

ARKANSAS METHODIST.

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

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REV. JNO. H. DYE,

"Speak thou the things which become sound doctrine."

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General News.

Abroad.

Gen. Wolsley has been foiled, and Gladstone is reported deeply mortified and sadly depressed. England, with her vast possessions, untold wealth, magnificent army and matchless navy, is neither cheerful nor happy. A few weeks ago the praises of her premier and general were upon all lips, but how sad and sudden the change! Such is life.

The failure of the Soudan expedition and its necessary evacuation, the fall of Khartoum and the assassination of Gen. Gordon, the more recent death of the brave and skillful officer, Gen. Stewart, who died from wounds received at Abu Klea wells, and the dynamite scare in the city of London, constitute a part of the complications which just now perplex Mr. Gladstone, and have shrouded him and his government in gloom. El Mahdi's success has encouraged the enemies of the English government, not only in the camp and country of the false prophet, but in India, and kindled anew the fires of hope and hatred in Ireland, held in subjection for five hundred years by British bayonets. Mr. Gladstone's enemies are bolstered and bitter in their denunciation of him. As the author of the senseless and sanguinary Soudan campaign, they assert that he is guilty of the death of Gordon, Stewart, and all the brave soldiers, whose blood stained the shores or crimsoned the waters of the Nile. Lord Dufferin, formerly Governor General of Canada, and now Viceroy of India, is alarmed over England's loss of prestige in India, and calls for 20,000 British soldiers to be sent to India in view of the reported advance of Russian forces through Central Asia upon India, by the way of Afghanistan. Then a very large proportion of the 200,000,000 of the native population of India, are not only not in sympathy with England, but absolutely hostile to her, and will avail themselves of the first good opportunity to throw off her yoke.

Our Own Country.

The voice of Mr. Cleveland's silence is still heard in the land. Pardon the figure. When he speaks let us hope his words will be as wise as his recent reticence. He has beautifully and forcibly illustrated the proverb, "Speech is silver, silence is golden." The preparations for the inaugural at Washington, are said to be on a gigantic scale, outstripping anything seen there on such occasions before. Balls and processions, civic and military, receptions, bonfires, pyrotechnic displays, etc., etc. The dancing hall is so large that six thousand will dance at once. The most elegant and costly costumes and the choicest wines have been provided for both sexes. It is due Mr. Cleveland, however, to say that he is not responsible for all this, and it is not even known that he will participate in the grand inaugural ball, but the hope is expressed that he will grace it with his presence and dance at least one set. But we listen in vain for any provision being made for the entertainment of those who do not dance or drink. The children of this world are wiser in their generation than the children of light. Why not let the sweet music of Washington's merry church bells be heard, calling the people to their pews and prayers, and all earnestly invoke Divine guidance, that the ship of state may safely navigate the perilous and stormy waters for the next presidential quadrennium.

Gov. Marmaduke, of Missouri, has addressed a letter to Gov. Hughes, of Arkansas, urging joint action upon the part of the legislatures of the two States in an effort to drain the sunk lands of the St. Francis river basin in southeast Missouri and northeast Arkansas, including about 4,000,000 acres, 2,500,000 of which are situated in Arkansas.

State News.

We mention it as a part of State News, that our legislature has before it a bill to expend \$75,000 on our penitentiary—to put up buildings inside for hospital, chapel and other purposes, so that the convicts can be worked inside the walls as the law contemplates. By all means it should pass. Our present system of convict labor is all wrong and our punishment by confining in the penitentiary a mere farce. We hope they will pass this bill.

A \$200,000 fire at Texarkana last Friday night. The "Inter-State-News" office, among the many buildings destroyed. The origin of the fire not stated.

Considerable fatal sickness in Jackson county. The measles are holding high carnival there also.

The survey of the Rogers, Siloam and Muscogee Rail way has been completed to Rogers, says the Era.

The proceedings of the seventeenth annual session of the Arkansas State Teachers Association is before us. Auditor Brother's, proprietors of the "State Wheel Enterprise," Searcy, publishers. The mechanical execution is good, but no better than we expected from that enterprising office.

The resolution in the House of Representatives, providing for a short recess, and an excursion to New Orleans was voted down Monday.

Lawlessness is reported in Conway and Pope counties. Some white men who are averse to negro citizenship, waited on some colored people and ordered them to leave, which they failed to do. A few nights later the houses of the colored persons were fired into by a mob of these lawless raiders. Some arrests have been made, but they deny any complicity in the matter. Such proceedings are a disgrace to the State, and a blot on our boasted civilization. And we earnestly hope every good citizen in these counties will see to it that the guilty parties are brought to a speedy and a merited punishment.

The concurrent resolution instructing our representatives in Congress and the Senate, to use their influence to secure congressional action, instructing the President to open negotiations with the Creeks, Seminoles and Cherokees, with a view to opening their unoccupied lands for settlement, was approved by Gov. Hughes.

The Methodist and Baptist churches at Pine Bluff are holding a series of union services in the afternoon of each Sabbath.

The new bridge across the Arkansas river, connecting Argenta and Little Rock, is now in successful operation. It is open day and night for vehicles and foot passengers. It is a splendid bridge and a great public convenience.

Rev. Horace Jewell, the faithful shepherd of 8th street church, has been snowed under, and that in the City of Roses and the sunny south. Tuesday as he passed down Main street, the snow, which had accumulated on the top of a large house, was suddenly precipitated upon him, striking him about the neck and shoulders, knocked him down and quite buried him alive. He came out of it without serious damage, we are glad to report, but he has not had much to say since about the "beautiful snow."

The bill donating four acres of the State's land, near the penitentiary, to the Ladies' Benevolent Hospital in this city, was defeated in the Senate Tuesday.

No break yet in the Illinois senatorial dead-lock. Logan, 101; Morrison, 95; scattering, 10. Necessary to a choice, 103.

Field Notes.

We give this week the place of honor to a former Arkansas boy, Rev. W. C. Dunn, now in Smithland, Ky. We believe he was born in this State, and a noble specimen he is. Our brethren will be glad to hear from him:

"I wish to say through your paper, to all my brethren and friends in Arkansas, that I am situated in Kentucky and that I am moving on smoothly with my Church work. Although, in many respects, lines have fallen to me in pleasant places, yet I have found no time to be idle—plenty of hard work to do. Even in this old town wordliness is rife, and 'hosannas languish on many tongues.' But still, the signs of the times are not discouraging. Our Methodist Standard, a monthly paper, is published in the district to which I belong. Rev. J. L. Locke, my P. E., is one of the editors. The ARKANSAS METHODIST gets better and better. On the subject of temperance, as well as on other subjects, she means to be heard and felt. In this great work may the good Lord give all needed help."

Next comes another stirring note from Rev. J. F. Scott. We like that. It means work, and real earnest work. Plenty of room for you, my boy:

"I will give you a short note from the field. I like my work fine, and have been doing my best to do good service. I am preaching, praying, singing and exhorting right along, and I am looking for large results, for the Lord says, 'I will be with you.' In four days I visited twenty families, and the same week preached seven times. Doctor, tell the brethren at the top I am coming up there, if some of them have to get down to give me room. God is with me in my work."

Then comes the indomitable P. E. of North Arkansas, Rev. S. L. Cochran. He will make his mark anywhere:

"Perhaps a few field notes from this part of the Master's vineyard will not be uninteresting to the readers of the METHODIST. I commenced my first round of quarterly meetings on this district at Vandale, on the Wittsburg circuit, Dec. 20th and 21st, Rev. Jas. F. Jernigan, pastor. On account of bad weather we had no services of any kind on Saturday. Sunday morning this scribe preached to a small congregation, and we trust good seed was sown. At night we had a few out, and the pastor gave us a sensible talk from the 103 Psalm. And Monday morning, with a few of the official members present, we held the quarterly conference. Wittsburg circuit is a good work, and Bro. Jernigan is universally beloved by his people, and with his energy and zeal he is certain to succeed. Our next quarterly meeting was held at Gainesville, on the Gainesville circuit, Rev. W. M. Watson, P. C. Here, as at Vandale, the weather was exceedingly bad and but few out, but we held the quarterly conference and had preaching Saturday and Sunday at 11 o'clock. Bro. Watson has been suffering with asthma ever since conference, and has not been able to fill but few of his appointments. But notwithstanding his affliction, his people at Gainesville have given him a big pounding, just such a one as every Methodist preacher likes to receive. The Jonesboro quarterly conference was held at Jonesboro, Jan. 3d and 4th. But few of the officials out, and the weather still bad. But despite the bad weather, we had a profitable time. Brother Taylor, the zealous pastor, will succeed at Jonesboro. Our great need at this place is money to complete our new and elegant church house, which will be the finest church on Crowley's Ridge when finished. We need one thousand dollars to finish up the inside work of the house. Will not some wealthy Methodist help us in this worthy enterprise by sending a liberal contribution to the Rev. F. E. Taylor

at Jonesboro, Ark.? We missed our next two quarterly conferences, at Lake City and Tyrnza, on account of high waters and the impassible condition of the roads. We got to Marion on our way to Tyrnza, and could get no further. Had a good time at Marion. The Lord was with us. Brother Walker, the young pastor, is universally popular with his people, and they are not waiting for the weather to get good to see that his temporal wants are supplied, as too many other circuits are doing. The Rev. W. R. Foster is well received on the Greensboro circuit, and our quarterly conference there was a feast to the soul. The Lord was with us at every coming together, and we all felt that it was good to be there. We also had a good time at Harrisburg, and if our church had been finished so we could have occupied it and protracted the services, no doubt we would have had a gracious revival of religion. Here I had the pleasure of dedicating to God in baptism Mary Ruth, infant daughter of Rev. A. C. and Mrs. A. E. Griffin, and Rena Olympia, daughter of J. W. and M. C. Bettis and grand-child of the Rev. John M. Steel, of precious memory. It is useless to say that Bro. Griffin, the pastor, is popular. This is his 3d year on the Harrisburg circuit, and the people all love him."

Here comes in Rev. J. H. Bradford one of our very best field hands:

"I am an itinerant preacher, but then it is so consoling to always feel that we have done our work up right and no need of having to go back. We only had to move ten miles this time, from Harrison to Valley Springs. We moved the 9th day of December. Found some elect sisters at the parsonage preparing supper, with turnips and pork, sausage, chicken, biscuit, butter, pies, coffee, etc. We have been kindly received all round. We have seven appointments and near four hundred members, yet we worship in school houses at all of them, except Bellefonte, and there we are using an old store house. Notwithstanding the hard winter and the universal cry of 'hard times,' we have not been idle. We have a subscription of about one hundred dollars to complete a house at Bellefonte, commenced several years since by Bro. Jeffett. The bill is on file at the mill for the lumber, and the workmen under promise to do the work. The house is 36x80 feet, 15 feet high, with arch ceiling, and will be large and comfortable when completed. Col. Fullbright, the cattle king of Boone county, has donated us a half-acre lot here. We have \$300 subscribed and more to follow. Bro. Dugger, a member of the M. E. church on Clear Creek, has tendered us the use of his mill to saw the framing. Several brethren and friends have agreed to cut and haul logs. Bro. Sloan, one of my stewards, also a member of the building committee, is an engineer, sawyer and carpenter, as well as a No. 1 steward. And now if the Board of Church Extension will help us a little, we will soon have two good houses on Valley Springs circuit. We will not forget the METHODIST. May God bless you both."

And we close the field work this week with a full letter from Rev. H. M. Granada, the portly, sunshiny P. E. of Batesville district:

DOGS AND TOBACCO.—Yes, Doctor, dogs, big ones, contemptible little ones, everywhere; at church; in dwellings of rich, childish people, who lavish upon them affectionate attentions and commissary supplies enough to supply many a poor, destitute family at their elbow. Why, I have been quite recently to the homes of two different Methodist preachers where I was compelled to have as my companions and room-mates, dogs. Yes, sir, dogs as worthless and filthy as a savage could ask for. They are kept right in the house, day and night, and supplied with dainties, while the

Lord's poor are vainly begging all over the land. "Hit 'em again," Dr. Fire into this herd of ungainly brutes. Take the part of the gentle, docile, defenseless, valuable sheep. When will our people learn the simplest duty of economy and decency? Can we ever hope to see our fair land rid of these two great pests, dogs and tobacco? Can we ever hope to see our people tone up to a decent degree of self-respect and respect for others? Yes, sir, could we only get them to do away with nineteen dogs of twenty and entirely abandon tobacco, and then put the amount thus saved to the cause of God and needy humanity, this wilderness would soon blossom as the rose. And, tobacco! What shall we say on this filthy, all-pervading practice? Why, sir, in the dim, stifling, smoky, sickening air; the squirting and spattering of deadly amber in hotels, cars, churches—yes, churches solemnly set apart from all unhallowed or common uses—and in the so-called homes of the people, my finer sensibilities are so often and so unmercifully offended that it is really hard to be charitable towards the unfortunate offenders. A good woman at my side says she must write you a note of special thanks for your recent deliverance on dogs, and I do hereby vote for you forever on that and the hard hits on the tobacco business. Hit 'em again."

Our readers, we know, will call this a full report from the work, and we hope they will enjoy it.

Personal.

Rev. H. R. Withers is doing a fine work at Hot Springs, and we found him enjoying favor with all the people. He is making a fine start.

Rev. E. M. Pipkin is in comfortable quarters at Malvern, and has a fine prospect before him.

Rev. N. B. Fiser we found full of business at Forest City. He finds a newspaper and a pastoral charge most too much for him.

Rev. Geo. M. Hill, whom we met at Forest City, gives a good account of his work and the promise of much good at Wheatley.

We deeply sympathize with Rev. R. S. Kirkman in the loss of his wife. She died in fifteen days after her return from Texas, with pneumonia. She was happy for three days next preceding her death. May all of our people die well, when the final summons comes.

Rev. E. C. Castleberry, Mineral circuit, and Bro. John Smith, Argenta, have returned from Georgia, and report Arkansas in the lead.

Rev. Dr. Anderson visited New Orleans, and took in the Exposition.

Rev. Frank Ritter and wife spent last Sabbath in Clarendon, so says the Newport Herald.

Rev. S. C. Stone, of Hope station, made us a brief but pleasant call Monday. He left that night for Mississippi on a business trip.

Rev. Mr. Tatum and wife, of Cleveland, Ohio, made interesting and instructive addresses to a good audience in the hall of the House of Representatives last Sabbath, 3 p. m., on temperance and prohibition.

Rev. F. A. Jeffett, P. E. of Searcy district, called Monday and left some subscriptions and money. He and his wife were enroute to Fort Smith, where they will spend a few days, uniting pleasure and business.

Dr. Winfield left for Helena last Friday. He was to preach Sabbath, and lecture the three nights following. It is possible he may mention, incidentally at least, the ARKANSAS METHODIST while there. Should he forget it, we hope our friends will hand him their subscriptions, as he is fully authorized to receive and receipt for the same.