

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."

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NO. 12

General News.

We begin this week, our column of General News. Our readers must bear with us for a season. Remember we are new hands at the front. We will try to improve from week to week, and make this column attractive to you, as well as the column of State News. We begin with the following from the N. O. Times-Democrat:

"How much business Congress is invited to attend to, and how little of this it really transacts, is well illustrated in the fact that while more than 11,000 bills have been offered during the present session of seven months—7620 in the House and 3450 in the Senate—only 122 have passed, or about one in ten of those introduced. And the far greater number of these are unimportant, except as they call for the expenditure of money, only twenty-two being of general interest.—Chiet among these, according to the Chicago Times, are the ones "to protect the fisheries of the Atlantic coast; to reduce postage on transient newspapers; to make public roads and highways postroads; to establish a bureau of animal industry and to relieve the shipping interests." To which may be added, the appropriation for the relief of the flood sufferers, the loan to the Exposition, and the Mexican War pension.

Among the matters which came up and were defeated are the Morrison tariff bill and the free ships bill. The Kelley bill, for the suspension of the coinage of silver dollars, and the McPherson and Potter bill; to prevent the contraction of the circulation of the national banks, never even reached Congress for consideration. The postal telegraph bill is threatened with defeat; and the anti-Mormon bill is not as yet definitely passed.

In comparison with previous Congresses, therefore, the present one has not done much business, but it can claim the credit of having done very well by doing very little and refusing to pass some particularly bad measures. The country has learned that the best Congress is not that which legislates most and passes the most bills; but that which considers each measure carefully, and passes only the good ones. This can, with perfect justice, be said of the Congress soon to adjourn."

The National Democratic Convention has given no certain indications of who they will nominate up to this writing. Perhaps we will be able to tell our readers before going to press this week. One thing we can venture in advance—he will be a very great man with the Democrats, a very small one with the Radicals, and the worst abused man in this country, except Mr. Blaine. We hope moderation will rule the hour.

Congress is now pushing through its business with great rapidity, and we think with undue haste. This is the case with most deliberative and legislative bodies in Church and State. They postpone the most important business to the close.

President Arthur has vetoed the bill for the relief of Gen. Fitz John Porter. A great error, we think, is thus committed, and a true, brave man injured.

The financial crisis still increases; the money market is stringent, and our people must buy scantily and practice a rigid economy.

Hons. Thos. A. Hendricks and Dan W. Voorhees are delegates to Chicago from Indiana. A strong team.

No serious outbreaks or epidemics in any part of our country.

Asiatic cholera has broken out at Toulon, France.

The hostility of the Russians against the Jews continues.

State News.

Weather warm everywhere.

Judicial Convention at Brinkley on the 9th. Hot time expected.

So far as heard from, our people are delighted with the nominees of the State Convention.

Fort Smith District Conference at Booneville, commencing on Thursday night, the 17th inst.

The Arkansas River at Canyon City, Col., was higher than ever known before; so we may still expect another rise.

The Knights and Ladies Mutual Aid Society, of Arkansas, has been consolidated with the Mutual Benefit Life, of Hartford.

Hon. S. P. Hughes was prevented from going to Judsonia on the 4th, by the illness of his son, whose death is announced elsewhere.

Jonesboro District Conference at Gainesville, was a grand affair, and we were sorry we could not enjoy it; but our junior had a good time.

The Russellville Democrat has a strong article on the "Born Teacher," by Prof. Shinn. We never saw that teacher. All we have ever seen were made by very hard work.

Col. Jno. M. Moore, of Little Rock, is now chairman of the executive committee of the democratic party of this State. He is a very strong and very able man.

Dr. H. R. Withers will soon commence a series of articles on Temperance in the Hempstead Telegraph. I dare say they will be rich, racy and strong. He is a vigorous writer.

The late Sheriff of Garland county, Hon. J. H. Nicholls, is said to be far behind in his accounts, and a heavy deficiency with the public school fund. This is to be regretted. His securities are good.

Some people are trying to injure Hon. Jno. G. Fletcher by saying he will run as an independent candidate for Governor. We have not, nor will we take part in party politics, but we will risk saying that is not true. He is not that sort of a man.

Brother Colburn, of the Ozark Democrat, is in a big controversy with some organization called B. of D. Don't understand it, but I guess C. will not be second best when it is over. Keep cool, brother. Shall we send you some ice? W.

Our Little friend, Miss Daisy Garland, daughter of Senator Garland, was awarded a certificate of distinction at the closing exercises of Woodward institute, Washington, D. C., at the close of the last term. I congratulate Miss Daisy. W.

We are sorry to chronicle the death of Johnnie, son of Gen. S. P. Hughes, of this city. The sweet boy left earth for heaven last Friday. It is a great loss to the parents, but a greater gain to the child. We extend our hearty sympathy. Sorry we were absent when sent when sent for.

Searcy can boast of two as lively papers as can be found in the State—The Beacon and Enterprise would do credit to any city in the country. The Enterprise of last week has a fine sketch of Hon. S. P. Hughes, the Democratic nominee for Governor. We wish both papers success.

The celebration of the 4th, at Hot Springs was a very grand affair, if we leave off the "Ball" at night. The procession was a great credit to the city of Hot Water, and the military companies acquitted themselves to the delight of all. The fireworks were splendid, but the ball was out of time and out of taste, and no lady was benefited by it. To say the least of it, dancing is a silly amusement.

PERSONAL.

Rev. Dr. Kennedy gave my people a fine sermon last Sunday.

Bishop Parker is at home in New Orleans, resting, after his laborious trip to Texas.

Bishop J. C. Granbery starts to Montana this week. We wish him a pleasant trip and safe return.

Rev. J. M. Clarke was in Helena last week. He is well reported of on his district, and is doing a fine work.

Rev. J. M. Cline, from the Galloway circuit, called this week. Many thanks for kind words and promise of help.

Rev. John H. Dye, our fine looking junior, returned in good time from Gainesville, and reported a grand time.

Rev. E. M. Bounds, of St. Louis, is now in Arkansas, attending District Conferences. We hope to see him next week.

Rev. H. H. Watson, of Benton circuit, gave us a call this week. He is one of our best workers. He gave promise of help.

Rev. A. D. Jenkins is at Hot Springs bathing in the thermal waters. He is a fine specimen of a working preacher, and a useful one.

Rev. M. M. Blanton, of Kentucky, was in Little Rock last Sabbath, and preached for Dr. Kennedy, of the 2d Presbyterian church.

Our Junior and Hon. Geo. Thornburg will represent White River Conference at Baltimore next Christmas. It will be well done.

Rev. C. O. Steele, and family are at Washington, among old friends.—They are seeking health and rest. He is well spoken of by the people of Hot Springs.

Rev. Jno. J. Jenkins and family are at Hot Springs, seeking health in those healing waters. Prof. Garner and family are with them. They are all great friends to the METHODIST.

Rev. Andrew Hunter is the clerical and Dr. J. C. McAlmont the lay delegate to the Centennial Conference, to convene at Baltimore next Christmas. Little Rock Conference will be ably represented by these brethren.

Mrs. Mary W. Loughborough is editor of the Ladies Department of the Rural and Workman. She is eminently qualified for the position. She is one of the most gifted writers of the state.

Dr. John E. Edwards is booked for a dedicatory sermon at Jarratts depot, Sussex Co., Va., July 16th. Don't I wish that this writer could be there. I was a boy in old Sussex, when that depot was established.

Rev. Dr. R. N. Sledd, of Granby Street Church, Norfolk, has been given a six weeks vacation. Hope he will enjoy the vacation. We will let our folks off without the vacation, if they will attend church and pay up.

"The ARKANSAS METHODIST has been purchased by Rev. Jno H. Dye, of the White River Conference, and Rev. A. R. Winfield, of the Little Rock Conference. This means success to that paper." Thank you, Brother Godbey.

Mr. Samuel Cupples, of St. Louis, contributed \$1000 to Central College at its late commencement. So says the South-Western Methodist. A noble deed; and our friend Cupples is capable of just such. We congratulate Dr. Hendrix.

Bishop Hargrove is, this week, at Ozark, holding another District Conference. Bishop, please don't let the St. Louis editors run away with Arkansas, and take the lion share away from the ARKANSAS METHODIST. I will try and see after them next week.

NOTES FROM THE FIELD.

Rev. V. V. Harlan sends us a hearty invitation to his District Conference, to meet at Ozark on the 10th. Sorry we can't go.

Rev. J. R. Moore writes and sends kind words of congratulation and encouragement in our present laborious office. We thank him, and earnestly ask his help.

We hope by next week to have many responses to our call for Notes from the Field; but in their absence this week, we offer a running letter or two:

HOT SPRINGS.

We had a very sad, but pleasant visit to this great watering place last week. The occasion of our visit was to attend the funeral of our very dear friend, Mrs. R. G. Davis, whose obituary appears elsewhere. She was the charmed of all circles in which she moved; and it was so sad to witness the grief that one so lovely and pure had been called suddenly away.

We reached the family on Thursday evening, going out on the same train that carried the Quapaw and their friends, all of whom seemed to be having a very gay time. Many of the young ladies of Little Rock, as well as some of the elder ones, accompanied the young men, and gayety ruled the hour; and it was in striking contrast with the feelings of this minister, who was going on such a sad errand—but such is life; one half of this world never knows what the other half is enduring. One of the gayest of the crowd was, in a brief day, one of the saddest. The news came to him that a sister dear, was on the verge of eternity; and then another dispatch, that she was gone.

We saw nothing objectionable in the crowd of young folks till we reached Malvern; there some of the boys had too much business in a way-side saloon. May-be, they were after cigarettes, but it was an awful bad place to get them. It was a packed crowd, but when we reached the depot at Hot Springs, a kind friend was awaiting our arrival, and with Mrs. Hanger, of this city, we were soon at the sad and desolate home of our dear friend.

Friday, July 4th, was a grand day for the famous valley. The procession would have done credit to any city in our country. We did not hear either the reading of the Declaration of Independence, or the address, but we could see that the crowd was immense. Order reigned throughout the day, and if they could only have closed without a ball, it would have been splendid; but many people can and will find enjoyment in dancing—a theatre of pleasure in which a monkey is their equal, and a darkey always their superior. Still, there is no accounting for taste.

The valley is still improving, and many fine buildings going up, notwithstanding the recent decision of the Supreme Court, which virtually opens up once more, nearly all the property to litigation. The settlement of the commissioners was not a settlement after all. Fine bath houses and splendid hotels are seen everywhere, and the valley is one of the famous places of our country.

Brother Steele is doing a fine work, but unfortunately, the poor health of himself and family, have called him away, for a time, from his loved employ.

My friends were very kind, and I returned with a good list of subscribers, which will be much increased when Brother S. returns.

Sunday morning at 9, had the funeral, and the very large and weeping audience attested how well she was loved in the valley. Then we left for home, and at 8:30 we were in our own pulpit, lecturing to a large house. Dr. Kennedy gave my people a splendid sermon in the morning, for which we thank him. More anon. W.

The Farm.—The Work-Shop.—The Kitchen.

We desire a column in our paper every week, devoted to these varied interests. Last week we had a splendid communication from one of our best farmers, a man who stands deservedly high in Arkansas. Now, who will follow in mechanism? And then, who will begin on the other very important department—the kitchen? What we want is articles that will be of advantage and interest to our readers. Give what you conceive to be the best method of raising certain crops, and how to build cheap houses, and to improve houses with the least possible expense. Then, let our lady friends exchange views as to housekeeping, and everything appertaining to the kitchen. Send us recipes as to the best time and methods of canning fruits and making preserves; and now and then an article as to best way to get and keep help; wporids to young housekeepers and beginners in life. We want to make a paper that will interest and instruct the masses. Many of our people can only take one paper; and we desire to make one that will meet all their demands. It will require much labor and expense, and our friends must bear with us and help us. Just now we are very busy with District Conferences—both of us are absent nearly every week, and we have all we can do to attend to our charges and get out the paper. Many of our subscribers had quit; many more had been stricken off; and it requires much work to get everything in running order, but we will try to improve every week, and will work until we give our people a paper second to none. Next week we will try to be at home and give attention to the mechanical get up, and arrangement of the paper, and see that everything is properly arranged, so that the reader will know where to look for any and every subject you may desire to read about. It will require time, patience, and much labor to half way meet our own expectations. Next week we hope to begin with a column giving all the market news of the world; so that our farming population, as well as our laboring readers, can look to the METHODIST as a safe paper to tell them where to buy; when and where to sell, and the price of all they have to buy or sell. With the thermometer among the nineties—our friends will have to make all necessary allowance for defects in this week's paper. We will certainly make great improvement next week. W.

Our Schools

In this weeks issue, we present the advertisements of several of our best Colleges—male and female. Among the number, our own Arkansas Female College is noticed, and will publish its card next week. Examine into these, friends, before you make selection for your sons and daughters. We hope our friends all over the State, will not forget Central Collegiate Institute, at Altus. Send them your sons; and if you wont send your daughters to our Female College in Little Rock, then send them there, too. Don't forget that we are trying to buy that property—we must pay for it. And be certain not to forget to make a donation to the Arkansas Female College. We can't afford to give up this College. We doubt the right of the Chairman of our Centenary Committee to say that the College is abandoned in these donations. That was the act of the Annual Conference, and can't be abrogated. Call your committee, Dr. Withers, and the Trustees will meet you, prepared for action. I hope you will. W.

If you want a good, reliable, religious and newsy paper, subscribe for the ARKANSAS METHODIST.

ARKANSAS METHODIST

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WINFIELD & DYE.

CORRESPONDING EDITORS:

Julien C. Brown, J. W. Boswell,
H. R. Withers.

SATURDAY, JULY 12, 1884.

"This and That."

JULIEN C. BROWN.

The American people will read but what? Mostly a cynical journalism which sneers at all beliefs and a leprous rotten fiction that poisons every virtue. Boys and young men read the vile stuff behind coffee sacks and dry-goods boxes in dull times in stores where they clerk and at night. Girls and young ladies read it in dark rooms with curtains drawn or in their chambers past mid-night. A mania, an epidemic for overdrawn sensational novels and stories prevails. Publishers find that hardly anything else will "pay." It heats the blood like whiskey, it stimulates imagination like opium; and that is the reason it sells so well. It opens up unreal worlds, produces fanciful states prepares the way for any excess and glids with glory the darkest crimes. The truth is that two-thirds of the fiction now flooding the land should be burned by a common hangman and their authors ostracised as corruptors of youth and enemies to our civilization. Who wonders that people get morally sick when they devour so much mental poison? Who wonders that we have so many idiot dudes and giggling girls? Nobody. Go to a book store—nothing but novels—Go on boards a railway train—nothing but novels. Book store men and newsboys seem to think there are no christians and people, who have brains, judging from the stocks they offer for sale. Oh for the time when our land will be purged of vile literature and that miserable journalism that only lives to lie and slander and defame.

The St. Louis Globe Democrat lately devoted large space to a description of the funeral of a woman in that city who had been a leader of its demi-monde. Travesties of course were plentiful. "Some mistaken friend had placed a pure white lily in the waxen and shapely hands. Another had placed a costly allegory of the 'Gates ajar' at the head of the casket. A broken column surmounted with a pair of descending doves, an unfinished wheel, anchors, crosses, pillows in white with the legends: "We will meet again," "At Rest," "Sweet Beyond," etc. The air of the room was heavy with perfume of flowers. The sobs of the gayly dressed sisterhood were constant and no one could doubt the sincerity of their grief. The dead woman appeared to have been a general favorite. More than a hundred carriages followed the hearse to the cemetery. Her mother and also one brother were present at the grave. It seems to me that there must be some redeeming qualities in even the worst of human nature. These fallen women still loved flowers, and flowers symbolize innocence and purity. Those who love them are not utterly depraved. Sinful, stained, wrecked, ruined they may be to the pharisaical moralist, but yet they are immortal, everlasting. It were perhaps not well to indulge in Utopian theories and in baseless hopes. But why not something be done for this crowd of women who congregate in all great centres of population? We good christians pass by all this misery, these living deaths on our own door steps to go and hold our services and take up collections for the heathens of China and Brazil. Would it not be as well to do a little something for these domestic heathens? We despise these poor Magdalenes, we gather up our immaculate robes and pass by on the other side" when they approach as if the small-pox were near. If Christ came to save the lost then by all the virtues of his Gospel these call for christian help. It were more Christ-like to put a little money into Reformatory Homes for them rather than expend so much in brilliant Missionary enterprises and in building two hundred thousand dollar church houses. The souls of one million of these

women in the United States are certainly worth as much as one million heathen souls in China. We ought to be just at home before we are generous abroad.

Our theology teaches that the fact of death in the world is to be attributed to man's sinning. Storms, cyclones, volcanoes, famines, scourges, the presence of death in any form is to be counted as the result of Adams transgression. An orthodox mind has been puzzled a little just here. All our theologians believe in Geology. They believe that for the most part its records are true. And yet Geology gives overwhelming evidence that death was on our planet long before man came. How about it then? Death cannot therefore logically be attributed to his sinning. Long before man "came upon the scene of action" whole species of animal life had lived their day filled their mission and passed off. Life teemed in the marshy lowlands; gigantic monsters roamed the forests, innumerable multitudes of insects sported in the free air but they all died, passed away and long before man's appearance. Looking at the fact of death from a reasoning point of view one might conclude that death is absolutely necessary whether man sinned or not. It appears to be a part of the divine plan. The old is compelled to give place to the new. In the vegetable world we see how it is. If the fields were not cleared by the death of the old crop there would be no room for the new. If our cotton and corn, our wheat and clover, our rice and potatoes did not die (be consumed) there would be no chance for another harvest of the same. In the animal kingdom it is observed that this must be true as well. Death is necessary there. Our common pigeon brings forth its young six times a year, producing two young at a time. Calculating it that there be no death of the pigeons, in a century, they would so fill the forests the air and mountains that there would be no room any where for anything but pigeons. Take almost any one species of birds and the same holds true. Suppose there had been no death among the fishes in the sea; there are not seas enough in ten thousand worlds like this to hold the fishes that would accumulate in a few centuries. This writer has his own solution of the matter but would like to hear how another would reconcile the facts with the prevailing Theology.

Helena, Ark., June 23, 1884.

Preparation for the Work.

While the economy of Methodism is such as to give every preacher a place and every place a preacher, it is well known to those who advise the appointing power that it is always a matter of more or less difficulty to fill properly, some of the more prominent appointments. This is sometimes a mystery both to the people and the preacher. Sometimes the people in their disappointment feel that their wishes are disregarded, or that their importance as a charge is not appreciated. The disappointed preacher is disposed to charge the cabinet with partiality, or if sent to a place, in all respects such as he wants, and is met on the Sabbath with empty pews and a scrap of paper from the official board notifying him that his services are not wanted, he is amazed—he revolves the matter in his mind a thousand ways and never once does he suspect the true reason. That reason is found in the fact, that the preacher is not prepared to do the work. He is not competent to teach the people. To be lacking in this essential particular in these days is inexcusable. Nothing else can supply this lack. The fathers of Methodism were not lacking in ability to intelligently and profitably expound the word of God. They were lacking in some things but they taught the people, and enforced the truths of the Gospel. We do not say that the ministry as a class are now incompetent to teach, but we are decidedly of the opinion that where a people strongly oppose the coming of a preacher, except on personal grounds, it will be found in most cases to be from a well settled conviction that he is a poor preacher—unable to cope with ministers of other churches. If such is the fact, has any disappointed and dissatisfied preacher any right to complain? We think not, and we are

bold enough to say he has not. We say so because there is no preacher of average intellect, who cannot, with the facilities afforded him in these days, by close and diligent application make such a preacher as will place him above the contempt of the people. This is evidently what St. Paul meant in part when he said: "Let no man despise thee." To my mind one of the lamentable facts of the times is that so few men among us are really trying to make great preachers. In this respect I would not have men filled with inordinate or unholy ambition but his ambition, sanctified by grace, ought to be sufficient to stimulate him to great and honest effort. When in 1859 this writer stood before the bar of the Memphis Conference asking for admission, Bishop Andrew charged the class with reference to the work of the ministry. Among other things he said: "A preacher who does not expect to make a great preacher will never make much of anything." An observation of twenty-five years has confirmed the saying of the wise old man. Of course every preacher does not realize his expectations—but the man without ambition never rises at all. Native genius, combined with a moderate share of intelligence, will startle and dazzle the people, but without ambition men of genius, like meteors, will simply flash and then die out. Like young wasps, they are bigger when first hatched out than ever afterwards.

Dear brother preacher, has it ever occurred to you that there are very few men among us who are really trying to make preachers? Our young men are to be blamed to some extent. But the bigger part of the blame must rest some where else. I won't say where. But they have been pushed out of the regular element of operation and to a great extent forced to lose sight of the essential features of a preachers work. Other things than preaching and soul saving are made prominent. Bishop Keener exposed the whole thing when, a few months ago, speaking of the first Mexican Conference he said: "They were broken at once into the statistical yoke." There it is—the young preachers are broken into the statistical yoke and made to bear it until the words statistics, finances, assessments, appropriations, collections, floods, droughts, short crops, no money, hard times, clearing the decks, and every other word that implies "cash or its equivalent," constitute the biggest part of their vocabulary. And the proudest man who comes to conference is not the man who has best built up the church, saved the greatest number of souls, or made the most proficiency as a gospel preacher, but the man who brings the biggest collections, or shows the largest amount per capita. If the preacher says he has tried, his character passes; if his collections are all full, the brethren smile; if he has gone "over his assessments," he is applauded, "well, done;" and if some General Conference officer who does nothing but watch statistics at an Annual Conference is present, he jumps up and cries out: "Brother, tell us the secret of your success." This brings the preacher to the front, he inflates his lungs to their utmost capacity, rears on his dignity and with the pomposity of god-fish aristocracy and the profoundest guttural sound croaks out: "I just got it," as much as to say "I asked for it, and it had to come." If the poor fellow has failed, even after an honest effort among poor people, he is weak and shame-faced and trembles like an aspen leaf in a dead calm. The result of all this is to send out preachers determined on big collections. They cultivate the collecting faculty. As collectors they succeed—as preachers they are failures. If he is a failure in both so much the worse for him. Collections are important—preaching is paramount. If the pastor attends to all the work of a Methodist preacher he need have no fears. If he will study, pray, work up the spiritual interests of the Church and give the finances due consideration the collections will come and the preacher will be approved both by God and man.

Another thing, if there was more stress put on preaching ability, at least as much as there is on financial tact, there would be less need of transferring preachers from one conference to another and thereby would be

avoided much of the friction and hard thoughts which sometimes occur. We all know there is trouble and complaint on this score, but the necessity is laid upon the Bishops, and it will continue to be that way so long as our young preachers fail to prepare themselves for pulpit work in the best places. Presenting this idea we beg to impress the fact that preachers are never transferred to fill old and well established appointments because they are good collectors but because they are preachers and demanded by the people. Churches will sometimes tolerate an indifferent preacher if the pastoral duties are efficiently performed, but no amount of financial ability will make up for the lack both of pulpit and pastoral work. It is well enough to milk cows and the more you tug at the udders the more milk will they give, but cows must be fed. It is well enough to collect money, but the people must be fed on the word. Every young preacher ought to bear this in mind, and keep before him the probability, nay the certainty of his one day filling the best places in his conference—the possibility of rising to the best positions in his church. "If a man desire the office of a Bishop he desireth a good thing." That is true even if the term bishop applies to Methodist Episcopacy; and there is no reason why any young man with holy and laudable ambition should not prepare himself for the work and be ready, should God call him to it.

To reach distinction no man should be in a hurry or discouraged because he is slow to rise. This is the trouble with many. They go out with the expectation of reaching the top in a few years, but they find that people are slow to see their merits and call them up higher, and they faint and fall. Remember, true merit will always be discovered. There is a world of good sense in the advice an old preacher gave his son who was just starting in the ministry: "My son," said he, "I hope I will never hear of you complaining that your talents are not appreciated. If you have talents your brethren will find it out soon enough for your good." Be patient my brother, bide your time, but be sure to make PREPARATION FOR THE WORK.

Fort Smith, Ark., July 3, 1884.

CENTENNIAL DEPARTMENT

Centennial Work.

DEAR METHODIST:—In April we wrote to the members of the conference, promising detailed plans for operations in the centennial work, if the central committee at Nashville did not provide the plan. As all now know that committee has furnished the plan which can be had on application to Dr. Harrison, the secretary. Little is left the conference committee to do, but to urge the prompt use of the work as set out in that plan.

After consulting the members of our committee, we make the following suggestions:

1. Let the Presiding Elders see that the plan of the central committee is faithfully executed within their respective districts.

2. Arrange for centennial services in each church on the circuit, distributing your best speakers to the best advantage.

3. Our Conference, at its late session, designated the Arkansas Female College as a beneficiary of a special educational fund. Before naming it in this call, we deemed it prudent to investigate the institution, that we might give the fund a definite appropriation. We find that the board of trustees have no plans for their school, they own no property, they do not contemplate purchasing, and there seems so little of definiteness about the institution, that the committee have determined to omit it as a beneficiary of the collections for education.

Permit me here to introduce a resolution adopted by the centennial committee of the Arkansas Conference:

WHEREAS, the Arkansas Conference at its last session ordered a committee to investigate and purchase suitable property for college purposes, and whereas, the offer made by President Burrow, seems practical, and the property well adapted. Therefore;

RESOLVED, That we invite the Little Rock Conference to unite with us in the purchase of said property.

V. V. HURLAN, Chairman.
S. H. BACKCOCK, Secretary.
President Burrow, who owns the

property referred to in the foregoing resolution, tendered the college and ten acre campus to the Annual Conference, for \$12,500. The Arkansas Conference, by her committee, accepts the proposition, and invites us to share with her this beautiful and valuable property. At the late commencement of the Altus College, more than \$5,000 of this fund was given at one call. The sum is to be paid in four installments—one-fourth first of next January. Thus it will be observed, more than the first payment was subscribed in one call at the village of Altus.

While we have no authority to anticipate the action of our conference, we feel assured that whatever amount you may collect for special educational interests in Arkansas can find a worthy recipient in the Central College at Altus.

The property is cheap, beautiful and healthy. It is not an experiment. It is an established institution, with capacity for 150 pupils. It is now patronized from all parts of Arkansas, a fully equipped college, with an enthusiastic patronage. From the college tower the eye has an unbroken view of land scape and mountains for thirty miles around. Through the far off valley the Arkansas river looks like a silver thread in a wool of verdure. The yellow breath of malaria does not darken the fair cheeks of our loved ones at Altus. Beautiful Altus, sitting on her mountain like a queen in bridal robes, and reclining on her throne. At her feet on one side of the mountain is the railroad, on the other, three miles distant, is the Arkansas river.

It is the best place for a summer residence for our lower river and valley people in the South. And the fruit! There is Bro. Gregory's great nursery and fruit farm—the finest in the South. From early spring when the hill-sides blush with strawberries, till the brown autumn when red apples flame against the yellow boughs, Altus is one unbroken scene of joy health and song. With an established college, on such a site, with rail and river access, Arkansas has her opportunity at last. The price is low, and before three years the debt will be paid and Methodism will be proud of her bells and towers on the beautiful hill of Altus. A special donation this college will be a rich investment for Methodism.

One hundred years organized American Methodism has been at work. Do you see the effect of its work in your household or in yourself? Are you grateful that God has ordained this holy agency! Then lay your thank-offering on its holy altar and give God the praise. You will never see such occasion again.

H. R. WITHERS,
E. N. WATSON.

A CENTENARY WATCH-NIGHT.

On Friday night, April 9, 1742, the first watch-night service in London was held by Mr. Wesley. It is proposed that we have a Centenary watch-night on Aug., 6, 1884. At this service the church is requested to come together and unite in earnest prayer for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

1. We need, as ministers, a baptism of the Spirit of God, the spirit of holiness, of power from on high.

2. The Church needs this baptism. (1) To quicken the cold, lifeless members. (2) To increase the measure of grace and religious comfort in the hearts of the faithful. (3) To awaken sinners, and to convert the penitent.

3. The service of each place to continue at least one hour, beginning at 8 p. m., August 6.

4. A prayer-meeting held in Baltimore, closing at 9 o'clock, will end just as the meeting in St. Louis begins; and when the St. Louis prayer-meeting closes, the meeting in Denver will have commenced; and when the Denver meeting closes at 9 o'clock, it will be past 8 in San Francisco. When the San Francisco meeting closes at 9 o'clock, it will be midnight in Baltimore, and thus across this great continent the voice of prayer and supplication will go up to the throne of grace, in one continuous appeal for a revival of the work of God.

Brethren, are there any among us who do not feel the need of this work? Are there any that will refuse to cooperate in this movement? Are there any reasons why we should not engage at this appointed time in this concert of prayer?

The Central Centenary Committee, by formal action, invites the Church to observe the evening of August 6, for such watch-night services.

E. R. HENDRIX, Chairman.
W. P. HARRISON, Secretary,
Central Centenary Committee.