

of absence than are some other churches of the city. I have found my actual count that more than half of our regular church-going members—upon whom we mainly depend for our audiences—are absent from the city during the season for a greater or less length of time, varying with different ones from two to eight weeks. Among these are most of our leading

...ness men, including the deacons, the Sunday-school superintendent, assistant superintendent, and most of the teachers, as well as the regular organist and choir. The effect may be more easily imagined than described. To secure substitutes and "keep things a going" is no small matter. This summer, however, in spite of the absence of about half the

own people, our Sunday morning congregations were almost up to the winter average, and the night congregations, though smaller, were excellent for the time of year, owing chiefly to the fact that several other churches had no night services. Our prayer meetings have been well attended and exceptionally enjoyable. The "voluntary plan," adopted some time since, continues to work well, even though the

...worn off, and thus the weekly meeting proves to be a genuine religious

SUSPENDING SUNDAY SERVICES, for a time at least, every summer or fall, prevailed with our church for years, as it did with most of the up-town churches. The result was that everything tended to drop down un-

the willing heat of the dog-days, and a general do-nothing policy was adopted. The bad effects of the custom are plainly visible still, in spite of some commendable efforts to correct them. But, more and more, of late years, the thoughtful and earnest ones among us have become persuaded that "these things ought not to be." The conviction grows that, however much pastor or people may need vacation, it should be taken by both in such a way that the church would not be closed, but that the work of preaching the gospel and looking after the spiritual wants and woes of the people will go on. Experience confirms us in this view of the case, and we are glad that those of us who may be called upon to bear "the burden and heat of the day" will feel richly rewarded for all the sacrifices we may

good that may be done. As essential as it is for the pastor of a city church in this climate to break away occasionally from the routine of his bustling duties and seek recuperation in a complete change of climate, in merry, and companionship; and as necessary as it may become for other church officers and workers to do likewise, I for one sincerely trust that the too prevalent custom of suspending church activities and closing church doors during the summer will be abandoned.

ereafter until it disappears alto-

THE BETTER CUSTOM

not be established without more worth in grace and extra cost of money and labor. It will require refined ingenuity, clear foresight, and indomitable perseverance. It requires the combined and heroic effort of pastor and people. The matter should be taken up in season by year, before vacation comes, and provided for as far as possible in advance, so that all may be ready in the councils and expense incurred, and so that the arrangement adopted may be made known to the

gregation and to the public before
"exodus" begins, that all may

themselves accordingly. Thus only thus, by candid conference and rehearsal for the devising of plans, hearty, generous, faithful co-operation between pastor and people to the point of self-sacrifice, can good work be worthily and successfully accomplished.

THE MOBILE BAPTIST UNION
held its fifth annual meeting. On the 9th-11th, with the Deputies, H. Whistler. We look forward to full attendance and interesting sessions. The introductory sermon was preached by Rev. L. Norris, missionary of our State Board; Doctrinal Sermon, by Rev. J. B. Berlin, and the missionary sermon by the writer. Special reports and discussions will be had, and everyone that we can do to bring our financial interests, State and National, in some effective way, before the people. It is expected that our churches will suspend their regulars on Sunday of the meeting to allow as many of our people as possible to do so to attend the at Whistler.

GEO. B. EAGER.

1885.

MARRIED.
On 17th inst., by Rev. A. T. the residence of Mr. Hosca Garland, Butler county, Prof. Grogan and Miss Lou Presley.
On 18th inst., by Rev. A. T. the residence of Mrs. Mary Monroe county. Mr. H. H.

