cash. He means business—and that of the tright sort. We like Walnut Ridge.

Rev. C. C. Godden, P. F. of this District, was in Tuesday, and reports well from the White River Circuit. See his notice elsewhere.

Rev. Geo. A. Dannelly sends us a sad note. His wife has been very ill—but was improving. He will return soon to his work. Thanks for kind words.

Rev. B. S. Crews has had a fine revival on his work. He reports in the Booneville Enterprise, one meeting where there were fifteen conversions and eleven accessions.

Rev. H. B. McNeil writes from Brinkley, that this senior is needed for a Temperance speech; and Bro. J. J. Jenkins ditto, from Malvern. All right, I will come after awhile—and will spare neither maker, seller nor drinker.

Rev. Jno. R. Sanders writes us a brotherly letter from Washington; sending us a subscriber and saying some good things about our paper. We appreciate this, as our brother has been a newspaper man, and knows whereof he affirms. We will do our best, and hope to merit and receive your continued help.

Rev. T. J. Reynolds sends us happy greetings from Prairie Grove, and a very kind invitation to preach, and to go on to Springdale; but duty compels us to decline both. Sorry my dear little friend, Nora, has been sick; glad she is better. Tell her that she must help her brother, and send us a long list of subscribers.

Rev. Frank Ritter thus writes from Newport station: "We have had seventeen accessions to our church since Conference, and our people are improving spiritually. We are not keeping up with our finances, but the pastor is well cared for, and the good people of this place would not allow it to be otherwise. They pounded us so heavily when we commenced house-keeping, that we shall possibly feel the effects of it for ten years; but they still pound a little to this day—one at a time, but it doesn't hurt us. ARKANSAS METHODIST is bound to succeed largely. May it cease to change hands." Selah.

Rev. E. L. Beard sends the following cheering note from his work, the Toledo circuit;

"As yet, I have sent you nothing from my field of labor, for the reason that I had nothing of special or general interest to write. I have not cleared the decks yet, but am doing what I can. We are rejoicing over the prospect of building a new church here (Toledo.) I have \$415.00 pledged and enough money in hand to pay for the lumber. Hope to have it ready to worship in by the first of September. I have met many good people here; been kindly received. I have not missed an appointment since I took charge of my work, except on account of rain and high water. I am thankful. I am praying and working for a revival all along the line. Want pungent conviction for sin, sound and radical conversions, giving clear heads, warm hearts, and consecrated purses. Query—If it is wrong for Republican, moral, prohibition Kansas to prevent bull-fights, is it right for Democratic Arkansas to encourage base ball playing on Sunday?"

He sends us an invitation to Toledo to Lecture on Palestine, &c., and then adds, he will stand by us. All right! We will never surrender or quit fighting till we gain the victory.

The Centennial Methodist Conference.

The Executive Committee of the Centennial Methodist Conference, to be held in Baltimore, Dec. 9-17, 1884, met in Philadelphia at the Methodist Book Rooms, Thursday, June 29, and organized as follows: President, Bishop E. G. Andrews; Vice-President, Samuel Rodgers, D. D.; Secretary, H. K. Carroll; Treasurer, T. J. Magruder.

The Committee spent four hours in a pleasant, harmonious session, and adjourned to meet at the call of the President.

Following is the list of topics for the various sessions of the conference, and the time allotted each:

- FIRST DAY,
1. Work of the Christmas Conference..... 1 hour
 2. Personnel of the Christmas Conference..... 1 "
- SECOND DAY.
3. The Superintendency of Asbury, and What it did for Methodism..... ¾ "
 4. The Relations of John Wesley to American Methodism ¾ "
 6. Statistical Results—Membership, etc..... ½ "
 6. Statistical Results—Educational and Financial, General discussion, 1 "
- THIRD DAY.
7. Methodism in 1784, and its Outlook, ¾ "
 8. Methodism in 1884, and its Outlook, ¾ "
 - General discussion, ½ "
 9. Causes of the Success of Methodism, ½ "
 10. Possible Dangers to Future Methodism, ½ "
 - General discussion, 1 "
- FOURTH DAY.
11. Rise and Progress of Methodism in Canada, ¾ "
 12. Methodist Pioneers and Their Work, ¾ "
 - General discussion, ½ "
 13. Is Methodism Losing its Power over the Masses? ¾ "
 - General discussion, 1 ¼ "
- FIFTH DAY.
14. The Aim and Character of Methodist Preaching, ¾ "
 15. Methodist Means of Grace, ¾ "
 - General Discussion, ½ "
 16. The Doctrinal Unity of Methodism, ½ "
 17. Guards to the Purity of our Doctrinal Teaching, ¾ "
 - General discussion, ¾ "
- SIXTH DAY.
18. The Four Points of Methodism—Heart Conversion, Assurance, Christian Experience, and Sanctification, ¾ "
 16. The Influence of Methodism on Other Denominations, ¾ "
 - General discussion, ½ "
 20. Value of the Press to Methodism, ¾ "
 21. Value of the Periodical Press to Methodism, ¾ "
 - General Discussion, ½ "
- SEVENTH DAY.
22. Place and Power of the Lay Element in Methodism, ¾ "
 23. What Methodism Owes to Women, ¾ "
 - General discussion, ½ "
- Public meetings will be held in the evening as follows: Wednesday evening, topic, Missions. Thursday evening, Session of the Conference for Reception of Fraternal Delegates. Friday evening, topic, The Educational work and Spirit of Methodism. Monday evening, topic, the Sunday-school. Tuesday evening, topic, The Mission of Methodism to the Extremes of Society.
- It is expected that several churches will be open each evening, except Thursday, and the various topics will be treated by invited speakers.

ARKANSAS METHODIST

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY
WINFIELD & DYE.

CORRESPONDING EDITORS:
Julien C. Brown, J. W. Boswell,
H. R. Withers.

SATURDAY, JULY 19, 1884.

Editorial Correspondence.

It is certain that a page filled by editorial correspondence, can and ought to be one of the most interesting in any paper, and where three such pens as Boswell, Brown and Withers, are employed, it should be peculiarly so: but now when the thermometer is over 100 in the shade, our printer comes forward and says that he is out of copy. Where are our corresponding editors? Echo answers, where? Our good Brother Withers don't rejoice over his honors long, or at least he is resting on them. Take notice, brethren, that we expect you to fill your page. Give us a full benefit, Withers from Washington District Conference and our Brother Boswell will do the same from Fort Smith and Bro. Brown will write up just who and what he pleases; but all of you remember we must have copy.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—The third quarterly Conference for Searcy Circuit was held at Salem July 5th and 6th. Our Presiding Elder was with us in the spirit of the Master. All the appointments on the work were represented. The business of the session was dispatched with great satisfaction to both, the members and visitors in attendance. The reports showed progress in all the departments of church work; owing, I think, in a large measure to faithful work by my predecessor, Rev. B. Harris. Our finances are somewhat lower than we would wish; but we are hopeful. The METHODIST was not forgotten, I sent you eighteen, and I now send two more. Making in all from this circuit, this year, twenty-nine subscribers.

Our people are taking more church papers this year, and reading more, than they have since I have known the circuit.

Success to you and the ARKANSAS METHODIST. Yours in Christ
A. S. BLACKWOOD.
Searcy, Ark., July 10, 1884.

DEAR METHODIST:—Bishop McTyeire's idea that the promise of our Lord that the church being built upon the rock, the gates of hades, i. e. death should never prevail against it, is peculiarly applicable to our Methodist annals in Arkansas. Although God buries the workmen in the various departments of church work, yet he raises up others who take their places, and the great harvest is furnished with suitable laborers. In this state we have had many attempts to establish a Methodist paper, and all have had severe difficulties of financial and other sorts to contend with. And just as we felt that we had in our lamented Colburn the very man to lead us on in this department, lo! he is removed by death.

But how wonderfully resuperative is our peculiar system! Behold today two of our best and well tried men, Winfield and Dye, step to the front and take up our trailing banner and cry: "Rally! rally! men and women of Arkansas Methodism!" Supported on the right and left by Boswell, Brown, Jewell, "Beta," Withers, Hunter and our godly women, and cheered on by the music of the little helpers, they are bound to succeed.

No Centenary enterprise could be more important—save the main one, a glorious and universal revival of religion—than to put our home paper on a permanent basis. For twenty-five years I have always been ready to put in my little mite to aid our general interests, especially our papers, and I may be allowed this one word of exhortation. Let us all, by our labor to get new subscribers for the paper, endorse the hand of that kind Providence which has given us these men to go before us, and once for all make this paper a grand success. Turn out and get ten subscribers for a year, or twenty for six months, and forward the money now. Earnestly,
H. M. GRANADE.

Arkadelphia District Conference Session.

Our Conference, meeting at an unexpected time, in order to have Bishop Hargrove with us, was not so fully attended as it would have been if better advertised. Many of the members arrived on Saturday and worshiped Sunday with the Okolona church, it being also a quarterly meeting occasion for Clark Circuit. The Sunday morning love-feast, not loudly emotional, but exhibiting a deep-under current of power, was followed by a sermon from the Bishop, a regular Centenary discourse, the effect of which was to enlighten our people, as well as those of other denominations, who were largely in attendance, as to the growth and power of Methodism, and its comparative standing throughout the United States to-day; it being largely in advance—so far as members are concerned—of all denominations. "Go and tell him the things ye see and hear and that the poor have the Gospel preached to them," was the theme. How grandly did he trace a Divine Providence in the growth of our Methodism, developing into a church polity, almost superhuman, and an itineracy system, pre-eminently adapted above that of all other organizations, to "preach the Gospel to the poor." As we walked about Zion and noted her bulwarks, and beholding point after point the development of "the Christ" that was in it we felt impelled to say that "we need not look for another." The proof of Christ's ministry are here. The power has been with us, the work is truly wonderful, miraculous! Oh! how we praised God for his wonderful works and prayed for a larger Baptism of the Holy Ghost. At night the sacrament of the Lords Supper again brought to our remembrance that Jesus died to save.

On Monday morning at 6 A. M., Conference opened, Bishop R. K. Hargrove in the chair. Our Conference is 117 strong, composed respectively of fourteen traveling preachers, forty-seven local preachers, fifty-six lay delegates. There were present eleven traveling preachers, three local preachers and twenty-four lay delegates.

Five committees were raised at morning session, all reported on second day.

Afternoon session—Arkadelphia was selected as the place to hold the next session of District Conference, also the following were elected delegates to the Annual Conference: W. T. Crouch, S. Winsted, T. M. East, E. B. Hotchkiss. Reserves—H. A. Butler and L. N. Runyan.

The following facts and figures we glean from the report on the State of the Church: The number who attend upon our ministry, 6820; the number of church members, 2899; number who habitually attend upon preaching, 1575; number who habitually attend upon Sunday-school, 694; number who habitually attend upon prayer meeting, 562; number who habitually attend upon class meeting, 387; number who habitually attend upon love feast, 791; about one-tenth of our families take church papers; one-third hold family prayers; one-half have their children baptised. The above facts are fit subjects for study.

The Sunday-School report gives us the following: Number of Sunday-school, 33; number of pupils, 1915; number of pupils belonging to the church, 693. Not one of our schools is reported as giving steadily to any benevolent object. One-half of the charges report no conversions in Sunday-school, the other half report variously.

Report of the committee on finances shows collections for support of the ministry behind about 48 per cent; the general collections behind about 50 per cent.

The report of the committee on Quarterly Conference records should be printed in full and read by all the official members in order to improvement—a condensed statement would be of little use. One thing, however, might be mentioned, that is, that very few contain a written report of the work of the local preachers, the query is, do they work any or does the Presiding Elder always excuse them. Their work is lost to history.

The report of the Centenary committee recommended a vigorous circu-

lation of the centenary medal.

The following resolutions were passed:

Resolved, That our thanks are hereby heartily tendered to the citizens of Okolona for the elegant hospitality which they have so generously dispensed to this Conference.

Resolved, That we return our grateful thanks to Bishop Hargrove for his presence among us, and for his kind and impartial presidency over us, and that we assure him that our prayers shall follow him, and that we will welcome him at any time into our midst.

J. R. MOORE,
E. H. VANCE, JR.

A complimentary vote of thanks was given the Secretary, to which was added the personal thanks of the Bishop, when the minutes were read from and signed in our new record book before adjournment by

R. K. HARGROVE,
E. B. HOTCHKISS, President.
Secretary.

Morrilton District Conference.

The fourteenth session of the Morrilton District Conference—Arkansas Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South—met in Conway, Ark., July 7, 1884. Rev. T. J. Smith, P. E., presiding.

The Conference was organized and all the preliminary regulations were made during the morning session.

Bishop Hargrove arrived in time to preside over the deliberations of the body during the evening session. Which he did to the satisfaction of all to the close of the Conference.

The Bishop greatly endeared himself to the Conference and friends of the Master by his wise counsels, and able and efficient labors.

About forty-two clerical and lay brethren, and several elect ladies were present.

The sisters are getting to be quite a factor in the success of christianity; and their presence and influence is more and more felt; and with less and less difficulty we are enabled to get homes for them at Conference. One of the most hopeful signs of the times is that woman is coming up to her noble sphere of usefulness which was a significant characteristic of the women in the apostolic age. The hope of the church and the world is holy mothers, wives and sisters.

There were several visiting brethren with us. Among these were Drs. Bounds and Godbey, of St. Louis Conference, Dr. Winfield, of Little Rock Conference, J. A. Anderson, of White River Conference, and P. B. Summers and A. P. Melton, of Dardanelle District Arkansas Conference. A more genial set of brethren never graced a Conference with their presence. They were all full of sunshine, and shed joy and gladness all around. We pray God that the scintillations of divine influence may pour from them ever more as it did here. We were sorry we did not get to hear all of them preach; but those of them we did hear, preached "not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the spirit and of power;" and we felt that it was good to sit under their ministry. In this regard the people—our people—were highly favored, and their appreciation was equal to the rich feast of fat things, as well as the very cream of the gospel with which these servants of the Most High fed them.

This was evidenced by the presence and breathless attention of the vast crowds that thronged our new but unfinished house of worship.

All the editors—Bounds, Godbey and Winfield—addressed the Conference in the interest of their respective papers. This they did in a very graceful, unselfish manner, and if the editors of our church papers will keep up this spirit it will be a long step toward rising to a higher plane of christian enjoyment and activity during the next century. Use the scissors freely brethren when our communications are too raspy, and if that remedy will not help us to write kindly consign them to the waste-basket. The press is powerful for good or evil. I feel like doing more in the way of trying to get the people to take these papers.

Bishop Hargrove, who listened very profoundly and patiently to these brethren, (for he is a very forbearing

and patient hearer) spoke in the interest, not of the Nashville Advocate, but in the interest of the Christian Advocate, at Nashville. Our Advocate. His remarks were pointed, and will do the Christian Advocate much good.

The session was remarkably harmonious. There was not a jar; another sign of Christian advancement.

W. M. Clifton, Geo. T. Clifton, W. D. Laffis, local preacher, and Dr. W. E. Jamison were elected delegates to the ensuing Annual Conference, and J. W. Duncan and W. W. Garland, alternates.

The Conference past a vote of thanks for the princely manner in which the citizens of Conway entertained the Conference; and this vote was no sham, for every man, woman and child among us felt that Conway had done her best to make us feel pleasant. Springfield was selected as the place where the next District Conference will be held.

J. F. HULL,
Secretary.

Conway, Ark., July 10, 1884.

Dardanelle District Conference.

The first session of the Dardanelle District Conference—Arkansas Annual Conference, was held in the town of Atkins, Pope, county, Ark., July 3-5, 1884. Bishop Hargrove presided. He is a scrutinizing officer. Very few things escape his watchful eye. We think his administrative abilities in the chair equal to the best, and his

pulpit ministrations are full of Gospel power and spirit. He made favorable impressions on the preachers, laymen and citizens of this part of our state. All the charges in the district were represented but one. Twelve traveling preachers, out of thirteen, were present; four local preachers, out of thirty-four, were present; twenty lay delegates, out of thirty-nine, were present. Reports show prosperity throughout the district. Revs. J. E. Godbey and E. M. Bounds, of St. Louis, and B. H. Greathouse, of Morrilton, were visitors. These brethren had on the harness and they worked. Steps were taken to build a district parsonage. The following brethren constitute the District parsonage committee; John F. Choate, Z. P. Ford, W. A. Clement, M. B. Harner, J. S. Massey, J. Bost, J. F. Munday, A. J. Dyer, P. J. Rollow, J. L. Cravens. Now push the work, brethren. The district has nine parsonages. We want four more and a district parsonage this centenary year. The District Centenary Committee reported. Stirring speeches were made by Bishop Hargrove and others. Six hundred and ten dollars were subscribed to purchase Central Collegiate Institute for a church school. A. M. Gibson, A. J. Dyer, John S. Massey, (L. P.) J. F. Munday, were elected delegates to the Annual Conference. W. J. Briggs and John L. Cravens were elected alternates. Next session of the District Conference to be held at Dardanelle, Yell county, Ark. The kind people of Atkins entertained the Conference with commendable hospitality, and they were thanked.

W. H. METHENY, Sec'y.
Prairie View, Ark., July 7, 1884.

A Vital Matter.

(Richmond Advocate.)

Bishop Keener found the solution to the retrogression of Methodism in Kentucky where once it held the field. In an evil hour, years ago, our Church, then in the van, allowed their College to fall into decay and death. The Presbyterians and the Cambelites saw the vantage-ground and fostered their schools. They began to educate Methodist children. The communities by this means came under the influence of rival denominations. These Churches gained on us and after awhile took the lead. We by degrees fell to the rear. As the years went on the men of culture and influence were in other Communions. Methodist boys at the best schools receive a slant from the faith of their fathers.

Our Church in Kentucky recognizes now the fatal mistake. Once we were foremost, successful, and almost without rivals in that Commonwealth. We made the blunder of the century, and will never recover from the false step.

Israel sounded the lowest depth of

degradation when there was no smith, nor forge, nor anvil, throughout its territory, when "all the Israelites went down to the Philistines, to sharpen every man his share, and his coulter, and his ax, and his mattoch." Of course they were defenseless. And "it came to pass in the day of battle, that there was neither sword nor spear found in the hand of any of the people."

The Church that allows hostile neighbors to control and monopolize schools, where the wits of the youth are hammered and sharpened, soon finds itself as impotent and ignoble as the base Jew, without a weapon and without manhood.

Methodism in Virginia, North Carolina and the South, in the decades past, had the good fortune of a College. Minister and layman were trained there. That institution gave the Church, in the years gone by, a dominating career in the Southern States. Subtract its influence, and you would cut the core out of the glorious past. Bishops, scholars, statesmen, and orators receive their training in its halls. A hundred living ministers in the Virginia Conference were educated there. Fifty in the Baltimore Conference. Such is the grand history of Randolph-Macon.

This is the Centenary year. Gratitue for the work of the College has achieved for the Church, and its potency for the future, ought to arouse our Methodism to a grand rally for endowment. The future of our Methodism in Virginia will be dwarfed or enlarged by the enthusiasm or supineness of this year. The hand on the dial will go back and back if indifference or inertness mark our conduct toward this venerable institution.

Beware, brethren, lest a dry-rot beginning now at the core leave us, in the years to come, a fragile, withered shell of dust. Kentucky Methodism receive blood-pollion from their dead College. May the Virginia Church "profit by their example."

Partizan Praying.

Recent political conventions have developed some new features in the character of public prayer. Enterprising newspapermen have given them full and wide publicity together with all other proceedings. At the National Republican Convention, on successive days, distinguished ministers of unquestioned political orthodoxy, offered prayer invoking Divine blessing upon the "grand old party." Like petitions have been made by preachers at several State Democratic Conventions. As we have read these proceedings, thoughts have been suggested that may be of general profit.

Much praying, so-called, is for the ears of man rather than the throne of God. In rhetorical phrase, the relation of local incidents, and expressions of opinion upon matters purely secular and partizan, the purpose of the performance is perfectly manifest. The papers pronounce it "very eloquent," and the prayer-orator reads the tribute with genuine satisfaction. Every such notice offends the spiritual propriety of true Christians and wounds the cause of Christ. Prayer—"the soul's sincere desire"—is only for the throne of grace and may be as true efficacious "unuttered" as "expressed." When offered in public, it should simply lead the devotees of the congregation for needed blessing, and not entertain the people with devotional stump-speaking. "Beautiful and eloquent" prayers are a delusion and a snare. They should not be voiced in incorrect or infelicitous language, but their intellectuality should not be prominent. The spirit should breathe through the words and not the words shroud and conceal the spirit.

Prayers for party and by partisans have the odor of secularity rather than the fragrance of true piety. They prophesy party success in the form of prayer, and in that attitude stir up the faithful to an active campaign. We doubt the propriety of praying for the triumph or defeat of any party as such. We may and should ask that all party conclusions be directed to the general good, and that divine blessings dwell upon the entire laud. But to pray for Republican success or Democratic defeat, or vice versa, is more partizan than pious—an unseemly, if not unchristian, performance. An entire elimination of selfish purpose or ambition is necessary to true prayer. We need pious rather than partizan praying.—[N. O. Advocate.