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FOR CHRIST AND HIS CHURCH

J. MILLER THOMAS, Associate Editor.

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ONE DOLLAR A YEAR. SINGLE NOS. 3 Centa.

AN IDLE WORD.

Only an idle word! But it grieved a tender heart: It passed in a breath, but it left behind, A bitter, nameless smart.

Only an idle word! But it added a burden more To a soul, whose weary weight of woe Was heavy enough before.

Only an idle word! Forgotten as soon as said; But'twill rankle deep in some human heart Until that heart is dead.

Only an idle word! Beware that ye speak it not; Lest always, for one, might its echo live, And its sting be unforgot. -Zion's Herald.

Personal Reminiscences

REV. JOHN S. PORTER, D. D.

DEAR BROTHER:-In a brief conversation not long since, you kindly requested some brief account of myself and my early ministry, as well as reminiscences of others. It is not easy to satisfy the intelligent readers of your paper with such scribbling, unless there is a particular gift for such composition. Dr. Wallace can do it without trying; it flows from his pen as a refreshing stream.

It is known to many on the Peninsula that I was born in Worcester County, Md., about four miles from Snow Hill. My parents were members of the M. E. Church before I drew the breath of life; having been members of the Presbyterian Church before they knew anything about the Methodists. In 1801, during a wide spread and powerful revival of religion in that part of the state among the Methodists, they were induced to attend their meetings, and soon became awakened; and having obtained a knowledge of salvation by the remission of their sins, they judged it best, to connect themselves with those, who had led them, by the help of the Spirit, into a comfortable religious experience. Their house was used for a preaching place for a time. Then the church at Acquongo branch was built, and here the family and neighbors had their place of worship; and in 1816, when I' was eleven years old, my name was put in the class book by David Daily, of precious memory.

that church, until he sold his farm and said by either of us. In about two weeks mill, and removed his residence to a she was taken sick, and though not seripoint, where it became most convenient to have his church home at Bowen's Chapel, near Newark. After a few years, moving again to a point nearer Wesleyville, we all went to that church. All the time, my father's house was a home for the preachers on the circuit, or for those who transiently passed through that part of the country. This was a paying arrangement for the family; especially for the children. The visits of those ministers were of great benefit to us, who were soon to take our places on the stage of action, and elbow our way through the world.

After connecting myself with the church, I was kept by gracious influences from neglecting the means of grace, whether it was the preaching of the word, attending the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, or the class meeting; and was often deeply stirred, but my experience was not joyous. I feared God and walked orderly, but had not the Spirit of text, &c. Having been for nearly two adoption, whereby to say, "Abba, Fa- years thus employed, I was not entirely her." It was not till the summer of without experience in public speaking, 824, that I was brought to know the when in 1829, I was licensed to preach iberty and comfort of the children of by the Quarterly Conference in the tions" has created such variety of opin-

a young woman was earnestly seeking recommended to the Philadelphia Conthe Lord, and seeing me standing by, she asked, "what shall I do?" My answer was, "believe on the Lord Jesus Christ;" and as these words were uttered, my own heart believed, and I was happy, nor have I cast away my confidence to this day. (More than sirty years.)

Before that, I would pray in prayer meeting when called upon to do so, but, now, I was led also, to exhort, and take part in the social meetings earnestly desiring to be useful, and lead souls to Christ. This was continued till 1826, when Rev. John Henry was in charge of Snow Hill Circuit; from him I received a license to exhort. When my careful father ad vised me to give the paper back to the preacher, I said, the paper was unsought by me, and unexpected, and it may not be right to hand it back. It may be my duty, to exercise myself in that way; and you may be sure, it will not unduly exalt me. The responsibility will keep me humble and prayerful. I might have said, it may be my duty to do more, even to preach the gospel; for I was feeling deeply on that subject at the time; but I kept silent. Even when some ninisters and members of the church would speak to me in relation to it, I would avoid saying a word that would intimate a thought on the subject.

Matters stood in this condition, when I entered into business with my brother Samuel, and married a most excellent lady, hoping that the trouble about preaching would cease. Although it did cease for awhile, it soon returned with increasing force, until I was constrained to speak to my wife on the subject. She appeared to be disinclined to converse in regard to the matter. She would listen, but make no response. One Sunday night after we had retired, I told her. the question as to my duty to offer myself to the Church for the gospel ministry was more than I could manage alone, and it would be necessary to submit it to the authorities of the Church; and if they judged it was my duty to go, I should have to do so. To this she answered, "not while I live." At that time she was in usual health, and as likely to live as any other person. Her answer My father continued to worship in was a surprise, but nothing more was ously so, as we supposed, yet the family physician was summoned, and continued his visits, until she was suddenly taken worse, and soon after ceased to live on

I was then residing in Snow Hill, to School. which place we moved in May 1827. In that town there were three exhort- a special column in the Statistics for the ers. duly licensed, George Hudson, Ephraim Mathews, and myself. As the circuit preachers only visited us every our reports. (1) By ascertaining what other Sabbath, it devolved on the exhorters to conduct the services in their absence. Brother Mathews generally had an appointment in the country, and the others stood for the service in town. Brother Hudson and myself were classleaders, and for the public services we took turns, equally divided. This service was of great profit to me as a training school, and although not licensed to preach, we both preached the best we could, avoiding the formal taking of a

ference as a suitable person to be admitted on trial in the travelling connection.

Editor Peninsula Methodist.

There has been no definite understanding in the Wilmington Conference, as to the exact meaning of the last column in table 1 of our Statistics, known as Other Collections." Definiteness of purpose may have been in the minds of those who prepared the form, but vagueness seems to stare at us every time we look at it. But let us look at it in the light of the Discipline, if there gleams an explanatory ray from that lamp of the Itinerant.

On page 53 the items are given that compose said table No. 1. In class 4 of those items, the "Benevolent Collections" are named; and among those collections we find, as the last, "Other Collections." From this we learn that it was designed by the General Conference that any moneys reported under that head should be for "Benevolent purposes. So much we think is clear.

In class 3 of the same form, we have an item called, "Current Expenses," (for sexton, light, fuel &c.)" which I judge. was designed to include moving expenses, collections for District parsonage, fire insurance tax, or anything else that is really a part of the "Current Expenses." But it is the prerogative of Churches to do extra benevolent work; that is, we are not restricted to the special work named in the Discipline. If, therefore, a special benevolence is inaugurated by an Annual Conference, and a collection is taken in its behalf, it could with propriety, be reported as "other collections." I am, however, in favor of a special column for the collection for Domestic Missions as ordered by our Conference. But my judgment, (for which I have been asked), is, that "other collections," referred to in form No. 1 of General Statistics, is designed to cover local RE-NEVOLENT work, whether under Conference direction, or promoted by individual pastoral push and enterprise. I would not, therefore, include in such collections the expenses of the Sunday School, because there is special provision made for that item in form No. 3. And to put that item of expense in "other collections," would be to credit the Church with twice the amount it paid. It is certainly not in order to include moneys raised to pay for any treat, entertainment or excursion given to the Sunday

Inasmuch, therefore, as there will be Domestic Missionary Collection, I would suggest that we observe uniformity in is really a part of "Current Expenses," viz: sexton, light, fuel, moving expenses, District parsonage, fire insurance tax, Sacramental wine, or anything else that may be really regarded as "(urrent." (2). By reporting in "Other Collections" only such items as are really for benevolent work-such as moneys raised for the poor, (Disc. par. 201,) for the promotion of the work of temperance, etc. (3). By reporting Sunday School expenses in the column designed for that item in table No. 3, and in that only.

My apology for so long an article about so small a matter is that the vagueness of the term, "Other Collec-

the reports demanded at our hands. I do not assume the role of Dictator, but give the above as what seems to me to be a reasonable construction.

J. D. Rigg.

Philadelphia Letter.

The readers of the Peninsula Methodist, need not be reminded that Philadelphia claims them as cousins, if not nearer of kin. It is but natural therefore, that now and then, they would be pleased to hear from their near neighbors and friends on the other side of the arbitary lines that separate them.

There is a charge in this city, which the editor of the PENINSULA METHODIST, as well as the writer, has had the honor of serving, but which, at one time, was afflicted with a church quarrel. The result was, that the dissatisfied ones went away and formed a new church. After a time, the new society paid the old mother a visit, on a love-feast occasion. During the speaking, one of them arose and expressed his surprise and delight in finding the old church still alive, which could scarcely have been hoped for, after the secession of so much piety When the brother resumed his seat, some one, having an eye to the point in the case, struck up the chorus, "We are all here, do thyself no harm." The visit was never repeated, as the new party had a short life and a quiet death. We rejoice to assure our friends down below, that we are moving on, although we very much miss the "garden spot" of Methodism, as the Peninsula was called when we were young.

If the life of all that is of good report, may be inferred from the life of the PENIN-SULA METHODIST, then truly there are no signs of death; our dear colleague of other days, retains in the editorial chair, the same amiability of temper, snavity of disposition. and keenness of intellectual perception, that he possessed in the days of his youth on eireuit

The churches of this city are about holding their own, and that is all. But few accessions are secured, as compared with former years; and the gain is almost wholly from the Sunday-schools. Some changes of pastors will be made at the next session of the Conference; but few of them, however, will be for any other reason, than the expiration of the time limit.

Baltimore, it is said, will have at Mt. Vernon Place the present incumbent of Broad and Arch, Rev. Dr. Longacre, for a second term. The pastor of Spring Garden will grace a church in Brooklyn.

The great question of the day is the strugale for the Subbath. There are most unmistakable signs of deepening conviction, and swept by these malarial cyclones. During increasing zeal, and determination on the the past year, many homes put on the drapery part of the friends of the Sabbath. Temperance men, are seeing more clearly than ever, that the liquor traffic is the implacable foe of the day of rest, and that the strict enforcement of Sabbath laws would of itself greatly cripple the saloon nuisance.

The Sabbath Association of this city, the oldest, perhaps, in the world, is doing much to awaken public thought.

An effort is being made to close also, the confectionery and cigar stores, and to stop all other worldly and unnecessary business on the first day of the week, commonly called Sunday.

Shall the American Sabbath be relinquished? We pass the question around. More anon.

OCCASIONAL.

Letter from Rev. N. McQuay.

DEAR BRO. THOMAS:-It looks now, as if we are snowed in, for the remainder of the winter. Yesterday and last night, we had the greatest fall of snow for many years; and owing to the strong wind which blew incessantly, the drifts are very deep. The outlook is somewhat gloomy to persons situated as we are, eighteen miles from the nearest railroad station, with navigation closed. However, we are cheered with the hope that before many weeks, the gentle hand of spring will open the ice-barred doors of navigation, and brush away the snow from the highway of travel to the main. But there are always Fod. I was in a prayer meeting, where month of March, and at the same time, ions, as is likely, materially, to affect rich mines to work, within our more immedia above the sun is God .- J. S. Russell.

ate surroundings, and these seasons of isolation can be turned to good account. Yesterday I had a letter from Prof. S. T.

Ford, of Van Norman Institute, New York, with whom we are to arrange for one of his rich and racy entertainments, to be given on the Island, Feb. 19th. No doubt he will have a full house, and will entertain us delightfully. In the Fall I held revival services at Trinity and Kingsley, with good results in both places. At Trinity, there had previously been only one conversion, that of Bro. Thomas; who was one of my most efficient helpers in the meetings. A number of souls were born into the family of God, and deep impressions were made upon many more. Among the converts were a number of members of the Methodist Protestant congregation. There are many excellent people on that part of the Island, to whom it may appropriately be said, as Jesus said to the young ruler, "One thing thou lackest." At Kingsley there were quite a number of converts, and the church was quickened. This appointment is in a flourishing condition. Before we were ready to begin our extra services at Stevensville, the weather became inclement, and indefinite postponement was the result. It is as difficult to hold such services here in the winter, as at a country appointment; as most of our people live in the country, and the road leading from the town to the church, is at times almost impassible. Even our regular Sabbath services are interfered with in the same way. People in townwho do not keep a team, are sometimes compelled either to wade to church, stay at home, or seek spiritual food in other denominational pastures. The church ought to be brought closer to the people. The Protestant Eniscopal and the Methodist Protestant brethren, in addition to having good church buildings, have them located in the heart of the town, and when our people are unable to get to their own church, the sweet sound of worship so near their own door is an inspiring invitation.

I have found Bro. Yingling, pastor of the Methodist Protestant church, to be a warmhearted, and genial companion, apparently free from the least trace of denominational prejudice. His estimable wife seems to fit into the itinerant niche, as perfectly as though she had been cut out for it; and together they help to make bright hours in the circles, blessed by their ministries. During their two year's residence on the Island, the terrible malarial scourge, which during some seasons brings the dark shadow of death to so many homes, robbed them of two lovely children, and sister Yingling was brought near the gates of death. For several years, at intervals, the Island has been of death. What a scourge to such a beautiful and otherwise healthful section of coun15.

Rev. Mr. Thompson of the Protestant Episcopal church, is a very pleasant gentleman socially, and is possessed of good literary attainments. His wife, a lady of culture and retinement, makes him a very efficient belu-meet.

Since I began writing, a large company of horsemen have been out; breaking a path through the town, and outside, as far as they could force their horses through the snow

I fear that Uncle Sam will find his line of communication with us cut off, and our isolation be made more complete by having no mail for awhile.

Our 4th quarterly meeting came off Jan. 23d and 24th. Bro. France, despite the ice and snow, was with us promptly at the hour for convening the conference. Sunday morning was very inclement, but we enjoyed a clear and earnest exposition from him o Luke 18, 1. Bro. France has made a deep impression on our heart, as a pure man, of warm and sympathetic friend, a clear and earnest preacher, and a wise counsellor. He left us Sunday afternoon in the midst of a blinding snow storm.

Kent Island, Md., Feb. 4th, 1886.

BEHIND the snowy loaf is the millwheel; behind the mill the wheat-field; on the wheat-field falls the sun-light; BY REV. JOHN A. R. WILSON.

To question 5, "What shall be done for the baptized children of our church?" Answer 1 & 4 are the same as 9 51 & 54. Replys 2 & 3, only differing from the present 52, read thus: "As early as they shall be able to understand, let them be taught the nature, designs and obligations of their Baptism, and the wise unto salvation. Let them he encouraged to attend class, and give regular attendance upon all the means of grace, according to their ages, capacity and religious experience."

The 3rd answer is, whenever they shall have attained an age sufficient to understand the obligations of religion. and shall give evidence of a desire to flee the wrath to come, and to be saved from their sins, their names shall be enrelled on the list of probationers; and if they shall continue to give evidence of a principle and habit of piety, they may be admitted into full membership in our church, on the recommendation of a leader with whom they have met at least six months in class, by publicly assenting before the church to the baptismal covenant and also the usual questions on doctrine and discipline."

It is hard to see any peculiar advantage in this, as all other persons whether children or adults were admitted on precisely the same terms.

The second reply to question 2 in 1864, gave place to the requirement of forming the children into classes, as in 1787, 1824, and of 1836, and is identical with 52 of 1884.

Their class relation however as found in answer 3 only made them candidates for trial as did the rules of 1787, 1824 and of 1836 (discarded in 1840).

The General Conference of 1868, how ever changed the 3rd reply to question 3 to exactly that of \$ 53 in Discipline of 1884, and the whole sections so amended has remained in tact until this date; so that for the last 17 years members of children's classes have been actual probationers, hence, by law, candidates for full membership, and to be admited at once, on recommendation of their

In 1864, the recomendation for Sunday School Agent was struck out; the datics of the Sunday School committee defined; and the paragraph on choice of Sunday School Books added.

A new section occurs this year on EDUCATION which was not changed in '68; and but little in '72, save that the second Sabbath in June, is recommended as Children's Day, and the collection for Education becomes mandatory.

In '76, the Education Committee and its duties are added to the chapter, which however refers to youth and the higher Annual Conference." Education more than to children, ; though they are not excluded.

The Discipline of '76, put the Sunday School under the supervision of the Sunday School Board, and continued the supervision of the Quarterly Conference. to Baptism, what it comprehends, and re-This double oversight is continued in quires, and their relation to the Church the present edition.

the pastor ex officio chairman of the Sun- shall preserve a fall and accurate regisday School Board. This change was, ter of the names of all the baptized the lamented Dr. Matlack of the Wil. mington Conference, whose attention was entage and place of residence." General Conference.

nomination of the Board.

"Have the Rules Respecting the Instruction of Children been Observed." (Discipline 102) of fungus life, a new thing, suddenly sprung into being, as one born out of due time, but a growth of 140 years. A developement, upon which the wisest and most trusted men of the church, through 45 Annual, and 24 General Conferences, have expended their best thought and effort to bring them to their present status.

The rules to guide us in fulfilling our solemn vow to "diligently instruct the children in every place," are these:

Beginning with \$263, we have the truths of religion necessary to make them section on "Sunday School and the Instruction of Children." A declaration, of purpose, supervision, organization, officering and the securing teachers. \$\ 264 Presiding Elder's and Quarterly Conferences duties toward it, with that of the Sunday School Committee.

> • 265, is on the selection of books. ■ 266, "It shall be the special duty of the preachers in charge of circuits and stations, with the aid of the other preachers and the Committee on Sunday Schools, to form Sunday Schools in all our congregations, where ten persons can be collected for that purpose, which schools shall be auxiliary to the Sunday School Union of the Methodist Episcopal Church; to engage the cooperation of as many of our members as they can; to visit the schools as often as practicable; to preach on the subject of Sunday Schools, and the religious instruction of children in each congregation, at least once in six months; to form classes, wherever they can for the instruction of the larger children, youths, and adults in the word of God; and where they cannot superintend them personally, to see that suitable teachers are provided for that purpose.

¶ 267. "It shall be the duty of our preachers, to enforce faithfully upon parents and Sunday School teachers, the great importance of instructing children in the doctrines and duties of our holy religion; to see that our catechisms be used as extensively as possible in our Sunday Schools and families; and to preach to the children and catechise them publicly in the Sunday School, and at public meetings appointed for that pur-

¶ 268. "It shall be the duty of every preacher in his pastoral visits, to pay special attention to the children; to speak to them personally and kindly on the subject of experimental and practical godliness according to their capacity; to pray carnestly for them; and diligently instruct and exhort parents to dedicate their children to the Lord in Baptism as early as convenient.

● 269, "Each preacher in charge shall lay before the Quarterly Conference, to be entered on its journal, the number, state and average attendance of the Sunday School in his charge, and the extent to which he has preached to the children and catechised them, and shall make the leaves it as now found. This section required report on Sunday Schools to his

Passing over the department on Epuin 49 & 50, we have the further in-The General Conference of '80, made junction- \$51, "The preacher in charge dates of their birth, baptism, their par-

called to it, and his efforts enlisted by a | 52, "The Preacher in charge shall letter from a preacher in the same Con- organize the baptized children of the ference, during the early part of the church, at the age of ten, into classes, and appoint suitable leaders (male or are framed. The legislation of '84 took from the female), whose duty it shall be to meet Board the power to elect the Sanday them in class once a week, and instruct School Superintendent, and deposited it them in the nature, design and obligawith the Quarterly Conference upon tions of Baptism, and in the truths of re- manned. ligion necessary to make them "wise un-This brings us to the rules of to-day to-salvation;" to urge them to give regular "respecting the instruction of children." attendance upon the means of grace; struction. A long and tedious passage it may have to advise, exhort, and encourage them to 4. That they be organized into probeen, but not a useless one, if it impresses | an immediate consecration of their hearts | bationers' classes,

and lives to God, and to inquire into the state of their religious experience; "prorided, that children unbaptized shall not be excluded from these classes."

¶53. "Whenever baptized children shall have attained an age sufficient to understand the obligations of religion, and shall give evidence of picty, they may be admitted into full membership in the church, on the recommendation of a leader with whom they have met at least six months in class, by publicly assenting before the Church, to the Baptismal covenant, and also to the usual questions on Doctrine and Discipline."

 54. Whenever a baptized child shall, by orphanage or otherwise become deprive of Christian guardianship the Preacher in charge shall ascertain and report to the Leaders and Stewards meeting the facts in the case; and such provision shall be made for the Christian training of the child as the circumstances of the case admit and require."

These are the requirements of duty upon pastors, to baptized; children (not excluding the unbaptized), that is, toward all the children of his charge.

Not all however, for in \$183, devoted to his specific duties, \$7 enjoins upon him without qualification, to "catechise the children publicly in the Sunday School and at special meetings appointed for that purpose. It shall also be the duty of each preacher in his report to each Quarterly Conference, to state to what extent he has publicly or privately catechised the children of his charge."

§8. "To form classes for the instruction of the larger children, youth, and adults children.

Then, to prevent any failure or evasion, the Church has, for 99 years, required of the Presiding Elder, "to take care that every part of our Discipline be enforced;" including the above, as a matter of course [see 4 171, §6, introduced in 1787]. Also, for the last 45 years, "To carefully inquire at each Quarterly Conference whether the rules respecting the instruction of children have been faithfully observed," and for the last 41 years "to report to the Annual Conference the names of all traveling preachers on his District who shall neglect to observe those rules." (See ¶171, §5, and acts of General Conference in 1840, and

Well may the poor pastor wipe his weeping eyes, and sing:

"How careful then, ought I to live, With what religious fear; Who such a strict account must give For my behaviour here."

These, my brethren, are the "Rules respecting the Instruction of Children," for the observance of which on the part of pastors, we must inquire in every Quarterly Conference and report upon, to each Annual Conference.

2. Their purpose.

This has been plain from the begining, and may be briefly told;

1. To keep the children in the king-CATION 4 262, we come to the section on dom of God, where, in the language of

telligent Christians.

Delieve, introduced and secured through children within his pastoral care; the Children," and from 1800, when "our catechism was added until now, the namely, that of making Methodist

3. The Requirements of the Rules.

Schools be organized, officered and

2. Bible classes be formed.

3. Special classes for catechetical in-

5. That their attendance upon Sunday School and public worship be promoted.

6. To preach to them.

7. Preach about them every six months. 8. Exhort parents concerning them. 9. Pay special attention to them in

pastoral visiting. 10. Speak to them personally and

kindly on the subject of experimental religion. 11. To pray for them.

12. Baptize them. 13. Keep record of all baptized children in the charge.

14. Teach them the nature of baptism. 15. Teach doctrines and duties, from our standards.

16. Read our books, selected by pas tors and committee.

II. Are These Rules Practicable, No one can feel more than the writer, the delicacy of an attempt to answer this question. The responsibility of this assignment however is not his own. Yet, how very like presumption, must seem any questioning of their practicability These rules had their inception in the mind of John Wesley, 141 years ago. Their growth, as before stated, has been watched and fostered by 45 Yearly, and 24 General Conferences; and I am asked to decide whether they be practicable or not. Respectfully, yea reverently, I approach this venerable formula, with the motive, in its criticism, to serve the same great purpose, which inspired the long train of lovers of God and Methodism, from 1744 to 1844, namely to keep our children in the kingdom of God, to bring, by conversion, the wanin the word of God, and to attend to all | derers back to a thorough radical Christhe duties prescribed for the training of tian experience, and to make of them intense, loyal, intelligent, enthusiastic

> Methodists and Methodist Episcopalians. After all, these venerable methods have been in the past improved by questioning, and not by idolatrous worship, as sacred relies.

> Are they the best adapted to the great purpose, which has never changed in the heart of the church. Are they the best means to the end desired, the appliances most conducive to success?

Are they Practicable?

That is, capable of being practiced generally, and successfully, by those to whom the work is committed.

A division of the question is necessary to an intelligent reply. 1. Which are practicable? 2. Which are not? 3. Are they practicable as a whole?

1. Organizing schools and gathering children into them, preaching about and preaching to them, conversing with, praying for, and catechising them in Sunday Schools, instructing parents and selecting books, Baptizing and keeping accurate records, these are practicable, to every pastor who possesses piety, pluck, prudence and perseverance. They are not only practical theoretically, but are in

general and successful use. 2. Others indeed might be made nearly successful, were there a greater loyalty to law, and a fuller consecration to its observance; and yet, the convic-"THE RELATION OF BAPTIZED CHIL- the Discipline, "by virtue of the uncon- tion is upon me, that of the rules, some DREN TO THE CRURCH." After the ditional benefits of the atonement," we there are as now formulated, not adapted to general practice. Though 2. To compass their conversion, and possession of the moral and menso instruct them, that they shall be in- tal qualifications before named, would extend their usefulnees, I am to consider 3. To make of them Methodist Episco- the question for the ministry, the church pal Christians. From 1784, when they and the world as it is, and not as it ought to be.

(1). The rule, requiring the formation of Bible classes outside the Sunday purpose has never been obscure, School, appears to be obsolete. The Bible class is superseded by the improved Episcopalians of Methodist children. To condition of the Sunday School, and its secure this result, all the requirements Scripture teaching. It is the old rule of 1840, that "It shall be the duiy of the 1. That for the children, Sunday they can, for the instruction of larger preachers to form Bible classes wherever children and youth. [adults were added in 1860] and where they cannot superintend them personally, to appoint suitable leaders for that purpose.

This regulation was to meet the old order of things when the Sunday School was the children's institution, and boys and girls early in their teens, became too

old to go, and no adults, save as teach. ers were found there. ers were found there were years has changed all this until the Sun, years has changed and the Bible School day School has become the Bible School of the church and congregation. I quesof the church and congress this rule for tion the practicability of this rule for separate Bible classes; because the occasion to which it owes its origin no longer sion to which it owes its preparate. exists, and because it has been superseded by something better.

(2). The rule requiring the formation of Baptized children into classes under or Daprized control of the met weekly, is not proper leaders to be met weekly, is not proper leaders to do n view. That they adapted to the end in view. That they are now formed and worked to some ex. are now formed and the extent is very limited, and has always been so, is likewise true, both as to the number of classes formed, and the number of children in regular attendance.

Its impracticability is shown by the history already given. The rule had its history arready given. Conference of 1787, That it was never observed is plain, from the fact that it was granted no place in the Discipline, for 37 years after.

In 1824, it was inserted, but qualified

to death, by the phrase "as far as practicable." Thus it stood for 12 years, sel. dom or never regarded, when, in 1840, it again entirely disappeared. The fathers of this period evidently supposed the Sunday School, and Bible class, at this time inaugurated, would provide for the need.

In 1852, they again confessed a fail. ure in appliances some where, by requiring the pastor to publicly catechise the children in Sunday School, and in special meetings for the purpose.

Again in '64 the compulsory class for Baptized children as candidates for probation. In '68-9 as probationers proper. Does not this out and in history of the rule appear against its working? Whatever demonstrates its right to be, is given place and permanancy in the Disci-pline, and nothing that lives to a purpose, is ever taken out.

The difficulty is increased by the fact that the Sabbath, being already filled, is not available for this object. Hence the observance of the rule involves an amount of trouble that few ministers and parents will, and working people cannot take, to make the rule generally effective. Then too the calls upon children, in these days, when all either labor or attend school daily, are too much; and night should find children at home, that parents may fulfil to them their own obligations according to ¶49, 267.

On circuits also and in rural sections, the pastors cannot attend regularly; and it is anywhere difficult, and here impossible, to secure suitable persons for leaders, who, at the same time have leisure. to break off in the midst of the week, for this employment. Few can anywhere, and fewer still are willing. I know all that may be said about the oughtness of this thing; and ministers, people and children would, no doubt, but for "the fall of man," have conformed to it, under even these hard conditions. This fact however, cannot be safely or wisely ignored, and we may as well adjust our plans to the world as it is, and not as it ought to be.

These children's classes though a subject of experiment and legislation for 98 years, have not met with more than a most circumscribed success; and though better worked to-day than ever before, not on one charge in ten are such classes formed; and where they exist, almost nine out of ten are nominal. Where in all this land is there a church with 100 in regular attendance? Three of the best and most successful, I have ever known, were under the leadership of the pastorand met on Saturday afternoon. The first was in a town of 1500 inhabitants, church membership 200, Sunday School scholars 225, children's class attendance

The second, a city church of 600 members, and 550 Sunday School scholars from 5 to 40 attended the children's class sometimes 50 and over, if it was known that the occasional bucket of lemonade basket of apples, or box of candy would be forthcoming that day; and in a city of 40,000 inhabitants, with 8 Methodist Episcopal Churches, this was the only

The third was a strong country station; 250 members, 300 Sunday School scholars, attendance upon children's class from 5 to 25. Yet these were so conducted, that nearly all who did attend were converted. Inquiry was also made-Dec. 2, 1885, of two of our most success ful pastors in New York, as to the results reached by them. One with a Surday School of 300, has an attendance upon his children's class from 15 to 30. The others, with no such class as yet in his present charges, had an attendance in his former charge of 50; but his Suaday School numbered four times as many-

TO BE CONTINUED.



The Sunday School.

The Second Temple.

LESSON FOR SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1896, Ezra 1: 1-4; 2: 8-13.

BY REV. W. O. HOLWAY, U. S. N.

[Adapted from Zion's Herald.]

GOLDEN TEXT: "They praised the Lord, because the foundation of the house of the Lord was laid" (Ezra 3: 11).

1. THE RETURN DECREED (1-1).

1. In the first year of Cyrus-of hissole rulership in Babylon. After Darius' death, he kept the reins in his own hand. Cyrusbirth uncertain; snpposed to have been the son of Cambyses, a Persian nobleman, and Mandane, daughter of Astyages, king of Media. He was exposed to death, it is said, by Astyages' order at his birth, but was preserved by Harpagus, a herdsman, and grew up a leader among the young men. A chas tisement of the son of a Median nobleman brought him before Astyages for judgment, when his features and bearing betrayed his origin. After his accession to the throne of Persia, he dethroned his father-in-law. Astyages (supposed to be the Darius of Babylon), and became ruler of the Medo-Persian Empire. Word of the Lord . . Jeremiah-see Jer. 25: 11, 12; 29: 10. Fulfilled-R. V., "accomplished." The Lord stirred up . Cyrus.-The medium in this case was doubtless Daniel, who continued to hold the place of favor in the Babylonian court. This Persian king learned from him that he had been "honorably fore-named" in the Jewish prophecies, and fore-appointed to a glorious service. The extraordinary fact contributed greatly to move him, in addition to any special impulse which may have been given to his mind by the Divine Controller of events (compare 1 Chron. 5: 26; 2 Chron 21: 16). Proclamation .- For a fuller form of this, see chapter 6. Put it in writing.-It was not only proclaimed throughout the kingdom, but written out for preservation among the archives. Occasion subsequently arose for it to be appealed to.

2. The Lord God of heaven-R. V., "the Lord, the God of heaven, 17 Says Rawlinson: "In the original Persian the document probahly ran: 'Ormazd, the God of heaven,' But the Persian original would naturally be accompanied by a Hebrew transcript, and in this transcript 'Jehovah' would seem to have been taken as the equivalent of 'Ormazd. The Persian notion of a single Supreme Being-Ahura Mazda, 'the much-knowing,' or 'much-bestowing Spirit'-did, in fact, approach nearly to the Jewish conception of Jehovah." All the kingdoms of the earth.-Before the capture of Babylon the couquests of Cyrus embraced almost entire. Asia from the Egean to the Indian Ocean. Afterwards he penetrated into Egypt, and even into Ethiopia. In R, V., these words, "All the kingdoms," etc., begin the sentence. Hath giren mr .- A similar formula is found at the head of the majority of Persian inscriptions. Hath charged me,-Cyrus evidently accepted Isaiah's prophecy (44) 23: "He shall say to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be built; and to the temple, Thy foundation shall be laid") as a Divine mandate. Josephus states that Daniel told him of this "charge" to rebuild the temple.

3, 4. Who is there among you.—R. V., "who soever there is among you." The edict was permissible, not compulsory. They who wished to return might do so. All his people -both of Israel and of Judah. His God be with him-a remarkable benediction from a heathen despot. Let him go . . . build the house .-- The temple was fundamental; without it, in the Jewish conception, there could be no Jewish state or kingdom. He is the (R. V., omits "the") God,-As Cyrus is speakof "the Lord, the God of Israel," he evidently identifies Jehovah with the being whom he worshiped under the name of Ormazd. Whoreer remaineth-R. V., "whosoever is left." The meaning is, according to the Pulpit Commentary: "And with regard to all those who remain (of the captive people) in any part of the country where they have their temporary abode." Let the men . help him, etc .- All who should volunteer to go were to be substantially helped with money, cattle, and other property, by those who remained behind, and also by the heathen population who were therein to follow their king's example. Besides the freewill offering-that, probably, which was made by Cyrus himself (see verses 7-11).

II. THE TEMPLE FOUNDATIONS LAID (8-10). 8. 9. Now in the second year. - It took about four months to make the journey to Jerusalem. After arriving the people scattered to their tribal settlements, with the understandng that they would meet in the seventh nonth to inaugurate the national worship. All came together at the appointed time "as ne man," and under the leadership of et up, the sacrifices offered, and the Feast decided acceptability to the people. In in the various churches of the city, until tion, as to whether he did not feel bet God.—Religious Herald.

of Tabernacles celebrated. Money was contributed towards procuring the materials for rebuilding, and in the month of May in the second year, the people gathered to lay the foundations of the temple. Zerubbabel-the grandson, real or adopted, of the royal Jehoiachin, the last direct heir of the house of David and Josiah. He represented, also, the Persian king. His official title of Tirshatha (or Pasha) "has never since died out amongst the governments of the East. Jeshvo-the same as Joshua. He was the high priest (Hag. 1: 1), the son of Jozadak (1 Chron. 6: 15), and grandson of the high priest Seraish, who had been put to death by Nebuchadnezzar (2 Kings 25: 18-21). The remnant-R. V., "the rest." Appointed the Lerites from twenty years old, etc .- as both Moses (Num. 8: 24) and David (1 Chron. 23: 24) had declared. To set forward the work -R. V., "to have oversight of the work." They were appointed to superintend the rebuilding. Then stood Jeshua-not to be confounded with the high priest of the same name. This Jeshua was a Levite. Together -"as one man," Set forward-R. V., "have oversight of." The sons of Henadad.-Says Rawlinson: "The conjunction van, 'and, appears to have dropped out here." Three Levitical houses are specific in this verse as being put in charge of the workmen-those of Jeshua, Kadmiel and Henadad.

10. When the builders laid the foundation as we say, laid the corner-stones. The work was under the charge of Zerubbabel and Jeshua. Set the priests in their apparel with trumpets.-In accordance with the order established by David (1 Chron, 15) the priests, clothed in their robes of office, took their station with trumpets in their hands, and the Levites occupied theirs with the timekeeping cymbals, all ready for the antiphonal service which for nearly five centuries had been held on that hallowed hill. HI. JOY AND WEEPING (11-13),

11. They sang together by course-R. V. 'they sang one to another;" that is, responsively-the priests taking one sentence, the Levites the next, and the people joining in the Hallelujahs. Because he is good-R. V. 'saying, For he is good.'' This is the wellknown doxology which closed the psalm written by David on the occasion of the bringing of the ark into Jerusalem (1 Chron. 16: 34). Says Todd: "These words seem to have come into common use as the regular doxology of the sanctuary." Dr. Alexander says that they contain the greatest ideas which lit is possible for the human mind to entertain-God, goodness, eternity. All the people should—in the intensity of their joy at seeing the stones laid for the new temple. The contagion of thankfulness and praise swept through the entire throng.

12. Chief of the fathers-R. V., "heads or fathers' houses." Who were ancient men-R. V., "the old men," from sixty to eighty years old and upwards. Wept with a loud roice—at the poverty and destitution of materials as compared with the rich accumulations of David and Solomon for the first temple. The new temple, taken altogether would be, "as nothing in comparison with the first" (Haggai 2: 7, 9). Many shouled aloud for joy-those who were young, and had been born in the captivity, and had no data for comparison; also the more hopeful among the old.

13. The people could not discern . . joy from . weeping.-Expressions of sorrow among the Orientals are loud and vehement. The howl of wailing is not easily distinguishable at a distance from joyful acclamations. In this case, however, the joy predominated.

Rev. Edward Beverly Newnam.

REV. BY LOUIS E. BARRETT.

The subject of this memoir was born November 29th, 1836, in Centreville Md. and received a liberal education at Dickinson College. He was married to Miss Sarah E. Woolley Dec. 17 1857, and resided at "Chesterfield," a beautiful estate adjoining the town of Centreville, which he inherited from his father. In the winter of 1863 he became deeply convicted. of sin, and sought for pardon and peace He found Jesus to the joy and comfort of his soul, one evening, while returning home from a protracted meeting held in Centreville M. E. Church. On the road to "Chesterfield," the light dawned upon him, and he rejoiced in Christ as his Saviour. Not long afterwards he heard the mandate: "Go preach my Gospel." The impression was so distinct that he could not be mistaken. He offered himself, and was accepted by the late Thomas Jefferson Thompson, then Presiding Elder of Easton District, who assigned him to Church Hill circuit. Here he labored with good results and

the spring of 1866, he joined the Phila- May 1885, when strongly developed delphia Conference on trial, and success- | malarial symptoms appeared, and com-

them with fervor and power. He poshis beautiful figures and imagery. His illustrations were apt, and illumined his subjects with telling effect. As a pastor he was conscientious and pains-taking; the humblest member could always look to him as a friend and counsellor. He always manifested a deep interest in the welfare of the children; and wherever he was stationed, the affections of the children clustered about him. As a winner of souls he was very successful. Wherever he went the fires of revival were kindled and the church quickened and there are numbers serving God today in the various fields in which he labored, who were awakened and converted under his searching and powerful appeals His piety was sincere but unassuming. He realized in his own life, that the Gospel of Jesus Christ was the power of God unto salvation. He was firm and conscientious in the performance of duty, and in standing up for the right. He was opposed to any compromise with wrong and was yet kind and charitable to those who opposed his views. It was a principle with him, if he could not say anything that was good of a person, to remain silent. During the years of the writer's intimacy with him this noble trait of character stood forth prominently. To a refined sensitive nature, such as his, it is not always easy to remain silent; there come times, when the disposition is strong to speak; but in this respect he mastered his own spirit.

Although apparently of a strong physique and compactly built, yet Mr. Newnam was never a healthy man. He had been preaching but a little while, when his health bename impaired, and he was afraid he would have to lay aside his armor. While on his first charge, he wrote to his Presiding Elder his fears on this subject. But he loved his work, and was anxious to continue; yet in looking over his diary, we find frequent mention of suffering and pain. Indeed his condition was such at times that he would record the desire to fly away and be at rest, that he might be freed from suffering. But to no one, not even to the loved companion of his bosom would he complain, but continued to toil and suffer on. At Chestertown, his last charge, his physician told him that if he did not seek rest for a year or two at least, he would not answer for the consequences. But he was loth to give up, even for a season, the preaching of the Gospel; he desired to continue a watchman upon the walls of Zion, as long as he could stand. He was so physically weak at times in his last charge that, as I have been informed, he preached leaning upon the pulpit for support. In the spring of 1881, being appointed to a charge in a section, where he was afraid, that the symptons of disease which had appeared in his system, would be aggravated, he concluded under the circumstances to take the advised and needed rest. He withdrew from the Wilmington Conference, and removed to Baltimore. His health becoming better, he engaged actively and earnestly in the Temperance work, and was employed by the Maryland State Temperance Alliance as a Lecturer, traveling throughout the state, delivering lectures on the different phases of the Temperance question, and organizing Lodges of Good Templars. His services were much sought after and his eloquent and powerful addresses on Prohibition will not be soon forgotten, by those who were so fortunate as to hear them. He continued in this work preaching also almost every Sunday

ively served the following charges on pletely prostrated him. His physicians the Peninsula; Leipsic, Smyrna circuit, urged a removal, and he went to Em-Millington. Frederica, Easton, Chesa- mittsburg, Md., in such a weakened peake City, Still Pond, and Chestertown. | condition, that he had to be assisted in-As a preacher Mr. Newnam was clear to the carriage which conveyed him to incisive and attractive. He prefaced his the steamer. On his way thither he sermons with much care, and delivered said to his wife: "I am very weak, but I am in the hands of God; what He wills sessed considerable oratorical ability, and is best." He remained at Emmittsburg often held his audience spell-bound with until August, and then returned to Baltimore, considerably improved. Indeed, he began to entertain hopes of again working in the Temperance cause, which he had so much at heart. About this time, Rev. Dr. Carson, Presiding Elder in the M. E. Church, South, urged him to take charge of their church in Frederick City, Md.; but Mr. Newnam thought he could be of more service to God and humanity, by remaining in Baltimore, and assisting the Prohibition cause. Indeed, the leaders of the cause in Baltimore, would not consent to dispense with his services. He had made arrangements, before he was taken sick in May, to deliver a course of ten lectures on Prohibition, in New York State, but on account of his illness, he had been unable to do so; and the lecture bureau agreed to postpone them, until October. Mr. Newman was now hopeful that he would be able to deliver the lectures, and packed his valise, ready to depart. But, alas, for human hopes and expectations! Just as he was ready to start, his old enemy malaria, again seized him in its terrible grasp. He was once more prostrated, and from this attack he never entirely rallied. At times he would appear considerably better, and then would relapse into a weakened condition. His physician ordered him to Florida, as soon as it was possible for him to go; but his strength was not sufficient for the journey. During his illness he was always cheerful, having a hopeful pleasant word for every one who came to see him. While he clung to life, and was anxious for health and strength, that he might work for the elevation of his race, and do what he could to advance the Prohibition cause, he was calm, and submissive to the Divine will. He remarked one day: "It is not for man to say when his work is done; I am in God's hands; if He has more work for me to do, He will raise me up, it' not, it is all right.' When the news of the glorious Prohibition victory in Atlanta. Ga., was brought to him, his eyes flashed with their old time fire, as if the earnest soul was anxious to be in the front of the battle, with his keen Damascus blade flashing in the sunlight, and he said, "The glorious cause is marching on. It may seem hard for me to lie here helpless, but the best thing we can do sometimes, is to stand still and see the salvation of the Lord." During his entire illness, his is the best way. There are probably faith in Christ as his Saviour was firm and was unshaken. Frequently noticing the eyes of his companion filling with tears, as he talked with her, he would say, "Now do not grieve so, you know I am the Lord's, whatever He wills is best." A few weeks before his death, in the early morning, a youth passed the window, whistling the tune, "Saviour more than life to me." Mr. Newnam heard the tune, and said, "O hear that precious hymn! how little he knows the blessing he has left behind him! So it is all down the path of life, how little we know the good we are doing." And turning to his wife, with face illumined,

> Wednesday morning, December 23d, he awoke early, and alarmed his wife, by requesting that she telegraph for her brother, and also send for a lawyer to write his will. To her solicitous inquiries he returned cheerful answers, and throughout the day, seemed very hopeful, but exceedingly weak. None of the family, however, thought the end was so near. He passed a comfortable night, and next morning in answer to the ques-

he said: "O precious words! how they

lift me."

ter, replied: "I hope so." He requested to be propped up in bed. His wife tenderly arranged the pillows, and prepared to give him his medicine. As she approached the bed with the medicine, the patient turned his head slightly, and-'was not, for God took him." Without a struggle, his soul left the frail tenement in which it had lived for 49 years, and winged its flight to the mansion's eter-

His body was taken to Centreville, and interred in the cometery there; Rev. J. A. Arters, pastor of the M. E. church, of that town of which church Mr. Newnam was a member, officiating. He leaves upon this side of the river a widow, and one child, a daughter, who look forward to a blissful reunion, in that land where the clouds never gather, the storms never come, and the sun never sets.

Port Deposit, Md., Feb. 8th. 1886.

Some give themselves very earnestly to some Christian service who, it is to be feared, pay little thought, to their own spiritual state. There are precepts which none should overlook concerning our own souls. Just think of such as these: "Keep thy heart with all diligence." "Take heed to thyself." "Watch and pray, lest ye enter into temptation." Many a professor finds no time for prayer, reading the word or meditation, and buoys himself up with the hope that his zeal in some department of Christian effort is the proof of the reality and prosperity of his religious life. There are Christian parents who are active in church affairs, but neglectful of the spiritual welfare of their own households. Some of these constantly attend meetings for prayer and some exhort the unconverted, but their own children have never detected any concern for their salvation. Sometimes, indeed, their own homes are left desolate for weeks that they may attend revival meetings, while their children are exposed to every evil influence of associates, reading and amusements. It is possible for a minister, even, to neglect his chief work for things of a secondary character. He may be engressed in literary lectures. public business or even philanthropic enterprises and neglect to fulfil his ministry.—Baptist Weekly.

We have not a doubt that prohibition is coming, but no man can certainly tell how. And we are of the opinion that the wisdom and the unwisdom of those who are working for prohibition are alike and perhaps in nearly equal measure helping it along. The most important matter is that prohibitionists do not waste their strength in fighting each other, Let each one work in whatever way his conscience leads him to believe half a dozen methods in pursuing which if we were all agreed, prohibition might be obtained depending on local or state conditions. The one best thing is for prohibitionists to squarely refuse to vote for any one under any circumstances, or of any party against whom there are reasonable suspicions, that he is directly or indirectly in the hands of the liquor interests. We shall have prohibition, soon after the prohibitionists without regard to party begin voting for prohibitionists and no other.— Central Chrisiian Advocate.

Who's Hit?

There he goes. He is a member of the church—on his way to his dinner; he always goes. He is true to his dinner, and walks a mile and a half to get it. He may stay away from his prayermeeting; he forgets his church meeting; he is slow in his pew rent; he is neglectful of the Sunday-school; bad weather keeps him back from many things; but in all his fickleness and failings, he is true to his dinner. He may slight his soul, but he istructo his stomach. Every man has his god and serves him faithfully. But then, not every man has the same

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Special Notice.

Subscribers who have not paid their annual subscription, will please not fail to pay in time for their pastors to report in full at Conference. The representative of the Peninsula Methodist will be in attendance at Elkton to settle with the pastors.

Slaughter of the Innocents. Not the frightened Herod's bloody

work in Bethlehem of Judea, when he vainly tried to destroy the infant heir to David's throne, in an indiscriminate messacre of all the children of two years and under, within that district; nor the and havor of infant life, by neglect, unwirelesome food and poisonous vapors, in the over crowded parts of our cities during the heat of summer; not of taking life in these, or other ways, do we now write. Something incomparably worse stirs our blood at this present. It is sad to see budding life, with its beauty and fragrance of glorious possibilities, blasted by some fatal frost, but how much more rad is it, to have the bud develope into the blo-som or fruit of some deadly upas. To see lads of ten, and those even younger, reeling drunk, or insulting decent people with coarse jests, and profane swearing, polluting heaven's pure eir with the foul funes of tobacco, or imitating other gross vices of adult sinners, to see such exhibitions of juvenile wickedness is painful in the extreme. As we recall the words of Christ, when displeased with his disciples for rebuking those that brought little children to him, he said, "Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of God," it seems an inevitable conclusion, that fearful goilt must rest upon those whose privilege and duty it is, to "bring them to Jesus." Better for to use firm and wholesome discipline; "the rod and reproof give wisdom; but a child left to him self bringeth his mother to shame." Making all due allowance for the difficalties of the work of training, conceding all that belongs to the liberty of individual action, and admitting sorrowfally the sad fact that in too many cases children of godly parents go astray, we still maintain that the conduct of minors is under the control of their parents or guardians, and on them rests the responsibility for that conduct. The civil law in many points recognizes this, and makes the parent liable for what the child dees. In the Divine plan, faithful parents, with the Divine blessing, are justified in accepting with confidence the familiar declaration of Solomon: "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." While young and pliant he is to be made to do right, to say his prayers, read the Bible and commit portions of it to memory, go to Church and Sunday School, to follow the good instead of the bad examples about him, to learn his lessons, and to obey his parents whether he wants to, or not. Authority, example, and instruction at home, saturated with love, and next week.

baneful influences outside. Parents must at home, and see to it that in the Church, the Sunday School, and the day school, they are growing in love for the pure, the true, and the right, and in abhorence of the foul, the false and the wrong. The suggestion to teach boys what is usually considered girls' work, is a good one. Everything that can make home attractive to our children, as the ballowing vestibule to the home eternal, is to be sepoorest; and the frugalest meal may be graced with a devout spirit, and have the charm of kind and loving converse. There is little doubt that the welcome visits of the itinerant men of God in the homes of our fathers aided greatly in developing the piety of their children: and as little, that the desuetude of such hospitalities in these times has eli minated a potent factor in family training.

Who can estimate the power for good upon parents and children, of the influence of a godly minister of the gospel in the family life? Herein we find the chief end of pastoral visitation. The prospericty of the church, as well as the state, depends upon the training of the children. Let us not by our neglect suffer Bishops these innocents to be slaughtered by an enemy far more to be dreaded, than was the bloody Herod.

Another Prominent Statesman Gone.

Hon. Horatio Seymour, ex-Governor of the State of New York, died Friday evening, the 12th inst., at the home of his sister, Mrs. Roscoe Conkling, in Utica N. Y. He was born in Pompey, Onondaga Co., May 31st, 1810, received very thorough academical training, was admitted to the bar in 1832; was elected to the state Legislature in 1841, and elected Governor in 1852, and again in 1862. In his inaugural, Jan. 1, 1863, he declared his devotion to the national cause in the words, "Under no circumstances, can the division of the Union be conceded." In 1868 he was the Democratic candidate for the Presidency, but was defeated by General Grant.

Dr. Buckley says of Horatio Seymour: "It is difficult to speak in too great praise as a man, a philanthropist, a communicant of the Protestant Episcopal Church, and Abraham Lincoln's remark, that 'in the circumstances in which he was placed, he tried to do his best for his country,' is justly his due."

No inherited large wealth, and was greatly interested in agricultural affairs.

The Missionary Collections.

We hope every possible effort will be made to raise the amount apportioned to our Conference, \$20,400, an advance of \$5,203.99. Not only the pressing calls for means to enter the opening doors in all lands that invite the messengers of the Gospel, and the enthusiastic Chaplain's appeal for a million dollars, endorsed by the appropriations of the General Committee, should stimulate our exertions; but, as a Conference we have special reason for increased liberality, in the fact that the Committee made an appropriation of \$1000 to the Conference. The record is, (see Christ- may allow, ian Advocate, Nov. 19, '85.)

"On motion of J. A. Price, supported by Bishop Fowler, the sum of \$1000 was voted to the Wilmington Conference, for work on Salisbury District." In the tabulated statement, page 4, it is entered, "for new work on Salisbury District."

We regret Dr. Wallace's letter comes too late for this issue, but our friends will have the pleasure of reading No. 49

"train" the child aright. The Christian Episcopal Church, by James Mitchell home, whose atmosphere is redolent of D. D. Published by the Methodist Book loving fervrent piety, should be the un- Concern. This volume of 272 pages, is failing antidote for the contamination of a valuable contribution to the biographical literature of our church, and will be know where their children are, when not found to be very interesting and stimulating reading; especially so, to the many friends of this saintly man, whose varied and wide spread labors for Christ and His cause running through sixty years, it records, which were of such incalculable service to the Church general, as well or to his own beloved Zion. Dr. Curry says of it in the Methodist Review: "This the skillful and appreciative hand of a member of his own family, will rank specimen of a Christian Bishop is poror the beautiful home-life of his childhood, presided over by his saintly mothown hand, will prove a benediction in following, give graphic sketches of life at sea, as well as life on the coast of the Dark Continent. We purpose gratifying this interesting volume. Not one of our this life of the first of our Peninsula

> We shall be giad to fill orders for this book, either separately or in connection with the Peninsula Methodist.

Brother Albert Cowgill of Dover, Del., writes us, "Your paper, the PENINSULA METHODIST, is a most enjoyable dessert, after the solid meals of business life," and sends the following note

"Several years ago, the question came up in our official Board, as to the payment of the church assessments of those members, who may die during the year; we took legal advice, and it was decided that it was a pecuniary obligation assumed by the member; and being probated and presented to the administrator, at a most critical period in the civil war, it was to be paid by him, as any other obligation the person owed. We have for many years done this, through our secretary, whenever any of our members have died, during the current year, and these claims are paid without any difficulty to the church. I draw the attention of our Official Boards to the matter, as large subscriptions are sometimes lost, for want of this knowledge, and heirs who do pay too often claim praise for themselves for what is merely common hon-

> Crosby, the eminent Presbyterian divine of New York. No doubt Bro. done falling, before he undertakes to ed in which to complete the payments. sweep it away.

Our readers will welcome the interesting auto-biographic sketches by our reverend and venerable friend and brother, John S. Porter, now in his 81st year, and one among the many valuable contributions of Peninsula Methodist to the Christian ministry. We hope our brother will continue his favors as his health

Temperance Men of Cecil, in Council.

met in Elkton, last Saturday the 13th inst., to consider the best policy to be pursued on the temperance question.

tions of the day, because it is conceived Teninsula Actionist, baptized with the Holy Ghost in answer to unceasing prayer can searcely fail to late Senior Bishop of the Methodist in sin, and is a great moral wrong." vention towards this gigantic enemy of the peace and prosperity of the people. Revs. Beers and Caton of the Presbyterian, E. K. Miller of the Protestant Episcopal, and J. P. Otis, and C. A. Will of the Methodist Episcopal Church participated in the stirring discussions; as did also Messrs Ellis, Wirt, Blake and Wilson of the Elkton bar, and Messrs H. S. Condon, John Roach and H. H. Haines. As the most earnest friends of prohibition desired material amendments to the present Local Option memoir of Bishop Scott, drawn up by law to make it still more effective, and were assured these could not be secured except by submitting ness and cleanliness are possible to the favorably with its fellows. No better the question to a popular vote, they agreed with the advocates of High trayed in any one of them." The picture License, to submit the question to a popular vote at the approaching fall election for Congressmen. A committee er, in some respects, another Susanna of two from each of the nine election Wesley, a picture drawn by the Bishop's | Districts of the County was appointed to prepare a bill, and secure its passage by any home. The Bishop's personal notes | the Legislature, to carry out this object. of his memorable Episcopal visitation to | This will give the friends of Prohibition Africa in the fall of 1852 and the spring and those of High License an opportunity to come before the people with their very best plans for the abatement of this great nuisance, and there is little doubt our readers with specimen pages from that with a faithful and earnest canvass, the majority of nearly 1700 by which families ought to be without a copy of Cecil declared for Prohibition against License in 1879 will be largely reinforced

in 1886. Facts, figures and diagrams were presented demonstrating the great good accomplished in the county by the present imperfect law during the five years of its operation in contrast with the fearful demoralization under the previous license system. The County News says; The Convention, Saturday, strongly demonstrated two things; (1) that the temperance sentiment in the county was never stronger or more aggressive than it is at this time; (2) that it was never more unanimous in its belief in total prohibition."

It is a gratifying fact that the action finally taken was adopted with but one dissenting vote.

Our Peninsula exchanges will oblige their readers, and serve the true interests of the people, if they will present to them the above facts in reference to this convention, in their columns. Cecil has not gone back on Prohibition.

EPISCOPAL RESIDENCES. The brethren on the Pacific coast are building in San Francisco, Cal., a dwelling for their resident Bishop, Dr. C. H. Fowler, at a cost of some \$10,000. In Buffalo, N. Y., a Committee of the Genesee Conference Bro. VanBurkalow turns his reflector | have arranged for the purchase of a very upon the "spirits in prison," this week, desirable property in that city for \$24,by citing the latest contribution to the 000, as a home for Bishop John F. exegesis of the passage by Dr. Howard Hurst. The Methodists of Buffalo are to provide one half this amount, those of Rochester, one eighth, and the remain-Smith wants to "close the debate;" but | ing \$9000 to be apportioned to the rest is probably waiting till the snow has of the Conference. Six years are allow-

The Advocate in Error.

As some one has had the temerity to take the Editor of "The Great Official" to task, for misusing the term "sloven," we are emboldened to call attention to what we consider to be two egregious errors, in the editorial entitled, "Intrinsic Good and Evil," in his issue of the 4th inst.

The first one is a misapplication of the scripture, "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, etc." 1 Cor. 2, 9. This is a para-A large, influential and enthusiastic phrased quotation from Isa, lxiv, 4, which convention of the voters of Cecil County | a learned commentator says, "means that no where else among men had there been such blessings imparted and such happiness enjoyed, or so many proofs of love The prompt adoption of resolution "that and protection, as among those who were it is the sentiment of this meeting that the people of God, and who feared Him." the rum traffic is the greatest curse of St Paul adapts it to his purpose of setting defend his doctrine. our land, and how to manage it is one of forth the wonderful spiritual blessings the greatest and most important ques- prepared for the people of God, under the

gospel dispensation. So Dr. Clark, Dr. Whedon and Albert Barnes, all say. Dr. Clark says, "These words have been applied to the state of glory in a future world; but they certainly belong to the present state; and express merely the wondrous light, life and liberty, which the gospel communicates to them that believe in the Lord Josus Christ, in that way which the gospel it self requires." Dr. Whedon says brief. ly: "The words, of course, describe not the future happiness of the redeemed in Heaven, but their present." Barnes says. "Against the supposition that these words refer directly to the future state, there are insuperable objections." (1). The passage in Isaiah has no such reference. (2). The object of the apostle, in the paragraph of which this sentence is a part, is not to describe the future state of the redeemed. (3). The declaration in ver. 10, is conclusive proof that Paul does not refer to the happiness of Heaven. He there says that God has revealed these things to Christians by His spirit.

True the editor does not use quotation marks, but he takes it just as the apostle penned it, except, that he ends the sentence with the pronoun us, instead of the phrase "Them that love Him," and proceeds in the most beautiful paragraph of the article to make it point to the inconceivable brightness, beauty and bliss of

The second error is in the closing paragraph, on the fact that good abides in the use of blessings, and that evil arises from their misuse. He says: "We are, whether we will or not, citizens of Heaven. We may be rebellious, unwilling, traitorous citizens, and may have forfeited all our privileges, but our citizenship is there, nevertheless. This assertion is absurd, and utterly inconsistent with the declaration of Christ that wicked men are children of the Devil. If they are children of the Devil, they certainly cannot be citizens of Heaven. St. Paul in his Epistle to the Phillipians, urges them to follow him and others like him giving as a reason, "For our citizenship is in Heaven. He parenthetically warns them in the same sentence against imitating the example of those "whose God is their belly, whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things;" and, as the two parties are contrasted, it is plainly implied that those who mind earthly things in the sinful sense of the word, have no citizenship in Heaven.

Mr. Barnes remarks on this passage: "The idea is, that they were heavenly citizens, or citizens of the heavenly world, in contradistinction to a worldly community."

"The idea is that there are two great communities in the universe—that of the world, and that of Henven." The enemies of the cross though in the Church, belonged to the former." Whedon's comment on this passage is: "The person's just described belong to the Earth and walk in earthliness; do you walk as we walk, for our country is in heaven. We belong to the heavenly commonwealth: we obey its laws; we think, feel and live in accordance with them.

Dr. Adam Clarke says in his exegesis of this verse; "While those gross Jewish teachers have no city, but what is or earth; no right but what are derived from their secular connection; no society but what is made up of men like themselves who mind earthly things and whose belly is their God, we have a heavenly oitythe New Jerusalem; we have right and privileges, which are heavenly and eternal and our society or fellowship is with God. the Father, Son and Spirit, the spirits of just men made perfect and the whole church of the first-born."

So far as we can ascertain since reading the article our great exegete or author of note agrees with the learned editor, and he would do some of his frienda favor to fully explain his meaning and

J. S. VANBURKALOW. Cecillon, Md. Feb. 4th, 1886.

Gonference Rews.

Wilmington District.—Rev. CHAS. HILL, P. E., WILMINGTON, DEL.

The revival services that have been in progress in the Elkton M. E. church, J. P. Otis, pastor, for some weeks past, were brought to a close last Sunday week; 39 converts were the fruits of the meetings.

Rev. R. C. Jones, pastor of Mt. Salem M. E. church, had his residence entered, not by robbers, but by friends, on Friday night last, and instead of carrying away booty, they left several substantial tokens of regard.

Rev. W. B. Gregg, pastor of Epworth M. E. church, commenced revival services in his church last Wednesday evening.

North East charge, T. S. Williams, pastor, writes: The parsonage was taken possession of last Friday evening, while the pastor and family were out for tea. Many were the valuables brought by the invaders. The evening was pleasantly spent in social enjoyment, musical entertainment and various other ways, closing with prayer. Many thanks to the many friends for such expressions of kindness.

Delaware City, J. H. Willey, pastor. Our revival services still continue, the interest seems to increase as the weeks roll on. We had a delightful service Feb. 7th; so many partaking of the Lord's Supper, who never before heeded their loving Saviour's dying charge-"Do this in remembrance of Me." Thus far one hundred and twenty-one penitents have professed conversion. Two of the recent converts are over sixty years of age, and one nearly eighty. We praise the Lord for what he has done, and are earnestly praying that others, who are now convicted, may not delay longer, but accept the gracious offers, while "Jesus of Nazareth is passing

We have had a long season of faithful seedsowing and cultivation of the soil, and now rejoice in a glorious harvest. "One soweth and another respeth;" "that both he that soweth and he that reapeth, may rejoice to-

Easton District-Rev. John France. P. E., SMYRNA DEL.

The revival meeting at Cecilton, closed the 10th inst. Twenty-one have been received on probation, and several converts are yet to join. Several persons are still seeking the Lord, whom it is hoped to bring in, through the regular church services.

Hillsboro, J. E. Kidney, pastor, reports a net increase of 50 members in his two year's pastorate; 125 probationers, of whom 52 have been received into the church and 50 are still on trial: 7 have removed, and 16 have been discontinued. The roll of full members shows 202, the same number reported at last Conference, when "Wye," was a part of the circuit; though there have been losses of 17 by removal, of 5 by death, and of 2 by with-

Dover District-Rev. A. W. Milby. P. E., HARRINGTON, DEL.

Milton charge, W. Underwood, pastor Protracted meeting closed last Monday night, having extended over 47 days. Presiding Elder Milby was with us last Sunday evening, and delivered an excellent address to a owded congregation, on "The Ideal M. E. Church." As the result of the extra services, 56 persons have professed conversion. and 38 received on probation. The church has been greatly revived, and is in an excellent condition for greater and grander results. At the fourth quarterly conference, held on the 11th inst., resolutions were passed unanimously by a rising vote, requesting the return of Dr. Underwood, for another year.

The revival services at the Lewes M. E. church, closed on Sunday night last, after four weeks of untiring labor among the members and pastor. The result has been the conversion of about twenty persons.

Sunday, the 21st inst., will be Missionary day in the Dover M. E. church. Rev. Dr. Galdwell, President of Delaware College, is expected to be present, and take part in the

The official board of the Dover M. E. church, at their meeting on Thursday evening, unanimously resolved to ask for the return of their pastor, Rev. T. E. Martindale, for the ensuing year.

Salisbury District-Rev. J. A. B. WILSON, P. E., PRINCESS ANNE, MD.

Rev. E. H. Miller is holding a protracted neeting in the Sharptown M. E. church. The meetings are very encouraging, several naving professed conversion, with many others

DEAR BRO. THOMAS:-Your valuable paper, the Peninsula Meritodist, is one of the most welcome visitors I find on this charge. All who receive it here, are well pleased, and speak of it in the best terms, I shall be glad to bring you a long list of new subscribers to the Conference this year.

After having served nearly two years on this circuit, it gives me pleasure to say, that place, prosperity, and a lively hope, still prevail among us. I came here under many discouragements, but the Lord has been with us, and we trust some good has been accomplished. The work is united, and the people are cheerful with bright hopes; and have good reasons for expecting that this circuit, not yet three years old, will soon be one of the first on the District. May it be so.

There are four churches on the charge three of which are in good condition, the other, a little out of repair. There is not one dollar of debt against any of them. A parsonage near the centre, and a kind people all around it, will help to make my successor a happy man. The Conference collections are likely to give the people here a fair showing with their neighbors. Hoping we may all do better the next year,

I am yours sincerely, W. W. CHAIRS. Ingleside, Md., Feb. 8th, 1886.

Letter from Tangier, Va.

DEAR EDITOR:- I notice that in the columns of your paper, many pleasant things are being said about many pleasant appointments in the Conference. I am glad so much can be said in favor of our Peninsula Methodists, and think that this place is worthy of a brief notice.

"Tangier, Va.," was read as an appointment first at the Cambridge session, in 1883, Prior to that time it had been a part of Onancock circuit. This place is an Island, the western shore of which is washed by the beautiful Chesapeake, and the eastern shore by the Tangier Sound. Yet, no Methodist preacher can ever feel here that he is a "Robinson Crusoe," or that his lot has been cast among the "heathen of Tangier." "Gath" must have meant some other place. Methodism came here in the days of what some call, its fire; and it still here with its fire and influence. Gath's poem ought to be revised.

The writer has spent three very pleasant years here, and he trusts some good has been done. My third year's service has been blessed with 38 conversions, and most of them are now ready to be received into full connection. Every collection will be in advance of last year. The people have made no special donation, but from beginning to the ending of year, acceptable tokens of thoughtful affection find their way to the parsonage. A kinder, more liberal, or more loyal people cannot be found within this

Brother preacher, when your name is read out for "Tangier," you need not be grieved, for you will find you have one of the most pleasant places in the Conference.

Truly yours, C. S. BAKER.

Gather up the Fragments That Nothing be Lost. E. B. S.

"I am in good health, and abiding in Jesus all the time. I am glad to help him in this most difficult and long delayed work. I would rather spend my next twenty years with savages in Africa than with angels in heaven."

BISHOP WILLIAM TAYLOR. Brussels, Dec. 4th, 1885,

"What all Christians need is a paramount loyalty to Christ, and a sense of direct responsibility to Him, like that of the fleshly life, that the Christians may rise a soldier to his commander.

REA. MARK HOPKINS D. D. "What then prevents our moving on at ence, and with ever-increasing momentum to take possession of the world? The obstacles appear to be many. They are but Spirits are emphasized as against bodies one. That one is the reluctance of man to serve a hely God, by being hely.

PRESIDENT HOPKINS.

Suicides of Hindu Women.

D. B. S.

Mr. C. W. McMinn writes the Pioncer, respecting one indication of the great need that exists for medical aid to women in India. Inquests into causes of sudden and unnatural deaths, that at home are conducted by coroners, are in India conducted by Magistrates and Police Superintendents. Many pathetic stories are thus revealed. A young wife, a girl of ten, hangs herself, because her boy-

Letter from Rev. W. W. Chairs. shame; another, because she is being compelled to leave her parents and live with her ugly old husband in a far distant village. A Brahman hangs himself on a peepul tree, because that precise mode of suicide will enable him according to popular belief, to haunt his enemies ever afterwards, and work on them what evil he wills. The most frequent suicides are among the women, and the most common causes are quarrels with their mothers-in-law, and long continued suffering from some internal disorder generally peculiar to the sex. I believe the following to be a daily occurence on an average, in every district in India. A poor little girl, a mother at 12 or 14, ordered very shortly after child-birth, to her daily task at the mill or in the fields, suffers from this treatment for life and, often in great agony. Some day the husband, if he be kindly disposed, between the whiffs of his chillam, asks her what ails her, and on her describing her symptoms, he proceeds next market day to some quack and obtains from him a drug which most likely increases the difficulty and intensifies the pain. Driven by jeers and blows to her daily task, her sufferings are aggravated and she determines upon the only release that heathenism offers. So, one day when the men have left the house, she kisses her babe, and turn; her steps to the lonely and disused well, where the still, cold water seems to promise her rest in its placid depths. She mounts the parapet, takes one last look at the world which has been to her so hard, and plunges into its depths to find-what?

The Spirits in Prison. BY REV. J. T. VANBURKALOW.

Bro. Alfred Smith has done a good thing in waking up theological thought, and leading off in a hermeneutical discussion, over one of the most mysterious historic state ments, and one of the most difficult passages in the Bible Such comments and interchanges of views on Scripture teachings "hard to be understood," will help to prevent intellectual stagnation in Peninsula Methodism, and add interest to a very excel-

I do not write to enter the arena, but merely to show my opinion, and throw some light on the subject, by giving Dr. Howard Crosby's brief and sensible comment, on the vexed passage under discussion.

His book is just out, and it is probable but few of the readers of the "PENINSULA METHodist have seen it yet; and most likely many will never have the pleasure of its perusal. In view of its value, as a short, sententious, and simple exposition, it will be a kindness to present it here, while the discussion is in progress.

He treats the passage, as rendered in the Revised Version, thus: "Being put to death in the flesh, but quickened in the spirit; in which also, He went and preached unto the spirits in prison, which aforetime were disobedient, when the long suffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing;"and says: "The words "aforetime", and "when" belong to the verbs "went and preached," and not only to the word "disobedient," So we read-"in spiritual life (as opposed to mere fleshly life, which is of small account), He aforetime went and preached to the imprisoned spirits, when the long suffering of God waited in the days of Noah." The apostle is magnifying the spiritual life over above their persecutions. So he mentions Christ as an example. He suffered in body, but His spiritual life was not slain; that same spiritual life in which He (through Noah) preached to the ante-diluvians who, were in the prison-house of sin. Compare Isa, 42: 7; throughout the passage,"

By Christ's "Spiritual Life," the author evidently does not mean His disembodied human spirit enjoying the life of God, and still hypostatically united to the eternal Louis, but He means the Divine Logos, Himself, who twenty-four hundred years before His incarnation, gave spiritual life to Noah, and inspired him to preach righteousness to his wicked contemporaries. Moreover, he means to say, that the prison, in which, were confined the spirits, to whom the Spirit of Christ went and preached, was not, as is generally assumed, Gehenna-Hades, but that it was merely the mystical prison of sin.

It was foretold by Isaiah, that in his personal ministry he would proclaim, "The opening of the prison doors to them that are bound," and that, "as a light of the gen-

from the prison, and them that sit in darkness out of the prison-house." By His Eternal Spirit which quickened His crucified body, He comes and preaches to such imprisoned spirits now, wherever the gospel is proclaimed to sinners, through His-living representatives; and so, also, He went aforetime, and preached to the sin-imprisoned ante-diluvians, by the inspiration of His ancient servant Noah. This is true, whether it is what St. Peter meant or not; and McClintock and Strong, as well ar Dr. Crosby, hold that this is the sense in which the words are here used.

The Revised Version darkens counsel and confuses ideas, by rendering the last clause of the 18th verse; "But quickened in the spirit," instead of "But quickened by the spirit, as it was before.

This rendering is not required by the original, as it presents no preposition to express the relation and connect the words 'quickened' and "spirit;" and the evident sense demands the use of by instead of in, in the English translation. If it meant that He was quickened in the spirit, the implication would be that His spirit died, when He "was put to death in the flesh," which would be utterly absurd. Were this implication not an absurdity, but the truth, then, the theory follows that the disembodied spirit of the crucified went and preached to the spirits of the ante-diluvians in the prison of Gehenna-Hades; and that would afford inferential evidence of a second and post-mortem probation.

But, Lo! there is the glaring absurdity in the way. It evidently means that His crucified body was quickened by His Divine Spirit, or by the Holy Ghost, and that by that Spirit which always was, He aforetime preached, through Noah to the ante-diluvians, who were then in the dark prison of sin, and ever since the flood, have been in the prison-house of Gehenna-Hades.

PERSONAL.

Rev. James F. Carroll, of Leipsic, was kicked in the side and hip by his horse recently and hurt severely. The horse had turned his blanket in the stable, and Mr. Carroll was trying to fix it when the animal got frightened and kicked him.

The meetings held by Moody and Sankey the past three days in Memphis. have been greatly blessed and most satisfactory, both to the evangelists and to all the pastors of the city. The attendance was very large, many of the meetings overflowing to an adjoining Church. The services were chiefly for Christians; but successful efforts were made to secure the attendance of others with good results, and there are a number of conversions. A meeting was given Monday to the students of Leymore Institute, colored, where a precious work was already in progress; also a general meeting given to colored people on Sunday; and there was a great overflow. Mr. Moody is very hopeful for his Southern trip. He will carry the South.

Rev. John F. Crouch, Presiding Elder of the West Philadelphia District, formerly of this town, preached last Sunday week in the Dover M. E. Church.

Sunday the 7th inst Bishop Hurst preached in the Eagle St. M. E. church, from St. John 3: 8. The sermon was one of great spiritual power and was truly a means of grace to all who listened to him. The people were frequently melted to tears under his appeals to give God their heart. Both Christians and sinners were deeply moved and much good must follow .-- Buffalo Christian

No preacher can neglect the pastoral visitation without loss both to himself and to his flock. He robs himself of that personal knowledge of his people's needs and fails to acquire that sympathy with their peculiar states of mind, which, when possessed, add both to the suitability of his preaching to their various conditions, and to his power over them. A good pastor knowing that, by his appropriate treatment of truth in the pulpit, he is lifting souls "out of the depths," is roused as by inspiration, to put forth his best energies. And his manifest sympathy with his people begets a kind sympathy in them. He and they are thus drawn towards each other by common sympathy, and they suffer him to lead them to those husband's father has brought her to tiles," He would "bring out the prisoners green pastures in which their souls are

richly fed. Thus both preacher and people are beneditted by his fidelity to his postoral duties; but he it carefully noted to reap these benefits, the pastor must not make his calls occasions for mere gossip talk, but for judicious conversation on personal religion, and, where at all convenient for prayer .-- Conference News.

Conference Notices.

The committee to examine candidates for admission on trial, will meet at the M. E. church, Elkton, Md., Tuesday evening, March 2d, at 7 o'clock.

1. N. POREMAN, Chairman Com.

Preachers and laymen of Salisbury District, wishing to attend Conference, can secure commutation passes, by applying to JOHN A. B. WILSON.

Princess Anne, Md.

All persons attending the session of the Wilmington Conference, to convene in Elkton, Md., March 4th, can obtain orders for reduced fare on the P. W. & B. Railroad, by applying to any one of the Presiding Elders. CHAS. HILL.

The committee of examination for the 3d year, will meet the class in the M. E. church, Elkton, Md., Wednesday, March 3d. at 2

A. STENGLE, E. H. MILLER, R. C. JONES, J. E. KIDNEY.

Class of first year will please meet the committee of examination, in the basement of the Elkton M. E. church, Tuesday evening, March 2nd, at 7 o'clock.

W. F. CORKRAN, Chairman of Committee.

Ministers and others going to Conference, will be charged half fare on the Baltimore and Delaware Bay Railroad.

J. FRANCE.

In making out reports for Conference Statistics No. I. and II., brethren will notice, as per Discipline page 54, Paragraph 79, that the rental value of Parsonage or the house-rent, is to be included under "Ministerial Support" in both blanks. Failure to observe this, caused the Statistical Sceretary and Clerks, considerable trouble last year.

JOHN D. C. HANNA.

MARRIAGES.

PENNINGTON-STEVENS .- In the Mil-E. church, on the evening of Feb. 10th, 1886, by Rev. T. L. Tomkinson, Liston Pennington, of Kent Co. Md., and Miss Annie Stevens, daughter of Mr. James Stevens, of Queen Anne's Co., Md.

HEVLORS-ROBINSON.-On Feb. 9th, 1886, in the M. E. parsonage at Bethel, Md., by Rev. E. C. Atkins, Jesse Hevlors and Marcie Robinson, both of Cecil Co., Md.

TOWNSEND-PARKER-On Feb. 17th, 1886, by Rev. R. W. Todd, in the M. E. church, Snow Hill, Md., Vaughn Smith Townsend and Mary L. Parker, of Snow

Quarterly Conference Appoint-

WILMINGTON	DISTRICT-F	DURTH	QUART	ER.
Zion		Feb.	20	21
Rising Sun Red Lion		**	21	22
Red Lion		4.4	27	28
New Castle	Feb.	28,	March	1
	СН	AS. HI	LL, P. F	

EASTON DISTRICT-FOURTH QUARTER. Middletown 20 2 Odessa J. FRANCE, P. E.

Frederica, 22 $\frac{27}{29}$ Harrington,

A. W. MILBY, P. E. SALISBURY DISTRICT-FOURTH QUARTER.

Date. 20 21 Charge. Annamessex Pocomoke City 20 21 27 28 3 10 Pocomoke Circuit Princess Anne 27 28 S 10 Mt. Vernon Tyaskin Preaching in Quarterly Conference where

practicable. JOHN A. B. WILSON.

H. ARTHUR STUMP ATTORNEY AT LAW,

35 ST. PAUL STREET,

EALTIMORE, MD. Practices also, in Cecil County Courts, with Post Office at Perryville for Cecil County

Dickinson College. CARLISLE, Pa.

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free, Expenses of living exceptionally low.
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J. A. McCAULRY, D. D. President.

NOBLESSE OBLIGE.

If I am weak and you are strong. Why then, why then. To you the brater deeds belong:

And so again, you have gifts and I have none. If I have shade and you have sun. Tis yours with freer hand to give. Tis yours with truer grace to live. Than I, who girlless, sunless stand, With barren life and hand.

We do not ask the little brook To turn the wheel: Unto the larger stream we look.
The strength of keel,
We do not ask from silken bands. Nor heart of oak in willow wands Nor heart of oak in willow wands. We do not ask the wren to go.
Up to the heights the eagles know:
Nor yet expect the lark's clear note.
From out the dove's dumb throat.

'Tis wisdom's law, the perfect code, By love inspired: of him on whom much is bestowed Is much required.

The tuneful throat is bid to sing:

The oak must reign the forests' king: The rushing stream the wheel must move The beaten steel its strength must prove; Tis given unto the eagle's eyes, To face the midday skies.

- Youth's Companion.

Youth's Department.

Little Things.

The late Daniel Drew, better known on the street as "Uncle Daniel," the renowned Methodist, and great manager of finance, was always much interested in the young, and keenly observant of their habits. Like all self-made men, he believed in small beginnings, and considered that a boot-black's chair, or a peanut stand, if faithfully managed, might be the stepping-stone to a future business and fortune. He was always looking for evidences of financial genius among this class, and nothing escaped his eagle eve.

Among other peculiar theories was the one that a boy who had sense enough to leave a door as he found it, whether open or shut, must necessarily have something in him that was worth developing. On one occasion, a newsboy ran into Mr. Drew's office, and on going out found that the door did not close easily. After making several ineffectual attempts to latch it, he stepped back, put down his load, and carefully scrutinized the lock. Mr. Drew sat watching him intently.

"Say, Uncle Daniel," the boy yelled out at last, giving the knob a few professional turns, "I can't shut your old door It needs taking off and cleaning. Here you are, - Times. Herald, Sun, Tribune! Here you are!"

The next day, when the lad came again with the papers, the gentleman called him to his desk.

"Say, my son," he began, "don't you think a new lock would be better for that door, than eleaning the old one?"

"Certainly, Uncle Daniel," the gamin responded, "if you can afford it."

This bit of facetize touched Mr. Drew's keen sense of humor, and practically

settled the business. "Is there anything," he asked, "that you'd like better than selling papers?"

"Is there?" said the boy. "Anybody must be luny to ask that question." "Well what would you rather do

Mr. Drew persisted. they won't latch, and engines when they get cranky, and such things. I'll bet I could make that old latch o'yourn work like a daisy now, and I ain't never learned anything so far."

"Go to work at the lock, Johnny," said the gentleman, "and we'll see,"

And he did see. Johnny fixed the lock, and after that was apprenticed to a tinker, and turned out well.

On another occasion, a petty theft had been committed in one of the offices con- held at Watkins' Glen, New York, in tiguous to Mr. Drew's. A ragged but 1882, and. clean-faced boy about cleven years old, who attended to the tires in one or two has denounced as false and blasphemous of the offices, was accused of being the the song, "We're building two a day," guilty party. A mob of clerks and written by A. J. Hough, of Vermont, officials had pressed about the lad, as a and published by A. J. Kynett, in his policeman searched his clothes for the "Church Extension Song Service," and

packages from the tattered pockets,-one wrapped in a corner of a newspaper, the other in a piece of tin-foil,—the crowd sent up a shout.

"Sure's I'm born, I ain't got nothin'," the lad protested. But the heartles spectators only laughed the louder at this trembling asseveration of innocence. When the wrapping was torn away, a part of a horn comb was revealed. The tin-foil covered a piece of hard soap, about three inches square.

The voice of Uncle Daniel was heard at this point.

I'll go security for any lad who carries a comb in one pocket and a piece of soap in the other," he said. "Young fellow, don't you be afraid. Shake every rag he's got on," he told the officer: "and then him over to me."

What Mr. Drew said to the lad, who was proved innocent of the crime imputed to him, does not transpire; but this bit of soap had more power for good in it than many bars. A boy in his poverty-strickmake his mark, and Uncle Daniel was ready and willing to help him.

A bright American boy started a peanut stand on the corner of Wall and Broad Streets. It became at once immensely popular. One day, Mr. Drew stood on the corner talking to some friends, when a drunken loafer recled up to the stand, and, after making a few insulting remarks, lifted his foot, and sent peanuts and roaster, apples and oranges tumbling into the street.

Now, this was a misfortune to any cender; and Mr. Drew turned to see what the lad would do. To his surprise he found him laughing heartily, as every passer-by whether well-dressed man or ragged boy, stopped to pick up and walk away with displaced the goodies. The lad rescued his rousting machine, but made no attempt to save anything else.

"Why don't you scurry round, and pick up some of your stuff?" Uncle Daniel asked impatiently. "And what in creation are you laughing at?"

"What chance would I have with all those Wall Street sharpers?" the lad asked. "I'm laughing to think how everybody goes down sooner or later who does business here. I never realized before that I was a broker, like the rest of 'em.'

Uncle Daniel saw the point, and joined in the laugh.

"I suppose you've made enough to buy new stock with?" said Mr. Drew.

"Yes, sir. I could set up half a dozen stands; but after this, I should always be expecting a depression in stocks. You may enjoy black Fridays, Mr. Drew; but one is enough for me."

"What do you calculate to do?" the gentleman asked.

"I've made enough to go to school for three months or more, sir; and I think I shall start in, and study."

"Go it," said Uncle Daniel; and when you want a place, just let me know."

The above are simply samples of Mr Drew's interest in matters that are usually of small account to business men. He saw what others passed by unnoticed. "Why I'd rather learn how to fix and cared little for what others thought clocks when they won't go, and locks when he ought to be moved by .- Eleanor Kirk in Zion's Herald,

To Whom It May Concern.

BY C. C. M'CABE.

Whereas, Mr. Thomas W. Price, of Philadelphia, in his acrimonious contro- help us raise a million for missions. versy with the Board of Church Extension, has called in question the truth of my dispatch to the Infidel Convention

Whereas, The said Thomas W. Price missing articles. Mr. Drew stood near; sung by myself all oveo the Republic; I

and as the officer brought out two little call public attention to the following statements:

In the aforesaid convention much was said about the decline of the Church-One speaker cried out, "The churches are dying out all over the land. They are struck with death!"

When I read the report of that speech I sent the president of the convention the following dispatch (see New York Christian Advocate September 7, 1885): "All hail the power of Jesus' name!

We are building more than one Methodist Church for every day in the year, and propose to make it two a day!

(Signed) "C. C. M'CABE." The song was written shortly afterward. After careful research I saw that the post had come nearer the truth than I. It was plain that, understanding the pronoun "we" to stand for the Methodist Episcopal Church—for many churches are built without aid from the Boardthe song was gloriously true; therefore I let it pass unchallenged. And so we sang it and shouted it from the Atlantic en condition, who would keep himself to the Pacific. I cannot proceed with clean and his hair tidy, was bound to my proof without thanking Brother Price for calling it out. He probably never rendered a greater service to Methodism in his life,

Now for the demonstration of the truth of both dispatch and song. I propose to show, first, that the dispatch was true when it was sent, and had been true for sixteen years; and that the song was true when it was written and has been true for five years—that is to say, it would have been true in 1881, and has been ever since.

The Board of Church Extension was created by the General Conference of 1864. On the first of January of that year the Methodist Episcopal Church owned 9,430 houses of worship. An increase of one church per day for sixteen years would add to that number 5.840. churches, and bring down to 1880. An increase of two churches perday for five years thereafter would add 3,650 churches to the number, and bring us down to January I, 1885, a period of twenty-one years--covering the history of the Board of Church Extension whose efficient working, more than any other cause, secured the unprecedented advance which marked those years.

Now, therefore, to make the dispatch and song true, it is required that we show a total number of churches at the close of 1884 of 18,920, and a net gain of 9,490 churches. It certainly would be our right to count the thousand of new churches that have replaced old ones. Sometimes a church worth \$10,000 would replace one worth \$1,500. We waive that right, and leave ahem out, although they would greatly increase the force of this showing and represent millions of dollars.

We closed the year 1884 with 19,128 churches (see General Minutes), a gain of 9,698 to represent the work of twentyone years or two hundred and eight churches more than enough to prove the truth of both the dispatch and the song!

Sing on then O ye Methodist people! 'A new church greets the morning flame, Another evening's ray: All hail the power of Jesus' name! We're building two a day!!

Meanwhile we are reminded of a certain coat of arms which represents an anvil standing unharmed, while broken hammers lie all around it, and underneath this inscription:

"Hammer away ye hostile bands: Your hammers break, God's anvil stands! Brother Price stop pounding the Church Extension anvil, and come and

LITTLE THINGS.

A cup of water timely brought. An offered easy chair, A turning of the window blind. That all may feel the air:

An early flower, unasked, bestowed. A light and cautious tread, A voice to softest whispers hushed, To spare an aching head;

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The purest love disclose,
As fragrant atoms in the air,
Reveal the hidden rose.

-Evang. Messenger.

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5.05 A M—Accommodation for Hanover, Frederick Emmittsburg, Waynesboro, Chambersburg Shippenstations.

10.00 A M—Accommodation for Union Bridge, Hagerstown, Williamsport and intermediate stations.

10.00 A M—Accommodation for Union Bridge, Hanover, Gettysburg, and points on H.J., H. &G. R.R. (through cars).

2.25 P M—Accom. for Glyndon, (Reisterstown.) 4.05 P M—Express for Arlington, Mt. Hope, Pikes-Falls, Finksburg, Patapseo, Westminster, Medford, 1811s, Finksburg, Patapseo, Westminster, Medford, 1810s, H. &G. R.L. (through cars.) Emmittsburg, 5:00 P M—Accommonation for Glyndon.

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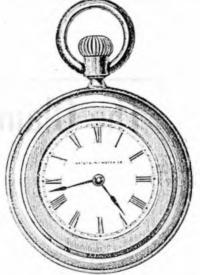
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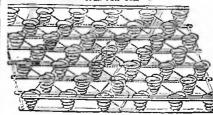
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