

THE ARKANSAS METHODIST.

SATURDAY, MAY 30, 1885.

Temperance.

EDITORS METHODIST:—I had a talk this morning with Barlow, my prohibition friend, the same who told me that Magnolia yarn. This time he seemed to be excited, and was very unfair. Said he, "When I first came to this place a year ago, as I was walking the street one evening I was accosted, by a perfect stranger, with a familiar slap on the shoulder and 'Hello, Jim! when did you come down here? Haven't seen you for a long time. Come in and let's take something.' I said, 'No, I never indulge.' 'Well,' said he, 'let's go upstairs and see what the boys are doing up there.'" "Now," said Barlow, "that fellow knew I was a stranger. He was a bum for the saloons and gambling dens. It was his business to rope in strangers and country greenhorns." And then he went on to abuse the saloon men for such efforts to increase their custom. He reminded me of what another man was telling me last summer. It seems he had in his charge an orphan boy, a nephew; and this boy came to him, telling his uncle that he had again and again been met on the street by such and such men, who invited him into a saloon, and when he declined, they had persuaded, urged and even threatened, to induce him to go with them. Said this man to me, "I had to see those men and tell them to let my nephew alone; and when it was repeated, I told the gentlemen if I heard of my nephew being annoyed again I would thoroughly punch their heads for them. Now all this is very unfair. Of course saloon men must push their business. Everybody that succeeds in business must solicit trade. Don't you boom the METHODIST all you can—urge the people to subscribe and stir your agents to a busy canvass? That's all right. But when a saloon man does it, some people think that's all wrong. How foolish! A saloon man has as much right to push his business as he has to do business; in fact, he has a better right than anybody. Do you ask why? Because his business is the life of the town. Don't you know if it was not for the whiskey business this town would be dead, and any other town would be dead. Grass would grow in the streets, and stagnation settle upon every channel of business. Very well. If the whiskey business is the life of the town, the more we push the business the better for the town. Everything that will increase the sale of whiskey is a blessed help to the place. Not only the saloon men themselves but every friend of the people ought to be doing what they can to encourage the drinking habit and make it more general. And we intend to do it. We will make our saloons delightful places of resort. We will treat every stranger with jolly good fellowship. We will gather in all the new custom we can. We will help the young to form habits of steady drinking. We will overcome every other advice and influence just as surely as we can. We will double the number of saloons and the number of customers in every saloon just as soon as we can. Then business will be brisk, everybody get rich, and won't we have a lively time? Of course we have to use some discretion in pushing business. We would not try to get you into a saloon; but we will get your boy if we can. Yes we will, or any other man's boy. And I'd like to know why not. I am really sorry we cannot have access to the ladies. Somehow a sort of prejudice keeps them away from us. I believe they need the whiskey just as much as the men do. I'll tell you, sometimes on a wintry day I see a farmer come to town with two bales of cotton on his wagon, his wife sitting by him on the foremost bale. First thing, he enters a saloon, says he is nearly frozen and must have a drink at once or he will catch his death; and he neither brings his wife in nor takes a drink out to her. I know that's all wrong. He has another drink or two before he starts home, and carries a flask with him. And when I think of the long road of thirty miles and feel the keen, frosty wind on my face, I feel sorry for the

man and am so glad he's got the whiskey. For that is all that saves him from pneumonia. But why in the world his wife don't take the pneumonia, I can't tell. I believe she needs the whiskey just as much as he does, and has just as good a right to it, too. Don't you, parson? R. GIN.

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ARKANSAS METHODIST.

SATURDAY, MAY 30, 1885.

Little Helpers.

H. M. GRANADE, Editor.
Batesville, Ark.

Our Work.

Let each "Little Helper," or each family, or each class in Sunday-school, or at least each school, get a little tin bank, and let us fill it with our own earnings, savings and collections. Send it up to conference next winter by your pastor. It will go into the children's fund for missions and for good books for poor Sunday-schools. Raise a little crop of something, set a hen, piece a quilt, do little jobs and errands, save your little mites, ask your friends to help work, pray and look for the blessing of God. Write me a letter about your work, your school, your soul, your Savior.

A Good Letter.

DEAR CHILDREN:—I write to you because I want you to be good boys and girls. Before I took up my pen to begin this letter, I looked carefully into my heart, and I know I am very anxious for you to be good, because that is the only way you can ever be truly happy. And if you do not learn to be good and do good while you are young, it will be a hard thing to do when you get old. Some of you will have to take the places of us old people by and by, and it will be your duty then, as now, to make the world better by being in it. I suppose you all want to have a good world to live in? Well, let me tell you, just go to work right now, and do all you can toward making it good, and I feel sure it will be better than if you were to do nothing. Did you ever think the world is made up of children as well as grown people? And they have their part of good to do, and there is no telling what amount they can do when their hearts and hands and feet get to work in the right way. Just look around, children, and you can soon see what a beautiful world God has made. The forest trees are beginning to unfold their leaves so brightly, and the opening flowers look as if they were sending a smile back to the God that made them. There are many things you fall in love with because of their beauty, and I know you ought to love the God that made them. Now try and see if you cannot make yourself as pleasing to God as he has made the flowers, and all that is beautiful, pleasing to you. If you will, my word for it, those things which you already love will become more lovely, and you will be a happier boy or girl. But the main reason why you should do this is because it is the only way you can be happy in the good world. You cannot be saved unless you love Jesus and do His will, and all who are not saved must be lost. Sometimes I get to thinking about children being lost in the bad world forever, and it makes me feel so bad that I go out among the trees and pray for some children that I know until I feel better. I feel almost certain, at times, that God will save them. But I must come to a close now. May be I will write again, soon, and tell you about when I got religion. UNCLE TOM.

Constant occupation prevents temptation.

Enough to Rattle.

Johnny Hively and Monroe Woodcock, near Iuka, Baxter county, have got enough money in their tin bank to rattle. That's right, boys; but fill it full if you can. These little boys are trying to be true Christians. Ah! that's the kind of a report I love to get. Solomon, the wise man, said: "With all thy getting, get wisdom; for wisdom is the principal thing. The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom." There is a wisdom that cometh from above. It is true religion. Boys and girls, let us all seek that. "Ask, and it shall be given; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you."

To rise early requires quickness of decision; it is one of those subjects which admit of no turning over.

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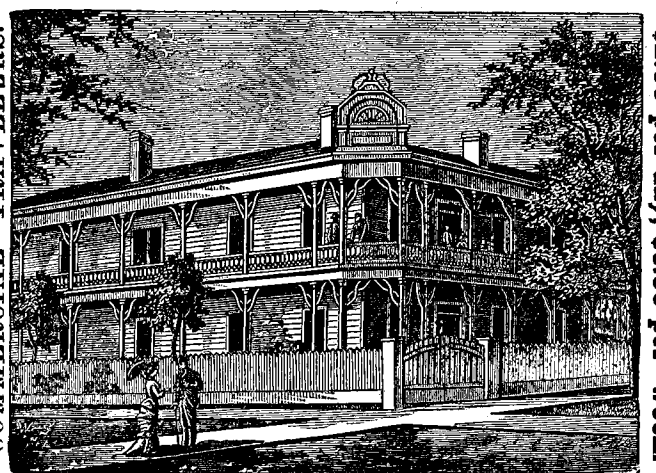
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THE ARKANSAS METHODIST.

SATURDAY, MAY 30, 1885.

OBITUARIES.

BRIANT.—William Enoch Briant, of the old firm of Briant & Bayless, son of J. S. and Lucretia Briant, died at his residence in Hope, Ark., April 19th, 1885. Bro. Briant was not a man without faults, but a man of many virtues. His well-defined individuality marked him in every department in life. As a man, he appeared to recognize all the consequent responsibilities. As a citizen, he was awake to the varied obligations that attach to American citizenship. He read and thought critically and consecutively, and acted unhesitatingly in accordance with well-defined convictions. His intellectuality was of unusual strength and compass. As a politician, he was quiet, but sound and uncompromisingly fixed. Blessed with the training of parents of sound religious experience, religious impressions were early made, so that early in life he professed faith in Christ and joined the Methodist Church, South. He was a Methodist from principle; his religious views critical and strong. As a polemic, he was unobtrusive but ever ready and able to give a reason, clear-cut and strong, for the faith that was in him; and though courteous in a marked degree, few were inclined to antagonize his scripturally logical views, Biblical premises and clearly-drawn conclusions—but once. He was regarded as a Bible-class teacher of rare excellence; ever punctual and faithful—for ten years never absent nor out of place, except from sickness. If in one department his virtues shone more brightly than in another, it was in the Sunday-school. His superintendent, Dr. Crossett, with much feeling and emphasis, said to his pastor: "His place in the Sunday-school can't be filled. His absence meant languor—his presence, vigor and spirit. He was the soul of the Sunday-school, and infused into it life and activity; and that he is no more—I tremble for it." In the stewardship he was not less conspicuous, where for so many years he so faithfully and efficiently served the Church he loved. Never was the day too cold nor too hot, nor was he ever too closely pressed with business, to lay upon her altar his timely and efficient labors nor refuse her the benefit of his rich experience and sound judgment. Not only did he collect well, but he paid liberally, so that by one of the firm 'tis estimated that the firm paid for church purposes, for eight or ten years, at least three hundred dollars annually. At the age of five years, he moved with his parents to this State and settled near where he died, so that his entire after life (with the exception of about four years spent in the war) was spent within the radius of a few miles of his last resting place. In his ready response to his country's call was shown his unflinching loyalty, and as a Confederate soldier he had not one drop of blood too warm or rich, or too precious, to be split in the maintenance of the principles involved. But during those years of exposure and privation were sown the seeds of disease that on the 21st ult. laid their fruit in Hope county. As a friend he was worthy of your confidence, and in whose keeping your good name was sacred. He had a large, warm heart, and was blessed with the faculty of making the itinerant preacher feel—though in a strange land and among strangers—in the house and home of a friend, as this writer gladly testifies. As a husband and father, he was so affectionate, so gentle, so tender, that it seems a sacrilege to lay my pen upon the sanctity. By his loved ones may every fault be forgotten, and every virtue be embalmed in love's immortal waters and cherished as life's unerring beacons. He died suddenly. His disease, if understood, was chronic meningitis. He suffered for several months from nervous prostration, at the last having frequent nervous attacks, more or less violent. His attending physicians, Drs. Boyce and Bayless, pronounced his last attack apoplectic. In the early morning he walked with his wife into the garden, and was impressed that his last end was near

and said, "I can't live much longer," and just before the fatal attack, feeling its rapid approach, said to his loving and ministering wife, "I am gone." Dr. Boyce was immediately at his side, but found him beyond the reach of mortal skill. After breathing as quietly as a slumbering babe for a few moments, the silver cord was gently loosed and he sweetly fell on sleep. S. C. STONE.



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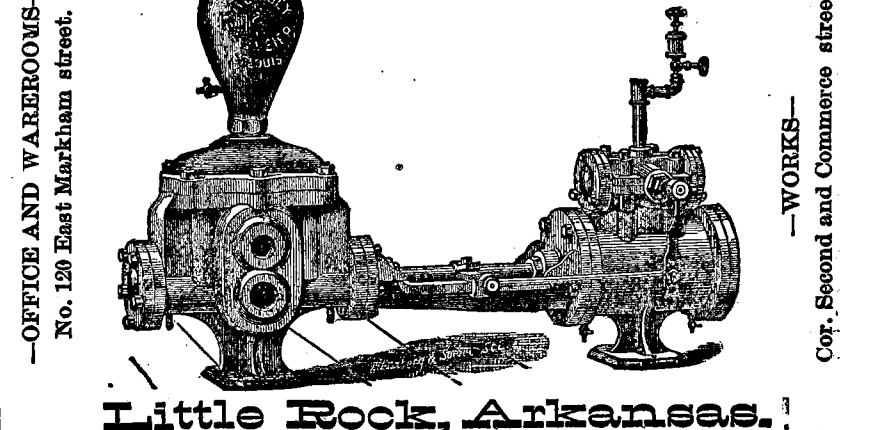
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