

ARKANSAS METHODIST.

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

REV. A. R. WINFIELD, D. D., Editors,
REV. JNO. H. DYE,

"Speak thou the things which become sound doctrine."

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General News.

Egyptian Affairs.

The fall of Khartoum and the probable fate of Gen. Gordon, have been the all absorbing topics during the past week. If that great christian soldier who has jeopardized so much for her Majesty's government should either be maltreated or killed the nations will never cease to reflect on the mismanagement of the British army. The idea of such a man perishing by a mob of rebel Arabs, is too bad to think of! Gen. Woolsey sends nothing cheering from Soudan. The policy of the English Government from the very beginning, has been filled with glaring blunders, and it is likely to prove fatal and result in the sacrifice of many valuable lives.

Turkey

The "Sick man of Europe" is fitting out a fleet to prevent Italy from occupying any part of North Africa and forbid an encroachment on the Red Sea. A war between the "Sick Man" and the "land of art" would be ludicrous if it were not for the loss of life. Two bankrupt governments, with thousands of starving poor, preparing for battle over any part of the dark continent, is a strange phenomena in the world's affairs.

England.

Everything is full of activity in war circles, and the probabilities are that England will withdraw from Egypt and leave her to attend to her own affairs, and Gen. Woolsey will be ordered to evacuate.

Germany.

The great diplomat, Prince Bismarck, is again reported very ill, and ordered to retire for a season from active life. His death would be a calamity to his people.

France.

Paris is much excited over meetings that are being held in that jewelled city by anarchists. At war with China on a mere pretext, without any proclamation of open hostilities, greatly desirous to have a part in African affairs. She is still torn with internal evils that may result in a revolution at any moment. Poor France! Not much improved since thy great son, Napoleon, said in his memorable farewell address: "Nature decreed I should leave as I found thee, decayed in thy glory and sunk in thy worth."

Russia

The "Bear" stands waiting for the prey, and may yet take part in the movements on the chess board, looking to a future settlement in India.

Our Own Country.

The Inter-State Commerce bill hangs fire in the Senate, and so does the Blair Education bill, and it is pretty certain that neither will become a law before the first of March.

Everybody is busy making a cabinet for the new president, but it is more than probable that after all Mr. Cleveland will make his own selection; and as he is a very level headed man we fully expect to hear of Senator Bayard, of Delaware, and Senator Garland, of Arkansas in that Cabinet.

Religious World.

The Church is every where on the advance, and the fields are white unto harvest. Our missionary corps are passing into the regions beyond, and the nations are bowing to God. We do not anticipate much from either one of the tabernacles in Brooklyn or the wonderful "Coup de tat" of Chicago. We do not think any of these on God's plan; but the rank and file of the Christian army are marching right on to victory, and the light of the grey dawn of millennial morn is clearly to be seen in the purple tinted clouds of the breaking day. "Come, Lord Jesus, come quickly!"

State News.

The very latest is the Viola Tack Hammer, from Viola, in Fulton county, this State. We have heard of "tack hammer" preachers, and have done some work on that line ourself, but this is the first in the newspaper line who is willing to take the name, though there are many in reality. But this hammer strikes ringing blows, and has neither patent inside or a patent outside. It is cheerful and enterprising. Success to you, brother Haun. Of course we will exchange.

Helena has had another fire, and we hear of one of the most brutal murders near there that we ever read of—a man and woman killed for a horse and one dollar and twenty cents in money; and to-day we read of another. This time it is the assassination of one of the wealthiest colored men in the State. It is time to stop public executions, particularly among the colored people. They are too fanatical and excitable for such things. A negro murderer is becoming with them a latter-day hero.

One of the best bills yet introduced into the present House of Representatives was brought in last Monday by the representative from Calhoun county, and it was his first. If he can only get it through, it will be an honor to him and a credit to our State. It is a bill to punish office holders for gambling. By all means it should pass.

Prosecuting Attorney Lea is winning golden opinions in Little Rock, and will finally close all saloons on Sunday. Two juries have been found to convict even Jews for keeping open doors on Sunday. This paper will stand by you in the fight, and stay all summer and winter, too, if it is necessary."

Our Legislature has passed an act extending the time for the payment of taxes to April the 10th, and the Governor has approved it. We doubt its propriety. Many will spend the money they now have and their taxes will go unpaid. Better pay now.

We hear of a new name for a saloon in Arkadelphia, called Cotton Exchange. That is a misnomer. Call it right. Say drunkards and ruined men made here! You will then sail under true colors.

Whiskey holes may be good for revenue and to fill the pockets of the officers, but they are death to society.

Something over twenty bills have been introduced into the legislature proposing to regulate freight and passage rates on railroads by law, a thing utterly impracticable and impossible. Hold off, gentlemen, and let all the proposed roads be built, and they will soon regulate each other.

We see there is much adverse criticism of the Arkansas Industrial University in some of the state papers. It may be a first-class literary school, but as an agricultural school it is a fraud and a failure.

We see our legislature has commenced a vigorous attack on Mansfield's Digest, before it sees day light. Something over 5,000 sections; but with their present speed they will soon amend them all, and then we hope a new constitution will be in order.

Much business before both houses, but we do hope they will pass the bill improving the Supreme Court room and the one changing our Sabbath law. Don't forget these, gentlemen; and it will be very well to help the Institute for the Blind, and give the Ladies Benevolent Hospital a lift.

By all means pass the contract bill, and do not, for the sake of Arkansas, allow Arkansas work to be done out side of our own State. It would be a shame to us.

Personal.

Mr. William Paisley, of Dobyville, called to see us and left a year's subscription for the METHODIST. Will is one of our best old time boys of Dallas, and his accomplished wife is just as good and clever as her noble husband. We like such calls. It is refreshing to be thus remembered by our friends. Come again.

Rev. Geo. M. Hill writes us a kind, brotherly card from Wheatley, with three subscribers and a warm invitation to visit them and talk for them. Thanks, my beloved: "When the roses come again I will greet you."

Rev. J. T. Massey sends another greeting from Clarksville and adds another subscriber to his already long list.

Rev. M. C. Morris writes us cheerfully from Augusta, and says the ARKANSAS METHODIST improves with every number. He promises good work when the weather will admit. Put it in every Methodist house. That is the word for 1885. A Presbyterian minister and a Presbyterian member both called and paid for it this week. It will do for all sects.

Bishop McTyeire was in Memphis this week on important business. He looks well and is fully alive to our interests. We see a son of Mr. Wm. H. Vanderbilt, with his family and friends, called and lunched with him, en route to the Exposition at New Orleans. They took in the Vanderbilt grounds and were delighted. They are the pride of the south and the great monument to Cornelius Vanderbilt and will perpetuate his name when marble and bronze shall decay.

We had the pleasure of meeting in the Bluff City, Rev. J. T. C. Collins and Rev. W. C. Johnson, also a few minutes with the gifted pastor of old Wesley.

Rev. J. M. D. Sturgis sends a remittance of \$7 50 and is determined to try and put the METHODIST in every family in his charge. He is a noble worker and a great success.

Rev. A. Monk has two communications in our present issue on an important subject. You will find him first on page four, and then on page two. Give the farmer Arkansas boy a careful reading—he is worthy.

Rev. Attie's G. Haygood, D. D., sends us his able speech on public education, delivered at Mount Eagle, last August. Of course it is elaborate and learned, but we fail to agree with the Doctor on that line. We think he made a great error in declining the Bishopric in 1882, and a greater one in leaving Emory in '85. But we must allow him to follow his own conscience.

Rev. W. H. W. Burns is bringing this office under many obligations to him. He is simply pouring in on us subscribers and money. Thank you, brother, thank you, and please let the good work go on.

Rev. W. J. Davis is doing good work up in Lockesburg, and he is coming up fast to the front with good subscribers and money. Many thanks to you, my old time boy.

Rev. P. B. Hopkins, of the Arkansas Conference, has been passing through the deep water of affliction, in the loss of his Christian wife. We tender our sincerest sympathy and we know our God can and will comfort you. Look up and faith will show you a brighter world, and one where there is no death.

Bishop Wilson still lingers at our great Baden Baden, and is not much improved. We hope to see him this week, and will then give the anxious Church the very latest from him.

Rev. W. C. Dunn will have a good letter in our next issue, and so will Rev. M. H. Wells.

Field Notes.

We begin this week with a little note from one of our best local preachers, Rev. B. A. Merris, of Walnut Ridge. It is simply splendid. Hear him:

"I send you five dollars for the paper for the names below. Allow me to say, God bless the ARKANSAS METHODIST; long may it live to bless the homes of our State with its grand bold editorials, and may the people take warning for they give nothing uncertain. We must return to old times and true Methodist paths in order to win the world for Christ."

Now, is not that pleasant? Pretty good little pounding.

But here comes brother Burns in such a sweet postal:

"On our return to Cabib Creek circuit we received a very cordial welcome. A very practical demonstration of appreciation was realized by the preacher and his family when they found the parsonage amply supplied with temporal necessities, too many good and nice things in the line of eatables to mention. We thank God and take courage. I feel a new preacher at home, and by the grace of God expect to end the year in triumph."

And next comes brother T. F. Warren, from Golden Lake, and his note is to us golden:

"Please publish enclosed in the column of marriages. Success to the METHODIST and its editors. I do not wish to miss a copy of the METHODIST that I am entitled to. Hoping to receive it regularly, I remain very respectfully yours."

Then comes the inimitable and indomitable Rev. Frank Ritter, of Newport. Of course it is good:

"Since we returned from conference this preacher's "better half" has been so afflicted that she could not be out at all, and that has greatly hindered his pastoral work. Bad weather has also interfered with attendance at Church, but we are still alive and striving to go forward. We have received one member into the Church by baptism; and our Sunday school is a live growing power, and is growing in numbers and interest. The good people of this place have neither forgotten or neglected to be kind to their pastor, and we hope and pray that the blessings of God may so descend upon them that many souls may be converted this year. We hereby request your services in a protracted effort to secure that object before the summer opens. I begin work for our papers this week, as I have not been able to do so sooner."

Next is our brother Rev. E. Dickens, from Perryville, in Perry county, Ark., and up in Fourche mountain, and a bran new dollar is turned loose to carry this paper to a good brother Turner, and he will be the worst turned man that ever was. Ah! my brother, we like that. Do so often. We need bran new dollars, but we will take old ones:

"Please near my request. I am a bran new dollar. Have had a very short existence, and consequently but little experience. I was made for the benefit of man, but I fear I may sometime be a curse, therefore I come to you for advice. There are so many that would start me in the way that I don't want to go, that I am hardly willing to risk myself in the hands of humanity. I don't want to lay on the gambler's table; nor do I want to go into the houses of the low, lewd and lawless; I don't want to pay for mean whisky to make some poor mortal drunk, which course if persisted in will ruin the body and damn the soul. I want a position to circulate religious literature among your race. Please accept my application and grant my request. You can do so by sending the ARKANSAS METHODIST to the

name given below. Hoping that enough of my specie will find the way to your sanctum to enable you to send the paper to every Methodist family in Arkansas, I am your ONE-DOLLAR-AND-FIFTY-CENTS.' Dr. Winfield, enclosed find one dollar and fifty cents, postoffice money order. Send the ARKANSAS METHODIST to R. N. Turner, Adona, Perry Co., Ark."

Then we put in our brother W. A. Steele, telling of whole wagon loads of good things; and he writes many good things concerning the people of Magnolia circuit. And he is astonished that anybody should have ever thought that he was the least soured toward the METHODIST; says our good-looking and good-natured manager simply let him settle by his own figures. And he says so many good things concerning this Senior that he can't print them, but simply bows and says, thank you, Will:

"We are starting off tolerably well. We were troubled at the start in getting a house, but Bros. Vaughan, Dixon and Dr. Beasley gave us assistance and we are now sheltered from the storm. Our good members have sent us in four or five wagon loads of corn and fodder, meat, potatoes, turnips, butter, and a host of other good things that make us feel like we were among the dear old Collegeville people again. Have received seven in the Church, and organized one new Church. Expect to have Webster's Unabridged from you before the year is out. The people here scarcely know that the ARKANSAS METHODIST exists. Will try and send you a long list soon."

We will close this week with a good long and stirring note from the other Monk, down in old De Witt. We would say this Monk is the Monk of all the Monks, but someone would say that was just because the other one is gone. Well, maybe so, but this note is splendid anyhow:

"Dear old friend, for three weeks after we came to De Witt you did not come to see us and we missed you very much, but after while your face was gladly seen in our house. I am very sorry to tell you, however, that there are few houses in our little town that you do visit. But we are talking and working for you, and hope to give you a boom before the year closes. We would be glad to see one or both of you editors in our town. Think we could send him or them back with a good list of subscribers, though money is very hard to get. I want to say to you that the people on the De Witt circuit have received us very kindly. We have been on the work nearly six weeks. When we came they had already bought a nice lot of wood, and very soon they had us nicely fixed up for house-keeping, with wood heating and cooking stoves, and plenty to eat. The stoves, however, belong to the parsonage. I know that they will treat us well this year, for they began on New Year's night by giving us a real good pounding, with meat, flour, sugar, coffee, canned fruits of various kinds, some dry goods and a nice China cup and saucer for this writer to drink his coffee out of. We have many reasons to give God thanks for placing us among so good a people as we have found these to be. But we knew them before. There it was this writer was raised and began his ministerial life. Was licensed to preach here in De Witt. Boys that we went to school with are now men in the active part of life. But worst of all they are not religious. Pray God to give them to us as the fruits of our labor this year. I find a great many vacant chairs in this country. Fathers and mothers in the Church, that we once knew and loved, are dead and gone to their long rest, where we hope to meet them after while."

And now our readers may rest till next week, and then brother Springstreet Evans and others will tell of poundings.