

# ARKANSAS METHODIST.

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

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"Speak thou the things which become sound doctrine."

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## General News.

### England.

Premier Gladstone has enough to engage his mighty brain in the management of the complex affairs of Her Majesty's government. Indeed affairs are somewhat critical. The Irish problem is no nearer solved than it was many hundred years ago, and it is deemed to be a vexatious question for many centuries to come. The Nile expedition threatens to be a failure, and Egyptian affairs are gloomy indeed, and there is considerable comment in political circles. Old England has been snubbed by Prince Bismarck on the African Colonization question, and the leading papers of London declare that the snubbing was just and richly deserved. A very awkward attempt has been made to blow up London bridge with dynamite. It was a puerile attempt, and could hardly be viewed as anything serious.

### France.

Has entered into an alliance with Russia, and these two old deadly enemies are now seeking the aid of each other in the day of their very great extremity. One cursed with Communism, and the other nearly ruined with Nihilism. Russia is exceedingly anxious to help quarter Africa, and France is determined to have the lion's share of China, so they really need each other, and fellow-suffering makes them wondrous kind. Russia has not tergot the open insult of Old John Bull in sending his war steamers up the Bosphorus when the Russian fleet was in full view of Constantinople, and it seemed certain that she would occupy that great capitol, France is making slow work with her war on John Chinaman, and is still attacking the outposts; and it will be a long day before she can make any headway into that country.

### Germany.

Is still troubled on the monetary question, and a new union of the Reichstag has been formed to consider this question. Over a year ago the great diplomat, Bismarck, asked of England the protection of German mercantiles in her African colonies. Lord Granville was either too busy to answer, or procrastinated, and now Germany has undertaken African colonization, and in turn, snubs Her Majesty's government, by refusing protection to English vessels and merchants.

### Switzerland.

The land of William Tell has acted wiser than our own country, and banished from her bounds the apostles of Mormonism.

### Spain.

Has rather retrograded, and established a free university for Roman Catholicism.

### Our Own Country.

Ratification meetings have passed away—crowing chickens have all died—and now the order of the day is to make up the cabinet of Gov. Cleveland. All the newspapers and politicians are busy, and if our newly elected president is not made of very stern stuff, they will take care of him; and, in their hands, he will be the veriest puppet. But should he escape this Scylla, then Charybdis is in full view, with a world of office-seekers—that, like a hungry sett of mortals long denied food, will beseege and clamor, till it will be one of the greatest wonders if we are not called upon to record the death of our chief magistrate. But we turn from State to Church:

CHRISTMAS CONFERENCE.—Our Centenary threatens to be a failure all the way through. The very idea of celebrating such an epoch in American Methodism on the 9th, instead of the 24th. We confess that we lost our interest in the whole affair when we saw this. Another blunder was in allowing our local churches to make local collections, to be reported as a Centen-

nial offering. This was to encourage one of the very worst evils now threatening us—to wit: The dissolving our Connectional bonds. Many of our leading city churches care nothing now for the connectional interests of the church. They are opposed to giving anything unless it is to be applied to their own local organizations—and many pastors are pandering to it. All wrong.

## State News.

After a few weeks of Conference work and Conference greetings, now we are again domiciled in our office, and we resume our accustomed channels of thought and action, and our paper again appears in its usual dress and everything arranged under appropriate headings, which will be observed till again interrupted by Conference sessions. There has nothing occurred of a very startling character to disturb the dull monotony of everyday life in our state, except here and there a robbery or murder. The train robbery in three miles of our capitol on Saturday night, December 6th, was among the most wonderful "coup d'etat" of this most wonderful and strange age. The very idea of a train-robbery in three miles of Little Rock is perfectly startling; and it is still more so to think the robbers were citizens of the city—went from it to their awful work, and returned to it when they had finished it; divided their ill gotten spoils and endeavored to conceal it and hide themselves; but murder will out, and now they are in the hands of the jagged law. We notice our cotemporary, the Gazette, in the Daily of the 12th inst., administers a very severe rebuke to the papers of New Orleans, and holds them responsible for the lawlessness of that city—accompanied with frequent assassinations and murders of various degrees. The reasoning of our esteemed cotemporary is correct—but what of Little Rock? We have fifty-two saloons running here day and night, Sunday not excepted, and if our cotemporary has ever uttered one word of condemnation, we have never seen it. All our Sunday laws are violated, and our neighbor is silent. Burglaries are frequent, and people are not safe after dark if it is known they have money. Our streets are hideous, and side walks no better, and our police courts are our standing disgrace, and we hope our neighbor will begin at once on our city authorities and the low state of public morals, and let us see if we cannot rid our city of train robbers, burglars, murderers, and all other bad elements who are damaging our city by their presence and stay. Will the Democrat, Free South and Mansion join us, and let us make Little Rock an unhealthy place for all such characters. Come, gentlemen, we are the custodians of the public good, and we cannot afford to be silent. We must speak out.—Another note-worthy event of vast moment and interest to our entire people, is the fact that Chancellor Carroll has decided that the erasure of the names of Hanger and Radcliffe invalidates the first and third bonds of Ex-Treasurer Churchill, and releases the rest of the securities, and thus \$77,000 due the state, or claimed by the State, is settled. Of course this is only a legal settlement of the matter, and, as it has been claimed all the while that all these discrepancies could and would be explained, and that there was no real deficiency; the people have a right to expect that this explanation will be made, and her honored servant exculpated. By all means let this be done. Of course we rejoice with the securities that they are relieved from such an onerous burden, but we desire that they go out of court, not covered by a legal quibble, but by full and sufficient proof furnished that their principal has done no wrong—which his friends believe to be true.

## Personal.

Rev. J. J. Ranson called on us a few days ago, en route from the White River Conference to good old Charleston, S. C. He is one of our missionaries in Brazil, and is a great worker a very great traveller.

Rev. A. O. Evens has been over to the "City of Roses" the past week. He took in the lecture.

Rev. DeWitt Talmage has again lectured in Little Rock to a very large, and for the most part, to a delighted audience. Of course some were disappointed, and others dissatisfied.—We were too busy to hear him, and besides, we don't admire the new way of ministers hiring themselves to agents to become a travelling menagerie. It is a letting down of ministerial work and dignity, though no doubt it pays very well.

Rev. A. G. Haygood, D. D., is devoting himself entirely to administering the Slater Fund and writing the lives of Dr. Lovick Pierce and his gifted son, the Bishop. His report of Emory College to the Conference was very fine and very gratifying.

Rev. W. D. F. Sawrie, of the Tennessee Conference, has lately passed away. He was one of the gifted men of that noble Conference, and was a great revivalist.

Rev. J. M. Clark, P. E. of Helena District, has called to see us. He looks well, and seems to be in good working order. We shall expect to hear a great report from that district this year.

Rev. Benoni Harris was in to see us, and looks well for such an old veteran. We hope Mountain View will agree with him, and that he will have a very pleasant and a very prosperous year.

Bishop Wilson is reported as improving, and strong hopes entertained of his speedy recovery.

Bishop Granberry presided at the North Georgia Conference, and really delighted everybody. We notice that he gave the Georgians the same grand thanksgiving sermon that he gave us. Well, it will do to repeat often, and to be preached anywhere.

Rev. Dr. Johns, of the Texas Advocate, met with a very serious accident not long since, and it was reported that he was killed, but it was a mistake, and he is now out again.

Rev. C. Pope, formerly of our Conference, but now of North Georgia, we see has been returned for the third year to St. James, in Augusta. We congratulate our old friend and co-laborer.

Rev. A. Monk, another Little Rock Conference boy, has been returned to Tuscaloosa, Ala., We are proud of our boys, and only wish they had remained at home; however, we have plenty such men, and we are glad to help those poor old Conferences.

Rev. A. Hunter and wife are attending the Centennial Conference at Baltimore, and our Bro. Field is with them.

Rev. G. W. Cottingham and daughter have gone to New Orleans to attend the Exhibition. Bro. Cottingham will place on exhibition his ironing machine. It is one of the wonders of this wonderful age, and we do not think there will be anything in this world-renowned Exhibition so surpass it. We call on our friends in New Orleans to help this worthy old brother.

Rev. J. M. Cline has commenced work already, and says he is good for fifty subscribers this year—will have them or break a chain.

Rev. R. P. Hardcastle intends to get fifty subscribers. Several are after the Unabridged Dictionary. We hope every preacher will get one of our premiums.

## Field Notes.

Once more we resume our weekly reports and talks with our dear brethren, the field hands of Methodism in Arkansas! We hear the most reliable information from our readers that our people were generally delighted with these "Field Notes," with the exception of a few who found fault with our oft repeated references to the ARKANSAS METHODIST and calls for subscribers. Well, our brethren must bear with such weakness, and remember that our whole soul and heart is in this paper, and that out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh, and besides this we had a corpse to galvanize, and it required much electricity to make it move and put in new sinews and muscles. Now we see signs of returning life, and we will not need such continued references and duns, and we are willing to make this offer now, to-wit: If any person will pay all expenses of this office and give the junior and myself \$50 each per month, we will make a "First-class Weekly," and there shall not appear a single dun for subscribers or money. Will anybody take the offer? Please don't all speak at once.

The first man entitled to a hearing in this newly reorganized department, is a very particular friend and well-wisher in the extreme borders of our widely extended circulation in the "Great Empire State" of New York, who wishes to enter into arrangements with us to furnish a "Puzzle" Department to our rapidly improving and advancing paper, the ARKANSAS METHODIST. Well, now, we are very favorably impressed with this offer; but unfortunately for our friend (and for ourselves, too, as to that) we have several departments already of that character, which neither editors or readers can solve, and as for subscribers, they won't even try. First of all, the great puzzle with us is to know how to run a first-class Christian paper without money. Second. How to make delinquents pay. Third. How to dun without giving offence. Fourth. When to use the waste basket. Fifth. How to keep all correspondents in a good humor. Sixth. To teach all preachers how to write obituaries, and to leave off all attempts at poetry. Now, if our very zealous Northern friend can explain all these puzzles and a few more of the same sort, we may employ him. We await his answer.

Rev. L. M. Keith writes of a joyful return and a very happy reception at Hamburg station. He is delighted. Of course he is, and we know the people are too. Our brother invites our attention to a little piece of pleasant-ry of ours a few weeks ago, when we were replying to a good natured criticism he indulged over one of our glaring historical mistakes. We said "If our brother only knew how we were protecting him from the lion of the South, he would rejoice with trembling." Now we only referred to a criticism of a brother of another denomination of our brother's field note which we declined to publish. But some dear brother saw some awful allusion in it. We certainly could not under any circumstances make an unkind fling at a brother in our own paper. We do not permit anything personal to appear in our paper, and we certainly would not indulge it ourselves. No unkind allusion at all, my beloved. We love you too well for that, and once for all, let all understand that we never will either permit or indulge anything in these columns damaging to the personal reputations of our brethren. No insinuation or the remotest innuendo can enter. Brethren may attack each others arguments, but not each others character, and the editors will abide by the same rule. "Verbum sat."

Dr. R. C. H., of one of our best towns renews his subscription with \$1.50, and says; "My wife takes the New York Observer, I the Oashville Advocate, she reads both, but says she prefers the ARKANSAS METHODIST to either. Cannot and will not do without it." Ah my old friend, like myself, you are very fortunate in having such a sensible woman for a wife. Many, very many thanks; and we will still improve more and more. Hat off, Doctor!

Rev. Frank Naylor writes from the Fort Smith circuit, as follows: "I am on my work by the grace of God. Am well pleased, find a good Methodist people who give us a cordial welcome. As yet no very extensive donations. We are pleased, however, to state that some of our brethren did not forget we were coming. Dr. P. B. Coker and "Uncle Frank" Daman (Father of G. W. Daman of Arkansas Conference, and a Methodist of fifty years) came round with, not a wagon load, but a wheelbarrow load of "necessaries of life," which aroused our gratitude. Also "Uncle Frank" brought us a fine turkey for a Christmas dinner. We accept the donations and bless the donors. Have not seen the METHODIST for three weeks. Please send it. We love the paper partly because we were raised in Arkansas, and because it merits esteem. We hope to do work for the Master this year on Fort Smith circuit.

Rev. J. P. Hillburn writes from Missouri: "We are in the midst of a glorious revival. This town is being moved by a tidal wave of Divine power from the ramparts of glory, to the delight of heaven, and the astonishment of hell. Thirty-nine have professed conversion and still the good work goes on. Pray for us."

Rev. O. H. Tucker writes from Yellville: "I reached my work ten days after Conference. My first quarterly conference was held last Saturday. Have been kindly received. Had two penitents Sunday night. Expect a revival soon."

Rev. W. T. Venable sent this before Conference. It is good now: "Perhaps one of my brethren desires to know something of my present condition. As to my health, I am very proud to say that there has been an improvement. Though quite feeble yet at times. I have tried to preach twice since I left my work with considerable effort; yet my inmost soul was made to rejoice. Conference is now at hand and the preachers are going from their respective fields of labor, and many are rejoicing in a glorious success during the year, while I must suffer the afflictions and disappointments common to men, I am very much grieved that I cannot meet the brethren at the Annual Conference, and especially those of the third year—my class mates. But I calmly submit to the rulings of Divine Providence. I hope the brethren will remember me and breathe a prayer to our heavenly Father for my delivery from the ravages of disease. If I am never permitted to join your work of labor and love again, I will be with you in spirit for my heart is in the work. May our Lord preside over your deliberations and visit you with a glorious out-pouring of his Holy Spirit."

Dr. Lafferty says we are nodding. Well, Doctor, four Conferences in three weeks are enough to make any man nod. The editor and printers were all off that time. Thanks for the correction. The old Richmond is a live paper. Bro. Lafferty, can't you help us in Arkansas? Have you any receipt for bringing up delinquent subscribers, and any plan that will please or pacify irate correspondents? If so, please give them to us.

Covetousness is the great sin of the church and the greatest part of the miracle of pentecost was the conversion of men from this sin to the grace of Christian liberality.