

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT

CONDUCTED BY J. W. CALDWELL.

All matter intended for this department should be sent to J. W. Caldwell, West Union, Owen Co., Kentucky.

We wish to correspond with every preacher in Kentucky in reference to the circulation of the HERALD, and contributions to its columns. Send for terms.

Baptists on Weekly Communion.

The question of the weekly observance of the Lord's Supper is exciting attention among the Baptists. Some time ago, the *Canadian Baptist* had the following paragraph:

We publish in another column an earnest inquiry as to the authority for weekly communion. In our mind the matter stands thus: 1. Nothing is prescribed in the New Testament as to the frequency of the celebration of the ordinance. We are neither commanded to celebrate every week nor forbidden to do so. 2. The general impression made upon the mind of most readers of the New Testament is that the ordinance was celebrated frequently, every Lord's day or oftener—and that this celebration was very informal, usually following a meal partaken of in common. 3. The same may be inferred from passages in the post-apostolic writings. The earliest English Baptists, at the beginning of the 17th century, practiced weekly communion. 4. We are quite willing that each church should follow the course that seems to promise most edification.

The *Christian Index* (Georgia) copying this, adds this comment:

This sounds dispassionate and impartial, but we lean rather more than our contemporary toward weekly communion, as the probable result of the New Testament teachings when grouped together.

And the *Examiner*, of New York, has a paragraph on a special phase of the subject, as follows:

Considerable interest is now being manifested in the question whether churches ought to celebrate the Lord's Supper in the absence of an ordained minister. The difficulty seems to be to steer clear of sacerdotalism, on the one hand, and of the tendency to ignore ordination on the other. Many Canadian churches think it important to celebrate the ordinance every Lord's day, and regard the obligation to obey Christ's injunction more binding than any particular method of doing it. Those who insist upon the necessity of ordination as for the proper administration of the ordinance find it difficult to quote chapter and verse in favor of their view, and rely chiefly upon the argument from expediency. Probably an intermediate position which would make the administration of the ordinance by

an ordained minister the rule, as a matter of good order, but which admits the right of a church under certain circumstances to provide otherwise for the celebration, would be best.

On which the *Western Recorder* comments as follows:

It seems to us that it is a question very easily settled. The ordinances have been committed to the churches, and they alone are responsible for their proper observance; and as ordination is simply appointment by a church to special service, it is eminently proper for a church, when without a pastor, to appoint one of its members to administer the ordinances; but whether it be wise in all cases to pursue that course, may be a question.

All this is encouraging, and we have only words of cheer for our Baptist brethren in their search for the "old paths." But we have not forgotten that Prof. Whitsitt and his echo, the *Recorder*, made the weekly observance of the Lord's Supper one of the dreadful marks of that poisonous "literalism" by which "Campbellism" is disfigured, and one of the evidences that Mormonism is the offspring of Campbellism. Are the Baptists, too, being gathered in the grasp of this monstrous "literalism?" Are they about to identify themselves with Campbellism and Mormonism?

The *Recorder*, it is true, is only about half way converted. It confesses that to be "eminently proper" which is only questionably "wise."

Why, it is the rankest "Campbellism"—this appointment of one or more unordained members of the church to preside at the Lord's table. Yet the *Recorder* has got far enough along to regard it as "eminently proper!" Good. There is evidence in this of returning sanity. We are not without hope—Since the Scriptures are silent on the matter of the necessity of ordained ministers to serve at the Lord's table, and the *Recorder* is disposed to respect that silence, and the *Examiner* has been on the hunt of "chapter and verse" for ordained persons in such a service, and fails to find them—that the Baptists may yet so far be converted to "literalism" as to respect the silence of the Scriptures in this matter, and confess that the absence of "chapter and verse" is of some significance.

Seriously, we are pleased at the indications of a desire for the weekly observance of the Lord's Supper by the Baptists, and with the sensible view their scribes are taking

on the propriety of the observance of that ordinance by the churches "in the absence of an ordained minister."—*Standard*.

When we call to mind that Mr. Spurgeon's church celebrates the supper every Lord's day, it appears that this will become very good Baptist usage in a few years.

Notes and Comments.

Some advertiser calls a lamp "a great church light."

It is asserted on good authority that alcohol is poisonous to the human system, having no medicinal properties. There is no reasonable excuse for using it.

Dust is the cause of the general prevalence of catarrh in this country. Hence persons predisposed thus should avoid dust as much as possible. The simplest and most effective remedy is to burn iodine and inhale the fumes. Wash often with salt water, and avoid dust and colds.

The *British Medical Journal* and *Louisville Medical News* are strongly in favor of all classes taking suitable holidays. This is absolutely necessary to the success of every worker. Every city preacher should, at proper times, go to the country, with rod, gun and Testament, and hunt for both game and sinners.

The August number of the *Apostolic Church* is a readable number, as indeed are all numbers. We once had the pleasure of being connected with the *A. C.*, but misfortune by way of long continued sickness, prevented our continuance. Bro. Butler, the editor, is a young man of great strength and perseverance. One feature of the paper is a thorough discussion of the eldership, a question but poorly understood among us. It is the largest 32 page monthly, published in our ranks, for the low price of one dollar a year. We would be glad for all our readers to take it. Address W. G. Butler, Mayfield, Ky.

The *Pulpit Treasury*, No. 4, has a portrait of W. R. Williams, the eminent Baptist minister. Sermons by Dr. Williams, Dr. Curry and Canon Farrar. Sermon Thoughts by Noah Porter, G. G. Lorimer, G. B. Stickler, A. G. Gordon, F. D. Witherspoon and J. P. Boyce. Besides these excellent contributors

are G. W. Sampson, John Hall, E. P. Hood, C. F. Deems, J. P. Newman, Dr. Talmage, Newman Hall, C. H. Spurgeon, Canon Fleming, S. H. Kellogg, and editorials. These names are sufficient guarantee of the excellent character of the magazine. The name of E. B. Treat is a sufficient surety for excellence in appearance. For two dollars and fifty cents 768 pages (total of the entire volume) is low. Address E. B. Treat, Publisher, 757 Broadway, N. Y.

The *Medical News* of August 25, 1883. A weekly journal of medicine and surgery, edited by I. P. Yandall, M.D., and H. A. Cattell, M.D. J. P. Morton & Co., Publishers, Louisville, Ky. Three sixteen pages reading matter, three dollars per year. This number contains papers on "Affections of the Eye as a Cause of Headache," by Dr. Cheatham; "Miscellany," "Value of Physiology in the Practice of Surgery," editorial; "Bibliography," "London Letter," Hardison; "American Dermatological Association," Dr. Van Harlinger; "Translations," "Selections," &c. The *News* is an excellent periodical, and should be in the hands of every physician. Send for sample copy.

The *American Practitioner* for August is before us. It is now in its 28th volume. David W. Yandell, M.D., and John A. Ochterlony, A. M. and M. D., editors. These men are eminent in their profession, being professors in the Medical Department of the University of Louisville. The contributors for this number are Drs. Cheatham, Webb and Fuqua. The editorials are excellent. This sterling monthly should be in the hands of every physician. Sixty-four pages, monthly. Three dollars per year. This is as cheap as any medical review of which we know. But we believe that all medical as well as law literature is too high. The *Practitioner* and *News* can be had for five dollars. Mr. Morton, the publisher, is the largest publisher and book dealer in the State, and we recommend him to our readers. Send for catalogue of books. John P. Morton & Co., Nos. 440 to 446 W. Maint St., Louisville, Ky.

The measure of man's responsibility to his God is the measure of his ability coupled with his opportunity. Reader, are you filling that measure? If not, why not?