

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.

Our Own Country.

The past week has witnessed one of the largest and most imposing inaugurations that has ever taken place in our country. It is estimated that over 150,000 people were present, and the retiring President said it was the largest crowd he ever saw. The inaugural was all that could be asked. The Democrats were delighted and the Republicans could enter no objection. It was sound, solid, conservative and progressive enough. It was a grand sight to see our Chief Magistrate stand before that large audience and take the oath of office on the small bible, the gift of his mother. That little book was dearer to him than any other on earth, and his mother had caused him to take a far more solemn obligation on it in the bright hour of childhood. Only let him follow the teachings of that mother and our country will be safe. What encouragement to Christian mothers. God bless them, for they are the hope of this nation. Our President has three able men, we well know, in his Cabinet. Bayard, Lamar and Garland, would have done honor to any administration, even in the palmy days of our Republic.

But another feature of our country is appalling. We allude to the strikes. In one sense strikers are always wrong. They can not force higher wages and will very likely lose what they have. It is a free country, and if they can't live on what they are getting then they can try elsewhere. But there is another side to this question. Railroads are demanding more time and harder work for less pay than any corporations known. This is all wrong. Men should not be allowed to amass hundreds of millions, while poor laborers and their families are suffering. The wages are inadequate, and in case of sickness there is compelled to be suffering.

Turkey

United States Minister Wallace has resigned.

Franco-Chinese War.

The French and Chinese have had another engagement. It was at Thuy-enquan, and lasted 18 days. Both sides suffered severely, and both claim the victory. The French general says it was a brilliant engagement, and their soldiers did the most gallant fighting of the campaign. The Chinese are assuming the offensive in Tonquin, and both nations are preparing for war on a grander scale.

England.

Is sending forward troops as rapidly as possible to India, and trouble is still imminent between Old John Bull and the Czar of Russia. The bear is on his hind legs for a hard hug, and the old lion is fairly roaring like thunder. The London Times, the great journal of the world, exhorts Her Majesty to demand the entire withdrawal of Russian forces from Afghanistan, and all the frontier, and the leading paper at St. Petersburg says Russia will not do it. War is imminent between these two great powers, and is felt all over Europe, affecting both political and financial circles.

Soudan.

The war in Soudan seems no nearer a close than weeks ago. That prince of agitators, Mr. Bradlaugh, is endeavoring to produce discord in London and elsewhere by holding meeting meetings with the laboring classes and protesting against the Soudan war. The Arabs are now victorious and overbearing, and the English troops are in danger, but this will not last long. A great country like England will show its vast power very soon in subduing this rebellion, and it will be the signal for the advance of the Christian army.

Our Junior is off at this writing in North Arkansas, but will be back ere this paper goes to press.

State News.

Our Industrial University needs looking into. Gen. Hill is right, and our Legislature should by all means investigate his charges, and we are much astonished at the utterances of the Democrat. Why should these things be hushed up. Have tax-payers no right to look after their money? We hope there will be a faithful and full overhauling.

The Free Pass bill hangs fire in the House. Col. Thornburgh thought it ought to be amended to punish the receiver of the pass as well as the railroad. Col. Baker, of Benton, would ride on a free pass to the end of the world, but would vote to tax railroads. Col. Hewitt thought there was a flaw, as there was no provision to reach railroad men living out of the State, and so it went to the Judiciary Committee, where many think it will find a burial. Gentlemen, remember the Constitution is very plain and you have sworn to obey it. The people are watching you.

We are very sorry to learn of the burning of the Court House at Powhatan. It was a splendid building and was a credit to old Lawrence.

Circuit Court at Toledo, in Dorsey county, last week.

We are glad to chronicle the passage of the bill for the relief of H. W. Rogers, the old Sheriff of this county. It was a meritorious case.

A bill has been passed to change the name of Dorsey county, and now it is called Cleveland, after our new President.

If this Legislature has the power to set aside the action of the people of Garland county, and bring whiskey back to Hot Springs, then there is no use to have whiskey laws or any other sort of prohibition laws.

The Legislature has passed a splendid game law, and one that was needed. Let it be obeyed.

It snowed as far down as Newport last Sunday—but our Capital was bright and sunshiney, and large congregations were out to attend preaching.

We observe, with great pleasure, the passage of the bill punishing officers for gambling, introduced into the House by Hon. Mr. Harper, of Calhoun. The vote was almost unanimous and was very flattering to the introducer. We regard it as the best bill of the session and sincerely hope the Senate will pass it.

Hon. Jabez M. Smith is as pure a man as ever held office in Arkansas. He is right on the Free Pass bill and the Gazette wrong. Railroads would hardly furnish all the officers of the State Government free passes without expecting some equivalent. Certainly it is best to be above suspicion, and very safe to follow the Constitution.

Gen. Royston, one of the old regulars, and one too that belonged to the days of old Arkansas gentlemen, has returned from our great National Capital. He took in the inauguration.

Forrest City sustained a great loss last week in the death of their distinguished citizen, Hon. W. H. Howes.

We don't know, but we are rather of the opinion that the Committee on Public Printing has something to do for the State's good by stopping such a vast amount of public documents, and seeing that there are fewer pages with so little on them. Hardly right for Arkansas to pay for a page when there is only a six or ten line paragraph.

Candidates for the Senate are multiplying very fast and the probability is we will have a score by next Tuesday. How strange that men will risk themselves to fill the place of such a man as Garland. No telling the bounds of man's vanity.

Personal.

Rev. A. P. Melton, our popular pastor at Russellville and one of the best agents of the ARKANSAS METHODIST, has been on the disabled list, but he is improving and will soon be in good work in tune.

Rev. F. S. Jackson, of some unknown place in Texas, sends us for a few copies of our paper. Now we would gladly comply, but he gives us no address, and we are poor guessers. This is only a sample.

Rev. J. C. Brown, the popular pastor of our church in Helena, has accepted an invitation to deliver the address before the pupils of McVeyre's Institute, McKenzie, West Tennessee, in June next. There is a rich treat in store for these young men.

Rev. J. E. Sutton, away up in the regions of Perry county, is just pouring in the subscribers on us. He sends five at one time, and promises more.

Rev. A. Turrentine, from Princeton, has sent us nineteen, and still they come. Many thanks.

Rev. W. J. Davis, of Lockesburg, is not far behind, and they still continue to come. He is a worker.

Misses Jennie and Lucy Jones, sisters of Hon. J. K. Jones and neices of the wife of the senior editor of this paper, left on the night of the 27th ult. for Washington City to witness the inauguration of Grover Cleveland. They will be the guests of their uncle, Hon. Samuel Norment, of that city. We wish them a very pleasant visit and a safe return to their Arkansas home.

Rev. Cadesman Pope, formerly of our conference, but now pastor of St. James, Augusta, Ga., contributed a fine letter to our columns. Write again, your friends of Arkansas will always be glad to hear from you.

Rev. C. O. Steele, another preacher of Arkansas, but now on the Golden Shore, sends us a splendid letter. Be certain to read these letters on the Advocate Family page. They are simply splendid.

Rev. B. C. Matthews, of Paris, is bringing us under obligations to him for good work. Five new families, through his agency, will hereafter read the METHODIST.

Rev. E. N. Evans, pastor of Spring street, paid us a pleasant call, with his brother, of Prescott. They were welcome visitors.

Rev. A. Hunter passes every week, on his way to his small circuit on the river. Punctual and faithful as ever.

Rev. J. M. Cline works ahead regardless of wind or weather, and his mission is improving continually.

Rev. H. Jewell is a frequent caller, and brings a good report from the united churches of Methodism in the city. They expect to wipe out the old debt this week. A chapel next.

Our new chapel over Chappy Huston's saloon was crowded on last Sunday night, and there was one bright conversion. Our mission work is growing.

Hon. C. C. Colburn, the editor of that sterling sheet, the Ozark Democrat, called several times during his visit to our Capital city. He put in some good work while in our city, and contributed a splendid letter to the Gazette in favor of the Sabbath. We offer a premium to the man who will be brave enough to introduce a bill to stop trains from running in Arkansas on the Sabbath.

Hon. Poindexter Dunn is in the city. There will be no mistake made if he is elected Senator.

Hon. A. H. Garland is the first Arkansas man who ever had a cabinet position. Mr. Cleveland has honored himself in honoring our great statesman.

Field Notes.

We begin this week's report of our field hands with a few lines from Rev. C. D. McSwain, which sounds like the tones of a triumphant general from the victorious field of battle. Just hear it:

"My pastoral charge flourishes. Good service last Sunday. Col. Dave Dixon joined the Church. Had some old-fashioned shouting and a good collection."

Now that is according to the old way. It sounds apostolic.

Next comes our good brother O. C. Robertson, from his new field away down in old Ouachita:

"Your card was delayed. Please send twenty copies of the minutes. Bro. J. J. Jenkins has been very sick, near death's door. At this writing is improving and will soon be on his round again. The Camden circuit is showing signs of spiritual life. This scribe is kindly cared for by this good people. We have a nice new parsonage to live in. Plenty to eat and wear. Success to you and the ARKANSAS METHODIST."

That has the right ring, and our brother Robertson is rightly named Optimus—the best.

Here comes a few lines from brother J. G. Lowry, one of our best local preachers. He is a true man:

"Brethren, we receive your most excellent paper and read it with much pleasure, and wish you great success and prosperity for the year 1885."

We are certainly very much obliged, our good brother.

Here comes a postal from that old sturdy worker, J. F. Hall:

"Snow fell here 23d ult. to the depth of 6 inches. I am making my fourth round, but cold, rain and mud have greatly interfered with our work, but by the help of the Lord we are going to do our best to get better, do better than heretofore. We expect to work for a revival, all the connectional interests, for our schools, for the ARKANSAS METHODIST, because we are a son in the gospel and loyal to the backbone."

And right next to him we place the veteran, J. E. Caldwell, whose note we appreciate very much, for we know he understands fully what it is to enjoy religion:

"Please allow me the privilege of saying amen to your most excellent editorial on 'Experimental Religion.' I have known good gospel singing to be a precious means of grace to my poor soul. Don't now, never hear it. But, O, the happy, happy memories that well up from the good days when you were my P. E., 1856 especially. Did any one ever see or hear such where instrumental music was used? I'm sure I never did. I may be away yonder behind the times, advanced thought, etc., but I do thank God to-night one blessed glory of Methodism has been her spiritual song. So may it be again, prays fervently her son."

And here comes another, but his real name is withheld; but he is one of our good field hands. Read:

"Owing to bad health, bad roads, high water, ill health and low finance, all combined, I was rather late getting to my work on Fulton circuit, but I am glad to state that I am hopefully filling my appointments and thus far have met a warm reception by the clever, warm-hearted people of this circuit. As we have no parsonage on this circuit, we sought and obtained a location at Columbus, it being one of my appointments, and as you and several of our itinerants know, Columbus is not only one of our oldest little towns in south Arkansas, but a pleasant, healthy, situation, inhabited by an intelligent and hospitable people. As some of our preachers have compared their reception to a storm, will give you a brief sketch of our late storm. At 8 o'clock, p. m., next day after our arrival, the Presbyterian

church-bell commenced tolling out, 'Storm coming! storm coming! storm coming!' Presently a buggy and mule wagon, well loaded, halted at the gate. The house was soon filled with pleasant ladies, who could smile and chat like kinsfolk. The wagon was hastily unloaded and the contents placed in the pantry, which consisted of meat, meal, flour, potatoes, turnips, sugar, coffee, rice, fruits, butter, eggs, molasses, honey, salmon, preserves, jelly, etc., etc., etc., and even coal oil and matches. The storm ending, we read the 103 Psalm, all joined in prayer, thanking God for such storms and warm friends, and prayed for the Holy Spirit to be sent upon us. And now we are made to feel that after all 'the lines are fallen unto me in pleasant places; yea, I have a goodly heritage.' HAZARD."

Here is one that was one of us, but he went out from us. Still we will let him appear on the roll of our field hands. Rev. S. G. Shaw writes from Gonzales, Texas:

"I send you herewith a little anecdote which you can publish if you wish. I would be glad to send you some subscribers, but don't know whether I can do so or not. Most of my people are taking one Church paper, and it is hard to persuade them to take more. Will send you a communication now and then, and I wish you always to feel at liberty to do as you please with what I commit to you. I love the ARKANSAS METHODIST and its editors. One or both of you ought to come to come to our conference next fall (which will meet at this place), and see this historic town and the fine parsonage occupied by this preacher."

Our brother will probably see that anecdote on the associate editor's page, or rather the Advocate page, after while.

Here is an inquiry from a field hand that might as well be answered here as any where. Read:

"I am curious to know whether or not there are any Methodists in Arkansas, and whether any of that denomination are now members of the legislature. Maybe you can tell us. The reason why I ask is this: I see from the Arkansas Evangel that there are some Baptists in the legislature, and from the manner in which the Evangel talks a stranger would be led to believe that the State's law-makers are pretty near all Baptists. How is it? Let us know, if you please. I am glad to know there are some Baptist brethren there, but if there are Christian law-makers belonging to other Churches, it would be fair to let the people know it."

From the roster of the two houses we collate the following, which will not only answer our correspondent, but put an end to such wicked boasting on the part of our contemporary: Senate—Baptists, 9; Methodists, 16. House—Baptists, 28; Methodists, 37. Both together have a majority in both houses and will be responsible for any bad legislation.

Next, and last for this week, we present our brother A. S. Blackwood, from the nice town of Augusta:

"The winter has at last given place to sunshine and warmth, and our congregations are growing. We are moving along quietly in Augusta, with, I believe, an increasing interest in every service. Last Sunday was missionary day with us. The attendance upon the Sabbath school and public worship was very good. At the close of the services I asked for a 'free-will offering' and received \$37.65. We have nearly all of our missionary assessment in hand, and will soon commence on the other collections ordered by conference. And allow me here to say that the ARKANSAS METHODIST shall not be left out. I expect to collect you a goodly number of subs., with the necessary cash. We have been the recipients of many favors from the good people here since our arrival, for which we bless God and pray his blessings upon the people. I am praying and working for a revival, and think we shall have it. Either or both of you will receive a welcome at this parsonage at any time, and if you will come we promise you a good audience and plenty of work. God bless you."