

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.

Our Own Country.

This is a great week for the Democratic party of these United States. His Excellency, Mr. Buchanan, retired from the presidential mansion March the 4th, 1861, and Hon. Abraham Lincoln was inaugurated on that day. It was a day when the storm cloud of war lowered over our nation, and soon broke over our land in all its fury. We will not allow ourselves to write of the bloody days of war or of the darker ones of reconstruction, but we will let the dead "bury its dead," and our pencil shall leap over a chasm that we would feign blot from our national history, and come to-day to see our strong republic change hands and the reins of government pass into the hands of a party which we hope and pray will restore the unity of our nation into a union of hearts as well as hands. Gov. Cleveland makes a good beginning by selecting three of his cabinet from the South. Lamar, Bayard and Garland, are names that will give prestige to the administration from the very beginning. We predict an area of great prosperity to our nation and great plenty to our people. We hope our President will adhere to the old Jeffersonian standard in all appointments, consider nothing but moral and intellectual fitness. Let honesty rise above party, and true men above mere tricksters. Do this and all will be well.

England.

The Prince and Princess of Wales are now in Ireland, and are being received everywhere with great demonstrations of joy and marks of national respect. A rumor that the great Premier Gladstone had resigned and that the Queen was organizing a new cabinet, created a great sensation in the old Solid City, but it only turned out to be a canard. England will be slow to accept the resignation of Gladstone. He is one of the greatest of the great men of this century, far-seeing in his opinions and wise in his administration.

Italy.

King Humbert has been insulted by the Vatican at Rome. It seems that Spain has two ministers at Rome. One represents the government and the other the church. They both live in the same house. The government minister invited King Humbert to their quarters, and the church authorities immediately notified the government minister that if King Humbert were admitted into Papal quarters that the Papal Nuncio would at once be recalled, and so a partition had to be erected to keep His Royal Highness from stepping on Holy Ground. Italy demands an explanation from the land of decrepitude and darkness.

Egyptian Affairs.

The British army is now clearly on the defensive in the Soudan. They are sick and demoralized. The warm season is approaching. The Siwoos are blowing and Gen. Wolsley finds it difficult to hold his own. The Arabs are treacherous and everything seems to hinder, but the rebellion must be subdued. The reign of Mohammedanism must come to an end. It is a religion that enslaves women and degrades men. It is a pretended religion, but real infidelity. The reign of the false prophet has been wonderful, but we must remember that his teachings pander to passion and indulge appetite. The advance of the Saxon is the advance of civilization and religion, and the descendants of Shem and Ham are to be exalted and saved by the descendants of Japheth, and this war means the fulfillment of all this. Christ will come after awhile to claim the nations.

The passage of the Insurance bill, now pending, would be ruinous to our state. Hold on, gentlemen, don't leave us without insurance.

State News.

Our Legislature has passed an act changing our Sabbath law so as to make it binding on all our people, regardless of their religious tenets, forcing Jew as well as Gentile to regard it. This was wise and timely, and we are glad that the ladies of Little Rock sent flowers to the desk of Senator Thornton, the introducer of the bill.

The bill of Senator Smith, forbidding railroads furnishing free passes to officers of the state government, passed the senate last week by a decided vote, but they refused to send it to the house for their action. Why this opposition, gentlemen? Don't you know the constitution demands such a law? Your duty is very plain and you should perform it at once. Railroads, like individuals, never act without notice. Now what can be their motive in issuing these passes unless it be to influence legislation, and cause you to sympathize with their interest. You are paid well enough by the State of Arkansas and should not accept any perquisites. Your constituents are watching you, gentlemen.

The bill to consolidate our elections, State and National, hangs fire. We are opposed to it, and will be as long as marshal's are employed on election days.

Representative Thornburgh has a fine road law pending. We think it a decided improvement on the old and hope it will pass.

Representative Copeland, of Pike, is trying to convert the Legislature into a Sunday-school and teach the members to repeat the Scriptures correctly. Very hard task. Some of our preacher members mistake their hall for a large church and do some wonderful exhorting. Poor place for preachers.

Our Legislature, at this time, is looking for the Sinking Fund, and we think that they have come in sight, but that ugly thing called the constitution stands right in the way, and they are at a loss what to do. Guess they will borrow again. They generally do.

Another Senatorial election is now among the certainties, and we shall have an exciting time for a few days. Many are mentioned in connection with the office. Among the rest Hon. Polidexter Dunn. He is a grand man and there will be no mistake if he is elected.

A dreadful affair is reported in the nice little village of Nashville, in our state. A set of drunken rowdies undertook to run over the town. Several were wounded. We hope they will all be brought to justice. The time is past in Arkansas for desperadoes to run over the good people of the land. It will not be tolerated.

We deeply regret that our senators slaughtered the bill giving four acres of state land to the Ladies' Benevolent Hospital, of Little Rock. That was unkind and unjust. That institution is taking care of the poor of the state, and ought to be helped.

The appropriation bill is now pending and exciting much attention. We have a great many bull-dogs to watch the treasury, but they generally get a good slice for themselves.

There was a large attendance at the Opera House last Friday night to witness the closing exercises of our Medical College. Eight young men were admitted to graduation. The school is an honor to our state. We were unavoidably absent.

Our Legislature can violate the constitution in borrowing from the sinking fund, but they will not obey it and pass the free pass bill. All right, gentlemen, but some of your shadows will never darken that hall again. Mark that!

Field Notes.

We give a lady the place of honor this week. Such a note is a ray of light coming in to cheer us and make us forget the ennui and tedium of editorial life. Miss Lou Hodges, from Melbourne, thus writes:

"I have been taking the METHODIST nearly one year. I don't want to do without it. I intend to get our preacher, brother Carter, to renew for me. Don't stop it, for I want it to come to cheer us every week with its loving truths. I wish it great success."

Certainly it shall come, and in the future it will be larger, brighter and better. We are moving up.

Next comes the new, vigorous and beloved P. E., Rev. M. M. Smith. Read and ponder:

"I have been at this place, Walnut Hill, twelve days. I was very sick last week, confined to my bed for five days. Am now up and able to be out some, but owing to my feebleness and the extremely cold weather, I have thought it unsafe to attempt to leave the neighborhood. I was stopping at the home of Col. Matt Johnson, a friend of other days, when I took sick, and from the Col. and his kind wife I received every possible attention, and for these acts of kindness I am brought under renewed and lasting obligations to the kind family. I also had the attention of Dr. Weakly, a young physician who has recently settled in this place and is rapidly growing in favor with the people. He kindly attended me without charges, and to him I am under many obligations. Everything is moving on smoothly and without friction on our new district. Every preacher on his work with a determination to bring the Newport district abreast with any in the conference. With the blessings of the Lord upon us this shall be done. The claims of the ARKANSAS METHODIST shall not be forgotten. Success to it."

Then comes our brother O. H. Tucker, always true and always at work:

"I am this year on a long circuit—two appointments, Yellville and Harrison, thirty miles apart. Have been at all my appointments except one. Raised \$200 for repairs on churches and parsonage; for Sunday-schools, \$16. Sold \$20 worth of books. Have held Love Feast and Church conference, and made a pastoral visit to nearly all the members. The preacher's crib, wood house, flour barrel, larder and purse have all been replenished. But the great need of both these towns is a deep and wide-spread revival. We are working and praying for it."

Then comes a new field hand, brother W. F. Walker, from Clarketon:

"When I came to Marion circuit about two months ago, I found all the people ready to give their new pastor a happy greeting, some with \$10, some with \$12, some with \$5, and so on. And some of these good farmers brought meat, flour, sugar, coffee, etc., put corn in the crib, a saddle on the peg and a horse in the stable, and said to their preacher, 'ride,' and he is riding and talking and preaching and praying that we may have a gracious blessing from on high and the conversion of souls. Pray for us, and the ARKANSAS METHODIST shall have a place in each Methodist family in Marion circuit before the close of the year."

Then our good brother Troy—and he is by no means troy weight, but avoirdupois, and with a lifted beam. He reports from the great Mammoth Spring, the very largest and finest in the world:

"We are moving on in the right direction, I hope. The people of this charge are waking up and Methodism stands front, praise the Lord. Our appointments are well attended, and an interest is awakened. Good times expected here. My wants are all met, and more than I could ask. Money

scarce, yet the preacher gets a share. God is doing all things well. I know how it is to abound. The brethren love the METHODIST, and more subscribers expected soon. We can't well do without our paper, when it comes to cheer our homes with glad tidings and fill our hearts with joy. Long you may you both live to serve the Church with your hearts of fire and your tongues of flame, and grace every home in Arkansas with your columns, melting away the icebergs on fathers' hearts, inspiring the mothers' breast, ornamenting the children, and decorating the shelves in their homes. We are in the midst of a gracious revival at Thayer; 4 conversions, 5 accessions, and a number of mourners at the altar. Mammoth Spring next church for a gracious time. Pray for us. We had a heavy snow fall last evening. This keeps us indoors for a time. A good time for preparation for a greater work. All things work together for good to them that love God. Our second quarterly meeting here the 4th Sunday in March. Our never-failing presiding elder, H. M. Granade, will bring us a feast of good things. We all love him as a woman that needeth not to be ashamed."

Then brother Melton, from Russellville, who has a right always to be heard; for he is a worker:

"It has been some time since you had anything from this field hand. But I assure you it is not because of a loss of interest in the welfare of the METHODIST, for my interest in it increases all the while, despite the little complaints of a few incompetent judges. Some folks seem to think that a child ought to reach maturity in two or three years, and that under very unfavorable circumstances. The ARKANSAS METHODIST always was a likely child, but has had an unfavorable showing, as we all know. But notwithstanding its 'ups and downs,' it is to-day as well, if not better, developed than anything in the 'Methodist' family, and promises soon to reach its majority, if properly nourished. And this reminds me that you want a long list of 'subs' and renewals from me. Well, I promise that you shall have them soon. (Send on that list I wrote for.) You would have heard from me before now, but for personal and family sickness. We are getting on tolerably well in this charge; trying to look after all the interests of the Church. Find it necessary to hold with a firm grasp the reins of discipline, in order to keep the world out of the Church. I have recently asked myself, 'Why are our Church people so worldly minded?' I know it never was so with me, even in my boyhood days. And I believe you struck the key that unlocks this mystery, in your editorial in the last paper, viz, 'Enjoying Religion.' When you say that 'a Christian enjoying religion would no sooner be found in a theater than Peter would or could have gone from the Mount of Transfiguration to a miserable circus,' you uncover the avenue through which this worldliness has been getting into the Church. To 'enjoy' religion has become unpopular. An individual who shouts aloud now in the congregation is looked upon as a violator of order and decorum; and hence the little religious enjoyment in the Church today. And because of this lack of religious enjoyment, they seek enjoyment in the things of this world. Oh, my heart pants for a revival after the old sort, when men cried for mercy and praised God aloud. 'Oh, that men would praise the Lord for his mercy!' etc. God bless you in all your work."

And we close this week with two of our own best workers, Rev. A. O. Evans, of Lonoke, and Rev. J. H. Gold, of Mt. Pleasant circuit:

"Our dwellings are all occupied and yet they come. The new brick block

of Messrs. Ross, England and Goodrum, is approaching completion. Notwithstanding the loss of our school-building last December and the consequent inconveniences, our school is progressing grandly under the skillful management of Prof. Russell, assisted by an efficient corps of teachers; 340 pupils enrolled. Our good physicians are not kept very busy, owing to good health. Quite an exciting case last week over a dog, valued at \$150, among our lawyers. Our dentist is a first-honor graduate of Baltimore Dental College. Mr. Editor, it is a shame that Arkansas has but about 7 representatives in the alumni of dentistry. There is too much in the study and practice of dentistry for such neglect. Business is dull among our merchants. Our Church is assuming grander proportions. We have kept our banner unfurled during the winter's severity. We have the best Sunday-school I have ever been connected with. Our officers and teachers are brave soldiers, full of lively interest for the children and Sunday-school cause. We have some children that have not missed a question in class since I came here, 15 months ago, and one, I remember, that has not been absent a single Sunday during that time. We received him into the Church, by profession, last year, with quite a number of other children. We hold children's meetings monthly. On some of these occasions I have seen the altar place full of children earnestly seeking religion. Some of them have found Jesus and are now happy Christian workers. We held young men's meetings with good results. We have received six into the Church since conference, some good evidences of spiritual life and power in the Church. I wish you could be with us in one of our old-time experience meetings. It would do you good, I know, to see old-time fire. We are working for and expecting glorious results during this conference year. Our relations as pastor and people are very pleasant. Your good paper is extensively circulated here, and is read with much interest and edification. Long live the ARKANSAS METHODIST and her able editors to bless the Church and the world!"

Rev. J. H. Gold:

"I read the ARKANSAS METHODIST with increasing interest and pleasure. It sparkles with light and truth, and arrays before us facts quite encouraging. My earnest desire is that every family in our bounds should be cheered and instructed by its weekly visits. But you will say our commendation and endorsements should come in a more substantial way. 'Send up the list of subs.' I am making an honest effort for your paper and still hope for a good list before the year is out. You will find enclosed one subscription of a good sister. I trust it may be like leaven and excite others to do so. I can rejoice with good brother Evans and others who have been pounded, from a fellow-feeling, as our parsonage has been visited with no less than three poundings since conference. The first was a Santa Claus arrangement, and the next came in the shape of a nicely dressed hog. The third came later, but was not less appreciated. I need not attempt to describe all and every article. There were delicacies many and rare, as well as substantial, for the palate, for the eye and for the body. How real such things make the good will they express appear. God bless our people. I am truly grateful that my lot has been cast among them."

Rev. Chas. H. Seay, the old pioneer local preacher of Arkansas, has crossed the river and is at rest. Brother R. P. Wilson of Warren, send a note, conveying the sad intelligence. He was one of earth's noblemen, and the world is a great loser; and we mourn the loss of one of our best friends. Peace to his ashes.