

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.

France and Egypt.

The old Bible land is again in trouble. Some time since a French paper was suppressed in Cairo without any sufficient cause, as the French people think, and France demanded an explanation and redress. Egyptretuses both, and at last accounts the Charge-de-Affaires of French government was at Alexandria on his way home to make his report, and there is a likelihood of trouble.

South America.

The Colombian Minister at Washington City reports the trouble of that country as well nigh at an end. Only a few places are still in the hands of the rebel forces, and, unfortunately, Panama is among that number. The latest advices state that the American forces were withdrawn, and serious difficulty was apprehended. The streets were barricaded and great trouble expected. Some important correspondence has passed between Mr. Bayard, our new Secretary, and the Colombian Minister affecting our commercial interests.

Russia and England.

The diplomatic quarrel between these two great European powers is attracting the attention of the world. Matters are becoming more and more complicated, and it is exceedingly difficult to foresee the end or tell the result. There is but little doubt but that the battle of Pendjeh was intended to hasten a crisis. Russia was almost compelled to make an attack, for home effect as well as to secure Persian alliance, and England needed it to bring to her side of the question the Ameer and the Afghan forces on the frontier, and now neither side can well back down, as they have too much at stake in their Indian interests and the ports of the Caspian. Germany, it is said, has offered to act as arbitrator, but the offer has not yet been accepted. France warns Turkey to preserve a strict neutrality in case war should occur between these two great belligerents. War preparations are proceeding on the grandest scale in both countries, while they are declaring they desire peace. English House of Commons has voted a credit of £50,000,000, asked for by the government through her Prime Minister, Mr. Gladstone, as a loan for war purposes. Russia is massing her forces, and preparing for war on both land and sea. It really seems as if Russia will outdo old England herself in brag and bluster. Of course the Christian world is with England in this great Eastern question and conflict. If Russia succeeds in that country, it means a continuation of the dark reign of Mohammedanism in certain quarters and the extension of Buddhism in others, while the success of England would be the introduction of Christian civilization. Of course we are for England.

Our Own Country.

Generally quiet, and our President Cleveland is still at the head of affairs and seems in no hurry to make any important changes in either offices or men. Everybody seems to think he is a level-headed, broad-gauge man, with a great brain power, and a still greater will power, and we can safely trust him in any and in all emergencies. His policy may be, and doubtless is, right in the greater portion of our country, but hardly fair, we think, toward our portion.

The great water-spout, or as it may be termed cloud-burst, in Kansas, is one of the wonders of the day. It was simply marvelous.

Our Great Southern Exposition at New Orleans is doing wondrous things for our country. We are more and more attracting the world to us, and we will have a great and controlling influence in the world's thought and commerce. Ours is a great country, but we do sadly need deliverance from the dominion and reign of alcohol.

State News.

Our great State is now having a grand time at the Exposition. The 28th was Arkansas Day, and our people have gone down in full force. Our Governor is there, and the 28th was the day of speech-making, gush and parade of State pride. No State will have a finer-looking or more polished Governor. Simon P. Hughes is really a great man. We wish them all a very happy time, and may it all redound to the future well-being of our State.

The State Medical Association was in session here last week, and was presided over by Pres't Hurley, of Benton county, and he made a magnificent speech. We were sorry the doctors rather took a back step on medical legislation. We could well stand the kind little thrust of Drs. D. and S., but we did not like this. Arkansas ought to have a law against quacks and empirics in medicine, and our doctors should have worked right on till it was passed. Dr. Hawkins, of Texarkana, was elected president for the next year. He is an able man.

Col. Jas. Mitchell, of the Democrat, has gone to New Orleans to do up the Exposition. He gave us a kind parting shot, but he failed to answer our questions on the woman question, and said we were wrong on certain other questions, without giving the why or wherefore. But he will do better when he returns, and tell us what to do with people who are wrong in head and heart. We wish him a very pleasant visit.

The Young Men's Christian Association is now fully organized in Little Rock, and will soon have a fine suite of rooms on Main street and be doing a fine work. Mr. E. S. Chipley, of Boston, is here acting as secretary. We are delighted with him. He is a Virginia-raised boy, and a perfect specimen of a real Christian gentleman. We wish these young men very great success, and they can safely count on our help.

Our Press Association meets in Helena next week, and a great time is expected by the press gang, for Helena does nothing by halves and the people are sparing neither time nor means to provide for us. The most of the quill drivers will go to New Orleans to take in the Exposition, but this one hopes to take in the Sunday-school convention at Milan, Tenn.

We were truly grieved to hear of the misfortune of our friend, Senator Wells, of White county, in the loss of his two children. We were glad that our Junior was at home to perform the funeral obsequies. We extend to our friend our sincere sympathy. What a sad place that childless home, but our friends have two little angels in heaven.

Last week was the election of city officers throughout the State, and many of our editors were honored by being elected mayor or aldermen, but none like our friend Givens, of Washington. He is now serving his fourth term as mayor, and could be elected twenty.

Walter Hughes, Esq., the mayor of Malvern, was in town last week. He is a good lawyer, a better editor, and no doubt he will make a first-class mayor.

We regret to see that the old Steele mansion was burned a few days ago, and the library formerly belonging to that old veteran, Rev. John M. Steele.

Circuit court has been in session the past week in Forrest City, presided over by Judge Cate, of Jonesboro.

Angelo Marre has gotten through the city council of Little Rock a resolution closing all gambling houses. The prosecuting attorney would not allow him to sell whiskey on Sunday, and he won't allow gambling. All right; we accept help from any source to fight whiskey and gambling.

Personal.

Rev. N. E. Brady sends two new subscribers, with five dollars in cash, and says he "don't see how anyone can undertake to keep house without the METHODIST." We don't either. Many thanks, brother Brady.

Rev. F. R. Noe has been heard again. Not long ago he sent us subscribers, with \$8.50 "spot cash," and now he comes with another. He is one of our true friends.

Rev. C. C. Godden, the untiring and fine-looking P. E., of Little Rock, is doing a fine work. He holds his quarterly meetings regularly, and is building up a fine book business in our city.

Rev. J. A. Biggs, from Austin circuit, has paid us a clever visit, and gave undoubted evidence of his devotion to the ARKANSAS METHODIST. Come again, brother, and push our paper among our old friends.

Hon. J. W. Stayton, of Jacksonport, is in our city acting Governor, during the absence of Gov. Hughes at the Exposition. He is every inch good Governor timber, and would make as able and solid one as any man in the State. We acknowledge the pleasure of a call.

Hon. J. T. Henderson, the active land agent and the devoted Methodist, was in to see us this week.

Dr. J. W. Jones, of Fayetteville, was in attendance at the State Medical Association last week, and honored our sanctum with his presence. He is thinking of making Hot Springs his future home. He would be a great acquisition to society there, as well as to our Church.

Dr. Henry Turner was also here, from Ozark, and Dr. Shibley from Paris. The former endorsed us on tobacco and gave us his subscription, and the latter is our staunch friend. We also noticed Dr. Hart, of Washington, among these noble sons of Esculapius. It was a fine body of men.

Rev. D. C. Kelley, D.D., our Missionary Treasurer, is reported as rapidly improving in health, and will soon be ready for duty.

Bishop Wilson is at his home in Baltimore in greatly improved health, but still unfit for active duty.

Bishop McTyeire is back again from Texas, and is ready for the annual meeting of his colleagues.

Rev. C. M. Keith was in to see us this week from Alexander, and is confident of reaching the 50 subscribers, for the commentaries.

Rev. Thos. Vincent writes us cheerfully from Ash Flat circuit, sending us subscribers and saying good things of our paper. Tell all the people that we are in favor of educating the masses in the very best way possible, and we wish every man, woman and child could read, write and understand thoroughly a full arithmetical course; and with all this, good religious training.

Rev. Sam Jones has turned Knoxville upside down, and will soon attack the Great Southern Methodist Hub. He will make the rocks quake about Nashville, and wholesale whiskey sellers in the Methodist Church will wish they had never been born. We are for Sam Jones. Let down your bucket if you do stir the mud.

Rev. M. H. Wells reports a fine work on his charge at Weatherford, Texas, and promises to write a few more of his excellent letters for our columns.

Rev. F. A. Jeffett is off on furlough to Ft. Smith. His health is much improved.

Our excellent layman, brother J. B. Sutler, was over to see us this week. He was in fine health and spirits.

Brothers James Cox, J. A. Peebles, R. T. Nabors and others are just pouring in subscribers. Many thanks.

Field Notes.

We begin this week with a circular letter from Rev. F. A. Jeffett, P. E. of Searcy district, White River conference, addressed to his brethren of that district. It is brimful of wise suggestions and timely directions, and breathes the loving spirit of a sweet John. His name is Asbury, and the old apostolic fire that burned in Asbury, the great apostle of American Methodism, still burns in his namesake, after one century of great triumph. His brethren will read with mingled feeling of sorrow and joy. We hope he will soon be well: "By reason of ill health I am deprived of the privilege of meeting many of my appointments on the second round. My anxiety for your success and the success of the Church, is beyond my power of description. I thank you for your prayers, kind words of cheer and sympathy. I am improving rapidly, more so than my physicians had thought, and if it be God's will I hope to be with you again soon. Let me urge you, brethren, to press the claims ordered by the annual conference. The cry is constantly reaching our ears from other lands, 'Come over into Macedonia and help us.' Some of the domestic missionaries in our own land are suffering for aid. Your reputation as preachers and the growth of the Church depend upon this work. He who waits and depends upon the growing crop for all his collections will find that he has waited too long, and failure will be the result. We should endeavor to put our Church paper in every family, for it will be a mighty lever to aid us in our work. Some of the preachers, I think, are ready to report their collections raised in full. Who will be first to report that souls are being saved, the Church fully alive, and striving to push forward the triumphs of the cross? Let it be our constant prayer: 'O Lord, revive Thy work.'"

Next we will give some good notes from our former worker, Rev. W. C. Dunn, now in Kentucky. They are good, and they come from one of the best of workers. We begrudge him to old Kentucky, and hope he will return home: "I write you again. I need not repeat what has been written by so many, that the METHODIST grows more and more interesting; it does so appear to me, especially now, since I am separated from the brethren of the ministry with whom I am acquainted, having fought many hard battles together in Arkansas, my native State, and as I have no ministerial acquaintances here save my much beloved P. E., Bro. J. S. Scobee. Yes, the METHODIST is a messenger that brings tidings of great interest, usually of joy, but sometimes of sorrow. While the last number brought messages from various parts of the field of prospective victory, yet it also bore me the sad, sad news of Bro. Laney's death. He was licensed to preach by the quarterly conference of my first circuit. A faithful and good man has gone from his labor and suffering to his rest and reward. O God, so direct the widow and orphans as to meet him in 'the sun-bright clime.' Oh, such a winter as we have had! Since November I don't think we have had more than a half-dozen pretty Sundays. We have had thirty snows, and a goodly number of these fell on Saturday and Sunday. Notwithstanding, we have moved on hopefully with our Church work. Our prospects are good. God bless you and all your readers."

Here comes one of the best local preachers that ever lived, and a noble, true, worker, Thos. G. Welch. Ah! he is a splendid agent: "I am not one of your regular field hands, yet I am in the field and will venture this note and let it risk its chances to get into your columns. I started from Walnut Hill Dec. 22, with my family, house-

hold chattles, etc. The next day found us in Rogers, Benton Co. Met conveyance to this place, Osage Mills. Leaving my wife at her mother's, for the time, I began canvassing the country, going to most of the towns, looking out a permanent stopping place. So far I am not satisfied. Do not know how long I will stay at this place. My health is somewhat improved since I came to this country. I have found some of your regular field hands, who feed the flock on the good 'old corn' you advise. Went to the first and second quarterly conferences, Center Point circuit. Found Bro. J. A. Anderson, P. E., master of the situation; looks after all the interests of the Church; does not forget our institutions of learning. The P. C., Bro. W. D. Powell, is a strong man, doing good work. Met quite a number of other brethren. An account of my own labor may not be out of place. As soon as I came to this country I was in demand. Have had regular and irregular appointments all of the time. Delivered my certificate to P. C., and advised with him as to the work. Have three regular appointments; have large congregations, with good attention, and we get happy, as in old times, realizing that God is with us in power. I am doing all I can for the METHODIST, but as I am a stranger in these parts I cannot do as much as I have heretofore, though I send you names, with the cash. We all appreciate the weekly visits of the ARKANSAS METHODIST, its strong and well-timed editorials, its cheering field notes, able contributions, etc. Long may it live."

Right after him we will let one of our best traveling agents report. It has been storming in Newport, and our brother Ritter was fortunate in being overtaken with a shower of good things. But he shall report for himself. Hear: "On the night of the 8th ult. we had a storm at our usually quiet little home—one that took us by surprise, but did not damage us greatly. Just after supper the people began to pour in upon us, and they kept coming until we could not find seats for them, and still they came, till they were so many that we didn't know what to say or do. After they left we began to invoice what they had left in our possession, and we got through by 11:25 and found the following to be the sum, viz: 114 packages and parcels, consisting of dry goods, canned goods, flour, hams, dried fruits, coffee, sugar, salt, pepper, currants, cheese, crackers, bread, butter, pickles, cabbage, potatoes, honey—well, there is a whole long list of other good things that I need not transcribe. It was not a pounding I know, for it was in too large doses for that. So I shall call it a storm donation party. This place never gives in broken doses. May God abundantly reward their kindness by the conversion of many souls. I think this place ought to pound our editors with a long list of subscribers the very next thing they do. It would help the pastor in his work and the people in their religious and connectional feelings, and would not hurt the editors. Let all concerned think on these things. The ARKANSAS METHODIST still improves, and it will do good on a grand scale wherever read."

Now we close with a report from a new but very active field-hand, Rev. R. W. McKay: "In some respects this circuit might be called a hard one, but in other respects we should give her a good name. I arrived at my work on the 14th of Jan., and entered at once on my labors. My hardships were many at first, but things have changed, and everything is moving off right. I found many warm-hearted Christians, who gave me a warm reception. Our people are not up to that height spiritually that we would be glad to see them. We hope before the year has closed that every Methodist family in our bounds shall read your paper. This is my first year in the itinerant service. We ask the old veterans of the cross to pray for their boys in the ministry."