

WESTERN RECORDER.

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Address all letters for the Western Recorder to this paper, including notices, books, school papers, job printing, etc., to A. C. Caperton & Co. Send to the same care of the publisher of the RECORDER, and will send them promptly.

LOUISVILLE, THURSDAY, JANUARY 6, 1881.

When writing to any one advertising in this paper, please state that you saw his advertisement in the Western Recorder.

The Need of the Hour.

Many addresses have been delivered, many newspaper articles have been written, upon this subject within the past few years; but very few, if any, have discussed the thought we have now in mind. In order to the advancement of the interests of Christ's kingdom, we are convinced that it is need better, more inviting, houses of worship; better, more thoroughly artistic singing; more scholarly and eloquent pulp ministrations; a wiser and better adjustment of machinery. Now we have not a single word to attract good, attractive houses of worship; not a word against good singing, not a word against eloquent pulp ministrations. The more of these material agencies that we can wisely utilize in the cause of Christ, the better. But our need of needs today is a revival of spirituality in the churches. It is a sad fact—a fact that needs to be very earnestly and carefully pondered—that the spiritual life of the churches, taken as a whole, is at a very low ebb. Churches are robbed of spiritual power. Ministers good and faithful, tried and true, in many instances, are spending their time for naught, in so far as apparent results are concerned. The multitude, intoxicated with vanity and folly, are prevailing on the way to death. But what is the cause of this state of things? Isaiah, in speaking of the low state of Zion's interests in his own day, said, "The Lord's head is not shortened, that he can not see, neither his ear heavy that it can not hear: but your iniquities have separated between you and God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear." Is not this the solution of the problem that confronts us today? We are not quite disposed to endorse all that is said by the croaking spirit of the age. The age in which we live, while characterized by vice of the most bewitching and mischievous sort, yet boasts of quite a strong moral and Christian sentiment that holds these vicious propensities somewhat in check. Still, it is sadly true that there is a tendency to lawlessness among men; that there is a tide of worldliness rising in the churches, that is alarming. The line of demarcation between the church and the world is now very nearly obliterated. It is not now as in the apostolic age, when Christians were "epistles read and known of all men." Aside from the fact that their name is on the church-book, and that they occasionally observe the external ceremonies of the Christian faith, there is no difference between very many of the professors of religion and the men of the world. Their outward life is on the same plane with the respectable members of society, who make no pretensions. The Christian professor, honest in his dealings, temperate in speech, kind of heart, not given to wine; nor to any of the debasing vices; neither is the respectable member of society more than this. We can see no difference between himself and the mass of professors of religion, and do we wonder? The life of the Christian is all that the world has as a criterion by which to judge of the gospel's power. When we come in contact with a young man who has just graduated from one of our colleges, and observe his manner, so how he appears in society, what tastes he has cultivated, we judge from these things

of the kind of teacher through whose hands he has passed. When a young lady has just graduated in music, we form an opinion of the teacher by the manner in which she seats herself at the instrument; the grace with which she sweeps the key-board, and the ease and naturalness of all her movements. It is in these little excellencies exhibited in the pupil that the superiority of the teacher is revealed. And thus it is in the little excellencies of character that we manifest, that the world sees the superiority and grandeur of the gospel. That this revival of spiritual life and power is the need of the age, there can hardly be any doubt. That Christians must live differently, if God's arm be made bare for the salvation of the people, can hardly admit of doubt. The secret of the gospel's wondrous power in the apostolic age was found in the lives of God's saints. Their minds and wills were renewed, their lives were transformed. The church register had not to be consulted to ascertain whether or not they professed to be the disciples of Jesus. Their lives of singular separation from the world, of entire devotion to the interests of the kingdom of Christ, and to the highest good of their fellow men, clearly manifested to the world that they were the disciples of Jesus. The world could say, "We know that there is a mysterious, an unseen power in the gospel of Jesus, power to make men anew, to change the whole current of their lives, for here are the Christian people, with joyous faces, yet with deepest earnestness of manner, going out now laboring, in the face of trials and persecutions, for the highest good of their fellows. They surrender lucrative positions of honor among their fellows, for the sake of bearing the tidings of salvation to men. And so radically are they changed in the temper and disposition of their minds, that they not only refuse to frequent places of vile resort, but they avoid every appearance of evil; and this not because they have and do delight in these things, but because the spirit of religion has taken possession of them." Wonder we that the gospel in that early age won such brilliant victories! Our need today is for just such lives as these. There must be a difference between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not. This difference must be more than a mere ceremonial one. It must be a difference in outer life. The teaching of the pulpit must be up to the teaching of the Scriptures; the piety of the pulpit must be up to its teachings; the piety of the pew must be up to the piety of the pulpit, in a word, the life of pulpit and pew must be squared by the teachings of God's Word, and not by our own opinions. Those shall receive blessing speedily who cheer the hearts of God's saints, and Zion's walls shall be gloriously builded up.

HORACE BINNELL has said, with much of rhetorical strength and beauty, that "not all the winds and storms, and earthquakes, and seas, and seasons of the world, have done so much as man to revolutionize the earth." Man is above all these—above nature, with her storm, and fire, and earthquake—her lord and conqueror. Mountain ranges, ever-inspiring in their sublimity, rivers so graceful in their majestic flow, oceans, so inviting in their portentous stillness, so widely grand when battling with the storm—these are subjected to man's power, the servants that do his bidding; for man is made but "a little lower than the angels." INBENBOLT thinks that Professor Swing is in such substantial accord with himself, that he does not need to attempt a reply to any of his utterances. It certainly does not seem as though it could be very comforting to any one who occupies the pulpit to be thus spoken of by the voracious and most blatant of all infidels of the present day. But this simply furnishes further illustration of what has been adverted to more than once in these columns—that when a man severs his moorings from the Rock of God's own Truth and drifts out into the wide sea of liberal thought, there is no tilling where he is going to bring up.

WANTED—All to understand that you can save time, trouble, and money, by buying your books, Sunday-school supplies, stationery, etc., of A. C. Caperton & Co. We supply all the publications of the Philadelphia Society, and the publications of other bodies at the lowest Eastern prices.

About the Future.

In regard to the coming twelve months we have no new revelations to make, nor promises to renew. We can but do what we have all along sought to accomplish—give our readers a good Baptist paper, healthy in tone, sound in teaching, awake to every issue, and fully abreast of the times as a medium of news and instruction. These have been and shall still be our aims. We have no more lofty selfish aims. While we do desire and strive to make a living for ourselves and family, yet our highest aim is to advance the cause of the Redeemer, benefit the churches of our land, and instruct in the principles of the Bible, those who read our paper. We can say truthfully, therefore, that we aim at the highest and best good of those to whose mental and spiritual welfare we cater, and we hope it is not selfishness in us to say that we seek and expect of them a generous support in our endeavor. In the new year, therefore, we expect still to give those articles of sterling value which have ennobled our columns, we expect still to present the views of our best and ablest men on denominational topics, we expect still to promote the interests of our Sunday-schools and to provide for the occasion of our Sunday-school teachers, and we expect still to fill our columns with news from all quarters. From our churches and Sunday schools we look for a just appreciation of our efforts, and, by our subscriptions they can show that appreciation. More than ever we expect our Sunday-school teachers and superintendents to send on large clubs for the RECORDER, and are willing to make special rates for such as will do so, being willing to show our appreciation of their help on the part of our subscribers. The Sunday-school lessons for the year we believe will be instructive and useful. As will be seen, by the list, those for six months are from the gospel of Luke and present a series both interesting and valuable to the Biblical student.

Mr. N. is being said at the present time in regard to the manner in which the General should show its respect for the Convention. By some it is thought to be a good thing—fall in with the suggestion of the President, in his message, and make him "Captain General" of the army. By others it is proposed to raise a special contribution and present it to him. It is thought to be a wise thing by some to do this latter and establish it as a sort of precedent to be followed in the case of all our Presidents in the future. We shall not raise any objection if, when a President steps out of office and takes his place among the people, some of our citizens present him with a private purse. That is possibly one of our business. But to hold out the idea before the American people that, after a man has received \$200,000 of the public money, he is then to be treated as an object of charity is simply mischievous. We can discover no reason why an ex-president should have any a competence. These luxurious demands of social life at the capital are quite foreign, if not antagonistic to the simplicity of our institutions. They foster the aristocratic spirit of caste distinctions. They tend to encourage dishonesty and to loosen the foundation of morality. Now, if an ex-president is to receive any private donations, let it be wholly voluntary upon the part of the donor. Let it be given just as to any other man, as a token of friendly regard and esteem. But let it never be understood in this free country, where republican simplicity reigns, that ex-presidents are to receive donations from the people to help them live. We may be tinctured with "old fogyism," but these are our sentiments.

REV. S. C. HUMPHREYS devoted the month of December to canvass for the RECORDER. His success was such as to encourage him to work awhile longer. He will re-immediately upon a canvass of the counties of Nelson, Washington, Mercer and Anderson. We trust the pastors and brethren will help him in this good cause, and that they very few, if any, Baptist families, whose contributions shall be left without the weekly visits of the Recorder.

Kind Words.

This Sunday-school paper of our Southern Baptist Convention should be in all our Sunday-schools. There are several reasons for this. It is a good paper, and its lessons are well adapted to the capacity of the young. Schools taking this paper and using it as a text-book, will learn a great deal of the Bible, and their lessons will be clear and simple, and just such as the average child of ten or twelve wants. And there is no doubt about the teachings of our text-book, for it is the genuine and workings of our Southern Baptist Convention paper does that, and it is futile to expect them to. If, therefore, we would instruct the young of our Southern Baptist churches in that important work and our denominational polity, it would be well to patronize the largest extent our own paper. We are glad to hear that Kind Words is prospering, and that it more than holds its own amid formidable opposition. It is well to be glad to say that we consider it the duty of our Southern churches to stand up to their Convention paper, which works for the interest of the Convention and of our own churches. It is the duty of some of our churches to send an intelligent, liberal, generous and well-informed membership, not only evangelists in tone, but missionary in spirit, and devoted thoroughly in our own views. We published such a paper as Kind Words is just the instrument needed by the young of our present churches to effect these results in our churches of the future. Let pastors and superintendents see to it, then, that Kind Words is introduced into our churches, and that it be read and studied here in New York city, Chinese, African, German, Swede, Jew, all are being looked after. Aggressive work is the motto.—N. Y. Baptist Register.

The Maryland church, Brooklyn, will be supplied, temporarily, by Dr. J. Whiston Smith, of Philadelphia, commencing the first Sunday in the new year. The church at Okaloosa, Miss., has a salary of \$500 for the right pastor; he is paid quarterly, and that's all we know about it. In an account of the condition of the colored people in Louisiana, J. A. Arroll says in the National Era, "Wages are low, and pay is by no means certain. Exorbitant prices are often charged for the necessities of life, and the colored man has to pay fifty cents for a small bottle of mullage. Practically few admit that a colored man has any rights as a white man." We are slow to credit such statements as the above. We have never seen the place where a colored man could not buy goods just as cheaply as a white man. Fifty cents for a small bottle of mullage is a white man's price? Some people will believe that the laws of trade are the same, in the South as in the North. How can one man get 20 cents for an article when his next door neighbor will sell the same article for 10 cents?

Rev. C. F. Post, of Philadelphia, who lately came to our people from the Modern Disciples, has accepted a call to Topeka, Kansas.

The Nashville Institute, one of our schools for Freedmen, is full, having 110 men and 76 girls, among them ten from the Indian Territory.

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In March, Miss, one of the oldest and most flourishing churches in the country, is permitted to languish. It is to build up strong and influential churches in such places that the Southern Mission Board is needed. An exceedingly independent church is all the more necessary, inasmuch as they are their own erect will their own.

In the late meeting with the First-Street church, Richmond, there were 126 professions of conversion, and 116 additions to the church. They are now going to work to build a new church house.

"Langley" says: "There is a decided tendency among our country churches in Virginia to abolish the old 'once-monthly' system, and to have preaching at least two Sundays a month."

The need of the church today is deeper consecration, greater zeal for the conversion of souls, a more active, determined, Christy-minded membership to carry forward its work.—Evening's Chronicle.

In New Hampshire the number of churches is 84, of members, 9,077; the general condition of the churches is low, only 30 of the 168 report baptisms, a smaller number than has been reported since 1865.

As one of the churches here has been largely blessed, 11 of them reporting 119 baptisms.

The Board of the American Baptist Home Mission Society need \$100,000 to meet their obligations to their missionaries, and have only three months to raise the money before the close of the fiscal year; but the money will be forthcoming. Our Northern brethren abound in the grace of giving.

The City Mission has now twelve churches which are still adding, and including the churches of the city, 175 missionaries at work—home and foreign. We think it is here in New York city, Chinese, African, German, Swede, Jew, all are being looked after. Aggressive work is the motto.—N. Y. Baptist Register.

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We want all the church ones we can get, but please do not make your friends for publication; they are not edifying; and thus they grow dear.

So far from being a dying field, it may safely be said that never was Christianity so extensively and so successfully propagating its place among the affairs with which men have to do.

At a recent meeting of the Second Presbyterian church, Louisville, Rev. G. B. Strickler, D.D., of Virginia, was called on to deliver a sermon. He has been considered necessary by the impaired health of the pastor, Rev. Stuart Robinson, D.D. Dr. Strickler has preached a number of Sabbaths at this church, and has made a very favorable impression. It is not known whether he will accept the call.

The Roman Vicar Apostolic of Nebraska avers that it would surprise Catholics in the East, to know how many have been lost to the faith in the West during the last half century. In Nebraska alone, with its sparse population, the number thus lost has been from 10,000 to 15,000, and the church has no more bitter enemies to-day than these children of Catholic parents.

EDITORIAL VARIETIES.

Pastor Stockhouse is being blessed in his work in Winchester, there having been in the past few months more than twenty additions to the church, and the congregations have grown to be about the largest in the town.

Rev. W. B. Higgins, of the Seminary, received as a holiday gift a nice overcoat, from the ladies of the Ourlife church. He has also had a call to the pastorate of the Carlisle and the Park of Elkton churches.

Rev. J. M. Bent, of Covington, has been called to the care of the church at Millersburg for half his time.

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NEW AMERICAN \$15 WATCH. The extraordinary drive with which...

The Society of Missionary Inquiry was Saturday, Jan. 3. Dr. Henry...

to attract the masses, they thereby acknowledge that their faith is on the last legs...

Kentucky, Rev. Chabane? Met a tall young man, about 18 years old. Asked him if he would buy a Bible...

plein they held a very profitable meeting, which closed Dec. 1st with 7 substantial additions...

Brazil embraces an area of 3,340,000 square miles, an area little less than that of the United States...

Spent a night with Sister Donahue and family, three miles from Mt. Sterling...

While at the State Convention at Seymour a good sister said to me that she and her husband had always contributed to missions...

WEST FORD, Mo.—We have just closed a meeting of two weeks at West Ford, Jackson Co., Mo. For years this church had been largely to internal tithing...

What are the obstacles to missionary labor in Brazil? The great obstacle is the prevailing Catholicism. Here unmeaning Ritualism and a degraded priesthood have brought forth a legitimate fruit in the greatest perfection...

Spent Saturday night with Bro. Anderson and family. Preached at Buck Run Sunday. Bro. Booth's people, and on Monday went to the capital city...

AMONG THE CHURCHES. Spencer, Ind.—My Dear Bro. H. W. Your prayer and words moved me. Thanks for the information...

Notes from Missouri. I held a week's meeting with my church in Troy. Had the assistance of Rev. J. C. Armstrong, of the Central Baptist. The weather was so unfavorable...

First. In the promotion of Brazil future greatness. The line upon which to begin is, and her country is broad and fertile...

Spent a number of our churches have been favored with a good revival during the past few months. The association is small, having only 12 churches...

FROM THE CHURCHES. CAMPBELLVILLE, TENN. Co., Ky.—The church at Campbellville, Taylor county, Ky., has just enjoyed a good refreshing from the presence of the Lord...

GENERAL GRANT is writing an article for the February number of the North American Review, advocating the Nicaragua Canal Scheme...

Second. Free press and free growing interest in free schools are encouraging indications. In fact, there is great encouragement in the fact that amid all her superstitions...

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REDEMPTION OF HOLYOKE ACADEMY. BOARDING AND FREE SCHOOLS FOR YOUNG LADIES. W. W. FOUNTAINE, JR.

New Year's Greeting. TO THE FRIENDS OF OAK HALL. MR. WITHERSPON'S FURNITURE STORE.

WARRANTED. H. RICHARDSON, SAC and FOX Agency, New York City.

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NON-PAREL FARM & FEED MILLS. THE CHEAPEST and BEST. W. J. MILLER, GREENE, ILL.

The Family Circle.

HOLD ON! HOLD ON! HOLD ON!

Hold on! hold on! in thy believing. The standard only was the cross: He who when stormy winds were blowing...

What Religion Has Done for New York.

The Hon. Thurlow Weed has written a clear and admirably eloquent letter to the New York Tribune on the pernicious efforts of Colonel Ingersoll's teaching...

Our city furnishes many examples of the beneficence of religion. Forty years ago a locality too well known as the "Five Points"...

These orgies continued year after year, defiant and aggressive, until that pandemonium was invaded by Christian men and women whose patience would not tire...

Thousands of children then growing up either vagabonds or culprits now attending schools, to which they are stimulated by precept and example to live industrious and virtuous lives...

Again, eight years ago Water street and its surroundings eastward from Peck Slip had a notorious almost as unenviable as that of "Five Points"...

But this disturber of the public peace was converted, and then he resolved to devote the remainder of his life to the service of his Master...

The general character of the neighborhood has been improved, its social and moral tone and atmosphere have been purified.

Sailor boarding-houses have been reformed. Sailors now carry their Bibles with them to sea.

Hundreds of half naked and hungry wives and children, by the conversion of drunken husbands and fathers, now rejoice in comfortable and happy homes.

The Mission church is crowded every week, day and evening and three times on Sunday with intelligent Christian men and women who, rescued from garrets and gutters...

Said a good lady to the preacher, as he came out of the pulpit, "You preached a good sermon to-night."

"What is your standard of a good sermon?" "When a sermon makes you feel that you ought to do better, and that you can do better, I call it a good sermon."

Drives of American Women.

A lady writer in the Boston Herald says: There is an impression abroad, as well as here that our American women think more of their rights than of anything else.

That a reform in woman's dress is needed, few deny, but still fewer are brave enough to attempt the wearing of gowns cut with regard to comfort, and not with regard to fashion.

No one can hide from the judgment. A century ago an infidel German counts, dying, gave orders that his grave should be covered with a solid slab of granite; that around it should be placed square blocks of stone, and that the whole should be fastened together by strong iron clamps.

This burial place, purchased to all eternity, must never be opened. Thus he defied the Almighty. But a little soil sprouted over the covering, and the tiny shoot found its way through between two of the slabs, and grew there, slowly and surely, until it burst the clamps asunder, and lifted the immense blocks.

No wonder the people of Hanover look at that tree and that opening grave as God's answer to the terrible defiance of the young countess. Certain it is that no one can hide from that universal exposition.

Our Little folks.

Do you know what has happened to Kitty, my dear little kitty cat? O! it was the most dreadfully pity. And all account of a rat.

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Every Day a Little.

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