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"ALIEN IMMERSIONS."

There is a controversy upon this subject in Dr. Burrows' church (the Broadway Tabernacle) in Louisville. Dr. Burrows has written a three columned article on the subject in the *Western Recorder*. His argument is, in brief, as follows: "God calls unbaptized men to preach the Gospel; but if called of God to the work of the ministry, then this call includes and involves the duty of baptizing those converted through their agency; and these baptisms ought to be recognized by Baptist churches."

It is surprising to us that so clear a mind as that of Dr. Burrows does not discern the sophism in this argument. "The preaching of the Gospel," which he makes identical with "the work of the ministry" is only a part of the ministerial work, and is not exclusively ministerial. To publish the Gospel is the duty of every converted soul. It is the prerogative of all the royal priesthood of believers to show forth his praises, (whether in speech or life), who hath called them out of darkness into his marvellous light. If then the right to preach carries with it the right to baptize every believer ought to administer baptism. And if an unbaptized preacher may do it, the unbaptized convert may do it. Or, on the other hand, he may reject it altogether, for if the preacher need not be baptized, why must the convert be? Thus, when carried to its logical results the principle avowed by Dr. Burrows would set baptism quite aside; destroy the church organization, and reduce Christendom to a lawless and tumultuous anarchy.

The Louisville pastor loses sight of the fact that the minister of the Gospel, when occupying his normal sphere, has a two-fold character. He is a herald and he is a church officer. In ecclesiastical acts, and under this head we embrace administration, ordinance and discipline—he represents the church. Unless under anomalous cases. The concurrence of the church is necessary whether he rules or serves.

He addresses himself to this class of duties under a church warrant. The section of a church may be implied in ordination as in the case of an evangelist, or may be given by express vote, as when a candidate who applies for baptism is assigned to the charge of the pastor for that purpose; but certainly an act of an ecclesiastical authority cannot be valid without ecclesiastical authority. For this reason baptism, which has respect to church membership, is invalid without church sanction. It is replied that the church has the right to overlook the regularity of the act; to validate the act; this might even be conceded without helping the argument of Dr. Burrows, who ignores the church as if it had no authority in the premises, and whose assumptions would equally warrant an unbaptized man in administering the communion and so forth. But here again Dr. Burrows' ground gives way. He makes the ordinance independent of the Gospel church, to whose care they are committed. And his principles, if carried out, would be fatal to the church organization itself.

For can the position of the distinguished Louisville pastor be sustained even on the plea of expediency? It would be found that the gain secured by a relaxation of our denominational principles is of doubtful value. A candidate who will not enter the church unless its scruples in regard to irregular baptism shall be first surrendered, and the harmony and fellowship of its members shall be to that extent disturbed, can scarcely compensate for the injury thus inflicted both on pastor and people. An intractable element is introduced, and a denominational scandal is created. The gain is small; the injury immeasurable.

Sentiment is a good thing; but it must not be indulged at the expense of this sacred Institution which Christ purchased with precious blood, and constituted the pillar and ground of the truth. The great trouble with our churches now is the lack of an efficient and compact organization. They have no need of a new element of division and confusion, even though it comes in the disguise of Christian charity, and is commended by one of our best and ablest men.

ORIGIN OF THE WORLD.

THE ORIGIN OF THE WORLD ACCORDING TO REVELATION AND SCIENCE. By J. W. Dawson, LL. D., F. R. S., F. G. S., President of McGill University, Montreal, &c., &c. New York: Harper & Brothers, Franklin Square.

The object of the accomplished author is twofold—to give naturalists a summary of Bible teachings in regard to the early history of the earth and man and to afford to the students of the Word information in regard to the harmony between the statements of Revelation and Science as they appear at the present stage of progress. Principal Dawson is a scientist, and he is prompt to recognize the obligations of science to the Bible. The creation of the world by God explains the unity of Nature and awakens an animated and sustained enthusiasm in the study of the Universe. And to this very reason the author urges the teachers of religion to address themselves to the investigation of natural phenomena. The remark of Dr. Hamilton might be taken as the motto of the present volume: "If men of science were also men of science, and men of science were to read the Scriptures, there would be more faith on the earth and also more philosophy."

It is impossible in reviewing a work so ample in its scope to do more than note some of its main points. The author after giving a version of the first chapter of Genesis unfolds its teachings. The beginning of the world is very remote in time. The days were world days—great periods of ebbing and advancing change. The appearance of man belongs to the modern or quaternary period of geology, and his original seat was a district of Western Asia. The opinions of skeptical scientists in regard to man's extreme antiquity are unreliable. Thus the pottery in the Nile delta, supposed to be 13,000 years old is discovered to be more recent than the remains of the Roman times; and the flint implements of the "Stone Age" are more recent than the Age of the Homeric Troy. Dr. Dawson also proves the uncertainty of all the computations of man's antiquity derived from the Swiss lake dwellings, the discoveries of bones in caves and the like.

The concluding chapter of the volume gives an excellent summary of the discussion, and exhibits the parallelism of the Scriptural and Scientific accounts of the Origin of the World. They both testify that there was a beginning of creation, and that it had a progressive character. Both affirm that since the beginning there has been one great system of Nature. The periods into which Geology divides the history of the Earth are different from those of Scripture, yet when properly understood there is a marked correspondence. Both agree in the doctrine of existing causes, and in the prevalence of death in the world ever since animals were introduced. According to the Bible the reptiles were

created on the fifth day and beasts of prey on the sixth. Both records give large and interesting views in respect to "final causes." And finally both represent man as the last of God's works and the culminating point of the whole creation. There are also appendices to the present volume which are of great value.

We commend this book heartily to our readers. It is full of valuable information and is written at once in a scientific and reverent spirit.

REORGANIZING.

A New Jersey correspondent of the *National Baptist* gives an interesting account of the way in which a Methodist church in that State was recently reorganized. He states that a Methodist Society at Ogdensburg with its pastor, became interested in the question of the ordinances while studying the Scriptures some little time since. Their first difficulty arose while investigating the qualifications for membership in the church of Christ. Where they obtained light enough to see that none but those professing conversion should be members, and that there was no Scriptural authority for infant baptism they proceeded in the investigation of the act of baptism; and when their duty became clear they sent to Brooklyn for a Methodist minister who himself had been baptized, and a number of them were immersed by him. But they saw they could not stop there. They sent to the nearest Baptist minister for information and advice. The result was that eighteen of the members who had been baptized in profession of faith, including their preacher, organized themselves into a regular Baptist church, and on Dec. 12th, a council met at Ogdensburg to consider the propriety of recognizing them.

It was found by the council that they were in accord with the doctrine and order of regular Baptist churches, and it was heartily voted to recognize them. Pastor Davis, of Newton, preached; pastor Dyer, of Wantage, gave the word of fellowship; pastor Sproul, of Shoddy's mountain gave the charge; pastors Silver, Grenell, and Entke also participated. Nearly all the rest of the Society expressed a determination to be baptized and unite with the church. After the organization they licensed Bro. Fuller, their previous preacher, and promised him an adequate support.

The change in this case was the more gratifying because it could not be referred to any personal influence. It was effected, just as was the case of Judson, Jewett, Binney, Hackett, and thousands of others, by the study of the Word of God. Too often the students of the Word bring their preconceived opinions with them as they investigate such subjects. But to a child-like faith the oracles of truth cannot be ambiguous. Not in them lies the obscurity and doubt which divides the Christian world in regard to the first public act of consecration and acknowledgment required of his disciples by the founder of the church of the living God. Our duty in the premises is very simple—just to let the Word of God speak for itself.

CLOSE COMMUNION VINDICATED.

At the recent session of the Evangelical Alliance, a Lutheran divine protested, in an essay prepared for that occasion, against the tenet of close communion as contrary to the principles on which the Alliance was founded. He was rebuked by brethren of his own and other Pedobaptist denominations. One of them, a leading Methodist, declared that the Baptist practice was strictly conformed to their principles; and that if he believed as we do in immersion, as the one New Testament baptism, he could not invite his own non-immersed mother to the communion table. Others also spoke in the same strain: the Baptists present had no need of saying anything in their own vindication.

A ROMAN CATHOLIC APOLOGIST.

The Roman Catholic Bishop Ryan, at St. Louis, has been preaching on "What Catholics do not believe." He argued that conscience is not enslaved by this system; because one must first ascertain that the church is right, before obeying it implicitly. But must not "private judgment" be invoked first? And if private judgment may decide upon the infallibility of a church, why not also upon the infallibility of the Scriptures?

Bishop Ryan further contended that the church never kept the Bible from the people. He did not add that the gift was pillooted by the Council of Trent which forbids any interpretation of the Scriptures contrary to that sense which holy mother church has held and holds, or contrary to the unanimous consent of the Fathers, and requires that the offenders be denounced and punished. The same decree also establishes a censorship of Bibles, and excommunicates any who print, publish, circulate or have them without the examination or approval of the Ordinary (the Bishop). How much interest the heads of the Roman Church have in the circulation of the Bible appears from an incident which occurred in New York

in the time of Archbishop Hughes. That prelate having said that "the art of printing facilitates the diffusion of the Holy Scriptures, and that the church avails herself with eagerness of that art for the purpose of multiplying copies of them," Mr. A. G. Phelps, of New York, published a letter to the Archbishop asking him "which translation of the Holy Scriptures is acceptable to the church and sure to meet the patronage of popes, cardinals and bishops," and offering to print a large edition of this translation and send it to Italy for gratuitous circulation. The offer was never accepted; although the need is great. Dr. Murray testified in his letters to Chief Justice Taney, that "The Bible, as a rule, is unknown in Italy."

It is stated that the Jewish Rabbi at St. Louis, Dr. Sonnenschein, will reply to Bishop Ryan. If one had to choose between Judaism and Catholicism the former would have the preference in every particular. Judaism has higher antiquity; it claims a nobler origin, it had a priestly succession of divine appointment. Compared with the Aaronic priesthood, the hierarchy of Rome is a creation of yesterday. We wonder if Bishop Ryan has ever heard of Spindras famous letter upon that subject!

THE SILVER QUESTION.

The clamors uttered in certain quarters in regard to the proposed reorganization of silver we do not understand. How does the proposed action imperil the good faith of the Government? Certainly silver was money until it was demonetized in 1873-4, and the contract made by the Government previously to that period, to pay its creditors in coin could have been settled either with silver or with gold. What right have the bondholders to object, if silver coinage is restored to the office it had at the time the contract was made to pay the national debt "in coin"? Why should all the Heavenly Powers be invoked to arrest or chastise the measure? That silver has depreciated in value since that time, does not make it the duty of the public authorities to change the terms of the contract. All contracts are subject to such chances of gain or loss. Suppose that silver had appreciated and gold declined; would it then be unfair to pay the debt in gold? To us the case seems to be too clear for reasonable question. The contract to pay in coin was simply a pledge of the Government that the debt should not be paid in greenbacks, i. e., in promises to pay. The payment must be made in what was recognized as coin when the pledge was given; and the recognized national coin of that day was of gold and of silver.

But not only does equity permit the use of silver in the discharge of the national obligations; necessity requires it. We have not gold enough for resumption. The policy of the U. S. Treasury which refuses to receive its own greenback money in payment of national dues, has locked up half the gold of the country. If all of it were withdrawn from business and stored away in the national depositories, the whole amount would still leave \$200,000,000 of greenbacks unprovided for. How is it possible to meet our public obligations and relieve the widespread and increasing distress of the people, unless our wealthy supplies of silver, now depreciated and contemned, are utilized for this purpose? To us there seems to be as much truth as vigor in the argument of the *Argosy*.

"The silver from our mines, the richest in the world, is no more than iron and copper; it is not money, cannot be converted into money, cannot be used as money. Greenbacks, a pledge of the faith and honor and resources of the nation, are discredited by the government that issued them, and, in refusing, depreciates them. There is no money but gold; and the gold is in the public treasury. The debtor cannot pay, no matter how honest, no matter what his possessions, for the iron hand of the government is upon him, and day by day his ability becomes less. Who is to profit? The creditor who to get more than the bond calls for losses all? The debtor driven to bankruptcy and stripped of the little that is left him? Wall Street and Lombard Street have the government by the throat, own its agents, control its policy, and dictate its dishonor."

If we are in error upon this subject, we shall be glad to be corrected. We have no taste for repudiation, and we would feel, as keenly as any, a stain upon the good name of the Republic. But with the lights before us we are forced to the conclusion that the public need "the dollar of the fathers," and that the coinage and circulation will not contaminate the Treasury of the United States.

OUR S. S. LESSON EXPOSITIONS.

We are sorry that our misfortune interrupted the continuity of our S. S. Lesson expositions; it could not be helped, however. Hereafter the Lesson expositions, prepared expressly for our paper at some cost to us, will appear regularly; and though we cannot devote much space to them, in our small sheet, yet we hope they will be found advantageous to our Sunday-school men and women, and at least showing our interest in Sunday-school matters. We invite the co-operation of Sunday-school workers to the extension of our circulation.

FIELD NOTES.

—Emigrants are leaving all parts of the State for Texas.

—Venus is now brilliantly performing her part as the Evening Star.

—I think the *Baptist* much improved.—J. T. Murfee, Marion.

—A supper given by the ladies of Pineville church, Monroe county, netted about \$160.

—Bro. W. G. Curry is very much encouraged in his work as missionary of the State Mission Board in South Alabama.

—Rev. O. F. Gregory at Eufaula has been preaching a series of sermons, on Elements necessary for Church Prosperity, with gratifying results.

—Rev. W. H. Patterson, President of Eufaula Female College, has been called to the pastorate of Enon Baptist church, Quitman county, Ga.

—The Paine Hall of Boston has gone under the hammer. The Infidels of Boston had not zeal enough to pay its current expenses.

—Bro. B. F. Riley has gone to take charge of the Baptist church at Albany, Ga. Bro. Riley is a good preacher, and we regret his departure from our State.

—"I have," said Dr. Guthrie, "four good reasons for being an abstainer; my head is clearer, my health is better, my heart is lighter, and my purse heavier."

—This is one of the most encouraging sessions that Howard College has enjoyed for many years. The foreign patronage is larger, and the students are maintaining the reputation of their predecessors nobly.

—Since the *BAPTIST* has been burnt out, I feel like I have lost something. Indeed, the Denomination sustained a great loss. I hope they will rally to the support of the paper and repair the damage.—A. Dougherty, Lecky.

—Dr. J. I. Lamar, of Prattville, writes: "Please send on the paper at once. I have seen a copy of the new issue and think it quite an improvement on the old. Trust that the burning may only act as a refiner's fire to gold."

—A meeting of the Executive Committees of the Eufaula and General Associations will be held at Brundidge, January 26th, to consult as to the work to be performed by the newly elected District Missionary.

—Rev. W. H. Norton, having resigned the charge of Bethlehem church, Barbour county, to accept the pastorate of the church at Lumpkin, Ga., Elder J. Stratton, Paulin has become the Pastor of Bethlehem church.

—The Baptist State Board of Georgia has appointed two colored missionaries to labor in that State.—Rev. G. B. Mitchell for Middle Georgia and Rev. Emanuel Love, a member of our Colored church in Marion, for the other destitute parts of the State.

—The election of officers for 1878, of the Sunday-school of the First Baptist church of Eufaula, resulted as follows:—Dr. S. A. Holt Superintendent; B. B. Davis Assistant Superintendent; W. A. Davis Secretary and Treasurer; Wm. R. Cobb, Librarian; C. Rhodes, Sr., Chorister.

—The Colored Baptist State Convention which met in Eufaula was visited by Breth. O. F. Gregory and B. B. Davis, who were cordially welcomed. Breth. C. O. Booth and W. H. McAlpine were appointed to visit the next State Convention at Talladesha.

—Enclosed find \$2. Please send your paper to Rev. J. M. Chisholm, our much esteemed pastor. He says he is not able to take the paper, and I send the money for him.—E. M., Palmox, Ala.

A noble example and worthy of imitation. There has just been made at Stockton, Cal., the largest plow ever manufactured. It is designed to work in the furrows and cuts a furrow thirty-five inches wide. The mould board is eight feet long from the point to the end. The plow will be attached to a sulky, and will require twelve stout animals to pull it.

—Our Pastor, Rev. W. W. Sanders, has arrived. He preached his introductory sermon on last Sunday morning. He has made very favorable impressions, both in and out of the pulpit. Our people are all pleased with him. I regard him as a man of superior merit.—J. H. Foster, Talladesha.

—According to the Baptist Year Book now ready for the press, there are 2,020,000 Baptists in the United States. None of them are infants or probationers. These figures, says the *National Baptist*, speaks more strongly than we can do of the blessings which God bestows on the preaching of the truth.—Bib. Recorder.

—Bro. I. B. Vaiden, of Marion, writes: "I do not wish you to put my figures up a month. I think the subscribers can afford to lose some as well as the Publisher."

Bro. Vaiden has our thanks for his kindness, and we will move his figures back to the same old place. We ac-

cepted the entire loss as our own, and expected to make good to every subscriber the time lost. We have put forward every one's figures one month, unless specially instructed not to do so.

—It is said there are 35,000 Protestant girls in Roman Catholic schools, and the Romanists claim that one out of every ten of these girls is converted to their faith, and that three out of ten are taught to hate Protestantism. We have no doubt that two-thirds of the whole number are lost to the Protestant church.—Christian at Work.

—The following sentences are extracts from the motto of Booth's Apology for the Baptists: "There is one Baptism," *Eph. iv*; "They who are not rightly baptized, are, doubtless, not baptized at all," *Tertullian*; "No unbaptized person communicates at the Lord's Table," *Phylact*.

—We acknowledge the receipt of the minutes of the Central Baptist Association. A good meeting. A very kind notice of the ALABAMA BAPTIST appears in the Report on Periodicals, by Bro. Lamar. The Circular Letter, by Bro. Pennington, on the Prerequisites of Church Membership is reasonable and convincing. Officers: I. W. Suttle Moderator, Wetumpka; J. I. Lamar Clerk, Prattville; T. J. Pennington Treasurer, Rockford.

—The report that two brethren appeared at the session of the Colored Baptist State Convention, to represent the white Convention is welcomed by the *Journal and Messenger* as "an encouraging sign of true Baptist fraternity in the South." With characteristic unwisdom the *Journal* adds: "The time may come when Southern Baptists will feel free to quote the words of the Savior, 'One is your Master, even Christ, and all ye are brethren!'"

—Bro. Baber, District Missionary of the State Board, writes us that he expects to start in a few days on a tour through the Cahaba Association. He will travel on horseback, and expects to start without a list of appointments. He has some little hand bills which he will post in the neighborhood of the churches where he intends to preach. He will hold service at night in private houses until the appointment becomes generally known. He expects to pass through, or near Centerville, and on towards Hale county.

—We heard a gentleman of capital good taste say, a few days since, "that there were two female fashions of the day that are his especial abomination—one is the habit of hanging the hair—which must have originated in a lunatic asylum, since it makes a really sensible girl look like an idiot. The other is the use of powder on the face, which stops up the pores of the skin, makes it rough, and in a sense kills it, effectually ruining, if long persisted in, my complexion." We half incline to agree with the brother, and give his opinion to the ladies for what it is worth.—Bib. Rec.

—In a private note to the publisher Bro. Henderson says, "Glad to see the dear face of the ALABAMA BAPTIST again. So far from being scared by the fire, its visage is greatly improved. We all thank you for so promptly putting it on foot again. I will now begin to write for it occasionally. Until the last month, I have not been well enough to do any work of that kind, since last summer."

We shall be more than glad to have Bro. H. redeem his promise, and trust that all our corresponding editors will now begin to contribute more frequently to our columns.

—Why McMahon left the Clericals is thus explained by the *N. Y. World*: "His wife, who had in wounded vanity and papist rail pushed him on, at last became alarmed. The Marshal 'felt' that he was wrong, and became nervous, irritable and unhappy. He allowed this to be seen so plainly that some over-zealous partisans about him overrode the thing, playing upon his fears. Several of the Paris journals called attention to the fact that his brother and nephew had died insane. At this time Mme. McMahon became thoroughly alarmed herself. She felt that resistance to the will of the people might engender terrible misfortune upon her husband, who was morose, ill at ease, wept at times like a child, and evidently began to fear that attempts would be made upon his life."

—The phrase, "Black Prelogy" is much less common now, than "True Blue Presbyterianism," although they originated at the same time. Their fatherland is Scotland. Under the last Stuart's Episcopacy and Presbyterianism were struggling for supremacy in that country. The clergy of the former wore, in their public ministrations, black gowns, those of the latter wore blue gowns, and for the ordinary head-gear blue "bonnets." Hence the origin of the two phrases, each long answering to some extent the ends of a party watchword. Did the "blue laws" of Connecticut acquire their supposed color from their resemblance to the strict Presbyterianism of "canny Scotland"?—Standard.

—"That there has been a decline in business morality is apparent from the public sentiment towards certain kinds of frauds. What is ordinarily called stealing or cheating is in large transactions dignified by the name of 'an operation,' or 'a corner,' or 'a sharp piece of strategy.' Men have actually come to think that no guilt attaches to fraudulent transactions, provided they are conducted on a grand scale."

"The present low-toned morality is what might be expected to be the result of the widespread 'liberalism' of the day, which insists that a moral life is all that is demanded of us, and that the sanctifying grace of God is wholly unnecessary."—Exam.

—We have also received the minutes of the Muskoke Association. Officers: H. F. Buckner Moderator; I. G. Vore Clerk; Jas. Colbert Treasurer. The support pledged by the General Association of Texas to support Bro. Jno. McIntosh among the Wild Tribes and Bro. Kanard among the Creeks has not been paid. These brethren have toiled faithfully in the Master's Vineyard under great embarrassment and in deep poverty. A memorial has been addressed to the U. S. Government not to change the present political relations of the people by bringing them under the jurisdiction of any territory or State. Jno. D. Berno, who has been making collections for Indian missions is denounced as an impostor. The appendix is an earnest appeal to Baptists in behalf of the Manual Labor School.

—The Statistics of Catholic and Protestant countries in respect to crime are instructive. An item or two is given by a correspondent to a northern paper. "In Ireland, for every Irish Presbyterian sent to jail there are between thirty and forty Roman Catholics. And that in no country in the world are there so many murders committed as there are in Rome, under the very shadow of St. Peter's and the Vatican. Contrast Catholicism with Protestantism in Norway and Sweden, where the Catholic religion is not tolerated even. In the former the traveler, in passing from one town to another, must have his guard of soldiers to protect his life; while in the latter even a female can travel alone and unprotected with perfect safety by night, as well as by day. Facts like the above should be brought out, that the eyes of our people may be opened to the character and the encroachments of this system upon our privileges as American citizens."

—We are often asked what progress has been made in the Anglo-American work of revising the Scriptures. The New Testament Committee of the American revisers has finished the first draft of the new revision, and are just beginning to revise the revision. The Old Testament Committee has not yet completed its first draft, we believe. He would be a rash man who ventured anything like a confident prediction as to the time when the new version will be in type. Five years hence is the very shortest limit that we should dare to assign. Meanwhile, here is a crumb of comfort for us. It is said that a comparison of the results of the work so far shows a remarkable unanimity among the revisers, and that while it was expected the greatest difference would be found in regard to the Greek text, it proves on comparison that the unanimity of the revisers is most marked and striking upon even this matter. The probabilities are, therefore, that when we do get our new version, it will prove to be the best one that the united scholarship of the world is now competent to produce.—Exam.

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—We are often asked what progress has been made in the Anglo-American work of revising the Scriptures. The New Testament Committee of the American revisers has finished the first draft of the new revision, and are just beginning to revise the revision. The Old Testament Committee has not yet completed its first draft, we believe. He would be a rash man who ventured anything like a confident prediction as to the time when the new version will be in type. Five years hence is the very shortest limit that we should dare to assign. Meanwhile, here is a crumb of comfort for us. It is said that a comparison of the results of the work so far shows a remarkable unanimity among the revisers, and that while it was expected the greatest difference would be found in regard to the Greek text, it proves on comparison that the unanimity of the revisers is most marked and striking upon even this matter. The probabilities are, therefore, that when we do get our new version, it will prove to be the best one that the united scholarship of the world is now competent to produce.—Exam.

STATE MISSION BOARD.

It is due the denomination to know something of the operations of the State Mission Board—its condition, its claims, and its prospects. As the custodians of so sacred and important a trust, we feel it our duty to lay before our brethren, from time to time, such facts as may be interesting to them, and as may serve to advance the work committed to us. Immediately after the adjournment of the last Convention, a meeting of the Board was called at which we proceeded to carry out the instructions passed upon at that meeting, by grouping the several Associations of the State into convenient districts, and appointing such evangelists in these several districts as would be acceptable to the churches, with the understanding that these evangelists should look to their respective fields for their compensation, the Board meanwhile agreeing, through its Corresponding Secretary, to give all the attention in its power to the raising of their salaries in their several districts. Under this arrangement and with this understanding, we have eight (8) of our best ministers in the field as missionaries of the Board.

We think it would be indiscreet in us to attempt anything more for the present year, much as we may desire to reach other fields equally destitute. But having no reliable assurances from these unoccupied districts of such co-operation as is essential to carry on the work on the plan adopted,

we can do nothing more than wait in prayerful solicitude such responses as may come to us from these destitute sections. Meanwhile our laborious Secretary will visit as many of these localities during the balance of this year as his other obligations will allow, with the view of securing their co-operation.

We cannot too urgently request those brethren who make pledges at the Convention, and who have not as yet redeemed them, to do so at their earliest convenience, as we greatly need the funds. The labors of our Corresponding Secretary are too onerous and urgent to be diverted to the matter of collecting any portion at his own salary. We trust our brethren will appreciate this, and come up promptly to the relief of the Board. If our Bro. Secretary BAILEY, in connection with the Board, can secure the support of eight able and efficient missionaries this year, it will be all that the most sanguine can hope for, on this the first year in which we resolved to enlarge our work.

We are gratified also to say to our brethren, that the larger portion of the salaries of our missionaries has already been provided for—indeed some of them entirely so, in cash and such pledges as can be relied upon. What we desire now is, to raise the balance of those salaries at the earliest practicable period. Our Secretary proposes devoting the next three or four months to this work, and we bespeak for him the earnest co-operation of pastors and churches in a work that addresses itself no less to the Board than to every Baptist in Alabama. Dear brethren, let us feel that in this, we have a common interest. Let us bring to its execution the full measure of our moral and material force. Let us not abate our efforts, until all the waste places of our beloved State be adequately supplied with the gospel of the grace of God. To pause short of this, is to prove recreant to the highest trust our glorified Himmler has

ent volume have been well made. Fenelon Bossuet, Massillon, Pascal, Rousseau, Guizot and Frederic the Great, are names which a lively interest attaches. And not unworthy a place in the series is the admirable essay of Dr. Mathews on Sainte Beuve himself. It is felicitous in language, rich in allusion, fertile in suggestion, and sparkling with vivacity.

HOWARD'S OLD TESTAMENT WALL MAP of Palestine, 30 by 40 inches. Price \$1.50. Mounted on rollers \$2.00. E. F. Hobert & Co., 615 Chestnut street, St. Louis.

A valuable help to teachers, superintendents and Sunday-schools. An index of places with their distances from Jerusalem is given on the map; and by a series of concentric circles the distance is so marked that it is easy to find any place. It will be found to be a very convenient map for study and reference.

JOHN P. MORTON & CO.'S WESTERN FARMER'S ALMANAC, 10 CTS. Louisville, Ky.

The present is the 51st year of publication. The contents are varied and instructive, and will be enjoyed by horticulturists and agriculturists. There is an article on the chufa, by C. C. Langdon, of Alabama.

HISTORY OF THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH IN PROVIDENCE, 1639-1877. Providence, J. A. and R. A. Reid.

This admirable sketch, of which we have already given a full notice, is now out in pamphlet form. We recommend it to the attention of those interested in early Baptist history.

The **COMPLETE PREACHER** for January contains a number of remarkable sermons. The one which is creating just now a world-wide interest is on "Endless Punishment," by Dr. Farrar, Canon of Westminster, well known in the country as the author of "Farrar's Life of Christ." An answer to this sermon is promised in the February issue of *The Complete Preacher*. A sermon by Spurgeon, lately preached in London on "The Sabbath-School," should be read by every friend of the Sabbath-school work. It is in Spurgeon's inimitable style. There is also a fine sermon by Dr. Rylance on "The Crowning of the Year." These sermons are all given in full, in large type and on fine paper. Published by the Religious Newspaper Agency, 21 Barclay Street, New York. Price, Single Number, 25 cents; per year \$2.00.

The distinguished Meteorologist and Weather Prophet, Professor Tice, of St. Louis, has issued his *Annual National Weather Almanac* for 1878, in which he foretells the weather for every day in the year, explains the theory clearly on which his predictions are based, gives directions by which the unscientific can foretell the weather, and other valuable matter. The whole constitutes a work of great value to every one, and is almost indispensable to farmers. For sample copy and terms of sale send to Thompson, Tice & Co., St. Louis, Mo.

LITTLE'S LIVING AGE for Jan. 12. Little & Gay, Boston.

Contents: Florence and the Medici, by J. A. Symonds; *Fortnightly*; Charlotte Brontë; *Cornhill*; Heligoland; *Macmillan*; Rugby Football; *Tattler*; *Fortnightly*; *Secretary*; etc.; together with the usual choice poetry and miscellany. In the next weekly number a new serial by William Black will be begun, from advance sheets, which promises to be his best work. To new subscribers for 1878, the last seven numbers of 1877, containing the first parts of the German serial, and a story by Miss Thackeray, with other valuable matter, are sent gratis. \$3 a year.

THE METROPOLITAN PULPIT and *Homiletic Monthly* for December.

The Gospel Dispensation, Christian Character, Blindness, Burden-bearing, Jesus' Choice, Soul Harvest, are the names of sermon sketches by distinguished preachers. There are also outlines of sermons and useful hints to preachers.

Alabama Baptist.

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litical Economy in the University of Leige, which first appeared in *La Revue de Belgique*, and attracted profound attention. In France, and was afterwards translated for the *Baptist Quarterly*, by Stephen H. Carpenter, October, 1875, in positive proof. It is, and should be regarded by all civilized nations, the most important question of to-day, because it concerns the religious, political and social relations of universal mankind.

Dr. Winkler thinks, as appears from this address, the deadliest blow that can be dealt against Romanism is the success of our missionary operations in the city of Rome. This is the heart and center of the heart of that powerful system of error and corruption; produce a wound here, and you paralyze the monster in his remotest extremity. This is not my view, though it is the one generally held by the masses of our brethren. Do not think the history of that religion, and a philosophic study of the religious and political relations of the civilized nations of the earth, necessitates nor, perhaps even admit, the conclusion. But to give my view on this question is not my purpose now.

This pamphlet is valuable chiefly on account of the situation it imparts. It gives a graphic and correct description of the spirit and religious condition of the Rome to which Paul preached, and of the Rome of to-day. This is a powerful and important presentation of truth, and will be comparatively new to many of its readers. It shows that the modern missionary must meet and vanquish, in substance, the same errors that Paul did; that "Paul had no advantage in respect to race," that "the methods of attack" are the same; that Paul's enterprise was not less arduous, was not more hopeful than ours. He met Judaism and Paganism, and what is Romanism of the nineteenth century combined? Rome, by her Judaism and Paganism, corrupts the Christianity she professes, and buries the gospel out of the sight of men. "The Paganism of Rome is condemned by God; who established the Old Dispensation as a perpetual protest against the multiplication of gods and the adoration of images. The Judaism of Rome is condemned by God, who sent his Son to fulfill its types and prophecies. The Romanism of Rome is condemned by God, to whom the blood of its martyrs has been appealing for a thousand years."

The obligation of Baptists to preach the gospel at Rome is the same that rested upon the great apostle to the Gentiles. Nay, a second motive, of a more beautiful and powerful, appealing to Baptists to support this work, is suggested by the doctor. Paul preached first to those whose co-religionists had persecuted him in every city, and now sought his death. "And what have Baptists received from Rome? The fetter, the sword, the flame, death on the rack, death at the stake, death in the river, death on the mountain, where Christ's flock, vainly seeking shelter, said, 'Alpine cliffs and caves, where?'"

"In the ancient fold, slain by the bloody Pontifex, that rolled, Mother with infant down the rocks. What then, shall we carry to Rome in return? How good like the REVENGE of giving Rome the gospel!"

But this address is too short and too general; it could not be otherwise. We wish for a treatise on the subject by the same author. I am of opinion that Dr. Winkler might subvert the interests of American Christianity, and of evangelical religion throughout Christendom, if he would enlarge this pamphlet into a volume. We would have then a philosophical presentation of that world-question, from a Baptist point of view, of which none of us could be ashamed, and which would be something new in Christian philosophy and in the history of religious literature. We believe, from reasons that seem to us conclusive, that the Baptist view of the Christian religion is not only based upon the true interpretation of the word, but is also founded in the philosophy of things. And who knows that such a treatise might not attract the attention of the great American and European thinkers, and produce on their views of religion a salutary effect? The doctor thinks the best way in which to combat Romanism is to aim a blow at its heart by missionary effort in the city of Rome itself. I think the best way in which to correct fundamental errors in regard to New Testament religion is to write something on the open question of a world religion philosophically considered, that will command the attention and inspire the respect of the great leaders of thought. My conviction in this regard is strong. But the question is: Where is the man who can and will undertake such a work? Among Southern Baptists there is no man more nearly fitted for it in the order of intellect, and in the extent and character of learning as the erudite editor-in-chief of the *ALABAMA BAPTIST*—B. R. Womack, in *The Baptist*.

Alabama News.

Montgomery Advertiser: The Alabama State Fair Association has become a permanent institution, and the stockholders were called to meet on Monday last, to elect officers for the ensuing year. Financially, they are unimpaired, having been able to meet all their expenses promptly.

Mr. George Suttle, a young man of many fine traits of character and much promise, died in Wetumpka on the 17th inst.

The case of John Hill, charged with the murder of the Hogan, at Pine Level, two weeks ago, was called before Judge Meigs, sitting as a magistrate Saturday, for preliminary investigation. The trial was further continued until the 20th inst., the defendant giving bond in the sum of \$5,000 for his appearance.

Opelika Times: Hon. John T. Harris recently killed a hog that weighed 63 lbs. and ten others that weighed over 300 lbs. net.

Tusculum Eagle: Last Friday morning two ladies were crossing Loss creek on horseback, singular that Mrs. S. W. Shepherd carried a child. When in the middle of the stream, her head became dizzy and she unconsciously let

the child fall into the creek. The other lady screamed as loudly as possible, when Mrs. S. became aware of what was the matter, and they both screamed for some minutes, in the hope that some one would hear them. Nobody coming to their assistance, they rode to the nearest house, one quarter of a mile distant, to summon aid. The child was found some distance below the ford. It was carried to the house, redressed and warmed up, and Saturday evening was as well and lively as ever. It must have been in the creek at least forty minutes. Its preservation is accounted for by the fact that, the day being cool, it was well wrapped up, and its clothes kept it afloat and its face out of water.

Tusculum Mail: Owing to the illness of his wife, Congressman Ligon did not leave for Washington until Friday, the 11 inst., and then, for the same cause, he was forced to leave his family behind. They will go on as soon as Mrs. Ligon's health will permit.

More mules have been sold here the present winter than during any previous season since the war, and the demand has not yet relaxed.

Farmers who have taken the trouble to inform themselves in regard to the matter, assure us that the quantity of pork slaughtered and cured in this county this season, is largely in excess of former years.

The Tuskegee Narrow Gauge Railroad has not only been a great convenience to the public, but has been the means of largely enhancing the business importance of the town.

Prattville Signal: There has not been as much moving during ten years past as there has been during the last month. Family after family have gone out of the county, some to Dallas and other counties, others to Texas. Load after load of blacks have left, all westward bound. Five per cent. of the population have left Autauga and Mulberry beat, and still they go.

Wetumpka Times: Wm. Blackwell, the proprietor of Blackwell's saw-mill in west Elmore, had his leg broken by the knee, last Monday, by a log's falling on it.

A Deatsville correspondent says: Last Sunday as Mr. Frank Ray was out riding with Miss Chambliss, his horse became frightened and ran away, tearing the buggy to atoms and throwing Ray under his ribs on the left side. One running into the fleshy part of the thigh, made a fearful gash. The young lady was fearfully bruised about the face and chest. Ray's condition is doubtful.

Gadsden Times: If there is a gauger in working order in Etowah county we do not know it.

There are now about twenty paupers supported by Etowah county. Eleven of these are kept at the poor house at the rate of \$10.00 per month, and nine are kept by their relations and friends at the rate of from \$4 to \$6 per month.

From Jan. 1st, 1876 to Dec. 31st, 1877, 118 marriage licenses were issued from the Probate office of this county—94 whites and 25 colored. Five hundred mortgages and 25 deeds were filed for record during the past year.

To Tuesday, the 15th, the merchants of Gadsden had shipped about 4,718 bales of cotton. This is some 1,500 bales more than the shipments of any previous season up to this time. The receipts will be about 7,800.

J. P. Neener, of Etowah county, has killed six hogs weighing as follows: Two, 14 months old, 520 lbs.; two, 18 months old, 594 lbs.; one, 20 months old, 303½ lbs.; one, over 2 years old, 402 lbs.; an average of 302½ lbs.; making a total of 1,816½ lbs.

Tusculum Times: We hear of horses dying all around from blind staggers, caused by eating over-flowed corn. The best remedy is said to be bleeding about the head, a heroic dose of doses, followed by large doses of bromide of potash.

The residence on the "Owen River plantation," occupied by Messrs. Joshua and John Wilkerson, was destroyed by accidental fire, about 5 o'clock, Saturday week last. A valuable piano and other articles were burned, amounting in value to about 1,000, besides the building.

La Fayette Clipper: Very large wheat crops have been sown throughout the county.

Scottsboro Herald: Col. Dobbs, Senator from DeKalb, Marshall and Jackson, has moved from Lebanon to Fort Payne.

Coosa News: Mr. John A. Ward, of Jack's creek, Coosa county, handed us the following report of his crop for 1877: A two-hundred farm, run by himself and three sons, between the ages of 13 and 17 years. Wheat, forty bushels per acre; corn, 1,040 bushels; fodder, 5,000 bushels; cotton, four bales; weights, 585, 535, 520, 540; syrup crop, 302½ gallons; sweet potatoes, 150 bushels; peas, unknown. This is no guess work, but absolute weight, measure and count.

Talladega Reporter: On Saturday morning as the train was leaving our depot, a prisoner in charge of Alex. Wilson, acting deputy U. S. Marshall, bolted and one of two shots were fired at him. In the excitement of the occasion and wild firing, Alex Caldwell, of Clay, one of the guards, received a painful wound in the hand. The prisoner effected his escape.

Ashville Eagle: Land and house property has gone up rapidly about Ashville.

The A. & C. Railroad pays nearly \$5,000 taxes this year in St. Clair county.

Bing Byers, colored, farming near Ashville, made nine bales of cotton and one hundred bushels of corn to sell, besides enough on hand to last him through the year. All this with two ploughs. He has paid for his farm. Bing is a brother of Amos Byers, mentioned in our last paper as being twenty-two bales of cotton and a large crop of corn. These brothers drive as fine stock as can be found in the county. They are a thrifty family.

Mobile News: A youth by the name of Feastin Henry Davis was arrested by officer J. P. Moore, out on Spring

Hill Avenue, yesterday, upon the charge of robbing the dwelling of a Mrs. J. T. Cowart, in Mississippi, of a large sum of money. The youngster confessed the deed and led the officer to the spot where he had hid the money, amounting to \$327.25, in silver and greenbacks.

Blount County News: On the 7th inst. Mr. Jno. P. Cowden killed a Berkshire hog not quite two years old which netted 401 pounds. Rev. Wm. N. Crump, of the same vicinity, killed one on the same day that netted 386 pounds.

The average crop of wheat in this vicinity looks much better than it did this time last year.

Jere Blackburn colored, indicted for carrying concealed weapons, was found

