

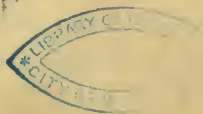


T E X A S

I N

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BY MELINDA RANKIN.



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P R E F A C E.

A COMPLETE and correct delineation of Texas is an undertaking of no small magnitude, and in assuming such a responsible task, I am aware that much depends upon its successful prosecution. Motives sufficiently powerful, however, induce me to make the attempt, and embark my enterprise upon the uncertain sea of public opinion.

Having spent several months during last year in the older States, the evidence was constantly presented, that a history, illustrating the present condition of Texas would be an important service in enlightening the public mind abroad, relative to her true character and condition. It is a fact that Texas is not sufficiently known to give her that importance abroad which her merits demand, and the object of this work is to lift the veil of ignorance which now obscures one of the most interesting and important portions of the United States.

Not having any interest in Texas but the desire of benefiting it, my representations will, I trust, be impartial, such as will exhibit its merits and demerits, its wants, and the proper adaptation of means to supply those wants, and, if possible, to enlist Christian sympathy and co-operation in aid of evangelizing a country which is destined, evidently, to exert an important influence over other contiguous countries.

Texas occupies a very important position in regard to the unevangelized portions of our own continent, and on this account, claims more notice from the north and east in behalf of moral enterprise, than has been hitherto extended towards her. A voice has been sounding long and loud in the ears of eastern churches, in behalf of the west, "the far west," until their sympathy has become concentrated within the valleys of the western rivers. Shall it stop there, and not be extended to other portions of the Union, whose claims are as great, and whose importance is second to none others?

Appeals must be made until they strike the sympathetic chords of New-England philanthropy, and excite to efforts in behalf of this south-western portion of our glorious Union: The resources of New-England are not yet exhausted; from her armory may yet be drawn spiritual weapons sufficient to supply the moral wants of Texas.

Born and reared amidst the high and exalted privileges of New-England, — having breathed the air and inhaled somewhat of her philanthropic spirit, I turn with ardent desire, and present an important appeal to my beloved country —

"The land of every land the pride,
Beloved by heaven, o'er all the world beside"—

The land of gospel privileges and institutions, and which possesses the means that might be rendered pre-eminently instrumental in blessing our land and world. I fain would reiterate the call in behalf of Texas.

If our New-England friends would disseminate throughout the land the principles of the puritan fathers, they must send

out more, *many more*, of their numbers, to occupy the wide and destitute fields of the south west. New-England has done much to spread the gospel in other sections of country ; but she owes to Christ, to the church of God, a great deal more, in strengthening the hands and encouraging the hearts of Christians, who are occupying the destitute fields in Texas. She might, without impoverishing herself, send scores of her young ministers to scatter the good seed, in fields which would amply compensate the labor ; and it is evidently her privilege and duty to do so.

Knowing as I do the extensive means in her power, I am bold in presenting the claims of Texas.

Having identified myself with the interest of this highly interesting State, its wants I justly feel, and in advocating its cause, I am fully aware that the importance of the object justifies me in the performance of the duty.

The growing importance of Texas is a matter of serious consideration. It embraces a territory much larger in extent than New England, and with its fertile soil and genial climate it may naturally be inferred that in the course of a few years it will be filled up with a dense population. Whether the blessings of the gospel will accompany all the changes which will evidently take place, is a question of infinite importance. Now is the time for action, the future may be too late. We must all work, and work all together, if we expect moral enterprises will increase and spread, with the increasing and spreading population of the State.

Cincinnati, Texas, 1850.

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TEXAS IN 1850.

PART FIRST.

CHAPTER I.

Revolution and Annexation. Subsequent Prosperity. Future Prospects. The Basis of Future Prosperity. Texas a Missionary Field.

THAT a correct estimate of a country be formed, some knowledge of its former history is requisite, by which means may be ascertained its progress and the degree of improvement of which it is susceptible.

In delineating Texas, we will assume our position at the time of her revolution, which period, in a very important manner, decided her future character and destiny. The Texians, in the achievement of their independence of Mexico, established a republican government, which, with comparatively limited means, was sustained with a good degree of honor. A peaceable condition of affairs succeeded, which was followed by an increase of population, who aided in the prosecution of those objects necessary for the prosperity of this feeble yet energetic republic. The institutions which were founded and supported under the various

difficulties with which Texas was then involved, spoke much in favor of what might have been done under more favorable circumstances.

The rigid school of discipline in which the early settlers of Texas were trained, was favorable in nurturing a firm and persevering spirit, by which they were enabled to encounter and overcome obstacles, which, at this period, were not of an inferior character; and probably would have discouraged any but those who claimed the privilege of styling themselves Texians. Analogous to the mountain oak, whose roots become firmly fixed by being often exposed to the raging blasts, Texians, by the difficulties they had to encounter, became more firmly established in elevated and virtuous principle.

After struggling several years under difficulties, resulting from the limited means of a republic of such small extent, it was thought expedient for its future interest and prosperity to become annexed to the United States. Accordingly, after the necessary preliminary arrangements, Texas was admitted into the Union, and to all the privileges consequent to that alliance.

After five years' successful operation, the country's rapid progress has stamped her future prosperity beyond a matter of uncertainty. An influx of intelligent and enterprising citizens has given such an additional strength that the car of improvement is fast advancing; and should it continue to be propelled with the accelerated velocity which may reasonably be expected, Texas

is destined to be, ere many years, a State, which, in importance, will be second to none other in the Union.

Possessing a climate as mild as far-famed Italy, and a soil favorable to the production of every thing earth can yield, and having a decided advantage over all the other Southern States, in point of health, it cannot fail of attracting to it an immense emigration. As has been hitherto, it is to be hoped that the intelligent and moral only, will find their way to Texas. A good influence is particularly demanded as this juncture is an important era in the establishment of those principles which are to tell on future generations.

As a country grows in prosperity, moral and intellectual improvements must keep pace, and as these, at present, are of the onward march in Texas, no emigration is desired which has only for its object speculations of worldly interest to the exclusion of every other consideration. To those who have the philanthropy and public spirit to get good and do good, Texas presents an important and interesting field. An opportunity is presented for the development and exercise of all the noble faculties of the soul. To aid in advancing a country as favorable to improvement as Texas, is an object which merits the co-operation of the most worthy and energetic.

A moral grandeur is attached to enterprises, in which national interest predominates over selfish ends; and should a truly prosperous individual be looked after, he will be found with a heart too expansive in its operations to be satisfied within the narrow circle of private interests.

Institutions of a moral character are to be the basis upon which to build the future prosperity of Texas.

Religious principles, or rather Bible principles, must accompany every enterprise which has for its object the good of society. Other foundations have been undertaken upon; but experiment has fully proven, that no superstructure of human improvement can long stand, unsustained by the unerring principles of God's word. The caviller may object to this sentiment, but he need only to look abroad over the civilized world to see that in proportion as Christianity is a living principle among a people, so do they stand forth in intelligence, freedom, worth and power. On the other hand, as infidelity pervades the spirit of a nation, in the same proportion has she sunk in the scale of political existence and moral excellence. For an example, let him observe the contrast between Mexico and New England: the one a perfect specimen of civilized degradation (if the expression may be allowed,) and the other a rare model of the vital principles of Christianity, carried into every department of moral enterprise.

The worth of the puritan system is already recorded on the page of history, and may, with propriety, be referred to as a controlling element of power in the development and progress of society.

A system embracing the right elements of power, is permanent in its influence and increasing in its strength from age to age. All else is superficial and transient.

A good degree of feeling upon this subject is already manifested in Texas, yet a deeper conviction is necessary to produce that impulse and enthusiasm in the leading minds of the State, which shall operate so powerfully as to pervade the universal mind, and stimulate to such extensive operations as the greatness of the object demands.

The importance of elevating Texas to a high point of moral power and efficiency, is evident from her present and prospective influence over Mexico. The openings in this new State for missionary efforts, must be more justly appreciated, and means used corresponding to their importance. An interest is beginning to be felt, which is truly gratifying.

Already this subject is before the many benevolent societies of the day, and co-operation, to some extent, extended, but not as its comparative importance demands. The benevolent spirit of many portions of the United States is evidently stirred, and much may yet be expected. Nothing is wanting but sufficient information of the situation and wants of Texas, to draw forth a host of volunteers, whose moral influence shall make "the solitary place glad, and the desert rejoice and blossom as the rose."

Individuals whose sympathies may become enlisted in behalf of Texas, will hazard nothing in embarking on a missionary enterprise, upon their own responsibility. Nowhere is the worthy stranger made more welcome than in Texas. The warm bosom expands, and the friendly hand is extended, making him forget

that "he is a stranger in a strange land." No one who has the desire of benefiting Texas, need be deterred from the undertaking from apprehensions of not meeting a cordial reception. People who are using their utmost power to advance the best interests of their state, will gladly welcome those who come to do them good. Indeed, every facility and encouragement is offered which is in their power to extend.

Privations may be experienced, but these the liberal-hearted individual must reasonably expect, and make all due allowance. He that is actuated by the superior motive of doing good, will find all his sacrifices more than compensated by the satisfaction arising from acts of disinterested benevolence.

"There is no man who hath left" home and country "for the kingdom of God's sake, who shall not receive manifold more in this present life, and in the world to come life everlasting." Our Saviour, in his dispensations of grace to man, made worldly sacrifice an indispensable condition, and the more fully this condition is complied with, the more ample is the reward. Hence, to surrender earthly good for the inestimable blessings of the gospel, should be esteemed an exalted privilege by every real Christian.

No one has brighter hopes, richer joys, or surer promises than he who labors for the Lord. The follower of Christ must follow where his Master leads, and though the command implies the sundering of the dearest ties of nature, those tender chords will yield their hold under the influence of motives in which the

“kingdom of God” is concerned. Had natural affection been designed the highest springs of action, the Saviour would not have set another principle above them. “He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me,” is the language of Him who nobly set an example of sacrifice and suffering. The missionary spirit is emphatically the spirit of Christ, and those who drink most deeply at this blessed fountain, are those from whose example and influence flow rivers of living waters.

The ground the missionary of Christ occupies is a high point. The sacrifices he makes brings him in possession of privileges which secure every blessing the most boundless wish can crave — “The length and breadth of all the plain, as far as faith can see.”

Treasures, richer far than the golden mines of California, are pledged upon the security of the word of God; and shall the servant of Christ disregard objects of real value, while worldly men are constrained by glittering dust, to endure sacrifice, labor and fatigue?

Scores and hundreds are rushing to secure an earthly treasure; and are there not those who are willing to embark in an enterprise in which are concerned interests of immortal value? What object can compare to that of gathering into the fold of Christ souls which have cost an infinite price to redeem? One soul brought in, adds to the Saviour’s crown a gem of more real value, than all the glittering mines of Mexico or California.

Are there not Christians to be found among the

highly favored portions of our country, who can be influenced by such heaven-born principles, to come out upon that mission of mercy which brought the Son of God from the bosom of his Father? Love to the undying soul will always bear to action.

The Saviour is loudly saying to those of his followers "who are at ease in Zion," "one thing lackest thou yet;" resign the enjoyments and privileges of which you are now possessed for my sake, for building up the spiritual walls of Zion abroad, "and thou shalt have treasure in heaven."

He bids, follow him, wherever his cause demands. Texas comes up with her wants, and makes an importunate appeal. Who will obey the Divine command?

CHAPTER II.

Texas compared with other States. Inducements for the Emigration of the Farmer and Mechanic. Prospect and Encouragement of the Emigrant. Improvements. Natural Scenery. Flowers. Physical Resources. State of Society. Moral Institutions. Prosperity of the Temperance Cause.

AN impartial observer of the comparative merits of Texas with the older States, might, with much propriety, recommend it as presenting advantages worthy the attention of the adventurous and enterprising. The fertile lands with which the State abounds, offer, perhaps, greater encouragement than any other department of enterprise; hence, the emigrant who turns his attention to the cultivation of the soil is undoubtedly making the wisest selection. This being an inexhaustible source of wealth can be relied on with greater confidence than any other.

The acquisition of industrious and enterprising occupants of the productive soil of Texas, would do more in advancing the state in wealth and independence than any other means, and would, undoubtedly, in the course of a few years, advance her in importance before any other Southern State.

Present appearances indicate that her extensive forests and beautiful wide-spread prairies shall not long remain uncultivated. Scarcely a day passes which does not bring more or less persons who are seeking

homes in Texas. The emigrant's wagon and train is a sight of such common occurrence, that it scarcely excites a passing notice. Several in succession are frequently seen.

It is not an inferior order of citizens who come to Texas. Men of wealth, talent and influence compose the more recent class of emigration, who are well calculated to advance the interests of a new and growing State.

Persons of industrious and temperate habits will be successful in any honorable occupation. Mechanics, of all the various kinds, are essentially needed ; and would not fail of being amply compensated, in leaving older settled States and emigrating to a new one, where a scarcity in every department exists. As every thing is of the progressive order in Texas, the new settler has much to anticipate, and the hope of a better state of things in prospect has a tendency to reconcile him to present inconveniences.

He may, probably, realize some privations of comfort, but whoever comes to Texas with reasonable expectations, will not be liable to disappointment. And here it may be proper to observe, that persons emigrating to a new country should not indulge in such exalted expectations as is too frequently the case with those who become dissatisfied.

They should duly count the cost, and not speculate too extensively in imagination. Though difficulties and discouragements often cast their darkening shadows, yet, he who keeps his eye upon the star of hope, will

ultimately be successful. Many who have come to Texas to repair broken fortunes, though they did not meet with an immediate flow of wealth, have, by indefatigable and persevering exertion, realized their expectations.

A competency may be easily acquired; and affluence is at the command of those who aspire to it. He who keeps his speculations within a laudable compass, cannot fail, ultimately, of rising to independence and wealth.

Nature has done much for Texas, but for her advancement in wealth and commercial importance, great improvements are requisite. These, however, will probably receive attention as soon as the circumstances of the State will admit. With the enterprise of the Texians much may be predicted. No obstacles have ever yet defeated the skill and enterprise of man, in that they are determined to carry into execution. For the truth of this, reference need only be made to the gigantic improvements spread over the United States. What was considered by the timid and irresolute, as impracticable, has, nevertheless, been accomplished. An immediate improvement in the navigation of the rivers would facilitate greatly the prosperity of the State; and it would not, unquestionably, be an unwise arrangement for the general Government to make some appropriations to aid such an important object. As public expenditures have been made in behalf of other portions of the United States, it might reasonably be expected that the wants of Texas should be taken into considera-

tion. Texas being a border State a double reason imposes itself. The successful navigation of the rivers would facilitate greatly the transportation of stores for the supply of the military stations upon the frontiers of the State, and hence the object is one sufficiently important to elicit aid, if only from that consideration. The unprecedented rapidity with which her interests have advanced within the space of a very short time, presents great encouragement to extend aid in prosecuting objects which have for their design the general interest and prosperity. Where, but a few years since, the stillness of the forest was only broken by the war-whoop of the Indian, is heard the constant hum of civilization, having become the abode of an industrious and intelligent population. This, most emphatically, is a period of improvements in Texas. Emigrants are pouring in, forests are being leveled, prairies are being fenced, farms are being opened and improved, villages are springing up, and towns are increasing in population, throughout the State, to an extent not surpassed by any other portion of the Union.

The natural scenery of Texas may compare with that of any other country. The face of the country, being generally level, there is not so much variety, as in countries interspersed with mountain scenery, yet, if it does not abound with the sublime, it certainly does with the beautiful. The beauty of the vegetable productions cannot fail of inspiring the most pure and delightful emotions.

Nothing can exceed the splendid appearance which

the prairies present, during the season of flowers. It seems as if the earth has poured forth her innumerable treasures to deck herself in her most gorgeous attire.

A traveller, passing through Texas, during the months of April and May, would not fail of pronouncing it to be the most charming spot on earth. Every variety of flower is abundant, presenting a scene calculated to awaken a passion for natural objects, in bosoms which have never before loved to admire the wonderful works of creation.

Those plants, which in the North are regarded as the choicest exotics, grow in Texas spontaneously; but by transplanting into gardens, their beauty is greatly heightened. A rich source of pleasure is presented to those persons who delight in the cultivation of flowers. So little care is requisite, and the attention is so amply rewarded, it appears that the neglect of attention to the cultivation of flowers in Texas, must evidently be regarded as a want of good taste.

Nothing presents a greater evidence of refinement than a tasteful adornment of dwellings and their environs, with trees and flowers; and it would be a great advance towards refined and decent civilization in Texas, if more attention were paid to the transplanting of forest trees and shrubbery around the buildings. It would improve greatly the appearance of the towns and villages.

In the North great pains are taken for this purpose, merely for ornament, but in the "sunny South," shade trees answer the double purpose — ornament and use.

Some degree of attention to the cultivation of flowers is observable, but nothing in comparison to what might be done in a country where so little trouble is demanded to render every garden like another Eden.

The natural and physical resources of the country being so great, an inferiority in her moral and intellectual, would appear an incongruity which is entirely inconsistent. These, however, are on the advance in Texas. Moral sentiment is assuming an elevated standard, from which may be inferred, that her future character will be on a level with the most moral portion of the Union. The addition to society from the older States within the last few years, being a refined class of people, has had a tendency to polish, greatly, the roughness of character and manners observable in newly settled countries. From actual observation, it may be confidently asserted, that in point of intelligence, refinement and gentility, Texas will bear a favorable comparison with any other State, according to its population. There may be some exceptions, — dark shades of character blend their contrasts in the society of *every* country.

The uncouthness of the early settlers of Texas is greatly modified by their kindness of manner, which is a very prominent characteristic, and cannot fail of striking the stranger with the impression of its being a more perfect specimen of politeness, than is often observable where society claims a high degree of refinement under the false show of affectation.

One who knows how to set a just appreciation upon character, cannot fail of admiring the native simplicity

observable in traveling over the older settled portions of Texas. Inquisitiveness is a marked characteristic, and the Yankee might find his privilege of "asking two questions to any other person asking one," somewhat infringed upon. But this advantage would be readily yielded to gratify the curiosity, so evidently manifested on the part of the Texian, to know all the "whys" and "wherefores," where from and where bound — interrogatives to which he apparently seems to claim an explanation. An immediate submission to a Texian tribunal is much the safest, as a hesitancy in giving an account of oneself might excite suspicion. A keen penetration, superinduced by being often imposed upon, leads Texians to much carefulness in regard to strangers; and no one need come to Texas with the presumption of practising the least act of dissimulation, without being set off to the best advantage in the colors he has assumed.

A "Yankee trick" would meet with its just desert under Texian inspection; and if some of those false representatives of New England character wished to "play off" a little, Texas would afford a suitable stage to act on. While true worth is acknowledged and appreciated, dissimulation and dishonesty receive their just retribution.

Texas has suffered greatly in her moral reputation abroad, by serving formerly as an asylum for refugees from justice from the United States; but whether she ought to suffer or the country from which they absconded, the reader can best judge. That her extensive wilds were sought as a shelter to screen from retribution was no evidence that crime was tolerated, or that

the offender was protected by the citizens. Where those cases of moral depravity are at present, whether metamorphosed into virtuous citizens, or emigrated beyond the limits of Texas, is a matter of curiosity. Crime is no more common than in the older States, and, as the State has now a penitentiary, a rigid intolerance is expected, and a strict retribution will be exacted of those who transgress her laws.

Societies and institutions which have for their object moral reform, are encouraged, and becoming common throughout the State.

The hallowed influence of the "Sons of Temperance" has spread its blissful light, and the strong armed foe of intemperance is fast losing ground in Texas. The last year has witnessed an interesting change. Nothing has ever yet occurred in Texas more significant of her future weal, than the manner in which public sentiment has been operated upon, in regard to the importance of this institution. But about eighteen months ago the first Division was instituted; now there is scarcely a town in the state which has not followed the example. It is a fact worthy of notice, that nothing is done imperfectly in Texas; if an object receives attention at all, the people enter into the spirit of it with an enthusiastic devotion. The temperance cause has struck upon the right chord, and, if perseveringly adhered to, its advent may be hailed as the harbinger of every other good thing with which a country can be blessed.

Wherever this cause prevails, vice and immorality vanish like dew before the morning sun, and peace and prosperity follow in happy succession.

An independence, more decisive of noble purpose and future good, than was ever achieved upon the battle plain, is that which places a people beyond the reach of the most formidable enemy that ever yet invaded the human family. Despotism may enslave the body, and the mind still retain its freedom ; but intemperance subjects its votaries to the entire dominion of body and soul — debases man to a brute, and most effectually destroys the best works of creation. A view of the destructive consequences of intemperance upon a large scale, must necessarily strike every philanthropic soul with horror, and stimulate him in the use of the most efficient measures for the prevention of an evil so deleterious to the best interests of a country.

The temperance cause, as now instituted, seems better adapted to effect its object, than any system which has been hitherto adopted. The order has been objected to by some, on the ground of its being a secret association, but, as its object and effects are so apparent, the most scrupulous objector cannot regard it to be treasonable or subversive of public good. Secret societies are dangerous only when their design is not understood.

As the cause of humanity, as the cause of everything to which pertains human happiness, is that which would drive from a country that piratical invader — intemperance. To succeed effectually, it will be necessary to imbue public sentiment with the impressive stamp, which shall render the use of ardent spirit so entirely unpopular as to discontinue its use among those who

regard themselves temperate. The cause has never succeeded permanently, until the popular mind became universally enlisted, and it has evidently demanded the total abstinence of the "moderate drinker" to restrain the inebriate. Who, that is a friend to humanity, can withhold his influence in co-operating in a work so fraught with good as this? Neglect this important subject, and an evil is percolating through the basis of moral institutions, which shall turn them, however firm they may now appear, into quicksand, which shall waste away the country's dearest hopes, and bury in deep and eternal ruin the souls of the people. As Texians love their country, the dearest interests of their posterity, the salvation of their fellow men and the honor of God, let them ever stand forth as firm champions of the cause of temperance.

May they go forth and gather in the morally blind, for whom the institution is mainly intended. May they cease not their efforts, until every inebriate throughout the State, from the Sabine to the Rio Grande, from the Snowy Mountain to the Southern Gulf, be made to share in freedom, happiness and immortality.

CHAPTER III.

Church and School Foundation of Civil and Religious Liberty. Difficulties of sustaining the Christian Religion in the early times of Texas. Its Success and Future Prospects. The Gospel Ministry. An Efficient Ministry. The Necessity of Supporting the Ministry. The Standard of Piety should become more elevated.

THE Church and the School were the agencies employed in laying the foundation of civil and religious liberty in the popular mind of our country. If the structure reared by our fathers is to be perfected in beauty and strength, the Christian Church in its purity, and the well ordered School must be reared, as institutions which God approves and employs in the accomplishment of his benevolent purposes to man. When these united influences shall be seen and felt throughout the land, we may congratulate the country's prosperity, as fixed upon a foundation which shall defy all forms of despotism, civil and spiritual.

In devising means for the improvement of Texas, those large and comprehensive plans should be understood, which always have been, and ever will be, the only sure basis of national prosperity. While Education enlightens, Christianity should sanctify, and and these two mighty agents in co-operation will advance a country in all that which pertains to true greatness and goodness.

The Christian Religion has been sustained in Texas

under very trying circumstances ; and the signal manifestations of Divine favor in its behalf, affords encouragement to hope that God has yet great designs to accomplish in this part of his moral vineyard. Catholicism has been supplanted, and over its broken altars has been reared the Protestant faith, which has shown that an open Bible and a dissemination of its principles has a power in enlightening and purifying the mind in regard to all those things pertaining to the well-being of man, here and hereafter.

The pioneers of the Gospel in Texas had innumerable difficulties to encounter, and evidently required a true missionary zeal to plant the standard of the Cross in this then destitute land. The seed of truth was sown at the expense of many a valuable life, and may an abundant harvest yet be reaped over the dust of those who have fallen victims to the intense labors attached to a Texian ministry. But many of those faithful laborers still survive to witness that their labors have not been in vain in the Lord. A foundation has been laid, upon which may be erected a structure whose beauty may yet attract wonder and admiration. Much yet remains to be done. The work is but commenced ; the most powerful and efficient means are yet required to accomplish it. The best indication is the degree of feeling manifested to have the institutions of the Gospel extended throughout the State. Yet, a deeper feeling is necessary, ere we see Texas shining forth in that moral beauty, which her importance in the eye of Heaven demands. Her own strength must be

rallied and brought into exercise before sympathy from abroad can be enlisted in her behalf.

Plans must be devised and executed commensurate with the great end in view ; it is wisdom to select the best means for the accomplishment of purposes in which the highest interests of a country are concerned. If the prosperity of a country outruns its Religious and Literary institutions, its elevation will be of short continuance. These institutions must be sustained in Texas to perpetuate her prosperity, and it is the highest point of wisdom in the prosecution of a work so important, to enter upon it with a spirit suitable to the object, and to secure the most powerful co-operative influences.

The preaching of the Gospel is heaven's consecrated instrumentality in disseminating those principles by which society can alone be sustained. Much destitution yet exists in regard to the stated preaching of the Word ; the harvest in many places is ripe, but there are no laborers to enter in. The church in Texas is yet weak, but it is evident that there is more lack of action and efficiency than means in sustaining the institutions of the Gospel. That aid is not extended in supporting the ministry which the faithful dispensation of the Gospel requires. Ministers poorly supported, and dependent upon their own resources, are necessarily obliged to turn their attention to secular employments ; consequently, they cannot dispense the Gospel with that ability and success which an exclusive devotion to the cause would enable them to do. The present period requires singleness of heart and purpose in the minis-

try, and an undivided attention to its appropriate duties. The minister of Jesus Christ holds an office, which is connected with duties, responsibilities and difficulties, far surpassing those connected with any other office ever entrusted to man. Connected with his official duties are consequences which have a direct bearing upon the immortal interests of the soul. Officers of other departments of public duty are duly compensated for service, and shall not those who are laboring to promote the well-being of man in this and a future life, be deemed worthy of receiving a competent support? Let the church cherish the right kind of feeling upon this subject, and it will discharge its duty to him who stands upon the walls of Zion! The standard, according to the Bible, must be attained. It appears that it is not generally understood that "It is ordained, that they who preach the gospel, shall live of the gospel," and that "The laborer is worthy of his hire."

Qualifications for any station must always correspond with the design and consequences connected with the duties; hence it becomes the minister of the gospel to avail himself of every aid, human and divine, which is in his power. The responsibility does not devolve entirely upon the minister; he may have a just appreciation of his important calling, but may not have the means extended, necessary to the faithful accomplishment of his duties.

If the erroneous impression be indulged that the man of God does not need time and study to prepare him for the successful performance of his duties, his labors

will not be appreciated, nor will he have that support to which he is entitled by the decree of heaven.

A blessing attends the preaching of God's word where it is sustained according to gospel principles, and no Christian duty is more strongly enjoined upon the church than liberal appropriations for that purpose.

"The Lord loveth a cheerful giver." "There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; there is that withholdeth more than is meet, and it tendeth to poverty.

In a country like Texas it is pre-eminently important that the minister should receive an adequate support. In the first place, his labors are of the most arduous kind, such as are calculated to dishearten and dispirit the most resolute; and, aid on the part of the people would be a demonstration of their sympathy, which would have a tendency to encourage him, greatly, in his laborious calling. In the second place, society is in a forming state, and requires great skill and efficiency in dispensing the word of God, in such a manner as will be adapted to the wants of a people made up of every variety of sentiment. It is absolutely necessary that the minister be thoroughly prepared and properly furnished, to enable him to dispense the word of life in a manner by which the gospel may be honored.

It may be regarded a wise arrangement of Providence which imposes this duty on man. By contributing to the support of the gospel a deeper interest is felt in its ministrations, and in many instances operates as an inducement for persons to attend the ordinances of

God's worship, by which means they have become participants of the rich blessings of the gospel.

The duty does not devolve entirely upon the Church, though it is expected it will lead the way in enterprises like this. The Gospel is "good news to all people," and who can be so blind to his best interests, as to be disinterested in its promulgation? Every human being for whom Christ died has an interest in this matter, and no one can manifest an indifference in sustaining the institutions of the Gospel, without showing disrespect to the last command of Jesus Christ to his disciples, "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to *every creature*," and the awful denunciation against those who reject it must evidently be fulfilled against them. When the people can see this subject as God sees it, and as they must see it in eternity, the preaching of the Gospel will be sustained in a manner worthy its great and important object.

For the credit of Texas, there are few places where an intelligent and pious ministry is not commended and respected. Good congregations can always be secured, and a good degree of interest is manifested in hearing the word of God dispensed, and, probably, the reason that more ample aid is not extended in support of the ministry, is because the subject and its importance has not been properly set before the people.

It is confidently hoped that the evil will be remedied as soon as the minds and hearts of the people, strengthened by piety, shall become impressed with the value and importance of the subject. Expansive views of

Christian benevolence are more consistent for people who have become proverbial for liberal and elevated sentiment. It may reasonably be expected that the time is not far distant when an enthusiasm becoming our holy religion, shall be kindled upon the altar of every heart, and the ordinances of God's worship be duly appreciated and honored, and efficient measures used to support them throughout the length and breadth of this beautiful State.

When this subject has acquired that interest which its importance demands, more aid from abroad will be elicited, and the now barren wastes supplied with able ministers of the New Testament. The supply, at present, is far inadequate to the wants of the population. Many more devoted men—men qualified to gather congregations and plant churches where no foundation has been laid, are needed in Texas.

The best men should be sent to a new country. There cannot be a greater mistake, than that ministers of inferior qualifications will do for Texas. The material which has to be operated on, requires the ablest skill to mould. Intelligence among the people enables them at once to take the measure of a man's talents; and to secure that influence which a preacher of the Gospel should possess to be useful to the people, requires that he should have a thorough intellectual education.

It seems peculiarly necessary in Texas, that the standard of scriptural piety in the ministry and the members of the Church, should assume a higher elevation. In order to carry those enterprises into successful

operation for the religious advancement of the State, the Church must exert her legitimate influence, as a light which cannot be hid. The ministers are to lead the way; and a high responsibility rests upon them, that the permanent and enlarged prosperity of this growing State be secured.

CHAPTER IV.

Church and School Buildings. Scarcity in Texas. Importance of Early Attention to these Objects. Want of Teachers. Co-operation of the North with the South in advancing the Cause of Education. Free School System. Importance and Advantage to Texas. Extract from the Governor's Message.

A stranger passing through one of the mountain towns of New England, inquired, "What do you raise here?" The answer was, "Our land is rough and poor, and we can raise but little produce, so we build churches and school houses and raise men." New England is, very justly, the praise of the civilized world for the number and neatness of its Church and Seminary buildings. A better example for imitation has never been, than that presented by the "Pilgrims" and their descendants. These objects claimed a pre-eminent importance in their estimation at the period of the country's settlement, and the sentiment has descended to posterity. On an eminence in New England, an observer remarks, that he counted the spires of 57 churches, which fact afforded a theme for contemplation of the religious character of the country. No better index of the country's character can be presented, than the degree of attention which is rendered to these manufactories of public good.

Were a New England traveller to pass through Texas, his curiosity might be excited; not, however, on account

of the barren and unproductive wastes of land which might meet his view, but the great scarcity of Churches and School houses might attract his attention and be the subject of his inquiries. Oftentimes the superior physical resources of a country for wealth engrosses so much attention, as to prevent those other objects being attended to as their importance demands. The people of Texas may be subject to this temptation, and in their haste to be rich and mighty, they may outrun their literary and religious institutions. These objects, however, have received a good degree of attention, but not, as yet, sufficient to meet the moral and intellectual wants of the people. Institutions for literary and moral instruction are in operation in various parts of the State, in different stages of progress. In many places, the school house and church of God are found side by side, showing that education and religion are twin sisters, and should not be dissevered. Much destitution yet exists, but the disadvantages attending a new country affords some grounds of excuse. It is evident, however, that Texas has not done as much as some other countries have, under the same circumstances. Did these objects hold as high a place in public estimation as they ought, those buildings for moral and intellectual improvement would oftener greet the eye of the traveler than they now do. Would Texians give their country a good reputation at home and abroad, let it bear the sign which may serve as an unfailling index of its real happiness and prosperity.

To secure a country's prosperity, God must be hon-

ored and worshiped ; and though the Invisible One is not confined to temples made with hands, yet his sanctuary is a place in which he has ever been pleased to manifest his power and glory, and in which he has set his name for adoration and worship. The broad expanse of territory pertaining to Texas, will, probably, in the course of a few years, become populated ; and can the hope be indulged that over the beautiful prairies will be scattered, here and there, houses in which to worship God ?

The importance of church edifices must be taken into consideration at an early period, and consecrations made for the object. Desires will create resources, and efforts for the accomplishment of objects will always correspond with the manner in which they are appreciated. Wealth is not the motive power alone, which puts this machinery of public good in motion ; it may be advanced with comparatively small means, as is proven by New England example. When will Southern people imitate this pre-eminent, praise-worthy example, and make their superior means of wealth subserve its most important end, that of contributing to the honor of God and the happiness of man !

To whom are we to look for engraving this sentiment upon the public mind ? To the Church and her ministers evidently belong the responsibilities of diffusing Gospel principles, of which this bears a prominent part. With the exception of those found in the cities and large towns, there are very few church edifices whose appearance manifests that taste and neatness which is

desirable to see in buildings dedicated to so sacred a purpose. A certain degree of elegance attaches a respect for the house of God, which is not felt for a rudely constructed building, erected, seemingly, without due regard to its design.

With the public spirit manifested by Texans in every thing which pertains to the interests of their State, we may confidently expect this deficiency will be remedied; and anticipation ventures to cast the eye forward to the period, when the lofty spire shall lift its sacred head over every Texian village, showing that the Gospel is there proclaimed, with "peace on earth and good will to man."

Education is receiving a good degree of attention in Texas, but the country is not sufficiently supplied with teachers or such as are regularly taught in their profession. The great scarcity in the State often obliges the people to employ those who are not competent to assume the important responsibility of instructing the youthful mind. Public sentiment is, in a measure, awake to the importance of securing good teachers; and sufficient inducement, in the way of pecuniary compensation, is extended, to encourage a greater emigration than has been hitherto. As few school teachers are manufactured in the South, the North and East is the source from whence the supply is to be expected.

A broad field presents itself into which a host of laborers might enter and cultivate with advantage and success. Those persons who conscientiously feel the important responsibility attached to youthful instruction,

and are desirous of finding locations of extensive usefulness, could not fail of meeting with abundant success in Texas.

Who among the highly favored of New England's products will come and cultivate the rich soil of Texan mind? The individual enterprise of intelligent and self-sacrificing teachers is demanded in behalf of educating the youth of this interesting and important State. Are there not those who will volunteer their services to advance an object so important as this? A moral and intellectual influence would pour forth its genial rays, did New England feel and act as her means warrant her to do. Would her seminaries and literary institutions send more of their educated sons and daughters abroad, great good would be the result.

An important obligation imposes itself upon the North to aid the educational interests of the South. The alliance of common interest demands a co-operation in promoting those institutions which have for their object the general good. The educational interests of the United States, as a whole, should be taken into consideration; and those States which have long felt the benign influence of science and literature, should feel themselves bound by duty and obligation to extend those influences into less favored portions of country.

No person reared and matured amid the institutions of the North can conscientiously disregard the duty of imparting an influence which may be felt for good in less favored portions of the Union. It becomes necessary for the different parts, to prompt, encourage and aid each other in matters of general interest.

For a people who wish to perpetuate and consolidate their Union, a fraternal fellowship in all matters pertaining to their institutions, must be manifested. Motives sufficiently powerful to excite the philanthropic feelings of all those who regard the best interest of their fellow being, are presented, for them to use the means within their power for the promotion of objects which must necessarily reflect the influence imparted them for the good of the country and world at large.

For education to be upon an improved and elevated plan, it appeals, loudly, to be extended to all classes, and embrace the general instruction of the youth of the land.

Throughout every part of the United States, such a school system should be adopted and established, as will lay a broad and respectable foundation for the instruction of the great body of the people. Such a measure would rescue the poor from ignorance, and would ultimately free the country from those consequences which every enlightened republican ought most to dread and deplore. The establishment of schools by law over Texas, would greatly conduce to promote the happiness and perpetuate the liberties of the people.

The happy effect of such schools, has been demonstrated by experience, in various parts of the United States, and their adaptation to this rising State, every person, who consults its best interests, must admit.

Education will be limited, as is proven in all countries where the free school system is excluded, to only the favored part of community, which are blessed with

the means, while the poorer class grow up in ignorance, unfit for society, or any degree of usefulness in the world. The brightest geniuses may remain buried beneath the rubbish of ignorance, which under the blessings of the free school system might have been brought out and received a polish, whose brightness would have been a blessing to the world.

How much of the mental power of the rising generation of Texas is to be left uncultivated, is for the rulers of this interesting State to decide.

It is very evident that it is indispensable to the well being of this growing State, to disseminate knowledge, and cultivate the full amount of its mental strength. It is a startling fact that the human mind cannot remain inert. The mental energies of free born Americans must necessarily become aroused and developed, and are available for good or for evil. It has been very justly observed that "uneducated mind is educated vice," and it may be found that more expensive means will be required to punish crime, (the necessary result of ignorance,) than to educate the youth of Texas in the paths of virtue and knowledge.

The machinery of popular education properly set to work would operate as a mighty instrumentality in advancing moral elevation, by approaching the mass of hidden intellect in the land, and most effectually manufacture the rising generation into useful and virtuous citizens.

The hopes of a country, its liberty, and all that makes

it great and durable, can never fail, when its youth have been properly trained and educated.

An immediate action of the legislature in the appropriation of means which it possesses, for establishing and supporting free schools, might settle a point upon which are suspended interests of deep and lasting importance to Texas. A delay is rendering the matter still more impracticable, and the future prospects will become darker and darker. Unless this subject receive attention in the early condition of a country, it rarely ever acquires that estimation and permanency, which it does by growing up in the practice and blessing of it. Obstacles present themselves in every important undertaking, and require an effort in surmounting, and in this, the object might, with much propriety, demand an extra effort. It must be an object of legislative provision. Reliance cannot be had on the resources of individuals.

However much the popular mind may be impressed with the importance of such an institution, a limit is placed, which can only be removed by those who are called to legislate. Other subjects of importance claim the attention of the legislature, and it seems that the neglect of action upon this subject is an undue estimate upon objects according to their comparative importance.

It may be thought a degree of arrogance and presumption to carry the suggestion on this subject any farther; but waiving an extreme sensibility and reserve, we shall farther suggest the propriety of inserting an extract from the governor's message, which will give an

exhibition of the matter, as it is viewed by his Excellency.

“The constitution of our State enjoins upon the Legislature the duty of making suitable provision, as early as practicable, for the support and maintenance of free public schools. It also expressly sets apart and reserves for this purpose, one tenth of the annual revenue accruing from taxation. The amount of this fund in the treasury on the first day of this month, (Nov. 1849,) was \$25,503 82. It will require no labored discussion to impress upon your minds the importance of education. The framers of our state constitution wisely declared that a general diffusion of knowledge is essential to the preservation of the rights and liberties of the people. No truth is more fully verified by all history.

“Nations, however powerful in numbers and physical resources, can never hope to achieve or perpetuate moral and political freedom where ignorance prevails. The vitality of republican forms of government especially resides in the intelligence of the masses. An enlightened people will neither be the dupes nor the victims of corrupt political leaders. How immeasurably important, then, it is for us to give early attention to the mental and moral improvement of the generation growing up among us. Let some just and feasible plan be adopted, to apply the means now in the treasury of the State to the subject, so as to produce the greatest amount of good to the greatest number. There is, it is true, not sufficient to establish and maintain a school in

every neighborhood. It may, however, be so distributed, under careful and competent supervision, as to aid the efforts of individuals, and go far in this way to encourage the cause of education. If it be permitted to lie in the treasury until it be sufficient to support public schools throughout the State, it will be useless for many years. In the meantime, those who are now children will have grown up to be men and citizens, and many of them, perhaps, without being able to read the tickets which they place in the ballot box. The consequences of such a result will not only be discreditable to those who are at this day the guardians of the public weal, but equally unfortunate in their effects upon general society. Vice and crime, and a slavish subserviency to dictation, are the usual concomitants of ignorance. Let us arrest this state of things by timely action. Justice demands that the taxes paid by the present population of the State for education, should be devoted to that object without unnecessary delay. To hoard them for the benefit of the next generation would be as manifestly unfair, as it would in my opinion be unwise. The means at our disposal will do something for the cause of education if judiciously applied. Let this be done at once, and there will be some security that the advantages thus conferred upon the present generation will yield abundant blessings upon the next."

CHAPTER V.

Progress of the Institutions of Texas. Moral and Religious Institutions must keep pace with other Departments of Improvement. Moral Training of Youth. Education must be Evangelized. Adaptation of the Sabbath School. Its Prosperity and Importance. Necessity of Replenishing the Departments of Christian Enterprise. A Demand for Missionaries. Prospective Influence of Texas over Mexico. Necessity of raising Texas to a high point of Moral Power. The Consequent Effects upon Mexico.

WHILE we deplore the existing destitutions of Texas, we would not fail to acknowledge, with all due congratulation, the much that has been accomplished under the many difficult and disadvantageous circumstances. The progress of her institutions, considering the age and resources of the country, is in a great measure respectable, and flattering to the genius and enterprise of the people. It may reasonably be hoped that the religious and educational interests of the state are in a progressive condition, yet it becomes necessary to use all proper endeavors to stimulate to more enlarged efforts in the promotion of objects of such momentous importance. However rapidly the country has advanced in its physical, moral, and intellectual resources, within the last few years, the bow of promise and anticipation abides in the future. If the proper means are made to concentrate their forces, we may expect to advance in the future more rapidly than in the time past. The motives which urge all to co-operate in the glorious

work of consummating the institutions of Texas, essential to the perpetuity of her greatness and glory, are neither few, feeble or obscure.

In rearing the first generation of her institutions, it becomes necessary that the proper foundation be secured, and it may not be an extravagant calculation to suppose that the proceedings of the next five years will more effectually decide the character which Texas is to sustain before the world, than in any other period of the past or future.

When the extent and fertility of the country is taken into consideration, it is natural to conclude that its prosperity must advance with majestic power, and if those institutions, which are necessary to form the mind, conscience, and heart of the country, be permitted to linger, dreadful will be the consequences. What is done, must be done quickly, and we are driven to intelligence and religion as our own sure guaranty. The people must not only be enlightened, but religious. Let no person who loves his country hesitate to look this subject full in the face, and adopt a course of conduct which indicates earnest effort to educate the mass of the people, and bring them under the power of true religion. It is an evident fact, proven in every age of the world, that efforts in establishing the institutions of a pure and spiritual Christianity, are heaven's appointed means, not only in saving men's souls, considered as individuals, but also of national and social salvation. Upon the religion of the Bible rests, as upon a corner stone, the hopes of the country. The infidel

may scoff at the assumption, but posterity will find it true. In the Gospel of Christ, Texas is safe; out of it, she is undone. If Texians desire to make their State truly great, and transmit to posterity institutions in primitive simplicity and force, they must imbue the minds of youth with a pure and elevated morality, which shall induce to habits of right action. The mind and heart of the child may be as certainly formed for good works by moral training, as the plant may be improved by careful culture. Though we would yield due honor to literature and science, we must not expect from them, what they are not able to perform. They must not be relied on as adequate for controlling the will and purifying the heart.

For education to answer its great end it must be evangelized. We cannot look to denominational enterprises to accomplish this work. Prejudices would debar the attempt of inoculating with any particular creed. Though denominational enterprises of an educational character are not to be disparaged, yet they cannot be relied on, as being sufficient to meet the demand of a people, as various in sentiment as are found in Texas.

While we look to our literary institutions to educate the intellect, the more elevated training of a religious education is found in the Sabbath School. There it is entirely free from sectarian influence. Facts and results, plainly show the necessity, adaptation and usefulness of such a specific agent in advancing the interests of Texian evangelization, and the promotion of Christian education among all classes. The missionary opera-

tions of the "American Sunday School Union" have been progressing with wonderful success, for the last three years; and there is, evidently, no greater indication, in the present attitude of moral and religious affairs, for permanent good, than the favor which is shown to the present effort of that benevolent society to plant a Sunday school where there is population, throughout the State.

Ministers and private members of all denominations are generally agreed, in regard to the importance and utility of such a system of religious instruction. Schools have been organized in various places, and thousands of children have been gathered into them and instructed in things pertaining to their duty to God and their fellow beings, and made familiar with the scriptures which are able to make wise unto salvation.

Next to the Gospel ministry, the Sabbath school may be regarded as the most efficient instrument in the promotion of intelligent piety and instruction. In many instances it goes where the minister cannot be sent, (or if sent, supported,) and plants the seed which germinates, and, not unfrequently, matures into a church. Some young churches of good promise, are known to have had their origin in Sabbath schools, organized within the last three years. The great hope of the church in Texas is in securing the young, and as children constitute an extraordinary part of the population, the Sabbath school, as the nursery of the Church, cannot be too highly appreciated. It affords a means of grace when no other can be obtained, and by the dis-

semination of religious books is creating a taste for reading, and affording means of moral and intellectual culture for the ignorant and uncared for. Much of the ground of Texas has not yet been explored, from the fact that the field is too extensive for the operations of one agent. Sabbath schools might be organized in every settlement could the proper means be used.

Many important points might be made highly interesting and promising, were the merits of the U. S. S. properly understood. It would advance the moral interests of Texas greatly, if the American Sunday School Union would send a reinforcement of one, or more, agents to aid the present one in establishing S. S. in destitute portions of the State. This mighty engine for good, has been started, and by its continuing to be propelled, would change the wilderness of moral darkness into the garden of the Lord.

Every individual who desires the preservation of our civil and religious rights, the dissemination of intelligence, the spread of Bible light, and the banishment of ignorance, crime and every species of evil, will heartily and cordially contribute his influence and co-operation in sustaining Sunday schools in Texas.

The great desire which is manifested for intellectual and moral culture affords a promising indication, and were the means of improvement adequate to the demands, a high state of intelligence and piety might be guaranteed to the future generation.

This fact affords encouragement for those to labor who are already on the field, yet the heart often faints

in view of the expansiveness of the work, and the comparatively limited means to accomplish it. Though there is intelligence, piety and energy in Texas, yet were it all embodied and made active, it would not be an agent sufficiently powerful to advance the work of moral and intellectual improvement, as rapidly as is requisite.

An object is presented to the moral vision of Christendom, sufficiently important to enlist an immediate and extensive co-operation. Were the various departments of Christian enterprise replenished, Texas might soon gain moral strength adequate to her responsibilities. As a missionary field it has strong claims upon the sympathies, the prayers, and the efforts of Christians.

One who looks at its wants and responsibilities, in the exercise of Christian philanthropy, cannot fail of being inspired with the most thrilling emotions, and must necessarily consider Texas, at this time, one of the most important and promising missionary fields on the western continent.

A twofold reason presents itself—her own destitution urges a claim for efforts in her behalf, and her contiguity to Mexico and consequent influence over that benighted republic demands that Texas should be, immediately, raised to a high point of moral power. Providence is, in a very important manner, pointing out Texas as an agent to operate upon the Papal power in Mexico; and shall not the evident indication be observed, and improved for the overthrow of error, and the upbuilding of truth in our land and country?

Replenish her with the means, and no doubt she might prove an engine of moral power before which Catholicism would have to shrink. Let Texas stand beside Mexico, highly evangelized, and the contrast would serve to show the superiority of the Protestant over the Catholic religion; the tendency of which would be to constrain the degraded Mexicans to yield to the influence of that system of faith, which might elevate them to the like happy condition.

Let Texas then be the rallying point around which influences of good shall be formed, and a weapon sharper than a two edged sword shall be unsheathed in Mexico, which shall pierce her false religion to the seat of life.

In order to render Texas an efficient agent, it will require the co-operation of Christians at home and abroad. High ground must be taken, and maintained with firmness and decision. The pioneers of the cause of truth must take their stand upon the high table land of promise, and fix their eye upon the moral grandeur of the object, until their energies become enlisted, to concentrate them with power and might for its full accomplishment. Texan Christians are, in a very important manner, placed where they *must* labor. So near allied to their own interests, is the moral condition of Mexico, that its elevation seems necessary to their own. Their proximity renders it apparent, that the moral condition of the one will evidently affect the other. The baleful effects of Mexican influence must be counteracted and overcome, and Christians must buckle on

anew their armor in the prosecution of a work, the accomplishment of which would excite the joy of angels in heaven and the gratitude of saints on earth. To elevate the moral condition of a country, containing a population of millions of souls under the influence of a religion which in point of absurdity might compare with paganism, within the limits of our own continent, presents an object sufficiently important to enlist an immediate and energetic action of Christians throughout the United States. While the heathen abroad are sharing in their benevolent and philanthropic efforts, let not the heathen at home be forgotten.

Are there not those to whom the importance of the object addresses itself with sufficient force to induce them to volunteer their services for the cause of truth in Texas and Mexico? Let each ask himself the question, what is my duty as an American Christian?

Mexico is now open for the dissemination of the Word of life. Its conquest to national power, inspired the martial spirit of American freemen, and shall not the sons of peace and righteousness follow up the victory with those weapons which are mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds? The work must be done. The honor of American Christianity demands it, and who will lead in advance?

Texas may be regarded as the outposts of the enemy's camp, and every means should be used to secure such an important fortification. Here the instruments are to be prepared to operate upon Mexico. Missionaries are to be manufactured, which are to scatter the

pure light of truth over the benighted regions of Mexico. From the Sabbath schools of Texas may there be transplanted trees which shall yield a sweeter perfume upon the mountains of Mexico, than her rich groves of orange and pomegranate! "How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace: that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation, that saith unto Zion, thy God reigneth!"

Let Texas, then, be the grand lever, and ere the nineteenth century closes, Mexico may be seen "sitting at the feet of Jesus," clothed in moral beauty, and "in her right mind, as it regards the great things pertaining to eternal life."

CHAPTER VI.

Newspapers of Texas—opinion in the older States. Literary merit of the periodicals. Their increase. Their influence. Importance of a correct literature to the moral character of a country. Responsibilities of Editors. Circulation of religious books. Need of booksellers. An improvement requisite in school books.

“A newspaper in Texas, does the intelligence of the state demand a newspaper?” was a question proposed last year. This circumstance may appear incredible to one who is not aware of the ignorance which prevails abroad, in regard to the true condition of the State. People in the older States, to some extent, have doomed Texas, and prescribed limits which she must never pass, but while those persons ascribe ignorance, let them ascertain to what extent they are not enthralled in that which they would impute to others.

Though Texas cannot boast of such prodigies of literature as some other countries of older standing, yet she can exhibit specimens which are highly respectable.

We are, doubtless warranted in the assertion, that no country or nation, in so short a time, has exhibited more excellent specimens of literary merit. The numerous periodical papers issued within the last few years, have exerted an important share of influence in promoting knowledge, and, very evidently, afford a convincing proof of the growing intelligence of the State.

At the time of annexation five or six newspapers constituted the reading matter in the way of periodicals then extant; now *thirty-two* in all the varieties, are sustained almost exclusively by Texan readers and patronage.

A circulation of the newspapers of Texas would reflect an honor upon the literary character of the State, and might serve, no doubt, to elucidate her true condition more correctly than any other means. Hence a more extensive circulation abroad, should be aimed at, by those who desire to benefit the State in a civil and moral point of view.

As an extensive agent of power in moulding the character of a country, and giving it a reputation abroad, is the instrumentality of the press. Important responsibilities rest upon those who write for the public; and perhaps, nowhere should more precision be observed than in Texas, from the fact, that such is the intellectual appetite for reading, that the sentiments issued from the press are devoured with eagerness, regardless of consequences. "Let me write the ballads of a nation," said an ancient politician, "and I care not who writes its laws."

A corrupt literature has every where been proven to exert an immoral tendency, as the countries in which this subject has not been duly considered, clearly exhibit. An important privilege, of moulding Texian principles into their proper channel, is presented to those who occupy the editorial department of moral enterprise.

An immoral sentiment uttered in print, will not affect one individual only, but a whole community. The press may be made a vehicle of error, or a medium of intelligence and virtue. Hence the importance of those occupying the public position of editors of newspapers being men of high moral sentiment, dignified and intelligent. They should not lightly assume, nor thoughtlessly discharge duties of such important bearing. A weapon for weal, or for woe, is in their hand, and if successfully used, may do much in elevating a country to a high standard of intelligence and virtue. With many persons, the newspapers supply the chief reading matter; their quick succession, the variety of their contents, and the little labor which is requisite to run through them, makes it rather an amusement, than a task to read them. This fact gives such publications a decided advantage over any others, as many persons will read a newspaper who rarely ever look into a book, and hence this medium may be regarded as the most available channel to mind and morals, and should be improved for exerting a healthful and saving influence.

The press is the tongue — a fountain of life, or a poisoned spring which sends forth deleterious streams; and the agent which wields such a mighty power, should know how to use and apply it, so as to pour light abroad from the living fountains of his own intelligence.

The importance of a right kind of reading is felt in Texas, and measures are used, to some extent, to supplant the pernicious trash of "light literature," which is operating so powerfully elsewhere, to pervert and

corrupt public sentiment. By the proper efforts on the part of the friends of morality in circulating the cheap evangelical publications of the various benevolent societies, that flood of demoralizing reading which is deluging many portions of our country, might be driven back. The reading taste in Texas is forming, and susceptible of a favorable stamp; if the literature which is circulated at the present crisis be sanctified in its character, its sentiment will become a principle of moral and intellectual dignity — an element of fire, purifying and subliming the mass in which it glows.

A taste for reading is far less natural than acquired, and hence it becomes necessary to nourish it with suitable aliment.

The circulating libraries of the American S. S. Union, and religious books, scattered over the country by colporteurs, are proving powerful elements in imparting moral elevation in the community of Texas, and afford ample encouragement to extend such operations, by the various benevolent societies.

Booksellers might do extensive business in all the important towns of Texas, and if of the right kind, would do much good in promoting a moral sentiment among the people. An improvement in the way of text-books for schools is evidently demanded. Among the many causes which should operate in Texas for increasing the well-being of society, that of enlarging the usefulness and operations of schools, by a judicious assortment of books, presents a claim upon the consideration of

the public generally, and especially of the friends of education.

A great deficiency is felt by those who have the care of schools in Texas, and it is a matter of much importance to the educational interests of the State, that an immediate improvement be made, by introducing a uniform system of books that may serve as a standard, which are elevated in moral sentiment as well as literary merit. It appears that this subject has not been sufficiently appreciated from the number and variety of poor school books which are extant. The difficulty of obtaining suitable books is probably the cause of this defect, and therefore appears the importance and necessity of booksellers being encouraged, as harbingers of a more correct system of education, than has hitherto been enjoyed.

“ Among the duties of the guardians of public education, it is one thing to provide the ways and means in support of the cause, another to obtain competent teachers, and last to furnish them, as you would the mechanic or artist, if you expect the best result from their labors, with proper tools and materials — that is to say, with the best books. Money lavished in the purchase of inferior books is not only lost, but that time which is the most precious to the young for improvement, is gone, and cannot be redeemed.”

“ Every good teacher is aware of the importance of placing the best school books, and none other, in the hands of his pupils. On the fitness of these assistants in the business of educating, depends much of the case

and success of his labors. Though the good instructor will doubtless accomplish much in the use of even poor books, his success must be greater and more easily attained by the aid of good ones.

The Eclectic Educational Series is believed to be, as a whole, better suited to the wants of intelligent educators, in the present advancing state of primary education, than any similar series yet published, and any efforts to extend its use into our schools, is a real service to the cause of education itself."

CHAPTER VII.

Comparison of the moral interests of Texas with the erection of a building. Necessity of the correspondence of the parts. The minutest causes to be regarded. Population to be made up in part. Dangers of a heterogeneous class of citizens. Difficulties attending the formation of society. Proper means for obviating those difficulties. Necessity of high moral principles. Importance of a concentration of purpose. A model for imitation. Extract, exhibiting the example of the first settlers of New England. Similar decision and fixed purpose requisite. Indications of Providence in behalf of Texas, encouraging to future efforts. United labors of Christians demanded.

IN the creation of a fabric, much care is requisite to proportion its parts in such a manner as to give symmetry, beauty, and elegance to its appearance. A slight deviation might mar the whole appearance — the defect would seem so much of a contrast, as to render the edifice an object of disgust, rather than admiration.

In building up the interest of a new country, the greatest skill and pains are requisite to make all things correspond in the way of improvements. The minutest causes work for good or for evil, and the tendency of every measure should be properly weighed, before it be allowed to exert an influence. The causes of public corruption and national depravity, at first, are slow and work unseen ; — they begin to work by insensible degrees, and are always perceived least by that commu-

nity on which their operation is most fatal. If such causes are permitted to exist in Texas, however much the good sense and virtue of the people may retard their operation awhile, they will ultimately produce their deleterious effects.

Timely precaution will save this interesting State from the sad influences of an indiscreet management of those affairs in which is suspended her future destiny. With such precaution, Texas may be seen rising into a mighty fabric of social, political and religious order, soaring by degrees to eminence and distinction, diffusing her benign influence abroad, and descending with increasing improvements down through future generations. How is such a mighty work to be accomplished? It is evidently not a work that can be performed in a day, nor can it be matured by one individual. It is to be the result of an extended and comprehensive system of arrangements, like a piece of machinery, with wheel joined to wheel, and each one necessary to secure the successful operation of the whole.

A concentration of minds is necessary, minds formed for action — minds that know what human nature is and how it is to be operated upon — minds that can lay plans for the accomplishment of purposes, and that can devise means for their execution. “The children of this world” should not be permitted to be “wiser in their generation than the children of light.” With the immense advantages which Texas possesses, imagination finds no difficulty in viewing her in the course of a few years, with her fertile lands in a high state of cultiva-

tion, her rivers improved to ensure safe and successful navigation, railroads constructed to facilitate inland commerce, and the country, towns and cities teeming with population. Can it be predicted with equal certainty, that a comparative improvement in intelligence and virtue will take place? In this subject is concentrated the country's hope. Knowledge and goodness must fix their altars on every pinnacle of fame to perpetuate its existence.

To make Texas what she should be, those quicksands, which have always operated to subvert the well being of society, must be shunned, and those principles cultivated that have ever proven a foundation for prosperity, and a safeguard and defence against all the dangers and difficulties to which a country may be exposed.

The population of Texas is, to an extent, yet to be made up, and of their character, who can decide? A heterogeneous mass, from every source, of all ranks and conditions, are in a measure to form her future citizens.

Though many worthy and meritorious characters are, and will be, found among so great an emigration as has been and will be to this country, yet it cannot reasonably be expected that all are valuable members of society which emigrate. In all extensive emigrations which have hitherto been in any part of the world, it has not unfrequently been the case that the poor, distressed, overwhelmed with calamities and misfortunes from vice and imprudence, have formed a considerable part.

In influx of strangers and foreigners of every grade and class is dangerous to the well being of society, espe-

cially if the number bears any considerable proportion to the old inhabitants. Even if that proportion is small, the effects are injurious, but in the immense accession to population which Texas has in prospect her danger is extreme. Society will have to be formed under difficult circumstances; if the emigration is vicious it will corrupt, and if it is virtuous it will have to blend and assimilate; and how are those difficulties to be met and counteracted? Nothing but a firm and virtuous principle diffused throughout society, sufficient to act as a restraining and transforming influence, will mould such discordant elements into their proper shape. Public sentiment must be so infused as to be able to withstand all opposing currents, and turn everything which comes within its influence into its proper channel.

Let the atmosphere of those lovely prairies of Texas become instilled with the spirit of virtuous independence, so that whoever inhales its balmy fragrance may become the subject of its happy influence. Let firm and exalted principle be the light-house to guide the stranger to a home in Texas, and here let him buy, build and plant; let him live, spread and flourish, pursuing interest and happiness in every mode of life which enterprise can suggest or reason justify, under those institutions which heaven will bless and prosper.

However dark and discouraging the moral aspect of affairs often appears in Texas, there are many high-minded souls, who, with an eye of faith, look over the lowering mountains of present appearances, to the time when those rough places will be made smooth, and

“righteousness and truth which only exalteth a nation” shall be known and felt. If Texas is to be built up in moral beauty, skill and wisdom must lay the plan, and every one who feels an interest in seeing the building completed in elegance, must put a hand to the work.

Firmness and decision are necessary for the performance of every important undertaking. A concentration of purpose can achieve the noblest ends.

A model for imitation of great and important plans, carried out for the good of posterity, is presented by the example of the Puritan fathers of New England.

Here it may be observed, that the reader must not too hastily judge, that the author is attempting to eulogize her own country. We are willing he should set down liberally to the account of national attachment, but, it is our professed intention to be candid and impartial.

An extract will be inserted which may seem to exhibit the achievement of important purposes, planned and matured under the most disadvantageous circumstances. Though great and splendid actions are not the ordinary occurrences of life, but must, from their nature, be reserved for particular and eminent occasions, yet that system is essentially defective which leaves no room for their production. They are important, both from their immediate advantage and their remote influence. They illustrate the age and nation in which they occurred.

They raise the standard of human excellence, and by showing what man has done, exhibits what he may do.

Monuments of the greatness of the human soul, they present to the world the image of virtue in her sublimest forms, from which streams of light and glory issue to remote times and ages, while their commemoration by the pen of historians, should awaken in distant bosoms sparks of kindred excellence.

“The colony of New England was unlike the colonies of other parts of the continent. It grew out of the religious principles, others, out of the pecuniary. Its first object was a permanent home for religious liberty. Its purposes matured in a country of persecution, prayer and desire to worship God, until those Pilgrims became consecrated to the great idea, and ready to sacrifice home, lands, country, friends and life, if they might secure liberty of conscience to their posterity in the new world.

“They left Europe fully in the belief, that God was guiding them to become the founders of a nation, in which this liberty to serve Him would be secured forever and they stepped on Plymouth Rock fully in the faith never to return.

“Few decisions of so great import were ever made in this world. Never on this continent has there been another of such stupendous results and by the highest religious faith, — no! never one so eminently possessing the very highest courage, self denial and confidence in God, like the martyrs. They resolved to live or die, as the founders of an empire in which to worship God with liberty of conscience. If here was a company of pilgrims possessing the highest religious faith and

devotion, and the highest manifestation of both : so no other on this continent, none in modern or in ancient times, since the meeting of the Disciples, when ‘endowed from on high with the Holy Ghost and with tongues of flame,’ have sent forth results so valuable to mankind, as have come out of this decision to remain firm on the rock in the wilderness. That was the embryo bud, from which there has grown out three branches, large and growing rapidly with command from God to fill the whole earth, and it must be done. The branches are, a free conscience Bible in worship, free schools in education, and free suffrage in government. The last, to succeed, must be associated with the two first. But let the free Bible and free schools prevail and we need little anxiety what form government may have. The want of education to every child and the Bible read daily by every person of the nation, is the danger into which we are now passing.

“To use the language of a distinguished orator, liberally modified, ‘If we seek for great men in the ends for which they set forth, the difficulties with which they contended, the success which God gave them, the teeming harvest which has sprung from seed sown with their tears, we shall find them in the first church of the Pilgrims ; and our interest in them must be inexpressibly heightened by their relations to our own present and future, in which they have expanded, and through whose light they shine. Certainly, the planting of a colony in a new world, which may grow, and does grow to a great nation where there was none before, is in

itself in the judgment of the world, among the great things which God gives great souls power to do. To found a state upon a waste earth, wherein great numbers of human beings may live together, and in successive generations socially and in peace, knit to one another by numerous ties, great and small, wherein they may enjoy, improve and heighten social life, may reclaim and decorate the earth, invent and polish the arts, plant, nurture, and beautify the virtues of the soul! to do this, is great.'

“Much greater is the planting of a great nation as these pilgrims did it, being a church of Christ, out of the true and great Christian motive, the will and glory of God, and the love of unborn generations, so that each son and daughter might sit under their own vine, with no church or state, King or bishop to make them afraid to the end of time.

“Certainly, in planting the best elements in the world, upon the Rock of Plymouth, things in heaven and things on the earth were united: faith, with hard sufferings, love of God and posterity, with the giving up of goods and comforts, which, except in the planting of the primitive church, has never had a parallel. All these things uniting in the Forefathers have concentrated in them the great elements, and brought them near the summit of all greatness on earth.

“To adopt an illustration of their own, ‘Puritanism was planted in the region of storms, and there it grew. Swayed this way and that, by a whirlwind of blasts, all adverse, it sent down its roots below frost or drought

into the heart of the world, its trunk went up erect, gnarled and seamed, but nourished by the most luxuriant soil, like men in the temptations of earth, with faith in the Saviour, and he in them.' Thus the true Pilgrim greatness, which can alone make this country great, is Christian faith, self denial, the church beautified by suffering and constancy for others, like, and in union with the Son of God."

The traces of God's hand distinctly mark the history, condition and prosperity of our country and nation. From the character of the population, to whom the leading influence was given in the founding of our institutions, and in establishing national usages, we cannot but infer that God's designs towards this nation were of an exalted character, and that they will develop themselves in the future with blessings innumerable in our land and world. The spirit of maintaining equal rights, free religion and public schools must be infused among a people, and the principle carried out in practice secures every blessing upon which the exaltation of any country can depend. The puritan fathers were distinguished for a love of learning, their regard for the Sacred Scriptures and their indomitable zeal in maintaining religious liberty. No sooner had they cleared a spot of ground, than the school house and sanctuary arose, and most of their care, during the greatest extremities, had respect to the welfare of posterity. Those who have the first occupancy of the soil must inevitably maintain an ascendant influence of great power. The tenacity with which first organizations and princi-

ples maintain themselves, affords the greatest inducement to establish at the commencement, those of the right character. The qualities and principles of the first settlers will mould and shape the political, social and religious institutions. If the right principles are started upon by the first inhabitants, then others, of different kinds of population, as they come in will be stirred into the forming mass and become assimilated to the powerful and well organized elements into which they mix.

God's hand was most specifically manifested in the preservation of his church in its purity, in the first planting of the American colonies, and cannot his hand be recognized in sustaining religious institutions in Texas under all the various circumstances in which she has been placed? Never has God dealt more favorably towards a people, and with reference to the indications of his Providence, the friends and advocates of religion should move forward in the work of advancing its interests throughout the country. His hand was never more signally manifested than at the present time; in the movements for the spread of the Gospel among the people; the opening of new fields of effort and raising up men to cultivate them and bestowing a saving blessing on the seed sown in tears. Every revolution of the wheel of Providence manifests the kindest designs, and bids the people of God move on, and no one can recede without treason to interests more precious than life. No one can withhold his influence, while every motive of love to Christ and benevolence

to man, and every consideration that bears in the conservation of precious institutions, bids him go forward. We are not 'straightened in God,' but the united effort of the people is wanted. Nothing in the way of means does so effectually overcome obstacles as the influence of Christians acting together. This is the most important element of success. Proceeding on this great principle of harmonizing the discordant elements of society, and prevailing on Christians of different names to co-operate in all that is essential to the salvation of man, the ark of the Lord must surely move forward in Texas. One, and all, the people, the whole people must thus move by one impulse, and labor for one destiny, and make their State the light of nations, diffusing the mingled radiance of peace, liberty and religion.

CHAPTER VIII.

The Missionary of Texas. Encouragement under Privations. Prospects and Promises which he has to sustain him. Encouragement which the Gospel offers for an Increase of Missionaries. Appeals in behalf of Texas. Claims upon the North and East. Duty of Extending Aid in behalf of Moral Enterprise.

“IT is all right,” said a missionary in Texas, “yes, it is all right,” for a redeemed sinner, honored as an officer of the highest Court in the universe with an embassy from the King of Kings to his revolted subjects, to endure any privations and trials, and make any personal sacrifices which the service may require, with a cheerful spirit. “It is all right” to devote time, and heart, and intellect, and wear out the springs of life in self-denying toils to promote the Kingdom of such a Saviour. A glittering crown — a name enrolled among the sons of light — and everlasting honors which outweigh ten thousand times the best living sacrifices which the best Christian minister can offer in the service of Christ.

A language truly characteristic of the spirit of the Gospel. How insignificant do worldly honors and pleasures appear to one who has a just appreciation of the richer blessings of the Gospel of Christ. Infinitely happier is he who is following the footsteps of the blessed Saviour in sacrifice, privations and suffering, than the most exalted devotee of earthly pursuits and honors.

The missionary of Christ is on an errand of the most exalted character, and while he pursues his toilsome way, he enjoys a blessing, richer far than earth can yield. Though he sows in tears, yet shall he reap in joy, — “though he goes forth weeping, bearing precious seed, he shall doubtless come again rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.” Thus is he blessed who labors for the Lord; though it be under a cloud, faith looks over the darkest prospect and assures him that his labor cannot be “in vain.” The poor missionary wandering “up and down” in this unfriendly world, with scarcely a “place to lay his head,” can exult in joys which the votaries of the world know not of.

In the estimation of the world, the rich and the great are esteemed happy, but never was there a greater mistake; without grace in the soul, the greatest adornment earth can confer, will never yield one drop of real happiness. A momentary delusion; scarcely a faint glimmering of the beloved object that allured to its pursuit! Could the same spirit be elicited for heavenly riches, that is manifested for those of earth, how much more becoming the character of beings destined to immortality! “O, vain and inconstant world! O, fleeting and transitory life, when will the sons of men learn to think of thee as they ought?” when will they learn the fading and unsatisfying nature of earthly good, and seek that happiness which can alone satisfy the boundless desires of the immortal soul? When will they think less of time and more of eternity.

The missionary of Christ has promises for “the life

that now is, and that which is to come." A halo of glory and light encircles his brow, from rich assurances which beam from the blessed volume of Divine truth. Streams of grace and peace flow through his soul, while he drinks at that fountain, of which, if a man drinks, he shall never thirst again. While the worldling repairs to the unsatisfying fountain of earthly pleasures, he quenches his thirst from the view of life which proceeds out of the throne of God and the Lamb. "He shall dwell on high, his place of defence shall be the munition of rocks; bread shall be given him, and his waters shall be sure." His eyes shall see the King in his beauty, he shall behold the land that is very far off. "There the glorious Lord will be a place of broad rivers and streams, wherein shall be no galley with oars, neither will the gallant ship pass thereby."

The Lord "will be a strength to the needy in distress — a refuge from the storm, and a shadow from the heat in a weary land."

A missionary of Christ, what other title can compare! kings, peers, lords and nobles are empty names to that conferred on him who is sent on an embassy of love and mercy to fallen man! *A missionary of Christ* — what blessings and privileges are guaranteed to him! "his bow shall abide in strength, and the arms of his hands shall be made strong by the hands of the mighty God of Jacob. Even by the Almighty who shall bless him with the blessings of the deep that lieth under;" they shall be upon the head of him who sacrifices earthly pursuits for Christ's sake.

In view of the immense privileges of being a missionary of the Cross, who would not covet it? Why is not the way filled up with many rushing into a service which secures such present and future reward! Were there more of those who profess to honor the Saviour and his cause, who will rightly appreciate the inestimable privilege of being missionaries to destitute portions of our world, "the desolate places would be glad for them, and the desert would rejoice and blossom as the rose." If this subject was duly taken into consideration, Texas would not be spreading forth her hands so long, in vain; her ranks would be filled by those who would esteem it their greatest privilege to scatter the seed of truth over her wide desolations. The appeals made in her behalf would meet an early response, and intelligent and hallowed enterprise would be enlisted for extending the kingdom of Christ, until he reigns whose right it is to reign, over the length and breadth of this beautiful and interesting State.

The Church is to be built up and enlarged, and instrumentality is to be obtained, ere "righteousness goeth forth as brightness, and the salvation thereof, as a lamp that burneth."

The Great Head of the Church is urging the claims of this part of his moral vineyard; and most emphatically saying to Christians of the Northern and Eastern Churches, "Why stand ye here idle?" "Go ye also into the vineyard, and whatsoever is right, I will give you." What though it be self-denial and toil; the Christian's happiness does not depend upon shunning

the Cross, but upon taking it up and bearing it. He who shuns an obvious call to deny himself for Christ's sake, shuns the most exalted privilege permitted man on this side of heaven. The Saviour has nobly set an example of labor and self-denial, and "the servant is no greater than his lord." The purest, most unmingled happiness that exists on earth, is experienced by those who most nearly approach the pattern of Him, who, though "he was rich, became poor, that we, through his poverty, might become rich."

"Oh, hear along the vaulted skies,
 This great command of Christ arise;
 This mandate sent from heaven above,
 Whose words are full of purest love;—
Go bear My Name! go scatter light!
 Dispel the mists of darkest night!
 Go, turn the force of error's flood,
 And turn it with my precious blood,
 While bolder, bolder press your cause,
 Till Satan all his force withdraws!"

*Rejoice! rejoice! for many a band
 Already hears in Gospel land;
 The morn of truth shines o'er the East,
 And sends its beams to farthest West;
 The fragrant South—the moral wastes,
 Shall hear the news of Jesus' birth;
 While city, forest, sea, and plain,
 Shall echo back the glorious strain,
 And louder, louder swell the song,
 Till Jesus dwell on every tongue.*

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PART SECOND.

Limits of Texas. Existing Difficulties relative to the True Boundary. Divisions of Texas. Face of the Country. Climate. Health. Mineral Resources. Natural Advantages and Adaptation to the Wants of man. Eastern Texas. Counties and Shire Towns. Face of the Country. Timber. Streams of Water. Facilities for Manufacturing Establishments. Emigration and Improvements. Fruits, and Vegetable Productions. Staple Commodities. Stock Raising. Internal Improvements. Natural Advantages. Destitution in the Moral Department of Improvement. The Educational and Religious Advantages not adequate to the Demands of the Population. The Increase of Ministers and Teachers not commensurate with the Extensive Emigration. Difficulties attending Ministerial Labors. Sectional Feeling. False Systems of Christianity. Necessity of Ministers professing True Bible Wisdom. Fluctuations in Public Sentiment and Moral Enterprises. The Most Important Element of Success. The Missionaries' Advent into Texas. Common Entrance. Sabine River. Description of Sabine Town. Appearance of Texan Towns to the Stranger. Interesting on account of their Improving Condition. Description of San Augustine, Nacogdoches, Douglass, Crockett. Northern Portion of Eastern Texas. Entrance. Admitting Emigration rapidly. Description of Clarksville, Marshall, Henderson, Busk, Larissa, Palestine. Importance of a Female Institution of High Order in Texas. Trinity Valley. Production Lands. Navigation of the Trinity. Mineral Resources of the Trinity Valley. Middle Texas, Counties, Shire Towns. Natural Advantages. Fertility of the Soil of the Busos Valley. Navigation of the River.

Improvements which might be made to the Commercial Interests of Middle Texas. Adaptation of the Soil to the Cultivation of Sugar Cane. Facilities for Manufacturing Establishments. Increase of Population, and Growing Importance. Deficiency in the Means of Education. An Enlarged System of Education demanded. An Increase of High Moral Principle, commensurate with the Increase of Population. The Standard of Piety of Church Members should become more Elevated. The Harmony and cooperation of the Different Branches of Christ's Church required. Houses for the Worship of God. Observance of the Sabbath. Improvements made in Society during the last three years. Prospects of Continued Improvements. Destitution of Cincinnati. Huntsville. Montgomery. Danville. Anderson. Washington. Independence. Rutersville. La Grange. Bastrop. Austin. Galveston. Houston. Brazaria. San Felipe. Matagorda. Old Caney. Changes which have hitherto taken place in Relation to Towns. More permanency at the present. Sparsely settled portions of Country. Important Missionary Fields. Need of Ministers to collect scattered Church Members and organize Churches. Destitutions in the Old Presbyterian Church. Accession of Ministers during the last year. Appeal to Churches in favored portions of Countries to aid the feeble Churches of Texas. Duty of portions of Churches to Colonize. Necessity of a better Church and more Action and energetic Piety among the Members. Western Texas. Counties, Shire Towns. Extensive Territory yet to be occupied. Variety of Population. Relation of the Indians. Hostile incursions of Indians during the last year. Immediate Measures required for Suppressing Depredations. Impotence of Western Texas. Navigation of the Rio Grande. Other Rivers susceptible of being rendered Navigable. Fertility of the Prairie Regions. Manufacturing Facilities. Mineral Resources. Natural Curiosities. Cross Timbers. Origin of the Old Missions. Necessity of Protestant Emigration. Prevalence of the Roman Catholic Religion. Immediate Efforts demanded for the Evangelization of Mexicans on the Rio Grande. Dr. Baker's Report of the Condition and Wants of that interesting portion of Country. The Readiness of the Mexicans to receive the Gospel. Eagerness for Bibles and Tracts. Description of the Upper Rio Grande. Destitution of Ministers and Teachers. Fertility of the Country and Inducements for settlers. Recent Organization of Counties. Appeal for Laborers in behalf of the Rio Grande Valley. Descrip-

tion of San Antonio. Gonzales. Seguin. Of the Country situated on the Gaudaloupe River. Influence of the Temperance Cause. School Houses and Churches taking the place of Grog-Shops. Description of New Braunfels. Comal Town. Valley of the Comal River. Castroville. Beauty of the Natural Scenery. Indianola. Goliad. Towns on the Rio Grande. Edinborough. New St. Louis. Brownsville. Roma. Rio Grande. Laredo. El Paso. Necessity of re-enforcing the latter towns with strong Protestant Influences, on account of their prospective influence over Mexico. Retrospect of Texas. Her Early History. The Noble Sentiments of Freedom evinced by the Early Settlers of Texas. The Achievement of their Independence. Foundation for the Prosperity which has succeeded. The Immense Improvements. Motives for Emigration. A Field for Interest and Usefulness. A Great Work yet demanded. A Contest waged. Texians called upon, to gird on their Spiritual Armor. An Appeal for Christian Volunteers to aid in this Holy Warfare.

WHAT is Texas in Territory? Were we to attempt to define the limits of Texas, we should come in collision with the claims of the General Government, which admit of less territory than Texas understood former stipulations guaranteed to her.

According to the boundary which Texas claims, the State extends from the Gulf of Mexico, three leagues from land, to the mouth of the Rio Grande, thence up the principle stream of said river to its source, thence due North to the 42d degree of latitude.

This boundary was defined by an act of the first Texian Congress, and continued to be regarded as such to the period of annexation, at which time, it was understood that the Government of the United States recognized it, and, by the resolutions of annexation, provided that "the territory properly included within, and be-

longing to the Republic of Texas might be erected into a new State — to be called the State of Texas.”

It is an important matter, at this era, for Texas to know what she really is, in territory, that it should embrace all that is her honest due. Encumbered with a large national debt, contracted in course of her revolution, she has to look to her public domain as her only resource for its payment, and the acquittance of her obligations to those who generously aided her struggle for independence. The acquiescence of Texas to give up the portion claimed will necessarily curtail and limit her ability to meet her responsibilities, consequently, she must violate her honor in a very important degree.

The decision of this subject is a matter of serious consequence to Texas. It is hoped that the present Congress will decide the unadjusted boundary, and in that decision will render the justice which is necessarily expected from a source in which should be concentrated equity as well as power.

According to the previous confederation, Texas covers sixteen degrees of latitude, and fourteen of longitude. She extends from 26 to 42 degrees of north latitude, and from 96 to 110 of west longitude. The south-east corner is in the mouth of the Rio Grande — a region of perpetual flowers; her north-west corner is near the South Pass in the Rocky Mountains — a region of perpetual snow.

She has a gulf frontier of near a thousand miles, a frontier on the Rio Grande (the disputed portion) of two thousand miles, an undisputed frontier of a thou

sand miles on the Arkansas, about five hundred more on the Red River, nearly another five hundred on the Sabine frontier, and an inland frontier of three hundred miles between the Red River and the Arkansas. She has a circumference of about five thousand miles, and a superficial content of three hundred and fifty thousand square miles.

Texas is usually considered under three divisions, Eastern, Middle, and Western. Eastern Texas embraces that portion between the Sabine and Trinity; Middle Texas, that between the Trinity and Colorado; Western Texas, that between the Colorado and Rio Grande rivers.

By a recent division, the State contains seventy-seven Counties. Several of the old counties have been divided into two or more, which division has increased, greatly, their number. Some of the counties are quite densely settled, and exhibit the improvements, incident to old settled States. For the most part, however, Texas has the usual indications of other new countries.

The face of the country is level on the coast, but towards the interior it becomes undulating, and the north west is interspersed with hills and mountains, which might compare in point of asperity and ruggedness to the most mountainous portion of the Union. Near the rivers and streams the land is covered with timber, embracing all the varieties found in other Southern States. The majestic appearance of the forest trees present striking objects for observation. The pine, palm, oak

and hickory grow to an astonishing size and height. The laurels, especially the magnolias, are peculiarly beautiful, rising with erect trunks to the height of 100 feet, forming towards the head a perfect cone, and having their dark green foliage interspersed with large white flowers, frequently eight or nine inches in diameter.

As we leave the streams the country opens into vast prairies or savannas, those beautiful plains which are common in some other parts of the United States. In the vernal season their beauty surpasses description — the luxuriance of the vegetation presents the appearance of seas of verdure. The grass, three or four feet high, and often overtopped by fragrant blossoms, is waved by the winds like the rolling billows of the ocean. Without a tree in sight, except the thick forest which bounds them, as the beach limits the sea, they stretch far away beyond the power of vision.

Those immense prairie regions are susceptible of a high state of cultivation, and their utility is equal to their beauty.

The climate of Texas is one of alternate spring and summer, with the exception of a few weeks during the winter of excessive rains. During this season the prairie portions of the country are subject to violent winds, called "Northers," which exhibit a sudden transition from heat to the most intense cold. They are of short continuance; their effect, however, is somewhat deleterious to health, especially to those who are not accustomed to such piercing blasts.

Flowers bloom and vegetation grows during most of the winter. To a person reared amid the snowy regions of the North a Texian winter would appear a novelty which could scarcely be realized. Rarely can there be found an individual from the North, who, after residing any length of time beneath the beams of a Southern sun, desires to return to the uncongenial rigors of a Northern climate. The South was formerly considered for Northern people, what India has been for Europeans, — “a vast grave-yard.” Experiment has fully proven, however, that Northern constitutions are susceptible of becoming acclimated, by using proper precautions. It is not unfrequently the case, that individuals born and reared in view of the snowy summits of the White Mountains of New Hampshire, are found in the extreme South, and as exempt from disease and sickness, as those who have never known any other clime, except that of the “Sunny South.”

The temperature of the Summers does not present a higher degree of heat than is experienced at the North, but their protracted length has the tendency, somewhat, to relax the constitution. The coolness of the nights, however, and the refreshing breezes from the gulf, serve very essentially to mitigate the inconveniences arising from the long warm summers.

Epidemics are not common — the diseases which are generally prevalent, are of a mild character, and yield readily to medicine under early and judicious treatment. The water of some parts of Texas is injurious to health, which renders such locations objectionable. This diffi-

culty might be obviated, as in some parts of the State, by the use of cisterns, which will probably come into universal use in those places where the health of the country demands.

The part of the State east of the Trinity river is bedded on freestone ; that west of it, is mostly upon limestone. The mineral resources of the country, are not developed to any great extent. As yet, there has been no regular geological survey, but it is very evident that such an examination would tend greatly to the interests of the State, by a development of many natural advantages, which at the present are unknown.

In several places, specimens of pure chalk, iron and coal are found, which might be an object sufficiently important to engage attention for rendering subservient to the purposes for which nature designed them.

An impartial observer of the merits and advantages which Texas possesses cannot but admire its general adaptation to the support and comfort of civilized man. In beauty and fertility it is the most perfect garden of nature, and if those advantages which the State possesses were brought into use and exercise, what a brilliant prospect would open through the darkness of the future ! With the moral energy of the free and active people, it can reasonably be hoped and expected that the arts, science, industry, virtue and social happiness will increase and spread where nature has conferred such distinguished advantages.

In order to delineate the State more definitely each division will be taken separately and described with

as much accurateness as circumstances will permit. We will commence with Eastern Texas, that part, as has been already stated, situated between the Sabine and Trinity rivers. This division contains thirty-five Counties, of which those on the Sabine commencing on the South are the following.

Counties.	Shiretowns.
Jefferson,	Beaumont,
Newton,	Burkeville,
Sabine,	Milam,
Shelbyville,	Shelby,
Panola,	Carthage,
Harrison,	Marshall,
Cass,	Jefferson,
Bowie, N. E. Co.	De-Kalb,
On the Northern boundary, lying on Red river,	
Red River Co.	Clarksville,
Lamar,	Paris,
Fannin,	Bonham,
Grayson,	Sherman,
Cooke, Unsettled,	

On the Trinity river commencing on the South.

Liberty,— partly on the E. and partly on the W.	Liberty,
Polk, do. do.	Livingston,
Houston,— entirely on the E.	Crockett,
Anderson,	Palestine,
Henderson,	Buffalo,
Kaufman,	Kaufman,
Dallas,— partly on the E. and partly on the W.	Dallas,
Denton,— entirely on the E.	Alton,

Intermediate commencing on the South.

Tyler,	Woodville,
Jasper,	Jasper,
Angelina,	Marion,
San Augustine,	San Augustine,
Nacogdoches,	Nacogdoches,
Cherokee,	Rusk,
Rusk,	Henderson,
Smith,	Tyler,
Van Zandt,	Jordan's Saline,
Upsher,	Gilmer,
Titus,	Mount Pleasant,
Hopkins,	Tarrant,
Hunt,	Greenville,
Collin,	McKinney.

This division contains a greater number of counties, and presents as a whole a higher state of improvement than that of Middle or Western Texas.

The country is elevated and presents a beautifully undulating surface. It being less of a prairie region than other portions of the State, it is better supplied with timber. All the various kinds are abundant,—pine, hickory, walnut, blackjack and oak of several kinds. Streams of water occur at short intervals, some of which might afford excellent facilities for mills and manufacturing operations. There is, perhaps, no part of the United States which offers greater encouragement for machinists of the various kinds to prosecute the manufactures necessary for the interests of a country, than is to be met with in Texas.

The evident need of such improvements in the Eastern, as well as other portions of the State, appeals loudly for attention to this department of enterprise. The cultivation of the soil has absorbed the attention of the citizens mostly, and hence this object has been neglected. Could some of the manufacturing enterprise and ingenuity of New England be extended into Texas, it would, greatly, conduce to the interests of the State, as well as afford a profitable speculation for those whose enterprise might lead them to undertake it.

The tide of emigration is fast filling up this section of country, which is generally of an excellent class of people, and who seem disposed to settle permanently, and are turning their attention to the improvement of farms — to the erection of comfortable and handsome dwellings — planting out orchards — cultivating gardens, shrubbery, &c. ; and in fine to all the necessary objects connected with refinement and comfort.

A great variety of fruit is found to succeed in Eastern Texas, comprising most of those found in the torrid and temperate zones. The most prominent are figs, peaches, plums, cherries, grapes, apples, lemons and oranges. The productions are various and abundant. Cotton, Indian corn, tobacco, rice, wheat and sugar, are the staple commodities.

Being a fine grazing country, it is well adapted to stock raising, and which is pursued to great advantage. Herds of cattle of the finest kind, several hundreds together, and thousands in some places, are not an uncommon sight. From the little care and expense which

is requisite for keeping stock, it might be inferred that it is capable of being rendered a very lucrative business. Very little attention is requisite during the winter, and indeed in most instances cattle are left to subsist on what nature provides.

The vast prairie and river bottoms are covered with luxuriant grass, wild rye, &c. affording a natural pasture for innumerable herds of cattle, horses and sheep, both winter and summer.

When certain contemplated internal improvements are completed, Eastern Texas will enjoy great commercial advantages. At present, those portions situated distant from navigation, labor under some disadvantages on account of difficult access to market. The expense attending the conveyance of produce to shipping points detracts greatly from the income, and this disadvantage in many instances serves as a serious objection for emigrants making permanent locations.

A great remissness is observed in the Eastern, as well as other portions of the State, upon the subject of internal improvements. Attention has not been paid hitherto to the improvement of roads as might be expected from the means which the citizens possess. If good roads are one of the accompaniments of civilization, as is generally admitted, a traveller passing through Texas might, with much propriety, infer that a very high point was not, as yet, attained. Texas roads, all will concur, are not calculated to speak very favorably of the enterprise and public spirit of the citizens.

Such delinquencies are utterly inexcusable, as Texas abounds in all the elements of wealth and power to carry *such* an object into respectable execution. It is only necessary that public opinion receive a strong impulse towards a system of internal improvements, and the object might be secured: then the passing stranger as he traverses this beautiful country might not have his interest destroyed by the impracticability of the travelling, so that he turn with disgust — pronouncing Texas, (as has been the case,) a country unfit for the abode of civilized man. The State should certainly possess sufficient pride of character to consider this subject of serious consequence, and if the legislature would give it some attention it would evidently facilitate the interests of the State in reputation and convenience, in a very important degree.

A country rich in natural beauties and privileges, without the adornment of art, presents a contrast which is more apparent and observable, than in those countries where nature has done but little. Hence Texas is laid under peculiar obligations to carry her improvements to a high degree of perfection, and with her incomparable natural advantages, she might rank with the first States of the Union. Public spirit is the propelling agency, indispensable to the interests of a country, and in proportion as it is manifested and brought into exercise, in the same proportion does a country rise in influence, wealth and respectability.

In point of natural resources, Eastern Texas is not second to any other portion, and time, no doubt, will

develope a good degree of energy among the inhabitants. With due activity in moral improvements, it might become highly interesting. But here destitution begins, — presenting a subject of deep and vital importance. Attention has not been extended to these objects, as might be reasonably expected from the intelligence of the people. An interest, to some degree, is manifested to secure the advantages of the preaching of the gospel, schools, &c., but not as yet adequate to the demands of the increasing population. The destitution, perhaps, is not owing so much to the disposition of the people, as to the difficulty of obtaining the suitably qualified agents to administer in those departments of moral and intellectual improvement.

People who have recently emigrated to Texas, with families, manifest a very reasonable desire to secure the necessary advantages for the improvement of their children, and a good degree of liberality is manifested on the part of the people generally, to afford sufficient encouragement for ministers and teachers of the first class to follow up the emigration with their influence and co-operation.

One fact is observable, that the families of Texas emigrants consist, generally, of goodly numbers of children, which may be accounted for upon the supposition, that those parents who are thus blessed are desirous of securing for them the advantages of a new country in point of worldly interest, and many do this without due consideration of the privileges of education, &c., which they are sacrificing. In an instance of an emigration

into Eastern Texas which occurred last year, of four families consisting of fifty children, a query was suggested whether those parents would find moral and intellectual culture for their children, as readily as they could find lands for them. Nothing in the way of worldly advantages can compensate for the cultivation of the minds and morals of youth. This allusion is not intended to discourage the emigration of persons with numerous children, but is merely made to suggest the importance of bringing along the implements to cultivate the mind as well as the soil. Where several families are emigrating together, as is frequently the case, it would evidently be a wise calculation to bring a teacher with them.

Two classes of emigrants are necessary for the improvement of a country, those to scatter seed upon the soil, and those to sow the more important seed of piety and intelligence.

A great scarcity of preachers of the gospel is evidently felt in Eastern Texas. It is not uncommon that one minister has to supply three or four congregations at a distance, perhaps of fifty or sixty miles. Such ministerial labors are attended with great disadvantages, — from the labors of such extensive travelling, as well as from the little apparent efficacy of preaching monthly in a place. It is not surprising that ministers are soon worn out in Texas, and that so many find an early grave. Excessive labors in the performance of the duties, and the often barren fruits attending them, have a tendency to wear out the spirit and body, and

many a premature death has been the result, and probably will be, until this department of moral Zion becomes reinforced, so as to strengthen the hands of those already in the field.

The sparseness of the population has been, hitherto, a difficulty in securing congregations of sufficient size to secure the stated preaching of the gospel. Those difficulties are becoming obviated by a rapid increase of population — the towns and country are fast filling up with the class of people who require a regular and able ministry.

Here, it may not be ungenerous to remark, that sectional feeling exists too much among the different denominations of Eastern Texas to facilitate the general religious interests, as is desirable. It is a melancholy fact that there is a party spirit manifested which is entirely unbecoming the spirit of the religion of Christ. The attempt to build up a religious denomination by pulling down another is an absurdity which will eventually develop itself in an utter failure. The circumstances of the country, new as it is, demand union and co-operation, to a certain extent, in advancing its religious interests.

The cause of Christ should be one of general importance to all the friends of Zion; and though that cause be propelled by different agents, it ought to be regarded with equal interest.

The introduction of false systems of diffusing truth under the auspices of Christianity, has had a deleterious influence upon the cause of Religion in some parts

of Eastern Texas. A false show of truth is more to be feared than error itself; unmasked, people can judge of its true character, but when it comes under the cloak of truth, fatal are the consequences to those who have not the discernment and prudence to look behind the curtain.

The unadulterated principles of the Gospel will only secure a firm foundation, upon which to erect the temple of truth. Hence the necessity that those who assist in forming the religious principles of a country, be men of correct sentiment, — cautious in assuming a position and firm in maintaining it. True Bible wisdom is requisite for those who officiate in public capacities to meet and counteract the various prejudices and caprices, which are presented in society as newly formed as in Texas. The admonition of the Saviour applies with much propriety to such, “Be ye, therefore, wise as serpents, but harmless as doves.” Nothing of permanency is, as yet, acquired, that is found in old or settled communities — change, to a very great extent, is the order of the day. Enterprises, promising much good, may be in successful operation with every appearance of permanency, and, by some sudden and unaccountable freak of opinion, may be suspended entirely, or transferred to some other point. Public sentiment is changable, and cannot be relied on with that degree of certainty which is necessary to that permanency which is desirable. Hence the revolutions which are so constantly occurring. These difficulties, to be counteracted, require the transforming influence of skilful practition-

ers. Men of profound skill, superior acquirements, an extensive knowledge of human nature, and above all, of a scriptural piety, can only be successful in Texas.

No field, perhaps, presents more urgent reasons for efficient laborers. Yet, the difficulty of the work should not deter any pioneer of moral reform from putting in an effort of good, however small. A little, in its proper place and time, answers an important end. We should not "despise the day of small means." God is often pleased to accomplish mighty purposes with comparatively little means. "The race is not always to the swift, nor the battle to the strong." David, with a pebble, killed a giant, and faith in David's God will enable a comparatively feeble saint to become mighty in demolishing error, and in building up truth in its purity. "Not by thy strength, or by thy power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of Hosts." He who depends least upon himself and most upon God, is the one who has the element of power for the accomplishment of great good.

Whoever comes to Texas to do good might consider himself upon missionary ground at his first entrance. So many posts of usefulness would present themselves before him, that it might cause some hesitancy to decide which to occupy. Let his advent be East or West, flourishing towns present themselves, which are in want of ministers and teachers.

A very common entrance into Eastern Texas, is from the Red River, by the way of Nacitoches and Fort Jessup, La., across the Sabine River to Sabine Town, which is the first town in Texas on that route.

This is a small place, of some importance, however, on account of its situation in regard to the river. The Sabine River is navigable for tolerably sized steamboats, and by becoming cleared of some difficulties which now obstruct its navigation, it might be rendered highly important to the commercial interests of Eastern Texas. The town of Sabine has the appearance of being somewhat of a business place, and evidently possesses a good degree of respectability.

The religious and educational interests are fluctuating, nothing of permanency is enjoyed. Schools are only occasional, as well as preaching of the Gospel.

A few miles west of Sabine, is the town of Milam, the shire town of Sabine County. Being a country seat, it might be inferred that a place of imposing consequence would present itself to the eye of the stranger. A person coming into Texas, direct from the Northern States might, perhaps, be surprised upon seeing many places called towns in Texas. He would, probably, as has been frequently the case, inquire, "where is the town?" and it would require some experience to become reconciled to the idea, that a post-office, store, and a few dwellings could, with propriety, be called a town.

It might not be an absurd idea, to suggest that no place should acquire the appellation of "town," without its possessing church and school buildings, which might present inducements for an earlier attention to those appendages, which constitute the principal ornament of town, city, or country.

It must be admitted that Texas towns are somewhat

peculiar, but the liberal minded individual must keep in view, that the places which are called towns, have all in prospect ;— had they arrived at their highest point of improvement, and were stationary, their appearance would be exceedingly dubious ; but the apparent evidence of their rapid advancement renders them objects of interest and admiration. Nothing can exceed the rapid growth and increase of the towns in Texas. One or two years, in many instances, has witnessed the foundation and increase of a town in all the various departments of business and enterprise.

Twenty-five miles west of Milam, on the stage route from Sabine to Houston, is San Augustine, a town of considerable importance. Its settlement was commenced in the early condition of Texas ; hence it has more of the maxims, principles and sentiment of Texas “ Old style,” than towns of more recent origin. Its history, like other early settled towns, presents a variegated character. Its frontier situation rendered it a theatre for scenes and acts which early times could only excuse.

Many sanguinary deeds there committed, have been, by the recording angel, registered for future examination. Though human laws and justice have been evaded in numerous instances, the voice of blood appeals to that tribunal, upon whose tablet is engraven the immutable law, “ Thou shalt not kill.”

If those deeds could all be charged to the account of former times, a less melancholy retrospect might be taken ; but within the last few years the infamous stain

of lawless murder has been permitted to deepen its impress upon that pleasant and interesting town.

Here fell the worthy and ill-fated Russell, a victim to persecution and violence; whose wrongs are deeply engraven upon the sympathies of the most enlightened part of that community. Though no arm of law can reach the accessories of this horrid deed, Divine Justice will search out the darkest corners, and bring to light those deep concerted plans, which robbed Texas of one of her brightest ornaments — one of her most promising and efficient agents of usefulness, and, sooner or later, meet such an outrage on humanity with its just desert and retribution.

The shedding of human blood, produces, in any case, a stain which is difficult to efface, but there are circumstances which deepen greatly, the color of that heaven-condemned act, and which impress must remain indelibly fixed.

However dark such spots appear upon the moral face of San Augustine, the town has many valuable and worthy citizens, who look with abhorrence upon deeds of base immorality. At present its population numbers about five hundred inhabitants, comprising all the varieties of business and occupations, usually found in towns of that size. Its situation is pleasant, and a good degree of taste is manifested in its arrangement. The residences are ornamented with shade trees, shrubbery and flowers, which give the place a very agreeable and imposing appearance. More attention has been paid to this department of improvement than is usually

seen in Texas. The citizens of the town are generally interested in promoting those important objects, in which are concentrated its best interests.

A great degree of enthusiasm prevailed some few years since, on the subject of education, which led to the erection of elegant buildings for school purposes, and which might, as far as elegance and convenience are concerned, be made subservient to schools of the first order. By the appropriation of public lands, funds of several thousand dollars were raised by which a "University building" was erected sufficiently commodious for the several departments of one of the best conducted institutions.

It went into successful operation under the superintendence of Professor Montrose, a teacher of high respect, upon the union system, and promised great good to the town and vicinity. Had it continued upon the principle upon which it was commenced, the "University" of San Augustine might have stood, in point of popularity and usefulness, by the side of any other institution in the South. But, unfortunately, the spirit of division arose, the development of which blasted and crushed the fairest prospects. An effort was made by Rev. Mr. Russell to resuscitate the interests of the institution; who, with a complete and thorough education, an extensive Chemical and Philosophical apparatus, and an adaptation to the art of teaching, might have been a very profitable and efficient agent in promoting the cause of education. Party spirit, however, had so gotten the start that his efforts were unavailing,

and upon the altar of maintaining the truth, he fell a victim under mysterious circumstances, which, perhaps, only the final exhibition of human affairs, will fully and satisfactorily develop.

Amidst the scene of contention and strife the Methodist denomination conceived the design of a College, and proceeded, forthwith, in carrying the object into execution. Agents, for the collection of funds, were despatched to various places, who succeeded in raising the necessary amount to erect a college building, to which was given the distinguished appellation, "Westleyan College." A board of Professors were obtained, and the institution went into operation, under very auspicious circumstances, promising much future good in the promotion of the educational interests of San Augustine. After a short and transitory day of prosperity, however, this luminary, which had just begun to cast its gladsome beams abroad, sunk beneath a dark and gloomy horizon, and nothing now remains but a dilapidated edifice to show that there ever existed an institution for the cultivation of the arts and sciences. Amid the darkness of the present, hope would fain indulge the idea, that over those desolations may yet arise that literary sun, and commence again its revolutions to bless the youthful mind and intellect of San Augustine.

There is no better teacher than experience, and, oftentimes, mistakes serve to give the best lessons. It is evidently exerting such an influence in San Augustine. The people are fully convinced that party spirit

is not a principle which secures the prosperity of the moral and educational interests of any community. A unanimous feeling is manifesting itself by efforts on the part of the citizens to have those institutions revived. Only occasional schools have been had for three years past; but the Trustees are exceedingly desirous of obtaining a regular board of teachers for both institutions. Perhaps no situation in the State offers better inducements for well qualified teachers, than San Augustine.

The country is thickly settled by a wealthy class of citizens; a satisfactory amount of patronage could be obtained, and a very reasonable compensation would be realized. It is to be hoped that this place may come under the consideration of those persons who are desirous of promoting the educational interests of Texas.

Religion, in San Augustine, has shared, somewhat, the same fate as education. These two objects are so closely allied that it is impossible for one to suffer without affecting the other. Party spirit presumed to show its craven head in the sanctuary, but then, again, Divine justice stood prepared to vindicate its own cause, by displaying that the cause of Christ can only be promoted by the spirit of Christ, and that whoever attempts upon any other principle, is destined to "fall into the pit which he has made."

The Methodist was formerly the most numerous and popular denomination in the place, but has been, lately,

upon the decline. It has a church building which is the only one in the town at present.

There are a few Episcopalians, who have a building under way, which will probably be completed the present year.

There are quite a number of Presbyterians in the town and vicinity, of the Cumberland and old school Church, who have in contemplation a building for public worship. No regular preaching is enjoyed by either denomination; and a great destitution of the stated ordinances of the Gospel is felt by those who appreciate its blessings.

The religious denominations are all comparatively weak as yet, and need an able and efficient Ministry to fix them upon a firm foundation and build them up.

Within the vicinity of San Augustine are some highly respectable Churches of the Methodists and Cumberland Pres. which have lately erected buildings, and are proceeding harmoniously, in advancing the cause of truth.

Many locations of usefulness are to be found in country settlements, where they are so densely populated as to present opportunities for securing good congregations, Sabbath and week day schools.

An evil should be sought out and exposed which has existed as long as such a pernicious one should be permitted, that of incompetent teachers seeking such locations in which to exert their "worse than no influence;" and the people, from the want of better means,

have often been obliged to employ such pernicious impostors.

It is often remarked in country settlements, that expense had been bestowed, sufficient to have given children and youth good educations, who scarcely had attained the first elements of the common branches, with any degree of accuracy. .

Here suggests one of the advantages which would occur from the public school system of education, in which the necessary qualifications of school teachers is so much a matter of consideration, that no individual is permitted to assume the important responsibility of instructing the youthful mind, without having passed a careful and judicious examination.

The next town on the same route, thirty-five miles from San Augustine, is Nacogdoches, a town of considerable importance. This was of early origin, and was settled almost entirely by the Spanish, and not until within a few years has its appearance indicated it to be otherwise than a Spanish town. The population came by degrees intermixed with Americans, with which the customs have become so much assimilated, that the town, at present, retains but little of its former character. Some indications, however, might present themselves to the eye of the traveller. The only church edifice by its "sign" denotes that the protestant religion has not assumed that position which it should. Catholicism formerly bore undisputed sway, but has yielded in its customs to the more consistent principles of Christianity. Some of the worthy and influential

citizens of the town still adhere to Catholic practices, though greatly modified from what they formerly were.

There are other religious denominations in the town, which, from neglect or inability, have no building for public worship, as yet. The Methodist denomination is the most numerous, and is in a very prosperous condition. A very consistent spirit prevails among its members, who are, in a good degree, promoting piety among themselves, and exerting a favorable influence abroad. They have a church building in contemplation; the necessity of which is seriously felt, and it is hoped the plan will be carried into execution, with the promptness its importance demands.

A lack of appreciation of the great advantage accruing from suitable places of public worship, is the prime cause of the many deficiencies which so frequently manifest themselves. Were the importance of this subject brought before the popular mind, clothed in its true light, measures would be immediately concerted for the erection of churches in many places where they are at present wanting.

The Episcopal church is supplied by a missionary of that denomination, who divides his time between Nacogdoches and San Augustine. It consists of but few members at present, yet a very strenuous effort is being made for the erection of a house of worship the present year.

There are Presbyterians in the place; very few, however, not sufficient to sustain a regular ministry. Occa-

sional preaching of the Cumberland and O. S. Presbyterians is had in town and vicinity.

Nacogdoches, like San Augustine, has been a scene of contentions in regard to schools, not however to that extent. Those conflicts have retarded somewhat the educational interest of Nacogdoches, but have been in a measure counteracted. A very commodious and respectable building was erected some years ago, in which have been schools of considerable importance, and at present a school is in operation under the supervision of competent teachers, and which is exerting a salutary influence upon the town and community.

The society of Nacogdoches is refined and intelligent, and the stranger, probably, would not observe any difference between it and the towns in the older States. The population is between five and six hundred. In this number of inhabitants is embraced the usual number of professional men, merchants and mechanics.

The town is situated upon an eminence, and presents an imposing and agreeable appearance. The Spanish style of building has nearly disappeared by the erection of new buildings. By the good taste already manifested, it may be inferred that it is destined to be a town which will possess attractions for general appearance, as well as for its moral and respectable character.

Nacogdoches and San Augustine are situated upon what is called the "Red lands," a soil peculiar to a considerable portion of Eastern Texas, which, on account of being strongly infused with iron, is quite red. The various appearances which are observed in this

vicinity might present a subject for interesting speculations. Varieties occur only at short intervals. Frequently, the red, black and white soil are found so contiguous, that their colors become blended into one.

Douglass, situated fifteen miles west of Nacogdoches, is a town which claims a passing notice. It exhibits an appearance which is peculiar to many other towns in Texas, not however in the way of improvement, but rather, otherwise.

The population consists of a very worthy class of citizens, though not possessed of that enterprise which makes very rapid strides towards eminence and distinction. The town can scarcely be said to be stationary; its advancement, however, is very gradual; and perhaps a future day will exhibit that its slow progress was a prelude to a permanent and increasing prosperity. The religious interests of the town are duly regarded, and the necessary means for their advancement are in operation. The Temperance and Sabbath School cause are exerting their happy influence over the morals of the people.

The Cumberland Presbyterians constitute the principal denomination of the place. The church is in a prosperous condition, and embraces many of the citizens of town and vicinity.

A very good degree of attention is paid to education; though there is no regularly endowed institution, yet schools are usually sustained, and have been, hitherto, conducted by very efficient teachers. A very consistent order of things is observed, and the people of

Douglass have less occasion for censure than many other towns.

Crockett, on the same route, forty miles west of Douglass, constitutes the county site of Houston county. This is a town, also, which aspires not unduly for aggrandizement. By its appearance a stranger would not infer that it acted upon the principle of "going ahead," which characterized its name-sake in such an important degree. Crockett, however, manifests a very respectable appearance, and is proverbial for the morality of its citizens. The various institutions for promoting the best interests of the people are in operation, and peace and order abound. A resident clergyman of the Cum. Pres. church administers the gospel; and has a highly respectable church, and a very good building for public worship.

Crockett is the last town of Eastern Texas on this route before coming to the Trinity river, which is distant some forty miles. As we have made but a limited examination of this division, it might not be uninteresting to take a glance of what is considered the Northern portion of Eastern Texas. The usual entrance into this part is by the way of Shreveport, La., and which, probably, is admitting emigration as rapidly as any other portion of the State. The fertile lands on the Red river, and the advantages of navigation have attracted settlements to such a degree, that some of the counties contain a dense and wealthy population. Appeals are frequently made from that source for an enlarged system of moral and intellectual improvements, those pos-

sessed not being adequate to the demands of the increasing population. Ministers and teachers are essentially needed, and could not fail of meeting with ample encouragement.

Clarksville, the county site of Red river county, is somewhat of a noted town. It is situated in the midst of a wealthy and populous portion of country, which secures to it the advantages necessary to its rapid prosperity.

Its religious and educational interests have been subjects of special attention, securing to the town a very reputable moral character. Those conflicts which are so peculiar to Texas and other newly settled countries, have occasionally interrupted the order of affairs; yet, as a general thing, Clarksville has had less of sectional feeling and prejudice to contend with, than many other towns. Its population embraces the usual varieties of religious denominations, and which are mostly in a prosperous condition.

Marshall, shire town of Harrison County, is situated forty miles from Shreveport, La., in the great thoroughfare of the vast emigration coming up Red river, moving westward. It is one of the most thriving towns of this portion of the State, having a population already of two thousand inhabitants; and its future prospects are indicative of a large and populous town. It covers more than one square mile, and contains many handsome residences, and several elegant public edifices. Its eligible situation gives it a commanding appearance, and its buildings are exhibited to good advantage.

The country surrounding Marshall is gently undulating, and very productive, and abounds with springs of excellent water. It is healthy, and quite densely populated.

The religious and educational advantages of Marshall are superior to most other towns in Texas. The society is refined and intelligent, and all the privileges and advantages are enjoyed there, which are found in the older States. Its location is peculiarly favorable to its prosperity, which, combined with the public spirit of the citizens, will no doubt render Marshall one of the most important towns of Texas.

Henderson, in Rusk county, is also an interesting town. Its situation is pleasant, and the appearance of the town is rapidly improving. The vicinity abounds with beautiful lakes of transparent water, which, combined with other delightful scenery, renders Henderson a most desirable place of residence. The present population numbers about one thousand, and a very unanimous sentiment prevails in advancing the best interests of community.

The town is surrounded by a very fertile body of land, which is rapidly becoming occupied with enterprising settlers. By improvements which are in operation for the navigation of the Sabine river, the portion of country surrounding Henderson will soon be put in possession of all the advantages accruing from navigation.

The recent location of a Seminary of learning, under the patronage of the Methodist Episcopal Church, is a favorable indication of the future literary character of

Henderson. An institution established at such a healthy and eligible point, patronized and supported by the Conference and the Church, will be an important acquisition to the community, adding greatly to the prosperity of the town. It is to go into operation as soon as the necessary arrangements can be made.

A pleasing contrast is often presented, when in our travels over Texas we meet with a village where peace, order and prosperity prevail. Though rivalry and competition in many instances are met with, yet, as a general thing, an unbiased observer cannot but be pleased with the improving appearance which the towns, from the mere resemblance to the populous city, so universally present. It is this progressive order of things which inspires hope and confidence when present indications are not so favorable. The infirmities and transitions incident to the farming stages of society in new countries, gradually disappear. The blasts of adversity in Texas are somewhat like "Northers." Often the portentous cloud and raging winds seem for awhile to threaten entire destruction, yet, after spending their violence a calm succeeds, and a more agreeable prospect than ever opens, — proving the truth of the adage, "the brightest sky always succeeds a storm."

Sometimes in our observations, incongruities may appear. While we see much to admire in Texas, there is, nevertheless, much to deplore. Were we to dwell entirely upon the bright side of the picture, no motives for improvement would present themselves. In no instance is there to be found such an elevated order of

things, as will not admit of strenuous and continued efforts for improvement and reform. "*Advance*" is the watch word for Texas, and will continue to be, until her moral wastes disappear, and the light of truth has so spread its purifying beams, that the moral beauties of this infant State shall compete with and outvie those which nature has so lavishly bestowed.

Rusk, the shire town of Cherokee County, is an interesting town, and is fast improving. This county embraces a very fertile body of land, and is probably attracting emigrants as rapidly as any other country in the State. It is noted for its health, and though of inland situation, its highly productive soil will necessarily advance it in wealth.

Larissa, in the same county, twenty miles north of Rusk, is a pleasant, growing village. Although but two or three years since its settlement commenced, it now contains a population of about four hundred, and is fast increasing, rendering its future prosperity exceedingly flattering. Its situation for an inland town, is highly favorable, being at a central position between the two adjacent county towns.

The citizens of Larissa are characterized by intelligence, morality, industry and enterprise. A better indication cannot be presented of the character of the people, than the erection of a respectable Church edifice before the town was one year old. The Gospel also, is sustained in a manner becoming its importance — the people support the preacher, and he devotes his time exclusively to the duties of his responsible calling.

This is as it should be. Not until the people of Texas are convinced that ministers cannot follow two trades successfully, will the Gospel be sustained, so that it can be dispensed with that ability which ensures its great end.

That ministers have to resort to secular employments for a support, is in direct contradiction to the declaration of Scripture, and to the example of the Saviour. He most emphatically called his disciples to leave their employments and go and preach the Gospel, assuring them that "The workman was worthy of his hire."

It is a duty no less imperiously demanded at the present, and those to whom is committed the charge of souls, as they who must give an account, should be exempt from the cares and perplexities, incident to men of the world.

Larissa is also the seat of a seminary of learning, under the control of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. It is quite a popular institution, and bids fair to do much in promoting the cause of education in this part of the State.

West of Larissa is Palestine, shire town of Anderson county, which lies adjacent to the Trinity river. This town presents, also, one of those rare specimens of rapid improvement, — growing up, as it were, in a day. Its situation is favorable for commerce, being but twelve miles from Magnolia, a commercial point on the Trinity river, and occupies the seat of an exceedingly rich and fertile country. A very good degree of public spirit is

manifested by the citizens, which, with the superior natural advantages the town possesses, will render it in the course of a few years a very important town.

Although but two years old, all the various departments of business and enterprise are in successful operation. The population comprises some three or four hundred inhabitants, who exhibit a more elevated standard of morality than is usually found in settlements so promiscuously formed. Quite a portion of the citizens of town and vicinity are connected with the Church, of which all the various branches have regular organizations.

A great degree of interest is manifested in the cause of education, and a very laudable effort was made for securing the location of the Methodist institution, recently established at Henderson. The people of Palestine made a very liberal contribution, but the town of Henderson, possessing the advantage, was able to send up a more liberal proposition, and secured its location.

The many advantages which Palestine possesses, render it a very suitable situation for a literary institution.

One of the objects to be brought about for the benefit of Texas, is the planting of a Female Seminary of high order, at some favorable point of the State. As yet, there is none upon that elevated place, which secures to young ladies a complete and thorough course of education. It becomes highly necessary at this period of improvements, that vigorous efforts should be put

forth, to rear such an institution at as early a day as is practicable. It might, perhaps, be proper to invite attention to Palestine, it being near the centre of the State, and easy of access from every part, and confident as we are, that the citizens of that region would contribute liberally in aid of an object so vastly important.

The location of a regularly endowed institution in this beautiful and salubrious section of the State, is an object well worthy the attention of the friends of female education. The grand design should be, to bring the means of a thorough intellectual and moral education within the ability of all classes, the tendency of which would be, to elevate the standard of female education, which, from misapprehension of its importance, or from other causes, has not been made in Texas as prominent an object as its importance demands. Hitherto, it has been very much of a superficial character, not so much, perhaps, in consequence of the means used during the course of education, as from the limited time which is usually devoted to its acquirement.

The idea that the intellectual powers of young ladies become developed, disciplined and educated, during the short period which is usually employed, is utterly absurd; and any one acquainted with mind and its operations would deem it entirely insufficient for securing the important acquisition of a complete education.

A mere smattering of the sciences does not constitute an education, nor does crowding the mind with scientific facts; but an expanding and training of the

intellectual faculties, by which they become disciplined for proper investigation and exercise in the various duties and departments of life. This high attainment, however, consists not entirely in the cultivation of the mental faculties, but requires a harmonious culture of the benevolent affections and moral feelings. Contracted and insufficient is that system of education which does not cultivate the heart, bringing into due regulation the passions, emotions and desires, and a full recognition of the supreme authority of conscience over the whole intellectual and moral system.

That education be upon an important and elevated plan, it appeals for more efficient and systematic measures than those hitherto employed in Texas. To obtain this object, successfully, a regular and systematic course should be pursued, and the want of an institution whose system of arrangements embraces these important considerations, is sadly exhibited by the superficial character of the acquirements of females who have emerged into society under the guise of educated and accomplished ladies.

That female education answer the design, three years added to the usual course allotted in Texas would not more than secure the object. An institution, mainly intended for instruction in the higher departments of education, would require a preparatory course for admission, after which the transforming and moulding influence of three years' discipline and instruction might justly entitle young ladies to the appellation of accomplished scholars. The happy results of such an institution, must manifest itself to every reflecting mind.

It is certainly important that this subject should receive as much attention in Texas as elsewhere ; and there is scarcely a State in the Union which has not its seminaries of an elevated character ; and why should not Texas have similar ? The well-being of this new and interesting State requires that the important element of power, female influence, should receive the necessary preparation for the extensive sway it is destined to exert over society. This subject is one of vital importance to the interests of a country, which, if duly considered, would not be regarded second to any other.

Let female education be duly appreciated, and its elevation be made an object of general interest and attention, an element of power is thrown into society which must exert a powerful influence in the preservation of all those important objects which constitute the grace and charm of refined and happy life.

The design and labor, requisite for carrying an institution of the right stamp into operation, must devolve upon some friend of female education whose energy is sufficient to enable him to determine a location, obtain the necessary funds, arrange the buildings, and adopt the course of instruction to be pursued.

Some of our northern friends, who would do a good work for Texas, might find an enterprise of this kind to amply compensate them for their labor. If some of the efficient female teachers in our Northern institutions could see it their duty to leave a less important field for a more promising one, they surely could not be disappointed in embarking upon the enterprise specified.

As reasons for suggesting such a co-operation, is the elevated principle upon which such objects are conducted at the north, and the necessity of extending such influences into less favored portions of country. With the advanced state of educating in the north and east, national philanthropy should lead to the planting of literary institutions in other portions of the Union, calculated to arouse and develop the youthful mind of communities, which might, otherwise, remain unknown and uncultivated.

The object under present consideration might be successfully accomplished by some indomitable individual, whose benevolence and philanthropy might prompt to undertake it. Similar institutions have been founded under more unfavorable circumstances. A more desirable location and encouraging prospect could not be presented, as the country is destined before many years to become densely populated.

The Trinity valley is rapidly attracting emigration ; Its particular merits, perhaps, cannot be better set forth, than by an extract which we shall take the liberty of inserting from one of the public journals of Texas.

“ The Trinity valley, watered as it is by the best navigable river in Texas, presents greater inducements to the emigrants, than, perhaps, any portion of our country ; and it is only necessary for its many advantages to be known to secure a speedy settlement, and consequent prosperity, unequalled in the history of the settlement of any new country.

The river may be successfully navigated with but little difficulty, from six to nine months in the year, for three hundred miles by land, and five hundred by the course of the river.

The lands on either side of the river are of the most fertile character. The bottom lands both on the river and many of its tributaries are equal in every respect to the finest Red river or Mississippi bottom lands, whilst much of it possesses the advantage of being situated entirely above the overflow. They are well adapted from soil and climate to the cultivation of sugar cane and cotton, the great staples of the south, and when planted in corn abundantly repay the labor of cultivating it.

The uplands, extending many miles on either side of the Trinity river, although less productive than bottom lands, repay the husbandman a rich reward for the small amount of labor required in their cultivation, yielding on an average from twelve to fifteen hundred pounds of cotton per acre, whilst wheat, rye and other small grain are raised in the greatest abundance. These lands are cheap, easily procured, and readily brought into cultivation.

The climate is of the most pleasant and salubrious character; the winters are mild, the summers balmy and pleasant, without extreme cold in the one, or oppressive heat in the other; added to this, the natural beauty and picturesque appearance of the whole country make it a most desirable home. With the many advantages the valley of the Trinity possesses, every reflecting mind

must see that this country must rapidly increase in prosperity and population.

One of the great means observed to operate in Texas for attracting settlements is the advantage of education. Let an institution of learning be properly and permanently established in the midst of a fertile and healthy country, there will be undisputably a concentration of population, sufficient to sustain it upon an extensive and comprehensive system.

Those objects require only to be set in operation to ensure success. Public mind needs but to be awakened and the most important interests of Texas might be secured.

The region of country adjacent to the confluence of East fork with the Trinity river, has, in a great measure, been overlooked by the emigrant in his struggle for lands farther south. It is beginning to be regarded as desirable and important as any other portion of the State. Its superior advantages and facilities for trade and navigation, now rapidly developing, as well as the remarkable beauty and fertility of the country, will ensure a rapid settlement. On the high and low lands grow a great variety of the wild grape in the greatest profusion, and of the finest quality; and which would yield wine of a superior quality; not inferior to the best of Italy or south of France.

The valleys of this portion are as rich and beautiful as it is possible to conceive, over which nature has strewn her variegated flowers of every hue, and finest texture; and spread her emerald carpet of grass and

musquite, affording rich and inexhaustible pasturage for innumerable herds of stock and wild game, where they luxuriate in the greatest numbers.

Buffalo, the county site of Henderson county, is a town of some importance, and should the Trinity be navigated as high as this place, as it is thought it will be, it will become an important commercial point. A government depot is established at Buffalo, and several mail routes concentrate there.

For the last two years emigrants from Missouri and Illinois have been settling in the upper counties of the Trinity valley. Some parts are becoming densely settled, and offer important openings for usefulness.

It is not at all improbable that the Trinity valley possesses many valuable resources which have not yet been developed. Within the vicinity of Magnolia and Navarra has been found, recently, iron ore, the quality of which has been determined by competent judges to be good and is worked with profit. The quantity of this mineral is reputed to be very extensive, and quite inexhaustible.

White and red chalk are obtained from the same region of country, which is described to be quite clear and free from impurities, and exists in great abundance in the vicinity of the iron mineral. Bituminous coal is, also, found on different parts of the Trinity, both above and below Magnolia, and has been in use some time for various purposes.

We have taken a cursory view of Eastern Texas, by presenting the most important towns and objects con-

nected therewith. It is due, however, to observe that some other towns are contained in this division, whose importance might have claimed a passing notice, but a limited acquaintance with the whole of Eastern Texas, obliges us to pass over in silence those parts we are not prepared to describe from personal knowledge. By reference to the table of counties it may be observed what portions have not been described.

A great uniformity exists in Texas ; a description of some of the counties and towns, presents a very good specimen by which the others may be judged.

The middle division of Texas contains twenty-three counties. Those situated on the Trinity river, adjoining Polk and Liberty counties, (which lay partly on the east and partly on the west of this river,) commencing at the south, are the following : —

Counties.	Shiretowns.
Walker,	Huntsville.
Leon,	Leona.
Limestone,	Springfield.
Navarro,	Corsicana.

Those situated on the Colorado river, commencing at the south : —

Matagorda, partly on the E. and partly on the W.,	Matagorda.
Wharton, " " "	Wharton.
Colorado, " " "	Columbus.
Fayette, " " "	La Grange.
Bastrop, " " "	Bastrop.
Travis, " " "	Austin.

Intermediate, commencing at the south :—

Galveston,	Galveston.
Brazoria,	Brazario.
Harris,	Houston.
Fort Bend,	Richmond.
Austin,	Bellville.
Montgomery,	Montgomery.
Grimes,	Anderson.
Washington,	Brenham.
Brazos,	Caldwell.
Milam,	Cameron.
Williamson,	Georgetown.

Middle Texas contains the most important towns in the State, and on this account may be considered the most interesting. Having the chief commercial port secures a greater concentration of business in that portion than the others. The many navigable streams it possesses are becoming subservient to the purposes of navigation, by the enterprise and public spirit of the inhabitants, which, together with the fertile lands, gives every facility that is necessary for a country's advancement in wealth and importance. With the soil of its rich and fertile valleys under a high state of cultivation, combined with its other advantages, it is not unreasonable to predict that a future day, and that, perhaps, not far distant, will witness this portion of Texas to be in wealth and importance superior to any other part of the south.

The fertility of that portion of country situated on the Brasos river is so well known, that a description is

scarcely necessary. It attracted settlement in the early condition of Texas, and has become proverbial for its unparalleled facilities for agricultural purposes, and the late improvements which have been made in navigating this stream has increased greatly its importance and given a new impulse to its settlement. The entire practicability of navigating the river has been successfully tested, and this has induced settlers of large means to seek locations on its fertile valleys. Emigration has been immense during the last year, consisting of a highly valuable class of citizens, who not only possess the means of developing the resources of the soil, but whose moral worth is happily calculated to make a favorable impression on society. A large share of the emigration is settling in the middle and upper counties of the Brasos valley.

The country of upper Brasos north of the Pecos, has not been explored so as to be known extensively ; some parts, however, are ascertained to be intersected with beautiful valleys, well watered and fertile, and supposed to contain many valuable minerals, and, perhaps, gold. An expedition is preparing for the purpose of developing its valuable resources.

Great confidence is expressed that steam-boats will soon be able to ascend as far as the falls of Brasos.

Nothing, perhaps, is facilitating the interests of Texas so much as improving the navigation of the rivers, and this is fully exemplified since attention has been paid to this subject. The difficulties which have, hitherto, attended the transportation of the products, have

operated seriously against emigration, without due consideration of the means which might be put in operation for obviating those disadvantages. Nature has not conferred more distinguished advantages on any country, and it remains only for the people to improve them. By observation of the southern part of the State, along the entire coast from the Sabine to the Rio Grande, it may be seen there is a natural communication almost complete, and by connecting the several rivers, bayous, and bays, the whole extent from the east to the west might be opened for safe navigation. Much interest is expressed in that portion of the State for such an improvement, and it will probably go into execution as soon as practicable.

The soil of middle Texas is favorable to the production of every variety of grain. Wheat, rye, and oats grow well, amply rewarding the labor of the husbandman. The more profitable cultivation of cotton, however, absorbs the consideration of farmers mostly in the southern counties, and this section has to look to the upper counties for their supply of grain, where that grows in the greatest perfection. The cultivation of sugar cane is engaging the attention of many of the farmers, and the soil and climate are found admirably adapted to its production. From experiments already made, it is fully ascertained that the land is equal, if not superior to any other portion of the United States. In a few years it may be expected that the large tracts of land will be made into beautiful sugar plantations, which will greatly enhance their value, and, probably,

render them more valuable than any other lands in the south.

The looks of the country is fast improving, and a traveller could not but be favorably impressed by the appearance which is every where manifested. Farms and plantations are becoming opened and improved, and buildings are being erected in much better style than formerly, both as it respects comfort and appearance.

The propriety of going into manufacturing business is beginning seriously to be considered by the intelligent capitalists of this region of country. Some parts possess great facilities for this purpose, by having an abundance of water power.

In order that Texas should advance to an elevated degree of prosperity and wealth, she must, to some extent, become a manufacturing State, and it is now time that she was declaring her independence of other countries in regard to the manufacture of articles of necessary use. Not until this branch of industry and enterprise is duly appreciated, will the citizens of Texas really become, in the legitimate sense of the word, "a free and independent people." Will not the wealthy and enterprising citizens commence those operations upon as extensive a scale as circumstances will justify? An example is necessary to be set, and as this portion of the State possesses ample advantages, the claim appears to be upon it.

Cotton, woollen and other manufactories might be successfully carried on. Many of the farmers of this section are turning their attention to the rearing of sheep, in

which they have succeeded admirably. The extensive prairies, with which the country abounds, might be turned to very profitable account in serving as pasturage for immense flocks of sheep, and requiring so little attention, it might, evidently, be rendered a very lucrative business.

Nothing can be more manifest, than that middle Texas is rapidly improving in population and wealth, and presents a most ample field for industry and enterprise. Yet in the midst of such general and increasing prosperity, it is to be regretted that there is not a corresponding interest upon the great subjects of the mental and moral improvement of the population. A traveller, recently, examining this portion of the State, in reference to these subjects, thus writes: "The fact is, (and the sooner it is known and felt the better for the permanent welfare of the State) on the great subject of education in the most comprehensive sense of the word, we are not, as a people, doing what we should do. A very large majority of the rising generation of middle Texas, now growing up in our midst, are entirely destitute of school instruction; and yet these are the persons, upon whom will soon devolve the duty of electing all our officers, from the judges of our highest courts down to the lowest office. Ought not the minds of persons who are to be clothed with so much power to be enlightened? And yet, in many of our counties, common schools cannot be found. In many neighborhoods the Sabbath school is the only means of instruction afforded — and yet this is the great State of Texas,

concerning the general intelligence of whose citizens we are wont to boast so much, and this is the State which aspires to become the empire State of the South West. Verily, it is time we were doing something more than making constitutional enactments and legislative appropriations in behalf of education.”

Many parts of middle Texas, however, are manifesting very laudable exertions for the extension of education, but as a general thing, not adequate to the wants of the population. Several important institutions of learning, are located in the different towns, conducted in a manner calculated to exert a salutary influence upon the rising generation. Much remains to be done, however, in order that this portion of Texas may extend the means of education to every youth within its borders. Present and prospective resources would justify an enlarged and comprehensive system of education, and duty most imperiously enjoins strenuous efforts for the advancement of knowledge in equal ratio with other departments of improvement. Those great highways of intellectual and moral culture, high and common schools, must be opened in town and country, in order to secure that honor and prosperity which should characterize an enlightened and christian people.

The impression should be cherished, as indeed it is by judicious people, that a strong conservative principle must be put forth at this eventful crisis — and which, perhaps, a pure religious element can alone supply.

Whether the future career of this interesting por-

tion of Texas is to ride forth prosperously, is yet to be proven, — difficulties and obstacles are yet to be overcome, and the only hope of safety and prosperity, is in an increase of high moral principle, commensurate with the increase of population. A great work is demanded, and to whom and what are we to look? The church — its ministry, its Bible, its Sabbaths, its ordinances and all its holy influences, is found the only proper supply of those wants.

The ordinances of the gospel are better sustained in this portion of Texas than any other, yet there are great deficiencies, and those who “love the ways of Zion” can see abundant cause for an increased effort for building up the wastes that are presented. From the important position which the church occupies, it is evident that there is more than an ordinary amount of responsibility resting upon its influence; yet it is a painful fact that church members in Texas act from a very low standard, furnishing by worldly conformity and practices a plain index of the tone of piety which exists. There is not that firm and exalted principle which disdains a compliance with the lax customs of newly settled communities.

An independence of worldly maxims must characterize Christians any where, but if possible a double duty imposes itself in Texas. The religious interests require that they should assume a prominent position, and that position should be marked and defined by Bible principles.

It is observable that there is not that harmony of

purpose in advancing the cause of piety that is desirable. Party lines should not be so distinctly drawn, from the fact, that each denomination acting entirely by itself, cannot exert so powerful an influence, as a combination of effort in the promotion of objects in which the general diffusion of religion is concerned.

It is right to a certain extent, that ministers and members of churches should maintain what they believe ; it is highly characteristic of the independence of free-thinking people. It is a matter of doubt, however, whether sectarian lines, deeply drawn, can be taken as indicative of the deep rooted love of truth that should possess the heart. It is a question of vital interest, whether the firmness with which many professed Christians contend for the prominent features of doctrine, do not grow more out of the love of party than out of love of truth. Often it is the case that we see greater zeal manifested in sustaining denominational tenets than in saving souls. Sectarianism can never enlighten and purify the masses which are crowding this growing State. Prejudices must give way to a feeling more consistent with Christianity. When the amount of immorality in the community is taken into consideration — the wide field of missionary labor — the deep necessity of sustaining the various institutions for the promotion of Bible religion, it is fully evident that there ought to exist between the different branches of Christ's church an identity of feeling and oneness of purpose.

The house for the worship of God must be erected ere those beautiful and fertile valleys of middle Texas will

assume that appearance, which bespeaks that the "life to come" is taken into consideration, as well as the "life that now is." It is truly desirable that the church edifice, with its sacred spire pointing the weary pilgrim to the heaven of eternal rest, should have a place in all the rising towns, and that the sweet toned music of the "church going bell," should constitute a portion of the sound which shall greet the ears upon each returning Sabbath.

Perhaps in no other way can the interests of true religion be promoted more effectually, than by making liberal appropriations for the erection of neat and attractive places of worship, which might not only bless the present generation, but continue to bless thousands with the influence of truth for years to come.

Much depends upon taking this subject into consideration at as early a period of a country's settlement as circumstances will allow.

The ordinances of God's house must be sustained as the only means of saving the Sabbath from being desecrated. This is a subject of vital importance to the religious interests of this, as well as other portions of Texas, as there are strong tendencies manifested to set aside the claims of this holy day. It is deeply to be deplored that those tendencies are encouraged to a very great extent by the example of professed christians, whose feelings and habits are in favor (if their actions are a criterion by which they may be judged) of making this holy rest a day of recreation and amusement. If Texas is to be saved from the

evils and the judgments which follow in the train of Sabbath desecration, if christian people of this interesting State would secure to themselves and posterity the enlightening and purifying influences of the Christian religion, the Sabbath must be observed in accordance with the Divine command, "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy."

There must be on the part of ministers, prompt, kind, united and persevering efforts to bring this all-important truth in contact with the popular mind for the prevention of this immoral practice. The influence and example of church members, by assuming a decided stand in favor of the proper observance of the Sabbath, would gradually wear away the pernicious custom. A general and timely attention to this subject should be regarded as one of the means of the moral renovation of society. In proportion as society becomes elevated, in the same proportion is the observance of the Sabbath considered indispensable to its well-being.

Some parts of middle Texas have lost the appearance of new settlements, having, by moral improvements, assumed the marks of refined and social life. Those infirmities incident to the forming stages of society in new countries, gradually disappear under proper influences. From the changes which have been wrought within three years past, the stranger could scarcely admit that such an elevated condition of society could comport with the character which Texas is so erroneously supposed to possess abroad. For refinement, intelligence and morality, quite a proportion of middle

Texas will bear a favorable comparison with any other part of the United States.

The rapid improvement which is in progress in society throughout the entire State, gives encouragement for looking forward to the time when the moral sky of this interesting country shall be cleared of its dark clouds, and a clear unclouded day dawn to bless the present and future generations.

For better illustrating the real condition of middle Texas, some of the most important towns will be described, and though some dark shades may blend in the representation, it must be kept in mind that those contrasts are decreasing, and that ere long the moral aspect of the many growing towns of this, as well as of other portions of the State, will assume a condition which will bear inspection, according to rules and principles the most strict and precise.

In our observations upon Middle Texas, we will assume our position at Cincinnati, a town situated upon the west bank of the Trinity river, on the stage route from the Sabine river to Houston. Cincinnati will scarcely compare, as yet, with its namesake, the "Queen of the West," but from its favorable situation in regard to commerce, is destined at some future day to become a town whose importance may bear a comparison with any other. Its settlement was commenced at an early period, and from its peculiar local advantages, it might have been expected to have arrived at a greater degree of popularity, than it has, as yet, acquired.

Causes have operated for retarding its prosperity,

sufficiently to give a reasonable elucidation why the town of Cincinnati has not acquired that degree of importance, which its situation might, apparently, have secured. A prevalence of those vices so deleterious to society has tarnished greatly its reputation, preventing that increase of population necessary to secure its growth and prosperity. Hence the necessity of early attention to those objects in which is concentrated the moving power to influence and popularity. Inattention to the promotion of moral objects cannot be permitted without hazarding every consideration connected with the well-being and prosperity of any community.

The dark day of Cincinnati's history, it is hoped, has passed ; and under those auspices calculated to elevate its moral character, a brighter day, no doubt, is destined to dawn, which shall reflect a more pleasing and agreeable reputation abroad. During the last year a building has been erected, designed both for school and Church purposes, in which a school has gone into operation, conducted in a manner calculated to exert a favorable influence upon society. A Church has been recently organized by the Cum. Presbyterians which embraces some of the most influential citizens. A Sabbath school, also, has been lately reorganized by the Agent of the American S. S. Union which is securing the favor and co-operation of the people in a manner which promises its permanency. These causes combined, will, no doubt, have a tendency to renovate society and turn public feeling into its right channel.

Nowhere do institutions for moral improvement so quickly manifest their fruits as in Texas. It seems

but necessary to set the wheel in motion to secure that co-operation requisite for its onward course. This fact evinces the spirit of the people for favoring those objects which have for their design moral and intellectual improvement.

The Sabbath school cause in particular meets with universal approbation wherever it is introduced. Its influence is counteracting one of the most prominent evils, to which society is subject, — that of Sabbath breaking. Instead of the Lord's day being spent in idle amusements, children and youth are inclined by its influence to become interested in those subjects calculated to improve the mind and heart. These effects are so evidently manifested in Texas that the most ample encouragement is presented for extending an institution so fraught with happy results.

The influence which it is exerting upon the morals of Cincinnati affords indubitable evidence of its superior efficacy, and would silence all opposition which might be raised against this heaven-born institution. Next to the preaching of the gospel it is the most powerful agent in promoting morality and piety, and in preparing the way for every good and important object.

The impulse which Cincinnati has lately received is increasing its population and business. A highly respectable class of citizens are coming in, who possess a good degree of enterprise in the way of improvements. The town is pleasantly situated, and, with the numerous advantages which it enjoys, cannot fail of becoming an important point in Texas.

Huntsville, twelve miles west of Cincinnati, on the same route, is a town of growing importance. Although of recent origin, it is rivalling in growth and prosperity other towns in the State of older standing, and has already taken rank among the most improving of the interior towns.

The location of Huntsville was made soon after the battle of San Jacinto. Though a place of some business, its permanent prosperity commenced with its selection as the seat of justice for Walker county. The rapid increase of Huntsville cannot wholly be imputed to its local situation, as its natural advantages are, in many respects, inferior to some other towns whose progress has been much less tardy. By the unparalleled energy and public spirit of the inhabitants, its advantages have been rendered subservient, in a very important degree, in building up a town of reputation and importance. A concentration of talent, enterprise and morality is proven by the history of Huntsville, and the rapid improvement under the circumstances speaks much in favor of its future prosperity. A combination of energy and purpose in building up its interest gives abundant reason for predicting its future course to be brilliant and consequential.

In point of health, Huntsville is superior to many other towns, and on this account will attract emigrants, who, in coming to Texas, make it a matter of prominent importance to secure a location which is reputed to possess this advantage. Its inland situation subjects it to some disadvantages at the present,

but these will become obviated by those internal improvements which are in contemplation, and which will probably go into operation as soon as the wealth of the country will justify. Minds, intent on the accomplishment of stupendous plans of acquisition and aggrandizement, will assuredly concert measures and resources.

The prospective importance of Huntsville naturally suggests the inquiry, are the religious interests to keep pace with the progress of other departments of improvement? Will the Christian, alone, remain inactive in the midst of such a toiling, panting generation? Not without treason to interests which far surpass human aggrandizement. Christian philanthropy must be brought into exercise to counteract an evil which often grows out of too intense aspirations for those objects which Holy writ has declared, are "to perish by the using." Worldly mindedness is an evil to contend with gigantic in its strength, diffusing an influence so injurious to piety and holiness, that it requires nothing short of the engagement, the energies, and the earnestness of the whole church to cope with it. It is an enemy which percolates unobtrusively, and its influence is most to be dreaded when least feared.

The demands of Huntsville are for an enlightened, earnest and consistent Christianity. The refinement and intelligence of the people demand it, the intense aspirations for worldly distinction demand it, else the voice of God will be drowned "in the tumult of the sea of life." An important appeal is made upon the church

to exert her legitimate influence, as "a city set on a hill whose light cannot be hid," and the demand is upon all as truly as upon any. "There is a field of conflict in which each soldier may and ought to be a hero." Are there not active, energetic and self denying Christians, who will stand on the "watch tower" for guarding the religious interests of Huntsville, and use their direct and united influence in raising them to as high a point of eminence, as worldly men are determined to raise their objects in worldly consequence? The children of this world should not be permitted to manifest a greater degree of wisdom for the accomplishment of their ends, than do "the children of light."

In the eagerness of the citizens of Huntsville to ornament the town with public buildings, churches have been, evidently, overlooked. Its prosperity, to the eye of an observer, would warrant, at least, one church edifice; but even this, at the present, is wanting, and the deficiency manifests, that this object has not awakened that degree of enthusiasm, which has gathered around others of minor importance. The honor of the town demands that it should possess this specific mark of worship to Almighty God.

Some lenity, however, is to be extended towards Huntsville, on account of the present smallness of the different religious denominations, as no single one has been sufficiently strong to erect a church by itself. The community of professed Christians embraces all the varieties, consequently each denomination is comparatively few and feeble, as yet.

The Baptists are the most numerous, and have been formerly in a very prosperous condition. Under the charge of a highly respectable minister of that order, the Church moved harmoniously along, promoting piety among each other, and spreading a healthful influence abroad. But, unfortunately, a "root of bitterness" sprang up, its fair and promising prospects became blighted, dissipating the cherished hope, that a germ of piety was concentrated within that church, from which might issue a tree, whose branches would spread their protecting influence over the moral interests of Huntsville. "Tell it not in Gath, publish it not in the streets of Askelon, lest the unrighteous triumph that the beauty of Israel is marred;" but, that such examples prove a beacon to warn others of the rock upon which so many split, and scatter their dearest and most important interests, these things should not be passed over in silence. Those dreadful scourges, church dissensions, are more deleterious to the religious interests of community than gross immorality, and are more to be dreaded and avoided than the most fatal quicksands.

For the honor of the religion of Christ, christians should ever be willing to submit to personal sacrifices, rather than that the cause of the Saviour be "wounded in the house of his friends." It is hoped that the tide of dissension has arrived at its full ebb, and after a season of humiliation and abasement, a flow of grace may waft this once interesting church to a higher position than that from which it has fallen.

Evil should never be done that good may come, but the Almighty is pleased to overrule misdeeds for the accomplishment of important purposes, and, may be, the darkness of the past is a prelude of future light. The Baptist church of Huntsville is evidently "coming up out of the wilderness," and it is hoped, leaning upon Christ, purified and prepared to shed a light whose influence shall be felt for great good. An able and pious minister of that denomination is soon to locate there, by whose influence the church may be built up in its most holy faith and purity.

The other denominations are increasing in their numbers, and are exerting a good influence. The Cumberland and Old School Presbyterians have each organized churches within the last two years; the former of which has a house of worship under contract for building, and is supplied with a regular ministry. The latter has lately secured the services of a minister of the O. S. Church, who has recently come to the State.

The educational interests of Huntsville have not been regarded as a secondary object. The early attention of the citizens to the erection of suitable buildings for schools, and a judicious discrimination in the selection of teachers, have advanced the youth of Huntsville to a higher point of literary acquirements than is usually found in Texas.

Its future prospects are highly promising, on account of the recent location of a college, under the auspices of the Presbyterian church. A charter was granted during the last session of the legislature, under the

appellation of "Austin College," and the buildings are to be erected as soon as practicable. This institution originated, mainly, through the influence of Rev. Daniel Baker, D. D. whose beneficent labors for the good of Texas, are, in a very important degree, felt and appreciated. Under the energetic influence of a denomination whose polity is happily adapted to southern mind, that salutary and desirable type will be given its character necessary for securing public confidence and co-operation. The citizens of Huntsville and vicinity, fully persuaded of the necessity and feasibility of such an institution, have contributed ten thousand dollars to its aid. In order to carry out the design upon as extensive a system as is desirable, aid beyond the limits of Texas will be requisite; consequently public feeling abroad will be operated upon, for manifesting how great a degree of sympathy is felt for the promotion of the intelligence, moral elevation and general good of Texas. It is hoped that a cordial co-operation may be extended in behalf of an object of such vast importance.

It is a cause of general interest to Texas, and should elicit a general co-operation. The present population will not justify institutions to be purely and exclusively of a denominational character. The cause should be regarded as sacred, involving the general interests of community, both moral and intellectual, and ought not be marred by the least appearance of sectional feeling or prejudice. May this institution go into operation under those influences which shall reflect permanent good upon the youthful population of Texas — proving

a fountain from which shall issue "streams that shall make glad the city of God."

There is perhaps no inland town in the State, combining in so great a degree the advantages of good society, health, religious and educational advantages, and business facilities, as Huntsville, and persons wishing to procure residences would not be disappointed in making a selection in town or vicinity.

Some twenty-five miles west of Huntsville is situated the town of Montgomery, which constitutes the county seat of the county of the same name. With the improving and fast "settling up" condition of the country around Montgomery, the town is rapidly improving, and bids fair to become, at no distant day, an inland town of considerable importance.

Montgomery is situated in the first highlands, northward of the sea coast prairies, in a very fertile, healthful and beautifully undulating region of the State, and surrounded by a dense population of industrious and intelligent farmers, who have done their part towards developing and adding to the resources of their country, and whose honest and useful labors have brought them affluence.

Those institutions necessary to the moral health and well being of society have been cared for duly. Sabbath schools are regularly kept up and attended. There is an incorporated academy, and schools are sustained at other points in the vicinity.

The temperance cause is in a highly flourishing progress. In no part of the State has the temperance

Union been attended with greater benefits. Though the citizens of Montgomery were, perhaps, not remarkable for dissipation, there were, nevertheless, many to be reformed, and peace and good will now prevail.

Montgomery was at one time the local seat of government of a territory larger than the State of Delaware, extending from the San Antonia road (the old "king's pass" of the anti-Texan era) on the north, to Spring Creek on the south, and from the Brasos on the west, to the Trinity river on the east, some seventy miles on either course — and now containing the counties of Grimes, Walker and Montgomery.

A great amount of business was then transacted there, but the increasing population, wants and enterprise of other sections of the territory requiring all the benefits of independent "county sovereignty," the counties of Walker and Grimes, — each containing over nine hundred square miles, were taken off of the original county. The division of the business of these counties to their proper centres, left the town of Montgomery for awhile in *statu quo* ; but, under the renewed energies of its citizens, and the impulse given to the section by the influence of emigration, it is now moving forward in that steady march of improvement which is visible every where over the country, and which, necessarily, belongs to the mild climate and valuable products.

The San Jacinto, (that famed stream, upon whose banks, on the 21st day of April, 1836, the valor of an undisciplined body of Texan farmers, under the command of Gen. Houston, won for the American Union,

a star of the first magnitude,) is navigable within a short distance of Montgomery, and will shortly carry off to market all the exports produced.

Persons, who desire to remove to a new country, or to a milder climate, will find this a pleasant section of country. The society is good, — the community wholly solvent — many wealthy — the lands fertile, and titles good, — and access to market easy and convenient in most seasons of the year.

Twelve miles east of Montgomery, within the same county, is situated Danville — a village just springing into importance. It, also, is situated in, and near an immense body of fertile lands, most of which is finely timbered. Danville lies east of, and near the San Jacinto, which affords to the citizens of that section of country the same facilities of navigation as Montgomery.

The population surrounding Danville are good citizens — most of them enjoying the comfort and affluence which rich land and proper industry invariably secure.

Near Danville are planters of large agricultural force, some of whom are about to engage in the cultivation of sugar.

Anderson, shire-town of Grimes county, is an improving inland town. Its situation is elevated, pleasant, and healthful, and it is surrounded by an exceedingly fertile region of country.

Alta Mira, which denotes in Spanish an elevated prospect, was the appellation which it sustained until it became the seat of justice of Grimes county.

The people are generally industrious and moral citizens, and have secured to the town a very respectable character. The religious community comprises the Presbyterians, Methodists, and Baptists; the latter being probably the most numerous. An incorporated Institute, under the supervision of efficient teachers, has given the town and vicinity a good degree of eminence in point of education. Its pleasant and healthy situation, combined with its other advantages, renders it a very interesting town, and one which will probably increase in population and importance.

Washington, on the Brasos, is situated in the county of the same name, and has an advantageous location for a commercial town. Its situation, for purposes of trade, as well as the fertility of the adjacent country, gives it those advantages which insure its future prosperity and importance. There is, perhaps, not a wealthier or better settled portion of country in the State than that which surrounds Washington.

It was one of the early settled towns, and was designated by the provisional government as the seat of government of Texas.

Its prosperity has been alternating, but has, at the present, acquired a more permanent condition. The recent improvements in the navigation of the river have given a new impulse to business, and the town is in a rapid state of improvement, and bids fair to become one of the most important towns in Texas. Besides the advantages of navigation and fertile soil, this country possesses great facilities for manufacturing establish-

ments. The importance of making due improvement of those privileges is beginning to be appreciated ; and, when put into practical operation, will greatly conduce to the interests of the town and country.

A great improvement has been made in the appearance of Washington during the last year by the erection of several handsome buildings, among which is a large and commodious house for the worship of God.

The liberality manifested in behalf of this Church edifice, speaks much in favor of the spirit of the citizens. This enterprise constitutes the brightest ornament of the town, adding greatly to its character in all its relations, morally, socially and religiously.

Though reared by the Methodist Church, it is not designed to be exclusively local and sectional.

As a house for the worship of God, it will be common property, and under the peculiar economy of the Church which is to control it, its doors will be open to all, and its "seats free." It is farther designed to enliven and perpetuate the life and character of Dr. Ruter, an eminent Christian, a worthy minister of the cross, whose life was sacrificed for the promulgation of the gospel in Texas ; he died and was buried at Washington in the year 1837.

A very laudable emulation has been manifested to contribute to the rearing of an enduring monument to his memory, a church of durable material which is to bear his name and perpetuate his many virtues.

This enterprise is truly praise-worthy, and it would be well for others to take example of this noble senti-

ment of the people of Washington. Those individuals who hazarded their lives for sustaining the Gospel under the difficulties attending the early times of Texas, truly deserve a monument to preserve their memory; and would, that there might be churches of the living God erected over the dust of all the faithful pioneers who have fallen in this field of Gospel conflict.

The various branches of the church have regular organizations in Washington; the Methodists are probably the most numerous. The Baptists are making a strenuous effort for building a church, and will probably succeed during the present year. The Old School Presbyterian church has recently secured the services of a minister of that denomination, who came to Texas during last year, having been sent by the Missionary Board.

Good schools have been in operation some years in Washington, and the present indications for education are very promising.

Some twelve miles from Washington, in the same county, is the town of Independence, whose chief celebrity consists in being the location of the "Baylor University," a seminary of learning under the control of the Baptist Church. This institution was founded in 1845, principally through the influence of the individual whose name it bears. The prosperity with which it has been attended affords an evident manifestation of Divine favor in its behalf. The circumstances under which it commenced were not of an auspicious character. In a building the cost of which did not exceed

\$200, it went into operation ; and such has been the success which has attended it, a more extensive system of arrangements has been found necessary, and buildings at the expense of \$50,000, are in the course of being erected, part of which are already completed. A regular endowed College is contemplated, and Professorships are to be endowed at the next convention of the Baptist Church of Texas. There is an Educational Society, and a Theological department connected with the institution, and several students in the course of preparation for the ministry.

We congratulate this enterprise, and hail it as the harbinger of similar institutions coming up in aid of supplying the State with an efficient ministry of home production. All denominations must do something towards educating laborers for their own State. It will not do to rely mainly upon the north for aid. With all the assistance the north and east can render in the way of furnishing ministers and teachers, there is an ample field, unoccupied, to employ all that can be educated at home. Texas has to perform an important part in furnishing evangelists for Mexico, and other unevangelized countries. Hence the importance of building up literary and theological institutions throughout the State.

The public institutions of Texas involve important considerations, and immeasurable is the responsibility resting upon those who manage them. The church and country are in a peculiar manner interested in their character and influence.

May the "Baylor University" prove a copious fountain of living water, sending out its streams in every direction to fertilize the land, and extend its influence into every department of life.

West of Independence, in Fayette county, is the small but pleasant town of Rutersville, named for the lamented Dr. Ruter. This town also is the seat of a flourishing College under the patronage of the Methodist denomination.

This institution was chartered and went into successful operation in 1840, and has maintained an uninterrupted career of usefulness to the present period. It has imparted the benefits of education to more than eight hundred of the youth of Texas.

With its pleasant and healthful location, its able board of instruction and numerous friends, it is destined to exert an important degree of influence in promoting the cause of education.

West of Rutersville, on the Colorado river, is La Grange, situated in the midst of a beautiful and fertile region of country. This town is proverbial for its unparalleled beauty, on account of its local situation, and the taste and neatness of its arrangement.

Its eligible situation gives it a commanding prospect. The surrounding country opens up to view, clothed in beauty unsurpassed. Three or four miles from town is a bluff of pure chalk, whose cliffs present their snowy whiteness to the view of the surrounding region, with an appearance which bespeaks loudly of the natural products of the country, and the valuable

resources which are waiting to be developed and rendered subservient to the purposes for which nature designed them.

The vicinity of La Grange is hallowed by the interment of several American soldiers, who were massacred by the Mexicans during an invasion in 1842. A monument is about to be erected to their memory. La Grange is situated in a healthy region of country, and supported by a dense population on all sides. The population, which numbers some six or eight hundred, is composed of a wealthy and intelligent class of citizens, whose enterprise and public spirit are advancing the town rapidly in importance.

A flourishing school, under the auspices of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, has been in operation during the last year with good success. Under the supervision of Mr. Montrose, a teacher who has done much for the cause of education in Texas, this institution will continue, no doubt, to enjoy a favorable comparison with the most important institutions of the State.

Good church buildings, and the regular organizations of the different branches of the evangelical church, are found in La Grange. The Cumberland Presbyterians are the most numerous.

The fertility of the lands in the vicinity of La Grange, combined with other advantages, offers great inducements to enterprising settlers who are desirous of seeking permanent locations.

North of La Grange, on the left bank of the Colorado, lies the town of Bastrop. It is situated on a bend of

the river, sloping beautifully down to the water, with ranges of timber — first oak, then pine, then cedar, rising in regular succession behind it. The region of country around Bastrop is exceedingly fertile, and the pine timber is rendered an important source of wealth. It is manufactured at Bastrop by means of a steam saw-mill, by which the surrounding country is supplied with material for buildings.

Such is the scarcity and demand that the country for some hundreds of miles depends upon being supplied at Bastrop at the exorbitant price of \$60 pr. M.

This fact is mentioned to show the inducement of enlarging this department of manufacturing business, and the openings for the enterprise of northern capitalists who are operating on a much more limited scale than that which Texas might afford them. Yankee ingenuity and enterprise would not come amiss in advancing the manufacturing interests of Texas.

Austin, the capital of the State, is pleasantly situated on the Colorado river, two hundred miles from its mouth, in the vicinity of the mountains, and on this account frequently receives the appellation of "The city of the Mountains." The elevations of land near Austin will scarcely compare in height with Mount Washington or the Alleghanies, yet the contrast which they present with the extensive prairies which are spread beneath them, tends greatly to diversify the scenery and render it peculiarly charming.

A summit of one of the mountains, some $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Austin, presents a prospect unparalleled for beauty

and sublimity. The elevation is two hundred and fifty feet above the river, which meanders at its foot with majestic beauty, and, on account of falls which extend some few miles, flows with an increased velocity.

On the west of the mountain lies a grove of cedar, interspotted with other kinds of timber, the appearance of which from the summit of the mountain is peculiarly beautiful.

On the east lies a prairie, extending far away beyond the power of vision. An individual who has never beheld one of those "Elysian fields" can form but a faint conception of the sublime emotions produced by their prospect from an elevated summit. The exceeding scarceness of mountainous scenery in Texas greatly enhances the enjoyment of the scene. On the south lies the city of Austin, the appearance of which from the top of the mountain is truly romantic and were we inclined to employ our pen in the unearthly descriptions of romance, a more favorable situation could not be desired than the summit of this mountain. Though Austin has no claims upon artificial beauty, its natural scenery compensates very materially. The vicinity of the city affords delightful locations for residences, which might combine beauty and interest.

Although Austin is not the central position of the population of the State, it still retains the preference of the people for being the seat of government. Since the commencement of the present year an election has taken place for the seat of government for the next twenty years, and Austin has received the vote of the people, sufficient to constitute it as such.

The population of permanent citizens in Austin does not exceed eight hundred ; accessions and improvements have not been considerable of late, but its recent re-assignment as seat of government will give it a new impulse, and probably render it a city of pre-eminent importance.

The Colorado has been navigated as far as Austin, but on account of the present unimproved condition of the river, steam-boating cannot be prosecuted successfully. The commercial resources of this portion of the State will be incomplete, until proper measures are brought into operation for removing impediments which now obstruct the navigation of the Colorado, as well as other rivers in Texas which are susceptible of being made subservient to steam-boat navigation, and to facilitate communication far into the interior of the country. The Colorado is five hundred miles long, and might be rendered available for transportation to a considerable extent, during a good part of the year.

Austin is not remarkable for its religious character, nor for its superabundance of refined society. The population has been hitherto fluctuating and composed of a variety of grades.

Galveston, the chief commercial emporium of Texas, is situated on a bay of the same name. Galveston Bay extends about forty miles inland, and must, necessarily, be the medium of foreign commerce, as there is no other access by sea-board which is so favorable. Indeed, Galveston, as a harbor, is said to be much superior to any other on the Gulf between Pensacola and Vera

Cruz. The city of Galveston has acquired a good degree of importance, though it is not possessed of all the advantages necessary to its advancement. In access to the interior of the country it is deficient, as it is insular, and has no direct inland communication except by water; in consequence of which the inland trade is intercepted at other places, which is essential to the prosperity of Galveston.

Notwithstanding these embarrassments, quite an extensive business is carried on, and a large amount of shipping done through its wharves. The present difficulties might become obviated by improvements which may and probably will be made. By means of a canal to the Brasos a communication might be opened with all the country watered by that river as high as steamboats ascend, which would greatly facilitate its trade from the interior. Communications might be opened with other points of equal importance, by which means Galveston might be rendered the market for all the produce of the country.

The population of Galveston is about 5,000; no great accession of citizens has been made for the last year.

The society is refined and intelligent, probably, equal to any other southern city. Its religious character is highly respectable. The church buildings are very creditable, and the people of Galveston deserve the credit of giving these objects the pre-eminence they should possess — that of constituting the most elegant public buildings of the city. In respect to morality,

Galveston is superior to many other places whose pretensions have been greater than a Texan city has been permitted to claim. That baleful nuisance to public morals — a *theatre* — has not been permitted to be reared as yet, and long may the counteracting influence of religion and the good sentiment of Galveston keep this bane from intruding its demoralizing effects upon the youthful population of that community. However Texas may be represented in other respects, she can boast this exemption, at present, over other southern States; and may her cities continue to grow up under those influences which shall find a substitute for those amusements, which are, in their tendency, directly calculated to deprave the heart and depress the standard of virtue and morality.

The situation of Galveston, being surrounded by water, is peculiarly delightful. The Island is thirty miles in length, and varying from one half mile, to one and a half in breadth. It is destitute of trees, excepting those which have been transplanted, and in this artificial improvement, the people of Galveston have not been deficient. Shrubbery of every variety is cultivated with a great degree of taste. Flowers of every description may be seen at all seasons of the year. Oranges and lemons grow well, and various other tropical fruits.

The appearance of Galveston is imposing, and cannot fail of striking the stranger with a favorable impression. The breezes from the Gulf are very refreshing, and serve to purify the atmosphere and render it health-

ful. As a residence, Galveston possesses attractions equal to any other southern city, and when the contemplated improvements are completed, it will combine every advantage necessary for constituting it a city of superior importance.

Houston, the city next in importance to Galveston, is situated at the head of Buffalo Bayou. Buffalo Bayou is navigable at all seasons of the year, a distance from Galveston of about 90 miles, for vessels drawing six feet of water. The commercial facilities, with the advantage of inland trade, are rapidly advancing the city of Houston in wealth and importance. Its situation is handsome, salubrious; and well watered, and surrounded by fertile and well-timbered land. It contains already a population of 4,000 inhabitants, and the constant accessions bid fair for Houston to become a populous city. Every department of business is successfully pursued, and an uncommon degree of enterprise and public spirit is manifested by the citizens in advancing the city in its general interests.

The society of Houston is refined and intelligent, and the religious and educational advantages are such as are calculated to exert their salutary and moralizing influence. There are four elegant church edifices, and a settled ministry of the different Protestant denominations. All the advantages and privileges are enjoyed in Houston which are found elsewhere.

Were some of the erroneous calculators of Texan morals and refinement from abroad to visit Houston, they might, and with very good reason, come to the

conclusion that Texas was not so far in the "background" as has been represented. The people of Houston are proverbial for their politeness and hospitality to strangers; and if some of our friends from abroad would like to acquaint themselves with a Texan city, we invite them most cordially to satisfy their curiosity, and from the truth of our assertions, by giving Houston a friendly call. Facts — eloquent facts — would satisfy any impartial individual, that society in Texas is not of an inferior order, but that public sentiment is as elevated as may be found in any other portion of the United States.

Brazoria, situated thirty miles from the mouth of the Brazos, is a town which claims a good degree of consequence. Its early settlement gave flattering indications of its being one of the most important towns of Texas. Circumstances, however, operated to retard its prosperity, and, after various depressions, it has, at the present, assumed an appearance which promises its future prosperity. Its business is increasing, and its commercial location, being easy of access and convenient to the sea, will inevitably render it a place of considerable interest. Its situation is healthy, and being upon an elevation it has a pleasing and commanding appearance.

The population of Brazoria is composed of a very good class of citizens, yet there exists a great deficiency in the moral and educational advantages of the town. No permanent schools have been established there, as yet, though the town and country presents ample advan-

tages for literary institutions of the first order. The defect is probably owing to the want of suitable teachers to carry the object into successful operation. The citizens have been, and are at the present, under the necessity of sending their children to other places for school advantages.

The religious privileges of Brazoria are also limited, and the future prospects are alarming on account of the selection of this place, by the Roman Catholics, for the erection of a spacious church, which object is about to be carried into execution.

The influence which Romanism might gain upon a people not strongly fortified by religious principle, renders the Protestant interests of this interesting section of country exceedingly precarious, and appeals loudly for counteracting efforts to be immediately brought into operation. This object, deferred until a future time, may, perhaps, give the strong-armed foe so much the advance that no measures hereafter will be able to counteract. An important opening is presented for evangelical laborers, and may Brazoria be taken into the consideration of those individuals who are desirous of promoting true Bible religion in Texas.

Columbia and Richmond, situated also on the Brasos, are interesting growing towns. North, on the same river, is San Felipe, a town claiming some distinction on account of its early origin. It was founded by Gen. Austin in 1824, and constituted the capital of Austin's colony. It was the capital designated for Texas before its separation from Coahuila, and was the place where

all the public business was transacted. The town was destroyed by fire during the Texan revolution, since which it has been partially rebuilt, but has never reassumed its former consequence.

The situation of San Felipe is particularly beautiful. It is on a high prairie bluff, forty feet above the level of the river, an elevation which is rarely to be met with in this section of country.

San Felipe is still a place of some business, and retains a good degree of respectability.

Matagorda, an interesting town of one thousand inhabitants, is situated on a bay of the same name, at the mouth of the Colorado river. Vessels drawing seven feet of water approach within six miles of town. It is considered a very healthy location — enjoying a constant sea breeze, in all its freshness and purity. Hence it is sought as a summer's residence for the wealthy planters of the vicinity.

Matagorda was settled quite early, and was formerly a place of much business, being the only place of depot on the Colorado river, and of an extensive fertile country, which found its natural market at this point. Other towns springing up have lessened its consequence somewhat ; it retains, however, a good degree of importance, and has recently received a fresh impulse by which its business is rapidly increasing.

The religious character of Matagorda is very respectable. The Episcopal and Baptist churches have good buildings, and the regular administration of the gospel. The former consists of nearly 150 members. The

church was organized at a very early period, and was sustained mainly through the efforts of the Rev. Mr. Ives, who came to Matagorda in 1837, and manifested an untiring zeal in the promotion of the spiritual interests of the people, until his arduous labors wore out his constitution and ended his life in 1849. Mr. Ives may well be regarded as an important benefactor to the moral interests of Matagorda. "The memory of the just is blessed."

No good school buildings have been erected, as yet, though such are in contemplation; and if the union and co-operation of the people could be effected, this place would afford an excellent location for an institution of the first order.

Conflicts in school matters have retarded the progress of education in Matagorda, as has been the case in numerous other instances in Texas.

This town, for several years, has enjoyed the advantage of a teacher of music, by which means the youth have acquired a good degree of proficiency in this accomplishment, an advantage which is not usually enjoyed in Texas.

Instrumental and vocal music have not received a great degree of attention, as yet; but, as the country advances in improvements, this subject will, probably, acquire a paramount importance. Competent music teachers would not fail of meeting with a good degree of encouragement, at the present, and they might with much reason be hailed as important agents of usefulness, in moulding the moral sentiments of youth, by

turning their attention from trivial amusements to the cultivation of those powers which might be rendered to them sources of pleasure and usefulness.

Matagorda and Brazoria are important points, both of which constitute the county seats of two wealthy counties. The distance between the two points is forty miles; the land is exceedingly fertile, and most of the country densely populated. This is known as an extensive body of lands called "Old Caney," which is well adapted to the cultivation of cotton and sugar; the latter proving to be much the most certain and profitable crop, the planters are mostly turning their attention to its cultivation. The Caney country is heavily timbered with a variety of species, rendering building materials abundant.

The planters are generally wealthy, and are desirous of availing themselves of schools, preaching of the gospel, &c.

We have enumerated some of the principal towns of Middle Texas, and in the presentation have endeavored to give an accurate description of their local situation, present advantages, and future prospects. These towns are regarded as combining such natural and artificial facilities as will, probably, insure their continued prosperity. Towns in Texas have, hitherto, been changing and uncertain; and even now, fluctuations are of common occurrence, and permanent calculations for the future are somewhat precarious. Such are the changes which are constantly occurring, that it is not at all improbable that places which have scarcely

acquired the name of town, as yet, may start up and rival others which are of mature standing. To mark these changes, their causes and consequences, will be a subject of interesting observation.

There are many interesting growing settlements not included in our present sketch, which, after the lapse of a year, might bear a prominent place in a description of Texas. In some portions which have been omitted, the population is sparse and widely scattered ; nevertheless, they are exceedingly important, as presenting interesting fields, which need to be penetrated with moral influences, and urgent appeal should be made in their behalf. Members of churches are found scattered, here and there, like "sheep without a shepherd." Great destitution prevails among all the denominations of Protestant Christians. "The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few ; pray ye, therefore, the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest."

Perhaps in no denomination have there existed greater deficiencies than in the Old Presbyterian church. There are many Presbyterians in Texas, both of the Old and New School Church, who have been hitherto, in some parts of the State, so widely scattered from each other, as to render it impracticable to be gathered into churches. By emigration, the numbers have become so much increased, that organizations might be formed in almost every town. Ministers are essentially needed to gather these scattered sheep into a fold, and those who can feel it their duty to submit to the sacrifices and privations of building up churches under present disad-

vantages would certainly be doing an important work. Many places might be found which would give able and devoted ministers a sufficient support where the people ought to be sought out and gathered into churches. Such pioneers are evidently required to lay the foundation of future institutions of religion and learning throughout the land. No class of missionaries are more worthy of respect for their disinterestedness and self-denial, than those ministers who throw themselves into the difficulties of such a field, encouraged only by the prospect of so glorious a result as the diffusion of evangelical principles and institutions among the people of this growing State.

The prospects of the Presbyterian denomination have been greatly brightened during the last year by the arrival of several ministers, having been sent out by the Missionary Board. This accession has partially supplied existing wants, but is not yet adequate to the demand. The Macedonian cry must still be repeated, "Come over and help us."

While we would enlist the sympathy and co-operation of those who are divinely commissioned to "preach the gospel," we would present the fact, that a great field is open in Texas for the influence and labors of private Christians; and we would cast an imploring look to those large and extensive churches abroad, which luxuriate in their extensive privileges beneath the full-orbed splendor of gospel ordinances. In no way could newly settled countries be so speedily evangelized as by the emigration of portions of churches into destitute

places. It would be well for the cause of Christianity in our land and world, that the missionary spirit was more extensively cultivated in the churches of the North and East. It is not an unreasonable supposition that, upon proper examination of this subject, duty might impose itself upon private Christians to emigrate, mainly for the influence which they might be able to exert in the promotion of piety and evangelical religion. It would be truly gratifying to see several members of the same church, from a highly privileged country, where a high-toned spirit of piety had been nurtured, coming to Texas, and bringing along those holy and sanctifying influences with them! Such an emigration would tend greatly to elevate the standard of vital piety. We would suggest the importance of members of Christ's body in the northern and eastern churches taking this subject into consideration, and inquire how far their Lord and Master requires their services in the work of spreading and sustaining the institutions of the gospel in Texas. In support of the propriety of the suggestion, we will make use of the sentiment of a distinguished divine of the United States, who, with true Christian philanthropy, casts his eye to the wide moral wastes and desolations on the one hand, and on the other the superabundant blessings, and makes it very apparent that a great error is existing in the churches in the neglect of action upon this subject.

“ Churches in favored portions of country greatly err in neglecting or refusing to colonize when they ought, and as they ought. What would you have us to do ?

it may be asked. We hold it to be a principle as clear as the sun in mid-day heaven, that every church, contiguous to a large, increasing, and destitute population, is bound when her number and ability will warrant, *to colonize*. She owes it to her Lord and Master—she owes it to herself—she owes it to dying souls around her, *to colonize*. To remain with her multitude and strength, rejoicing at the ease with which she can sustain herself, and congratulating herself in view of her respectability and strength, is but hiding her light under a bushel, when it should be shining forth brightly for the glory of God, and for the guidance of the lost and wandering, in the way of peace.”

What can her large membership accomplish on so small an arena as one church organization? “The overstocked hive produces a multitude of idlers, who cluster around, giving emission simply to the lazy hum of somnolence.” There is not room for the development of Christian activities; there is not occasion for that self-denial and up-taking of the cross, which are essential to growth in grace.

Commend me to that church which separates into colonies, where room is given for the delightful play of holy activities, and where, in a short time, each dividing branch equals in size and strength the original stock, and each is prepared again to send out its young and healthy colony. In this way, and in this way only, can the land be possessed.

What is the duty of the churches in the North and East, with all their strength and multitude?

A church should first select some populous district of destitution, build it a suitable church edifice, and then set off a colony by dividing her numbers and strength equally. This is the proper idea of colonizing. In this case, both branches are equal in strength and influence, both have room to build and increase, and both are spiritually enriched—many souls are gathered into the fold of Christ, and a great revenue of glory is brought home to God. Shortly, each branch is increased fully to the size of the original body, and is prepared again to colonize and take possession of more of the land, in the name of Christ her King.

What might be done in behalf of Texas, if Christians would but realize the responsibility resting upon them as individuals and churches! What glorious achievements might not the Church accomplish for Christ, if she would act upon her manifest duty.

In conclusion, we invite large and able churches to cast their eyes upon the feeble churches in Texas, where a few noble spirits have been struggling for years to maintain the standard of the cross. Brethren, you have men enough and means enough to place them on high vantage ground. Can you neglect to place them on that ground, and be innocent? Who has given you a dispensation to nestle at your ease in this vineyard of the Lord, while others are laboring to great disadvantage for lack of aid, which you might easily render? We exhort you, in the name of Christ, who gave himself for you, forthwith to come to the succor of these feeble churches, sparing neither men nor money, until they

are placed on a commanding eminence of influence and power to do good.

What a distinguished English writer says of England, is eminently true of the Christian Church in Texas. "We want a better church to make a better country. Without a better church, we cannot have a better country." The moral renovation of this land is a mighty achievement and requires the most ardent and energetic piety. We want intelligence warmed with a holy enthusiasm, and enthusiasm guided by intelligence ; a religion of power, of love, and of a sound mind ; a religion combining something of the enthusiasm of prophets, the zeal of apostles, the self-denial of pilgrims, and the constancy of martyrs. Our churches must be composed of members strong in faith and fervent in prayer—of members separated from the world, spiritually minded, self-denying, rejoicing in hope, and waiting, looking, and longing for the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ ; of members who consider this world not so much a place for present enjoyment, as of discipline, probation, and preparation for future happiness. We cannot renovate the land, and erect the altars of a pure spiritual Christianity, as we are now. We shall do something. We *have* done something ; but we must do a great deal more. We may have the blessing ; but, unless our standard of piety becomes more elevated, we shall not have the *fullness* of the blessing. We may lay the wave sheaf upon the altar, but we shall do little towards gathering the harvest. We want money, we want laborers ; but there is something we want more than either ; and,

if we had, would give us more of both of them and that is, *faith and prayer*.

Western Texas embraces that portion of the State situated between the Colorado and Rio Grande rivers, and contains 19 counties, which are the following, commencing on the South of the Colorado.

Counties.

Calhoun,
Jackson,
Victoria,
Lavaca,
Gonzales,
Caldwell,
Hays,
Gillespie,

Shiretowns.

Port Lavaca,
Texana,
Victoria,
Petersburg,
Gonzales,
Lockhart,
Sanmarcos,
Fredericksburg.

Those situated on the Rio Grande, commencing at the South.

Cameron,
Starr,
Webb,

Santa Rita,
Rio Grande,
Laudo,

Intermediate, commencing at the South.

Refugio,
San Patricio,
Nueces,
Goliad,
De Witt,
Bexar,
Medina,
Comal,

Refugio,
San Patricio,
Corpus Christi,
Goliad,
Cuero,
San Antonio,
Castreville,
New Braunfels.

This portion of Texas presents a vast field yet to be

occupied. Its immense extent of territory, its heterogeneous population, gathered from every country, the conflicting elements which meet in its social state, the obstacles to be met and overcome in evangelizing it, and the means requisite for bringing the land under the influence of evangelical religion, are subjects which give this division a greater degree of interest than any other.

Although some parts claim a very early settlement, it is much more sparsely settled than Eastern or Middle Texas. The relation of the Indians has been greatly embarrassing. Until recently, quite a proportion of Western Texas has been the abode of tribes of hostile Indians, and even now along the whole extent of the Rio Grande, the name of "Comanche" is a sound of dread alarm. The protection of the frontier from the incursions of the Indians is a subject of deep importance to the interests of this interesting portion of the State. The depredations which have been committed during the last year, plainly manifest the unprotected condition of a portion of the United States which has an unquestionable claim that its citizens should be guarded against such ruthless outrages. It is a lamentable fact, that numbers of lives have been sacrificed, property wrested from lawful owners ; inflicted, too, upon persons who depended upon the assertions of the nation's executive, having migrated to the frontiers of Texas, there to meet death upon the spot, where the nation had promised them safety. This state of things ought not to be permitted to exist ; and it becomes the General Govern-

ment to bring the proper measures into operation for suppressing such lawless outrages.

To facilitate the extension of population into the valuable and fertile lands of Western Texas, it is indispensable that means should be adopted for the security of the country of the Rio Grande valley. This being immediately in the range of Indian hostilities, emigrants are not desirous of making it their residence, hence it cannot receive that accession to its population which it otherwise would.

The present military force is entirely inadequate to the emergency. Three or four hundred men, scattered at different points, are not sufficient for protecting a frontier of such extent; and as long as such evident deficiencies exist, the settlements will be harassed by continual alarms of incursions, threatening to involve them in one general massacre. To quiet such apprehensions, no time should be lost in reinforcing the present army with a sufficient military power, to drive those dangerous marauders immediately beyond the limits of Texas.

Western Texas will eventually constitute a very important portion of the State. With some improvements in the navigation of the Rio Grande, the inhabitants might be put in possession of a river, second in extent only to the mighty Mississippi. The stream at present is navigated by steamboats to the distance of about five hundred miles, and, by the removal of a very few obstructions, it might be rendered navigable to an unknown extent. Recent claims have been presented to

the consideration of the United States government for improving the river, and also an appropriation has been recommended to the attention of the Mexican government for the same purpose. The execution of this object would be of immense service to the United States as well as to Mexico. It would facilitate greatly the means of supplying the upper military stations with stores and munitions. It would also create new markets in the adjoining Mexican States, and in our newly acquired possessions, for an immense amount of our productions. The long and arduous overland travel which has heretofore been carried on from St. Louis, Mo., would be dispensed with and the trade and transportation carried on by steamboats on the Rio Grande.

This division is intersected by several other rivers which are susceptible of being rendered navigable, and probably will be, when the commercial resources of Texas are fully taken into consideration.

The immense prairie regions of Western Texas by cultivation yield abundantly every variety of production. The northern portions are intersected with mountains, but the land in the vicinity of the mountainous districts is found to be favorable to the production of all kinds of grain; wheat grows in the greatest perfection; sugar and cotton are cultivated with a good degree of success.

The mountains with which the north-western frontier is interspersed are an essential advantage in rendering the atmosphere more salubrious, and also of being sources of innumerable springs and streams which serve to irrigate the country, and form the head

branches of all the large rivers of the middle and western portion of the State. This part abounds with excellent manufacturing sites, and will inevitably be a great manufacturing country.

In many parts of this region, coal of a superior quality and iron have been found, and it is supposed that beds of these valuable minerals extend over a great part of the country. Silver mines were wrought towards Santa Fé in the northwest, till the works were destroyed by the Camanches.

Among the natural curiosities of this portion of country, is the "Cross Timbers," a continuous series of forests, varying in breadth from five to ten miles. It appears at a distance like an immense wall of wood; and from the west such is its linear regularity, that it looks as if it were planted by art.

Western Texas presents some interesting remains of antiquity, among which are the old "Missions." Under the Spanish dominion, each principal settlement was placed under the government of a military commandant, who exercised civil and military authority within the limits of his presidio. At each presidio was established a "mission," which generally preceded the formation of settlements, and was, in fact, the nucleus around which population concentrated in the wilderness. The old "Missions," or ancient edifices, whose remains are yet seen, were of massive stone, and resembled the feudal castles of Europe. Several of them were erected by the Spaniards from Mexico early in the eighteenth century; some of them are co-eval with the oldest

cities in the United States. They were nearly all built upon the same general plan, consisting of a church in a fort. Of these, the most ancient are those of San Antonio de Bexar, and Goliad. The former has become memorable in the recent history of Texas, on account of the bloody tragedy of the Alama, and the fall of Travis and his heroic band; the latter as being the place of the confinement and subsequent destruction of Fannin and his company.

The history connected with this portion of Texas is replete with incident of the most interesting character. These details might furnish matter for a volume, but, as it is not consistent with the plan of the present work to give a relation of past events, we can only take a glance now and then, of what transpired in early times, and hasten to represent Texas, as she is at the present, and what she *must be* in the future.

The population of Western Texas is composed of every grade of character. The wild Indian, Mexican, European, and American blend their contrasting influence. The future well-being of this division depends greatly upon the amount of Protestant emigrations. Romanism still lingers in the Rio Grande valley; it has never entirely ceased its sway, and the last few years have given an additional strength by a reinforcement of foreign Catholics, who, in coming to this land of freedom and equal rights, have calculated upon the privilege of liberty of conscience; and such, indisputably is their right. Yet it is proper to hope that the light shining from the volume of Divine truth may dissipate the

shades of superstition and error, and that they may become constrained by its superior efficacy to yield to its happy influence, thus finding in this free land a disenfranchisement from mental as well as physical servitude.

There are many exceedingly interesting towns in Western Texas, some of remote origin, and some which have come into existence but recently ; springing up, as it were, by magic. Notwithstanding Indian hostilities, emigration is flowing in, and all the departments of business and enterprise are in operation. When the disturbances become suppressed, and the navigation of the rivers become improved, a more delightful region of country cannot be found, perhaps, on the face of the globe. The contiguity of Mexico will require a strong counteracting influence, and it is very evident that the most efficient measures are requisite for elevating the population of the valley of the Rio Grande to a high point of moral power. The time has come for efforts to be put forth for this object. A tardiness at this particular conjuncture may be fatal ; other influences may be permitted to operate so that no means may be able hereafter to compete and counteract.

It is truly gratifying that there is an awakening to this subject in Christendom, and that the evangelization of Mexico is taken into consideration in connection with that of Texas. A vast field for missionary labor is presented with urgent claims upon Christians of the United States for efficient measures to be immediately brought into operation. The Mexicans are ready and waiting, apparently to receive the gospel. The door is open and the field is wide, and "white unto the harvest."

Dr. Baker, who has recently returned from a missionary tour in the valley of the Rio Grande, gives an interesting report of this important section. He thus writes, "In many respects this valley is both important and interesting. Besides the Americans, there are, by estimation, some twenty thousand Mexicans scattered over the valley of the Rio Grande. These Mexicans are nominally Roman Catholic, but appear, *just at this time*, ripe for the gospel. Many, I am told, have come over upon our side of the river, to get rid of the domination and oppressive exactions of their priests. Moreover, they are better pleased with our laws and government—and, on account of the superiority of the Americans during the late war, have a profound respect for every American. Indeed, they have such a sense of our superiority in the arts, both of war and peace, that they are willing, as children, to sit at our feet and be taught; and that especially, as their priests are generally openly immoral, and seem to have no care for their souls, but only for their money. Paul could say, "I seek not yours, but you." Where is the *Mexican* priest who can say this? Echo answers—*where*. A young man who wishes to labor amongst the *heathen*, would not, could not, wish a better field than that presented in the valley of the Rio Grande—for, Romanism, amongst the Mexicans, is only another form of paganism, and very many of these poor deluded creatures greatly desire to learn our language and our religion too! They receive Protestant tracts with great eagerness; will pay for them; and as for the Bible,

when they get a copy, they consider it a great prize. O, how much good could a missionary do amongst this people in the valley of the Rio Grande! But, he must be acquainted with the Spanish language, and must be willing to go from ranche to ranche, and fare hard. Will not some of the young men from our Seminaries, go to this region, and try to bring these poor benighted ones under the Protestant and heavenly influences?

While in Brownsville, Dr. Baker saw a colporteur, who had just come down from Roma to Brownsville on the Mexican side. On his trip, he had sold forty dollars worth of books and tracts.

An officer connected with the U. S. army, who is an intelligent New Englander, and a member of the Congregational Church, recently communicated to the agent of the American Sunday School Union, for Texas, the following valuable information in relation to the country of the upper Rio Grande, and its inhabitants.

“This is rapidly becoming quite an important part of the State of Texas. Its salubrious climate, fertile soil, and superior advantages as a pasturable and grain-growing country, are rapidly attracting to it a numerous and valuable population. The civil authorities of Texas are now actively engaged in extending its jurisdiction over that interesting part of the State. Measures are now in progress for the complete organization of the counties of Worth, El Paso, and Presidio. Immediately opposite El Paso is an Island about twenty-five miles long, and five miles wide, formed by a recent cut-off in the Rio Grande. This Island is within the limits of

Texas. The soil is of the most fertile character. The Island is a delightful place of residence. It is supposed now to contain a population of about eight thousand souls, a large majority of whom are natives of Mexico — the remainder, emigrants from the older States of the Union, several from the Southern and Eastern part of Texas.” This officer stated “ that, in his intercourse with the Mexicans, on both sides of the river, he found them kind and affable in their deportment — a simple, inoffensive race — disposed to welcome the accession of the citizens of the United States to their population.

Almost every grown man can read in Spanish. He thinks the character of the country, out of which the new counties before mentioned are to be organized, is such as to render them susceptible of a very dense population. He visited several of the Catholic priests, and was kindly received, though he does not speak very favorably of their morals. He visited among the Mexican families, and circulated among them Spanish Bibles, which were kindly received. Protestant ministers of the gospel, and school teachers are much needed in the upper part of the Rio Grande valley. There is not one of either of these classes of individuals higher up than Brownsville, about one thousand miles below El Paso.

Who will volunteer in the benevolent enterprise of furnishing the Rio Grande valley with laborers? Will not New England, with her extensive means, lend a helping hand? Talent, piety, and enterprise are demanded,

and she, from her boundless resources, can furnish an ample supply. Could we be permitted to return to the land of our nativity, and re-enter those literary halls we were wont to frequent, no greater pleasure could be afforded than to appeal to the sympathy of pious individuals in behalf of the Rio Grande valley. Of itself, it is immeasurably important, but in casting an eye westward and looking at the extensive missionary field which comes up with its claims, it seems to possess attractions which would inevitably enlist an interest, and inspire immediate efforts in its behalf.

The field is sufficiently expansive to enlist a host of volunteers. Mexico must be evangelized, and a concentration of effort is demanded for the enterprise. Souls *must* be disenthralled from darkness and error in that benighted Republic! The Saviour demands it—the travail of his soul, his dying agonies, his intercession demand it; and will Christians linger? The work is great—nevertheless, it can be done. An immense “crevasse,” as Dr. Baker observes, is opened; and shall not floods of light and streams of mercy flow in for the enlightening and purifying of the nation? The influence *must* be raised—the appointed means of gospel dissemination must be put in operation! Ministers, Bibles, and Sabbath Schools are the agencies; and, let these be brought to exert their influence, and Mexico will be seen shining forth in moral beauty and splendor.

The stronghold of Romanism will require a persevering effort to remove; yet, by the appointed means, the defying front which it now presents will, by a gradual

process, assume an aspect which will rejoice the Christian world more than did the reduction of the mighty capitol, and the storming of Vera Cruz, the military world. Trophies, not of blood and carnage, but achievements, more noble than ever graced a chieftain's brow, would proclaim that *Mexico is conquered*, not to national power, but to the peaceful influence of the great Captain of eternal salvation.

The various towns of Western Texas present important openings for usefulness; some of the most prominent will be remarked.

San Antonio is situated on a river of the same name, in a very undulating region of country in the county of Bexar. It is built on a letter S, formed by the San Antonio river, which rises two miles above the town, and is some thirty feet wide and six feet deep. It is an ancient town, has been the scene of numerous wars, and has acquired a notoriety for being a place where more battles have been fought, and more blood spilt, than perhaps in all the rest of Texas. A military outpost was established here by the Spanish government in 1718. In 1731, the town was settled by emigrants sent out from the Canary Islands by the king of Spain. It became a flourishing settlement and continued so till the revolution in 1812. After that period, the hostile incursions of the Comanche and other Indians harassed the inhabitants to such an extent as to suspend and nearly destroy the prosperity of the town. After various depressions and revivals, it has assumed both morally and physically a more favorable character.

San Antonio has at present a population of about 6,000 inhabitants, quite a proportion of which are Mexicans, and has been, until quite recently, entirely under Roman Catholic influence.

*“ We have often heard and read of the moral depravity of San Antonio, and that this depravity, instead of being checked and subdued by Romanism, had been encouraged and promoted thereby, especially by the example of the Roman priests, who had been more devoted to the pleasures of the card-table and the billiard room, than to the appropriate duties and functions of their high office. Under the influence of a religion of pompous and superstitious ceremonies, with a secular and corrupt priesthood, what other result could be anticipated, but that of the universal depravity of the people. The Americans who first settled there, had not sufficient strength of moral principle to stand against the sweeping tide of depravity, and were, consequently, borne onward in its course. Many young men have made shipwreck of their principles, and been engulfed in the vortex of dissipation.

“ It is but within a few years past that efforts have been made by Protestants to improve the moral character of the city. The Methodist Episcopal Church South, has sustained a mission there for the past four years with encouraging success. The Presbyterian Church has been represented by Rev. Mr. M’Cullough, who devoted two or three years to the ministry, and to teaching,

* Texas Wesleyan Banner.

laboring in harmony with the Methodist missionaries, both occupying the same house of worship. The labors of these missionaries have been intended principally for the benefit of the American population, and, to some considerable extent, have been successful. Much good, it is confidently believed, has been accomplished.

“There is a general interest manifested among the Americans in behalf of Protestant worship. The church, built mainly through the agency of Rev. Mr. M’Cullough, is generally well filled with attentive hearers every Sabbath.

“San Antonio now presents an open door of usefulness to evangelical ministers. The American population is increasing rapidly, and there is generally a large number of strangers in the city who should be accommodated with Protestant worship.

“An effort should be made to enlighten and improve the Mexican population. A limited supply of Bibles, Testaments, and tracts, in the Spanish language, has been distributed among the Mexicans; but, to effect permanent results, the effort to distribute Bibles, &c. should be a persevering one, and accompanied by oral instruction. Such an effort, prosecuted by capable and zealous missionaries, would soon result in a Protestant Mexican Church, or a church formed from the Mexican population — a result most ardently desired: as it would constitute the first fruits of a glorious moral harvest among the Mexican population of the State, and probably of the Mexican States. Which of the Protestant churches will make the effort? It should be commenced immediately.

“The San Antonio Division of the Sons of Temperance promises great usefulness in staying the tide of intemperance, and in preparing the way of the gospel to the hearts of many who have been, heretofore, disinclined or disqualified, by their dissipated habits, for a profitable attendance upon the ministrations of the gospel.

“San Antonio has, for years, been a commercial depot for the Mexican population beyond the Rio Grande, and the new road connecting it with El Paso increases its commercial importance. It is more than probable that the entire trade of New Mexico, El Paso, and Chihuahua will be diverted from St. Louis to San Antonio.

“San Antonio presents ample advantages for cotton, woollen, and other manufactories. Its water power is unlimited, as are also the materials for the necessary buildings. The location is healthy, and the surrounding country fertile, and capable of producing supplies for a large population.

“In less than twenty years, San Antonio is destined to be the Manchester or Lowell of Texas, if not of the South. Its location upon the great military and commercial thoroughfare from the Gulf of Mexico to the Upper Rio Grande valley, the northern States of Mexico and California, as well as its vast and natural advantages and resources, point directly to its rapid growth, early importance, and future renown. The period of its isolation, almost equal to that of Palmyra of the Desert, is rapidly passing away. Thriving settlements

are forming within a circle of twenty-five miles of it in almost every direction; which are calculated to contribute greatly to its growth and importance.

“San Antonio de Bexar has, for many years, been a city of great interest to strangers, and may the day never come in its history, when its noble name, associated with years and scenes of stirring interest, long since passed away, and more recently associated with events of thrilling interest and deeds of valor, memorable in the history of Texas, shall lose its magic power, or cease to be the name of the ancient, the Monumental City of Texas.”

Gonzales, situated on the Gaudaloupe river, is a place of growing importance. This town is distinguished as being the opening scene of the war of the Revolution, and it hence acquired the appellation of the “Lexington of Texas.” The situation is elevated, healthy, and pleasant, and possesses many natural advantages. Its former prosperity was retarded by Indian hostilities, and in 1842 was nearly desolated; but it revived, and is, at the present, rapidly advancing in population and importance. The various reforming elements of society are in operation — a flourishing Temperance Society and a Union Sabbath School seems a very good index by which to judge of the sentiment of the people.

Gonzales has less of the evils to contend with, Mexican population and influence, than many other towns in Western Texas, and hence its religious and general character presents a more favorable appearance. The town and vicinity being settled, mostly, by emigrants

from the United States, the proper elements are possessed for its future advancement and prosperity. The Gaudaloupe river is susceptible of being navigated as far as this point, which advantage, combined with rich and fertile lands, cannot fail of rendering Gonzales an important town.

Seguin, shire town of Gaudaloupe county, deserves a passing notice. It is a small, though growing town, and has lately made an acquisition to its reputation by the erection of a neat chapel for public worship, being the first church edifice ever dedicated to the worship of God in Gaudaloupe county.

The portion of country on the left bank of the Gaudaloupe, from the coast as high up as Comal county, is in a highly prosperous condition. A traveller recently passing over that section of country, thus writes: "In travelling upon the west side of the river, as far as Seguin, and along the whole journey, a constant succession of new plantations was presented, and the appearance of the whole country is greatly improved within the past year. The inhabitants are in good spirits, and prosecuting their agricultural improvements with vigor. Farms and plantations are being enlarged, and buildings in much better style than formerly, both as it regards comfort and appearance, are being erected.

"Every where are to be met the Sons of Temperance, whose benign influence is abundantly manifest all over the country. Nowhere is this influence more manifest than in Gonzales and Seguin. Schoolhouses and churches are every where taking the place of

drinking establishments, and the inhabitants are found attending the quarterly and protracted meetings, instead of horse-races and places of dissipation, as heretofore. The circuit and resident ministers of the gospel have engaged with becoming zeal in the temperance cause, and the District judges and the members of the bar almost in a body unite in the great moral reform. It may be predicted with absolute certainty, that, during the year 1850, there will be greater improvements made, both in a moral and physical point of view, than have been achieved for the previous five years."

North of Seguin, situated on the south side of the Gaudaloupe, is New Braunfels, a town located by a German colony in 1845. It contains a population of 4,000 souls—a large majority of whom are foreign emigrants; there being, perhaps, not more than two hundred Americans. For two years after its settlement the inhabitants were obliged to keep a constant guard on account of the incursions of the Indians. Those hostilities ceasing, the town has improved with wonderful rapidity, and bids fair to become one of considerable importance. It is situated at the foot of the Cordellow mountains, in a beautiful and picturesque country, abounding with water power, which the Germans have improved for establishing manufactories of various kinds. The industry and enterprise of the Germans render them valuable citizens, and, could they be induced to lay aside their priestly expiations, and embrace that system of faith which acknowledges but

one mediator between God and man, they might become a very important acquisition to the population of Texas. This town presents an important field for evangelical laborers. Ministers and teachers are greatly needed to counteract the influence of Catholicism.

Some three miles from New Braunfels is situated Comal Town. The settlement of this town was commenced in 1846, and, for more than twelve months, but two individuals dared to reside there, it being the great resort of the Camanches. Causes of fear became dissipated, and a town of about one hundred families has rapidly sprung up, in which has settled a Presbyterian clergyman, who thus writes, "here, where four years ago was a large Camanche settlement, is a flourishing Sabbath School, and the regular preaching of the gospel."

Population is fast settling the opposite side of the Gaudaloupe river — farms are becoming opened, so that the prairie looks almost like one plantation. Farmers are also settling on the valley of Comal, a small, rapid, and beautiful stream, bursting from a rocky source at the distance of but a few miles, and emptying into the Gaudaloupe at Comal Town.

Castroville, an interesting town, is situated on the west bank of the Medina river. This town, which, but a very few years since, was inhabited by the wild Camanches or the wild beasts of the forest, contains two hundred and eighty houses and twelve hundred inhabitants, mostly French and German, who have emigrated within the last four or five years. The extensive improvements

which have been made in so short a period, were made mainly through the influence of one individual, — Mr. Castro, who has expended a large fortune in establishing the colony. The inhabitants, who are Roman Catholics, have a resident priest among them, and are erecting a spacious stone church.

The Medina is a clear rapid stream, affording ample advantages for mill seats, and some future day will, no doubt, be occupied by extensive cotton and woollen factories and flouring mills. The region of country around Castroville is favorable to the production of wheat, and probably, in a few years, a sufficient quantity of this grain will be raised in this portion of country to supply the whole State.

The foot of the mountain is not more than one mile from the town. The vicinity of the mountains abounds with specimens of iron ore. It is reputed to be abundant, and of a remarkably pure quality, which might, no doubt, be rendered a valuable source of wealth to the country. This portion of Texas, perhaps, more than any other combines advantages for extensive speculations in agricultural and manufacturing enterprises.

The natural beauty of this section surpasses description. The lofty mountain, the broad expansive prairie, the pure transparent stream of water, concur to vary the scenery and render it peculiarly lovely. Boasting New England and far-famed Switzerland, with their mountains, lakes, and picturesque landscapes, cannot compete with or outvie Texas—*Western Texas*, the loveliest land upon which the sun ever shone. All, who

have ever visited this beautiful region, concur in ascribing to it beauties unsurpassed. While we disclaim imaginary paintings and fictitious speculations, we feel justified in the assertion that no country is more eminently favored by nature, both for beauty and excellence, than Texas.

Indianola, formerly known as Indian Point, is a beautiful and pleasant little city, improving so rapidly during the last twelve months as to attract general attention. It now extends three fourths of a mile along the beach, unlike all other portions of the margin of Matagorda Bay, so remarkable for its beauty and cleanliness as to be the favorite place of resort of the Comanche Indians from time immemorial, on account of the abundance of fresh water, and the wild fruit that grew in its vicinity.

The population is about five hundred. The town is increasing rapidly with every prospect and facility of future importance. The United States Government, after very thorough examination, has removed all its business to this place from port Lavacca. The government stores intended for San Antonio, Austin, Fredericksburg, Paso del Norte, and the upper frontier posts, are now landed at Indianola. A large amount of shipping is done through its wharves to New Orleans and other ports. Indianola, from its fine and accessible position on the main land, is destined to be one of the first commercial towns in Texas.

Goliad, situated on the San Antonio river, and about thirty miles from the coast, is a town of some interest; though not having great claims upon popularity, it

nevertheless has some upon antiquity. It was one of the earliest settled towns of Texas, and was the scene of many interesting incidents. During the war of the Revolution, it was garrisoned by Mexican troops, and was one of the first places signalized by a triumph of the Texan arms in the struggle for liberty. The old "Mission," in which Fannin met his untimely fate, is still in a state of preservation, and is at present made subservient to the purposes of a school. A "mission" on the other side of the river, known as "old Labardee," is occupied for a dwelling.

The country which surrounds Goliad is fertile and capable of being rendered highly productive. The town is not in an improving condition, though its situation is highly advantageous for a town of considerable importance.

The population being composed mostly of Mexicans, the proper elements are not possessed for very rapid improvements. The prosperity of towns in Texas, as well as elsewhere, depends greatly upon the character of the population — many possess the necessary physical advantages, but, without the enterprise and public spirit of the people, the car of improvement makes but slow advance.

Towns on the Rio Grande are springing up at different points with wonderful rapidity. Within the last few months, several have sprung into existence. Edinborough and New St. Louis have been started within a few weeks; the former about one mile, and the latter four miles below Reinoso. Brownsville, situated opposite Matamoras, has rivalled in its rapid prosperity every

other town in Texas. Although but two years old, it contains a population of three thousand inhabitants, and, according to present indications, will soon be a large and populous city. The amount of business transacted at Brownsville is immense, far exceeding any calculation based upon the population. By estimation, it is computed that six million dollars worth of goods have been received there during the last year. So great has been the increase of trade between Brownsville and the interior of Mexico, that the two ferries between Brownsville and Matamoras, which the first year were rented for less than one hundred dollars, have this year been rented for *nine thousand*. Besides a vast amount of freight, which some two or three steamers are continually engaged in taking from Brazos Santiago round by the mouth of the Rio Grande, and up that river, a single house at Point Isabel, forwards on to Brownsville by land, from ten to twelve thousand barrels per month. The fact is, that much of the trade of Tampico and Vera Cruz now passes through this channel. Brownsville is now the great gateway of entrance into Mexico, and is taking the business almost entirely away from Matamoras.

The situation of Brownsville combines beauty of scenery as well as natural advantages. The vicinity has become hallowed by interesting scenes during the late war. This portion of the Rio Grande valley is associated with scenes of thrilling interest. Here our army first met the Mexican foe, and on the plains of Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma, were achieved the first two of a series of victories unparalleled in the

history of civilized warfare. Although those scenes of blood and carnage are passed by, no one can look upon those interesting battle fields without feelings of deepest emotion; and though time may work its changes, long will it be ere those sacred places lose their power to interest. The soil which has been wet with human blood for the defence of liberty and justice, has become too deeply hallowed, to be soon regarded with careless indifference.

Considerable taste and expenditure are manifested in the buildings of Brownsville. Some dozen brick houses are now in progress, all of them large and costly buildings, one nearly covering a whole square, and another about half a square. The enterprize of the citizens is not only manifested in advancing the town in its worldly interests, but a very good degree of interest is displayed in the promotion of moral objects. Before Brownsville was six months old, the citizens applied to the agent of the American Sunday School Union for Texas, for publications with which to commence a Union Sunday School. The request was granted, the books were promptly forwarded, and a school was organized, in which was manifested a lively interest. The youth of Matamoras were invited to participate in the benefits of the Sunday School, and *verily*, from that city of Romanism, many came to be taught in the principles of the holy Bible. This fact exhibits an example of what Protestant influence may serve to effect upon the Mexican population on the other side of the Rio Grande. May such "light houses" be erected at every point of

that noble river; so vivid and penetrating may their rays be, that their influence shall be seen and felt to the extreme of that benighted country. Let the glorious volume of Divine truth unfold its sacred leaves upon the banks of the Rio Grande, the darkened shadows of Romanism would disperse like "dew before the morning sun." *Where are the agents to scatter this heavenly light?* Where are those who will rightly appreciate this glorious privilege? It is not worldly wealth we would allure you to gather — no, treasures, richer far — souls — *immortal souls*, which, disenthralled from error's night and transplanted to heaven's eternal day, shall shine with that transcendent lustre which will obscure the brightest golden ore the earth ever produced.

The missionary of the Rio Grande valley occupies a point of influence, unsurpassed, perhaps, by any other spot on earth. Who does not covet the privilege of holding up the torch of Eternal truth to the benighted Mexican?

The people of Brownsville also made very laudable efforts to obtain a minister of piety and talents, and succeeded in securing the services of a Presbyterian clergyman, sent out by the Missionary Board, a few months since, and who promises great usefulness in this important field of labor. A church has been organized, which embraces some of the most influential citizens.

Still there is room — the field is not sufficiently supplied as yet — the spiritual wants of a population of three or four thousand souls cannot be supplied by the agency of one individual. Other evangelical laborers

are called upon to exert their influence in behalf of this interesting town. On account of the extensive intercourse which Brownsville has with the various parts of Mexico, it may be regarded an important medium of communication by which Protestantism may be introduced into Mexico, and hence appears the necessity of a strong influence of that sort being concentrated at this point.

Roma, Rio Grande, Laredo and El Paso are also important holds, which should be secured with strong Bible influences; and will not the Christian world duly take into consideration the importance of immediately reinforcing those interesting places with the means necessary for the advancement of the much desired object — *the moral elevation of degraded Mexico?*

We have now travelled hastily over Texas, and from the interesting scenes of the Rio Grande we will turn and take one more glance of Texas as a whole.

In the retrospect, an interesting subject presents itself — one sufficiently expansive to enlist an interest, perhaps unequalled in the contemplation of any other country.

The early history of Texas is strange and interesting, if not illustrious. Occupying a point of apparent obscurity, almost unknown to the world, her daring energy and noble spirit flashed forth in the declaration, that she resolved to be “free, sovereign and independent,” with that intrepidity which confirmed to her enemies the practical enforcement of that declaration, and with scarcely any advantage but her noble sentiments of

freedom, she pushed forth her conquest, — conquering and conqueror, — until her “one starred banner” waved triumphantly at every point of the enemy’s encroachment. Never was an independence more nobly won ! A little band of Texans on the plains of San Jacinto taught Mexico’s proud General — the arrogant Santa Anna — that Mexican mercenaries were unequal to compete with men whom love of freedom and honor inspired to contest. The cause for which the Texans were contending, was one which the God of nations approved, and the arm of Omnipotence signalized the contest with glorious success, which victory laid a broad platform for future good to Texas. Let not Texans forget the exalted position they have taken, nor the high responsibilities resting upon them of maintaining that character which they have so nobly assumed. Let them not forget or undervalue their superior advantages for rendering the future career of their country brilliant and consequential.

Already has sufficient prosperity been awarded to inspire the most encouraging hopes for the future. Comparing the present with the past, the most animating prospect is presented. Truly “the wilderness has blossomed like the rose :” — emigration, bringing with it wealth, intelligence and refinement, has poured into the country. Schools and churches have been planted in many places, where late the Indian revelled unmolested, and the howl of wild beasts alone broke the stillness of nature.

Steam-boats are now plowing the waters of her noble

rivers, bringing rich freights of merchandize to the wharves, and returning deeply laden with the staple of the country, bound to distant markets. The lands have increased in value, and the influx of population has opened a market for articles of home consumption.

Great as has been the increase, there are thousands of acres of good land, well watered, and well timbered, to which we would invite the attention of emigrants, well assured, that in comparing the advantages which Texas presents to the planter, the merchant and the mechanic, with those of other States, in any point of view which she can be taken, she will suffer no disparagement from the comparison. Is it health which is sought for? The uplands, with their never-failing streams of pure water and pleasant groves, enjoy a salubrity of climate surpassed by no climate on the face of the globe. Is fertility of soil the desideratum? The alluvial lands of the various river bottoms have no superior in the United States. If beauty of scenery is required, the high rolling prairies, redolent in verdure, now gradually rising into hills, now gently sinking into valleys, combining richness of soil with the loveliness of nature, present a scenery, at once calculated to rivet the attention and call forth the admiration of the beholder.

An inviting field for interest and usefulness is presented, and an elaborate plea may with propriety be made in behalf of a country combining such important advantages. The prospective importance of Texas

affords ample security for an enlarged system of enterprise, both in a physical and moral point of view.

Great as have been the achievements and improvements of the past, Texas has yet a great work to perform. Her love of national liberty inspired to deeds of noble valor, and shall she not evince a similar patriotism, when interests of immortal value are at issue? Her military power subdued the haughty insolence of Mexican invasion, and shall not her spiritual power effect another independence, which shall outvie the far-famed one of San Jacinto? A contest is waged — not against a worldly foe, but against the power of darkness, the spiritual enemy. Soldiers are called upon for rallying around the standard of freedom, equipped with spiritual weapons, drawn from heaven's armory. This contest must not be one of doubtful issue; victory or death must be the motto of every soldier on the field. What though he falls — a more glorious cause could never be desired, for which to fall a sacrifice! The love of civil liberty embalms the patriot's grave, and shall not the love of spiritual liberty wreath the never-fading laurels too? The Christian patriot's name shall live, not, perhaps, imprinted on brass or marble, but in the records of Eternity he will find deeds inscribed, which will survive when earthly monuments and mementos shall have passed into oblivion.

Texas must yet erect her victorious banner at every point of the spiritual enemy's dominion, — not stained with human carnage, but the blood-stained banner of the Prince of peace.

TEXAS IN 1850.

Who will come to the aid of Texas in this eventful struggle? When she was contending for civil liberty in the trying struggle of '36, the request for volunteers met with a prompt and liberal response. Shall not the present appeal be regarded with still greater interest by Christians whom love to Christ should constrain to evince a sacred zeal and enlist in this pre-eminently important service? *We wait for a response.*

THE END.

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