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Notes from Italy.

BAPTIST VISITORS

Foreigners are generally afraid of Rome during the summer season, the city having acquired a bad reputation in days gone by, largely through neglect. This summer, however, in spite of heat and exaggerated reports of malaria, we have had a considerable sprinkling of American visitors, limited largely to business and professional ranks, and men who have a short vacation during the heated term, must then never make a hurried trip through Europe. Early in July we had brother Eugene Leary and family, of Baltimore, one of the first coffee merchants in America, and well known in Southern Baptist circles for his generosity and Christian activity. In August we had the delegation of the Southern Baptist Convention to the English Baptists, consisting of Drs. Burrows, Gregory, Stakely and Thomas. As their time was greatly limited they were compelled to see the sights in the American style, giving attention only to objects of special interest, receiving impressions and gathering facts and figures for future development and study. After a brief stay in Rome, and in Florence where I had the privilege to be with them, they were off for Venice, Milan, Switzerland and other parts of Europe, intent on compassing as large a circuit as possible during the few weeks at their disposal. Just a year ago we had with us Mr. John D. Rockefeller, the princely giver, accompanied by his family, all of whom seemed to enjoy most keenly the wonders and beauties of the Eternal City. As we sat one day in the Vatican gallery admiring one of the famous pictures Raphael, Mrs. Rockefeller quietly remarked, "I should be glad to give \$50,000 for that painting." A million dollars, however, would not be sufficient inducement to the Vatican authorities, in spite of their weakness for money, to part with such a picture. Early in September four gentlemen entered our church just before the services began and on introducing myself I found them to be Rev. C. Baldwin, Jr., of Springfield, Mass., Rev. B. A. Woods, of Philadelphia, Rev. J. R. Wilson, of Taunton, Mass., and Rev. T. L. Barbour, of Fall River, Mass. Our latest visitor was Rev. W. D. Powell, of Mexico, who has just left us for Egypt and Palestine. He was very anxious to have Dr. Taylor accompany him to the East, and for several days brought his powers of persuasion to bear upon the doctor, among other things promising to limit his visit to Palestine. He seemed no little disappointed when Dr. T. finally felt compelled to decline. We greatly enjoyed hearing brother Powell relate his Mexican experiences and could but feel that he is the right man in the right place.

THE KING AND THE EVANGELICAL ALLIANCE.

It is now a well known fact that the Evangelical Alliance will meet in Florence next April. The "City of Flowers" will doubtless prove an attraction to hundreds of visitors, and we are expecting a memorable meeting. Italian evangelicals are hoping that it will be the means of great blessings to the cause of Truth in Italy, and plans are now maturing to continue a series of evangelical services for some weeks in Florence, the best preaching talent in Italy being employed for that purpose. The King has shown himself decidedly favorable to the Alliance meeting. Some time ago he readily granted an audience to a prominent Italian evangelist minister and on being informed of the proposed gathering in Florence, the King replied heartily: "You are welcome. You are welcome. And why do you not come to Rome?" When the minister explained that the Alliance did not wish to appear to shake the red flag in the face of the Pope and the Vatican authorities by holding their first meeting on Italian soil, in Rome, the king responded immediately: "Well, as far as I am concerned, you will be welcome in Rome or anywhere else in my kingdom." This sentiment is doubtless shared by Crispi, the Prime Minister, and by thousands of intelligent and liberal minded Italians who have heartily adopted the famous motto of Cavou: "A free church in a free state." In a future article I shall have more to say of this important Alliance meeting.

SUICIDES.

Suicides in Rome seem to be on the increase. It is a sad fact that the daily papers almost without an exception record one or more cases every morning, often giving most harrowing details. The causes assigned by these unfortunate ones for their foolish and often rash act and the means employed for the accomplishment of their purpose are manifold. Some times a father reduced to despair by the sight of his destitute children plunges into deeper misery by taking his own life. Not a few, even young men, driven by present hunger and utter hopelessness concerning the future, give up the battle and end the struggle with a little powder and lead. In the same way some cancel their debts or stone for some grave fault. I have noticed that a woman's name scarcely ever appears on the list of suicides for the above causes. She seems capable of struggling nobly against odds too strong for a man. The chief cause, however, of this great evil seems to be disappointment in love, and on this list it is not unusual to find a woman's name.

The Tiber and Abandon themselves to the mercy of the waves, while others will fill a brazier with freshly-lighted charcoal and shut their eyes in slumber, knowing that they will awake in eternity. Some time ago all Rome was shocked on hearing that two beautiful girls and a young man had thus ended their lives together, each leaving letters to friends. The young man writing to a fellow-student, concluded with these words: "Dear Charles: Before you read these words I shall be in Paradise, and I am sure you will give me a hearty welcome up there, because I bring with me two such beautiful angels."

Where life is so little appreciated, and where error and unbelief have darkened the intellectual and spiritual faculties, suicides will generally abound. The only remedy is found in the soul-enlightening, hope-reviving truths of the Gospel. The Philippians in a moment of despair was about to take his own life, but on hearing the kindly voice of Paul here revived, and once illumined by the Gospel he rejoiced greatly. Even the Christian will have his moments of darkness, yes sometimes he may stand on the very verge of despair, but amidst the darkness he will never fail to hear a kindly voice calling to him, "Do thyself no harm," and at once hope revives and courage returns. The Gospel alone is the sure, unfailing source of comfort and strength amidst the difficulties of life. The Christian may be cruelly persecuted, but not forsaken; he may be cast down, but never destroyed; he may be in great perplexity, but never reduced to despair. The consciousness that God is his Father, that Christ is his Savior and Elder Brother, that Heaven is his home, and that all things are working together for his good, will sustain him in every dark and trying moment and make him more than conqueror through Him that loved him. This blessed Gospel which we are proclaiming amid many difficulties, is Italy's only hope, and once received will revive and revolutionize the old land and place this gifted nation in the front rank.

THE ABJURATION OF A PRIEST.

Last Sunday night I was present at the Baptist church in Pistoia, where a prominent young priest, well known in Pistoia, Florence and Pisa, gave his reasons for leaving the church of Rome. The little church was crowded to suffocation and hundreds were turned away. It was a red-letter day in Pistoia, and the people were so greatly stirred by the news of this first abjuration of a priest in their

some that even the Cathedral would not have held all who wished to be present. Noise and confusion prevailed at first, persons having been sent by the priests purposely to create a disturbance, but during the greater part of the young priest's remarks, the silence was profound and impressive. The pastor is earnestly hoping that this may be the beginning of a much greater work in Pistoia. After six months of correspondence and private interviews, in one of which they spent the whole night together, the pastor is convinced that this young priest is truly converted and he hopes he may yet prove an efficient Christian laborer. While much impressed by his apparent simplicity and earnestness of character and by his clear statement of Gospel truth, I confess I hope with trembling as to few priests have turned out well. For the present he will remain with the pastor, a good Baptist worker, having promised to pay his board for a month or two, and if he proves worthy I am hoping the Lord will open the way for further study and preparation. Will not each one who reads these words pray for this young man who is now in the most critical and trying period of his life, and if you are disposed to make a free will offering for his benefit it will not be refused. If further particulars are desired, write to me and I shall be glad to furnish them.

A Critical View of the Late Convention in Mobile.

Well, it was an enjoyable occasion, and the brethren evidently enjoyed it. Still, I cannot help the stereotyped phrase "the best meeting we ever had" for this scribble has unfortunately acquired the habit of weighing his words, and this is a fearful check upon the glowing eloquence so fashionable in the average newspaper reports of such meetings. After settling in Eufaula, I found that this county bore the name of an old Virginia statesman, whose name is yet a household word in Orange county, Virginia, where he lived. James Barbour was governor of the state, United States senator, secretary of war and minister to England under John Quincy Adams' administration. Orange county was a wheat growing region, and now and then the governor or would-be governor, neighborly boasting of his thirty or forty bushels to the acre. "Did you measure?" he would ask. "No, but I made a close estimate, and I am sure I am within bounds." Whereupon the old statesman, who was himself a large landholder, would say, "The sober reality of the bushel are a great curb upon the luxuriant imagination of the farmer." In this paper I shall endeavor to hold fast to the "sober realities." A distinguished lawyer of Mobile was to have "welcomed" the convention; but the court claimed his presence, and the pastor of the church made a very admirable address. A preacher who can give us such "punch" as that, must necessarily be a first-class preacher for those

St. Francis Street Baptists on Sundays; and it was pleasant to hear from one of the most competent of judges that J. Taylor does it with great regularity. Knowing my man well, I found it natural to say, "Just as I expected."

The president may not have intended to "put the best foot foremost" in the matter of looks; but he did it, if he selected the Tuscaloosa bishop to reply to Taylor. And the reply was good. With a trifle less of elaboration on that image of the "reclining godless," it would have been superb. Dr. Wharton did good work on the platform, when the Foreign Mission report was up; and his speech was greatly enjoyed. More than one of his anecdotes was new to me, and they were well told, and in point. Dr. Pickard's sermon was able, thoughtful and scholarly, with many composed delivery, with much less straining of the voice, and with more attention to condensation, the preacher could have made even that fine sermon a good deal better, and at least a third shorter.

On Sunday morning the scribe had the great pleasure of hearing Dr. Geo. B. Eager, and in charming description, in exquisite touches of imagination, in exalted case and delivery, and in the admirable control of a no be if some "frantic" preachers would take lessons in delivery from this sensible, clear-headed and polished layman. The speaking generally was good—quite good. The hospitality of Mobile can not be improved. It was charming, let nothing to be desired, except another visit to the same place. There were two features of the meeting that cannot easily be de'ended, and as to which I have no fears of being too severe in my criticism. One of these goes by the vulgar name of "axe-grinding," and if the process is worth anything, some of the brethren ought now to have uncommonly sharp axes. To make a speech to the audience, holding in your hand a little paper about a foot square; call it "the best paper in the state"—certainly the best quarters in the state—and then point us to the fact and we shall be silent. Sam Jones is a man of his own kind and the only one of the kind, too singular to imitate, too wayward, logical, to be followed, too sincere to be condemned, too plain to be misunderstood. And in it all to be written stood as one who loves his fellow men. If he ever strikes a blow where it is not done in righteousness we here give a guarantee that he will make every honorable amendment. He has been amongst us and is gone. We sorely wish him well and will open our doors and hearts to him when he comes again.

Orphanage in Texas.

Having noticed several communications in the ALABAMA BAPTIST regarding the subject of an orphanage under denominational control, some statements respecting the inception, establishment, growth, management and present status of such an institution in Texas might not be inopportune. After expressing opinions and interchanging thoughts through the religious press with much prayer for divine guidance, some leading brethren at a general association, without ten years ago, in Paris, Lamar county, Texas, decided to make a beginning. Being out as a committee, it was proposed by one brother, who put down his hat, that every one present should deposit their one dollar, which was done. Other brethren passing by were called, who did likewise, telling others whom they met that they, too, might participate in the luxury of doing good, also, by contributing each a dollar. Around this nucleus, of less than one hundred dollars, was begun the work, which afterward received many additional contributions from individuals and churches. That opinion and plans might be compared, a convention of acting deacons in Baptist churches was called. This convention elected a board of nine deacons, to whose guardianship the project was committed; three to hold office for one year, three for two years and three for three years; it being necessary to elect three at every annual convention. A charter was obtained from the state, but the institution draws no part of its support from the state. Under this charter the property is held in fee simple, and no board of trustees or can inherit any part of it. Advertisements in denominational and secular papers were made for bids from various sections desiring the location of the orphanage and offering bonuses as inducements for the same. A place was selected seven miles from the city of Dallas on the Texas & Pacific railroad, containing fifty acres of land, on which were some cheap houses and a small farm, donated by that community. To the institution was given the name by charter of

Meridian Meeting.

Sam Jones Closes a Great Ten Days' Meeting on Monday.

The Meridian News says of Sam Jones' ten days' series of meetings in that city: The remarkable man of God has come and gone, and it may be truthfully said of him, as the great Cosar said of himself, Veni, vidi, vici. That this city has been shaken from centre to circumference by his powerful sermons, goes without saying, also that the sermon "delivered to men only" on Sunday afternoon will be a lesson for good for all who heard it, no man who was present will dare gainsay. No man could give vent to such utterances as fell from his lips on Sunday afternoon without having a conscience within his own breast, and a sense toward God and man, and a burning and eloquent words will be long remembered by all who heard them. Many things have been said and written about this very striking and highly original character. In it all there is much of the most contradictory and conflicting nature. To judge him wholly in the light of taste would do him grievous wrong. He neither knows nor cares for any law but the moral law, and as to the matter of ethics, he is absolutely free and independent as if no rules of taste existed. His person declares him to be a born nobleman. His words, some times harsh even to bitterness, always belie the sweet tenderness of a spirit softened by Christian sentiment and ever anxious to do good to his fellow men. If he calls a sinner a "low, dirty hound," it is with a view to make him a high, clean, Christian gentleman. If he charges a man with being "a mean, contemptible, sneaking thief," it is in the purpose to make him a high toned, honest man, a "dude" and the "hisping little devils" are visited with the withering scorn of his free vocabulary, it is in order to bring them up to the standard of "sure enough" men and women. As to the matter of taste we can not always applaud him; as to the greater question of conscience we can never condemn him. The evident design of the man is to honor God by bringing men and communities up to the lofty moral level of the Ten Commandments. If he has ever spoken one word in dishonor of virtue and in praise of vice, let his critics put their hand upon it, and we'll "knock un-der" it. If he has ever uttered one word in the way of any honest endeavor to do well, or by his construction point us to the fact and we shall be silent.

Stanley and his Bible.

The day following the great meeting of the British and Foreign Bible Society in Exeter Hall, a conference of prominent supporters and workers was held at the Bible House, Queen Victoria street, with a view to the improvement of organization. In the course of the meeting Sir Harry Verney rose and said: "I have something to tell you that I am sure you will all be very glad to hear. I was sitting a few days ago next to Mr. Stanley, the great African traveler, and in conversation he said to me: 'Just before I started for Africa Sir W. Mackinnon said to me, 'Now I want to give you something, but I should like you to choose for yourself. I shall have the utmost pleasure in presenting you with anything you like.' 'I replied, 'said the traveler, 'Give me a Bible.' The desired gift was soon in my possession, just the Bible I wanted; and during my absence in Africa I have read that Bible through three times.' It need scarcely be added that the announcement was received by the meeting at the Bible House with the utmost delight and heartfelt applause.—British Weekly.

He that has a pure heart will never cease to pray, and he who will be constant in prayer shall know what it is to have a pure heart.—La Combe.

Good standing in his church may be a member of this deacons' convention which meets annually—in connection with the Baptist General Convention—by enrolling his name, when attending a meeting. The general management of the Home has been, from the beginning, placed in charge of Dr. R. C. Buckner, who has manipulated all the financial interests in any way connected with it, submitting his reports and vouchers annually to the board of deacons, whose auditing committee examines them with scrutiny, having always found them correct.

The Home is supported entirely by voluntary charity, and has no traveling agents. The manager has never sought the institution in debt, nor has he power to do so under the charter. Always, when any debt or risk has been necessary in establishing or supporting the institution, he assumed and carried it alone, placing his own credit and property between the Home and debt or legal obligation. In this way he has secured 265 acres of land—all adjoining; as good as any in Texas, deeded to the Home free from incumbrance, besides having numerous improvements made thereon. For all these liabilities and expenditures he has been indemnified, however, by donations from friends of the orphanage. No dependent white orphan child in any part of the state is debarred from its benefits on account of any questions concerning religion, politics or nationality of parents. All are alike cared for with the nearest possible substitute for parental affection, and trained to habits of industry and industry in the fundamental principles of morality and religion; they are also given a good English education. There is now a farm belonging to the Home, and the boys large enough aid in its cultivation, doing such work as suited to their age and health. The entire proceeds of the farm go to the support of the many little children and larger ones alike. The girls are taught in culinary arts, washing, ironing, cutting, sewing, and general household duties, in addition to literary training in English.

There is near the dormitories and sitting rooms a comfortable building used as a school room and a church, which Sunday-school and religious exercises are conducted every Lord's day. The principal teacher, a minister whose wife acts as matron, has entire control of the children—now numbering about 150. The beds are all of iron and no insects have ever been found on one of them. A number of fine milch cows have been purchased, and are being raised on the fine prairie grass, furnish milk and butter; quantities of fowls have also been donated to stock the large poultry yards and aid in supplying the table with wholesome food. Several of the girls have grown there to womanhood and been married to worthy young men in the community; boys, likewise, reaching manhood are aided in obtaining good situations in various avocations. "Order, heaven's first law," characterizes everything about the Home, like that, which prevails in a large, well regulated family. Any desired further details of this great institution may be obtained by addressing Dr. R. C. Buckner, O'phans' Home Station, Dallas county, Texas.

Mexia, Texas.

Put On Oath.

The following from the Western Reporter presents an example of the many devices used to defeat prohibition. Mr. Charles Stewart, superintendent of the House of Industry and Refuge for Discharged Convicts, New York, declares that "eighty per cent. of the ex-convicts stated that the use of intoxicants had been the cause of their crimes." There is no such crime generator and criminal manufacturer on earth as whisky. Yet good and respectable people allow themselves to be bamboozled by the flimsiest sort of arguments (?) against suppressing this most prolific of all sources of crime. It is said, "Prohibition does not prohibit." Well, it prohibits enough to make the whisky drinkers willing to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars to prevent prohibition measures from being adopted. The great trouble is that the daily papers are almost unanimously on the side of the saloon against the home. In the same way they are, as a rule, against every moral reform. There are noble and notable exceptions, but this is the rule.

THE MACEDONIA SAYS.

"If the European colonists or officials had been Christians in truth and let their light shine before men, they would have been a bridge for, whereas now they are too often a dam against the diffusion of Christianity." What is true of Europeans is also true of American travellers, and of our ministers to foreign courts. This is a Christian nation and should be represented only by Christian men.

THE MAN WHO SAYS MISSIONS HAVE BEEN A FAILURE IS INVITED TO HEAR

Rev. Dr. Harper, of Canton, China, says as his opinion of the work. He has been a missionary for forty six years, and as he sat in the missionary conference in Shanghai and thought back over his experience, he said, "My heart was filled with joy and gratitude for what mine eyes have seen of God's wondrous work in this land. * * * In 1844 there were some thirty missionaries resident at four cities and the Baptist possession of Hong Kong. Then, there were some six native converts and two native assistants; now, scattered all over this land, there are 1,285 missionaries, 93 ordained native ministers, and 1,360 unordained native helpers.

THOUGH DIVINE VENGEANCE SEEMS TO BE SLOW, IT IS NOT SLACK.

Though divine vengeance seems to be slow, it is not slack.

Mission Miscellany.

A decree has been issued by the Sultan of Zanzibar abolishing the slave trade.

The number of mission stations now in Africa for all denominations exceeds 500.

Henry M. Stanley, the great explorer, thinks Mohammedanism is losing ground in Africa.

The five Presbyterian bodies recently represented in China are seeking to consolidate into one organization.

Bro. Powell writes of his visit to Dr. Taylor in Rome, Italy, and the prosperous outlook for our cause.

Miss Lottie Moon says that "a more graceful, hearty hospitality than that of the Chinese I have met in no land."

The address of Rev. J. A. Brunson and Rev. J. W. McCollum will be 47 Hill, Kobe, Japan, instead of Bluff 151.

The recent congress in Brazil shows clearly that the power of the priest is broken, and that the reforms begun will continue.

In response to the treatment we give the Chinese, China may before long retaliate, greatly to the hindering of the progress of the gospel.

We are indebted to the Foreign Mission Journal for most of the facts and suggestion here given. The December number of the Journal should be read by every Southern Baptist.

The Southern and Northern Baptists are asked to add one hundred new workers to those already having in China. How glad we would be to see Alabama represented in that number.

Miss Alberta Newton, from far off Africa, writes that souls are inquiring the way of the Lord. She begs us all to pray from the depths of our hearts for Africa, and pray feeling full of hope.

The Sunbeams of Alabama, where any attention is paid them, are doing a great work. The gift of a penny by a child in itself is not great, but through the giving he is learning most valuable lessons.

The receipts for the Foreign Mission Board are a little short of what they were at this date last year. Will our churches not redouble their efforts? The work of that board and its expenses are also greater.

A disciple of Confucius once asked that learned man of the future, but with all his wisdom he could give him no answer.

In their work of revealing to the Chinese something of the future and how to meet it?

Bro. W. B. Bagbee presses on the brethren the necessity for a church house in Rio, Brazil. The present need is for some \$15,000, with which to buy an eligible lot and erect a chapel thereon. Will not God's children in the United States help to meet this want?

It is said by Bishop Blythe, of Jerusalem, that there are now in Palestine double the number of Jews that returned from the Babylonian captivity, and that the "latter rains," which had been withheld since the times of the exile, had been granted again during the last two years.

Bro. Bell asks that our Sunday-schools all celebrate Christmas by having a mission concert and send all the money so gotten for the benefit of North China. Let every school in the state send at once to Rev. T. P. Bell, Richmond, Va., and get programs for the occasion and then work faithfully to make the entertainment a great success.

"By their fruits ye shall know them." T. P. Poate says: "A Buddhist priest, who has been lecturing in the north of Japan for some years has come to me for instruction in Christianity. He says that his reason is that the preachers of Christianity and those who believe in it lead pure lives, whereas Buddhism produces no such fruits, and he wants to know the secret."

There are several cities in China, ranging in population from 75,000 to 400,000, in which our board wishes to plant missions, and the call is for ministers who have had some years of successful work at home; consecrated laymen, capable of teaching, are also desired; or, as Christian physicians and brave, active, intelligent and godly women.

The Macedonia says: "If the European colonists or officials had been Christians in truth and let their light shine before men, they would have been a bridge for, whereas now they are too often a dam against the diffusion of Christianity." What is true of Europeans is also true of American travellers, and of our ministers to foreign courts. This is a Christian nation and should be represented only by Christian men.

The man who says missions have been a failure is invited to hear Rev. Dr. Harper, of Canton, China, says as his opinion of the work. He has been a missionary for forty six years, and as he sat in the missionary conference in Shanghai and thought back over his experience, he said, "My heart was filled with joy and gratitude for what mine eyes have seen of God's wondrous work in this land. * * * In 1844 there were some thirty missionaries resident at four cities and the Baptist possession of Hong Kong. Then, there were some six native converts and two native assistants; now, scattered all over this land, there are 1,285 missionaries, 93 ordained native ministers, and 1,360 unordained native helpers.

THE TISSUE OF EVERY CHRISTIAN'S DESTINY IS WROUGHT WITH THREADS OF MERCY.

The tissue of every Christian's destiny is wrought with threads of mercy, and mercy impresses her own lovely characters on every trial he is called to bear.—Dr. Raffles.

The Gift of Language.

It should never be forgotten that there is no reason whatsoever for regarding language as a human invention, or for supposing that men, if left to themselves, could arrange or employ a system of sounds for communicating their thoughts to the one to whom they are easily inferred from the Scriptural narrative that God gave Adam his vocabulary, as well as that fine intellectual apparatus which might exogitate things worthy of being embodied in its magnificent expressions. I think of our first parent as standing amid the glories of Paradise, his eye wandering delightedly over the beauties with which the earth was thickly strewn, and gathering in the ardent and oracular jewelry of the heavens. Lofty emotions swell within him as he turns from one part to another of the splendid panorama. The rising tide must have vent; the soul is as though it would break loose from the body, to acknowledge the greatness and goodness of the invisible Creator. But the Creator has asked to His creature a power of exhibiting the feelings called up by the gorgeous manifestations of Himself. The best of the field had been formed, but yet there was no praise; the fowl of the air winged their way along the firmament, but no hymns floated through the mighty expanse; the fish of the sea sported in the great deep, but the name of God had not been uttered in the unfathomable waters. Then man arose, in the image of his Maker, the High Priest of the terrestrial temple. He had loftier faculties for appreciating the wonderfulness, the beauty, and the benevolence which were traced on the canvas of expressing what he felt; and as he gazed in silence was broken, and creation thrilled at the melody of speech.—Methell.

From the Clark County Democrat.

Lotteries and Whisky.

Man is a strange animal. He is so blinded by himself, by his likes and dislikes that he can see but a short distance ahead of him. His principles, opinions and acts are, for the most part, the outgrowth of his appetite, passions, prejudices or his fear of public opinion. He is so absurdly wavering, unreliable and inconsistent that we wonder to think that he was created in the likeness of Him in whom there is no variableness nor shadow of turning—the same, yesterday, to-day, and forever. Man is so weak and frail, so corrupt and selfish that he can approve or oppose anything as his feelings, prejudices or surroundings may seem to demand. While in a wakeful mood, the other night, and thinking of the congressional legislation for the suppression of the Louisiana Lottery, it seemed to me so sadly strange and inconsistent that, having done one great and good work for our country, Congress could not have gone on, in the renewed strength from that one good act, and performed another, far greater, far grander, and far more important—the prohibition of the manufacture or sale of intoxicating liquors in the United States of America. That act would have wreathed in garlands of unending glory the brow of every supporting Congressman. An act of that character would save far more money to the people of this country than the act which seeks to put down the Louisiana Lottery, and, in addition, it would save what is far more important than money—the sighs and groans and tears of tens of thousands of wives, mothers, fathers, daughters and sisters. It would bring happiness to thousands who have never known it, and the white wings of the dove of peace would flutter in the sunlight of liberty and peace to homes that have known nothing but the sombre seven wings of despair, gloom and death. As an evil in this country, the lottery-curse sinks out of sight beside the whisky abomination, and seems as unworthy of legislation. The grave physician is foiling with a trifling pipette on the face while the deadly cancer is eating its way to the heart. But, as we said in the outset, man is a strange and selfish being. His principles are shaped by his appetites and passions. Doubtless many of the senators and representatives when they were full of whisky when they voted to cripple and kill the lottery business in this land of ours; and while congratulating themselves upon the performance of a good act, never once realized the fact that they were aiding and encouraging a business that is a hundred times worse than the lottery. But they love whisky and the people love whisky, and while all it can see its evils, and understand that it is the monster overshadowing curse of earth, it is too good to put out of reach. The peace and prosperity of the men's fleshly desires and appetites. Shall I deny myself a few drinks of whisky to free my country from "the pestilence that walketh in darkness and the destruction that wasteth at noon day?"

THE PEOPLE.

There are four hundred million of men; more than one-fourth of the inhabitants of the globe; and seven times as many as are in the United States. They are an intellectual race, learned, proud, shrewd, conceited. They think China the center of the earth, and all other people outside barbarians. They call their country the "Middle Kingdom," the "Floury Land," the "Celestial Empire," and their emperor, the "Brother of the Sun and the Moon." They are patient, industrious, frugal, temperate, enterprising. They are steadily increasing in number and influence. They are pushing their way into all adjacent lands, rapidly settling up the countries around the China Sea; crowding out the natives in Borneo, Java, Sumatra and the Philippine and Sandwich Islands; and emigrating in such hordes to Australia and the United States as to become a terror and a menace to these countries. Does not wise policy, as well as religious duty, call loudly for the Christianizing of a nation, whose position, character, numbers and influence make it a prominent factor in the world's civilization?

AT HOME.

Dear Baptist: I received a call to Bethany Baptist church at this place and, also, at Zion, west of Mobile, Ala. I came to Whistler on the 10th inst. The brethren had secured a house for us and in a few days it was furnished and ready for us. On the night of the 18th a large assembly composed of members of the church here, and a number of others, gathered at the parsonage and left an abundance of good things for our use, things substantial as well as delicacies, and we are now very well settled and have things looking homelike. Altogether, the outlook is comfortable, encouraging and stimulating. No pastor ever received a more unanimous and enthusiastic call to any church, and a new era seems dawning on our people here. Our people are united, cheerful and resolute. There is much work to be done to put our cause in its right place, but with God's blessings upon our efforts we will seek earnestly to build upon our Zion here. We have some good people here, they are working Christians. Our women are a host of strength for God and they hold up the pastor's hands nobly. I am looking forward to a time in the near future when I can write something that will gladden the heart of every Baptist in Alabama, and other Christians as well. Will you not pray for us?

Fraternally,
J. T. GRAHAM.

Whistler, Ala.

To be amended by a little cross, afraid of a little sin, and affected by a little mercy, is a good evidence of growth in the soul.

If we do not wrong others, God will right us.

Central Committee

On Woman's Work for Missions and in the Church.

Mrs. T. A. HAMILTON, Pres., Birmingham, Ala.
Mrs. G. B. EAGER, Vice Pres., Anniston, Ala.
Mrs. I. V. SAGE, Treas., Birmingham, Ala.
Mrs. I. C. BROWN, Cor. Sec., East Lake, Ala.

DECEMBER—PRAYER CARD.

China.—"I will be exalted among the heathen;" missionaries, 33; native assistants, 34; stations, 41; churches, 13; members, 866; baptisms, 83; schools, 18; scholars, 313; contributions from Chinese, \$728 34.

Sunday School.—China's millions, 8. B. C. missions in north, central and southern China. Opium traffic, the obstacle to the gospel. Demand for medical missionaries. Characteristics of Chinese. Dr. Yates and his work.

China, for many reasons, is singularly interesting. It is the oldest nation in the world, its records going back behind the time of Abraham. It is the only country where can still be seen unchanged the manners, customs, dress, ideas, of 3,000 years ago. It is the only large empire where organized paganism still exists.

SITUATION.

It is about the size of the United States, and in the same latitude. The Atlantic ocean forms our eastern boundary; the Pacific forms the eastern boundary of China. The Gulf of Mexico lies south of us; the Gulf of Tonquin south of China. It is divided into eighteen large provinces, somewhat resembling the states of our Union. But here all resemblance ceases. China is on the opposite side of the world, and may be described as in all respects diametrically opposite to us.

CUSTOMS.

When Americans meet they shake each other's hands; the Chinese shake their own hands. We uncover; they cover the head in token of respect. We black our shoes; they whiten theirs. Our young people would think it very hard to be debarred the pleasure of doing their own courting. Their fathers and mother do the courting, and the young people often do not see each other until after the wedding. Our mourning is black; theirs white; and the most graceful and acceptable present to a friend is a coffin. We lay our heads on a soft pillow; they, on a block of wood. We place our sense in our head; they, in their stomach. Their very scissars are in an opposite direction to ours!

THE PEOPLE.

There are four hundred million of men; more than one-fourth of the inhabitants of the globe; and seven times as many as are in the United States. They are an intellectual race, learned, proud, shrewd, conceited. They think China the center of the earth, and all other people outside barbarians. They call their country the "Middle Kingdom," the "Floury Land," the "Celestial Empire," and their emperor, the "Brother of the Sun and the Moon." They are patient, industrious, frugal, temperate, enterprising. They are steadily increasing in number and influence. They are pushing their way into all adjacent lands, rapidly settling up the countries around the China Sea; crowding out the natives in Borneo, Java, Sumatra and the Philippine and Sandwich Islands; and emigrating in such hordes to Australia and the United States as to become a terror and a menace to these countries. Does not wise policy, as well as religious duty, call loudly for the Christianizing of a nation, whose position, character, numbers and influence make it a prominent factor in the world's civilization?

AT HOME.

Dear Baptist: I received a call to Bethany Baptist church at this place and, also, at Zion, west of Mobile, Ala. I came to Whistler on the 10th inst. The brethren had secured a house for us and in a few days it was furnished and ready for us. On the night of the 18th a large assembly composed of members of the church here, and a number of others, gathered at the parsonage and left an abundance of good things for our use, things substantial as well as delicacies, and we are now very well settled and have things looking homelike. Altogether, the outlook is comfortable, encouraging and stimulating. No pastor ever received a more unanimous and enthusiastic call to any church, and a new era seems dawning on our people here. Our people are united, cheerful and resolute. There is much work to be done to put our cause in its right place, but with God's blessings upon our efforts we will seek earnestly to build upon our Zion here. We have some good people here, they are working Christians. Our women are a host of strength for God and they hold up the pastor's hands nobly. I am looking forward to a time in the near future when I can write something that will gladden the heart of every Baptist in Alabama, and other Christians as well. Will you not pray for us?

Fraternally,
J. T. GRAHAM.

Whistler, Ala.

To be amended by a little cross, afraid of a little sin, and affected by a little mercy, is a good evidence of growth in the soul.

If we do not wrong others, God will right us.

Alabama Baptist

Montgomery, Ala., Dec. 11, 1890.

There is more Catarrh in this section of the country than all other diseases put together...

To denounce and berate is not to reform. It is easy enough, on paper, to pitch into "our friends the enemy."

Twice a Week for a Dollar a Year. Subscribers to THE WEEKLY REFLECTOR, of St. Louis, the leading Democratic paper of the country...

If there's a right thing to be done and we seem to pass through a wrong thing on our way to it, depend upon it there's another way to it and a better one...

Science Overcomes Deafness. Just now the medical world is "engaged" in discussing the new device for deafness called Sound Disc...

The happy person will be the natural heart singer, who has found delight in that sweet psalm, "Fret not thyself; rest in the Lord; wait patiently for him, and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart."

Excursion to Asheville, N. C. Excursion tickets will be sold by agents of the East Tennessee, Virginia & Georgia Railway system to Asheville, N. C., December 13, 14, 15 and 16...

There is no knowledge for which so great a price is paid as a knowledge of the world; and no one ever became an adept in it except at the expense of a hardened and wounded heart.

IF YOUR HOUSE ON FIRE. You put water on the burning timbers, not on the smoke. And if you have catarrh, you should attack the disease in the blood, not in your nose...

FOR DYSPEPSIA. Use Brown's Iron Bitters. Physicians recommend it. All dealers keep it. Beware of cheap imitations. Genuine has trade-mark and crossed red lines on wrapper.

As the principle of love is the main principle in the heart of the real Christian, so the love of love is the main business of the Christian life.

ADVICE TO MOTHERS. Mrs. WISSON'S SCOTCH SYRUP should always be used for children teething. It soothes the child, softens the gums, allays all pain, cures wind colic, and is the best remedy for diarrhoea.

Wanted to Sell. A splendid \$85 organ for \$75. New and guaranteed for three years. Address HARE & POPE.

FOR THE BLOOD. Weakness, Malaria, Indigestion and Biliousness take BROWN'S IRON BITTERS. It cures quickly. Get the genuine.

Hope is like the sun, which as we journey toward it, casts the shadow of our burden behind us.—Sam'l Smiles

A Christian's Death. It is Only a Dream, ought to be in every home in the land. In sheet music. Send 3 cts. to W. E. Fenn, Evans Springs, Ark., and get a copy, and thought about death will undergo a great change.

A corruption of morals usually follows the profanation of the Sabbath.—Blackstone

Gratifying to All. The high position attained and the universal acceptance and approval of the pleasant Food Fruit Syrup of Fenn, as the most excellent laxative known, illustrate the value of the qualities which its success is based on.

Had the faith of the heart been sufficient, God would not have given you a mouth.—L. Aguias

We publish the following letter by permission: MT. ANDREW, Ala., Nov. 10, '90. Otis W. Snyder, Lexington, Ky. Dear Sir: The goods ordered from you received all right. I am well pleased with your selection, and I cheerfully recommend you to any one waiting first class goods at reasonable prices.

Every day is a little life, and our whole life is but a day repeated. These, before the loss of a day are dangerously prodigal; those that have mispend it, desperate.—Bishop Hall

The right way to cure catarrh is to eradicate the poisonous taint which causes the disease, by taking Hood's Sarsaparilla.

A man is already of consequence in the world when it is known that he can implicitly depend on him.—Lord Lyons

The sublimity of wisdom is to do those things living which are to be done when dying.—Jeremy Taylor

Physicians' prescriptions have failed to reach many cases of rheumatism known to have been subsequently cured by Salvation Oil. That is the reason why the popular voice is practically unanimous in its favor.

With the heart always right the head can seldom be far wrong.—Sir Walter Scott

Horsford's Acid Phosphate. Imparts Renewed Strength and vigor where there has been exhaustion.

In the usual relations of life, the small things count more than the great.—Henry James

A Father's Worry. Your poor weaned wife losing sleep night after night nursing the little one suffering from that night fiend to children and horror to parents, CRUPEL, CRUPEL, CRUPEL! Have you tried the new Peppermint Cure? It cures the cough, cures the croup, cures the cold, cures the asthma, cures the whooping cough, cures the croup, cures the cold, cures the asthma, cures the whooping cough.

FRIDAY.—An interesting business meeting Wednesday night. Good audience of 111 men, and after sermon by the pastor a precious communion service was held.

NOTICE.—Unless a strike among the miners of this section takes place, every interest will be nearly a helplessness without and without will suffer accordingly. The most suffering will be among people not miners.

OBITUARY. Died, near Marvin, Ala., Nov. 12th, 1890. Geo. Robert Armstrong who was born near Sogsville, Clark county, Jan. 18, 1838.

OBITUARY. Died, near Marvin, Ala., Nov. 12th, 1890. Geo. Robert Armstrong who was born near Sogsville, Clark county, Jan. 18, 1838.

OBITUARY. Mrs. Mary B. Fennell was born in Tennessee, Nov. 24th, 1829. She was converted under the preaching of Rev. Mr. Rucks, and united with the Baptist church in 1859.

husband's side. Sister Fennell during her long life was a consistent member of the church. She was a tender mother, a loving wife, a faithful friend. She was one of the members of the First Baptist church from the organization to her death.

ROYAL BAKING POWDER Absolutely Pure. A cream of triter baking powder. Highest of all in leavening strength.

SCOTT'S EMULSION. Of Pure Cod Liver Oil and Hypophosphites of Lime and Soda. Without a rival. Many have gained a pound a day by the use of it.

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CHRISTMAS MUSICAL GIFTS. Gift of Music plays away! Suppose the gift should be a fine Mando lin, Guitar, Banjo, Violin or Music Box?

CHURCH SCHOOL FURNITURE. The Great Church Light. Church of Christ, No. 2 Noelville, Tenn.

IRON FENCE. SIXTY STYLES. Cemetery and Lawns. CARROLLTON, N. C.

DROPSY. Treated free. PAINFUL, URGENT. Has cured many cases.

OPUIUM. For the cure of Opium Habit. For the cure of Opium Habit.

CHRISTMAS PLAYS. REGITATIONS FOR CHRISTMAS. The DeWitt Publishing House, 33 West Street, N. Y.

Our Young People For 1891. The success of this very excellent paper has been so great that the Society is able to reduce the price from fifty to forty cents, published fortnightly.

For the present year we have made arrangements for choice Serials, and other attractions that will greatly interest our readers.

OUR LITTLE ONES. Look out for "Our Little Ones" for 1891. It is enlarged. The pictures are a great deal finer in quality, and still more beautiful.

This gem of papers published for the little ones has no equal in either excellence or beauty. The engravings alone for this year will cost one thousand dollars.

PRICE REDUCED. The price of "THE SUNLIGHT" published by the American Baptist Publication Society has been reduced from ten to eight cents, monthly edition; and from twenty to only sixteen cents for the semi-monthly edition.

Compare with prices of similar papers. Am. Baptist Publication Society.

CHURCH SCHOOL FURNITURE. The Great Church Light. Church of Christ, No. 2 Noelville, Tenn.

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CHRISTMAS PLAYS. REGITATIONS FOR CHRISTMAS. The DeWitt Publishing House, 33 West Street, N. Y.

TAKE THE Southern Baptist Convention Series SUNDAY SCHOOL HELPS FOR 1891

It is Your Own Series. It is owned and controlled by the Southern Baptist Convention, which has no interest in any other.

TERMS AS FOLLOWS: KIND WORDS WEEKLY—Clubs of 8 or more, each, 50c a year. KIND WORDS SEMI-MONTHLY—Clubs of 8 or more, each, 25c a year.

"Young People at Work." There is a great uprising among the Baptist young people of the churches in many sections of the country, especially in the West.

"Young People at Work." The paper will be made expressly for members of the Young People's Societies in Baptist churches. It has no purpose to antagonize existing organizations, but it will do its utmost to help all Baptist young people in their own great work.

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PRIMARY GRADE. Picture Lessons. Intermediate Quarterly. Sunlight. Our Little Ones. INTERMEDIATE GRADE. Intermediate Quarterly. Sunlight. Our Little Ones. ADVANCED GRADE. Bible Lessons. Young Reader. SENIOR GRADE. Senior Quarterly. Our Young People. The Worker.

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The Youth's Companion. SPECIMEN COPIES AND FULL ANNOUNCEMENT SENT ON APPLICATION. The Girl with a Taste for Music. How can She make the most of her Voice? A remarkable Series of Papers written expressly for THE COMPANION by the following Famous Singers:

Madame Albani. Miss Emma Nevada. Miss Emma Juch. Miss Maria Van Zandt. Madame Lillian Nordica. Thrown on Her Own Resources. What can a Girl of Sixteen do? A Series of Four practical and helpful Articles, which will prove suggestive and valuable to any girl.

Amelia E. Barr. "Jenny June." Mary A. Livermore. "Marion Harland." Free to New Subscribers who send \$1.75 now, will receive the paper for Jan. 1, 1891. FREE AND SENT FULL YEAR FROM THAT DATE. This offer includes the FIVE DOUBLE HOLIDAY NUMBERS and the ILLUSTRATED WEEKLY SUPPLEMENTS. Address THE YOUTH'S COMPANION, Boston, Mass.

HELP FOR THE NEEDY. To any poor Baptist Sunday-school not now taking the Publication Society's Periodicals and Helps, the Society will furnish any of its Papers and Helps two Quarter—the First and Second of 1891—for the full price of one Quarter.

GILBERT CARTER & CO'S MUSIC HOUSE. 208 and 210 21st Street, Birmingham, Ala. Compare the prices of American Baptist Publication Society's Sunday-school periodicals with the prices of others. Why pay 25 cents for a semi-monthly Sunday-school paper, when you can get as good, or a better one, for 16 cents?

