

The Press and Banner

Bv W. W. and W. R. Bradley.

HUGH WILSON, Editor.

ABBEVILLE, S. C.

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Wednesday, May 24, 1905.

"The Church Paper."

In the Minutes of the recent meeting of the Second Presbytery of the Associate Reformed Church, Mr. Ira S. Caldwell in his report, which was adopted, among other things, said:

"Sessions are to urge all families to take the Church paper."

Which is "the church paper?" Mr. Caldwell ought to have been more specific.

In looking around, we have been trying to "locate" the "church paper."

It is a well-known fact that Synod has no paper.

It is well known that all the papers hereabout are published for the profit that the owners may realize on their investment.

It is a well-known fact that individuals and not the Synod, pay the expense of publishing their newspapers, and then they put the profits into their own pockets.

In our effort to discover "the church paper," the names of these newspapers occur to us, namely:

1. The Chester Lantern. The editor is a pious and consistent Associate Reformed Presbyterian. He takes much interest in the local church matters. And then Brother Bigham says "Sabbath" with a holy emotion, seemingly totally unconscious of the fact that Sabbath refers to the institution and not necessarily to Sunday. The Lantern is a good paper, consistent, and exemplifying many of the Christian graces. Is it "the church paper?"

2. The Winnsboro News and Herald. We believe it is owned and edited by Associate Reformed Presbyterians. It is a most excellent paper, high-toned and honorable. Is it "the church paper?"

3. The Associate Reformed Presbyterian. It is owned by Associate Reformed Presbyterian stockholders, who are making a good thing out of it. It is a Due West paper, a page being given to the write-up of local celebrities who may enjoy the personal friendship of its editors, while those whom it would punish, either by neglect or aggressiveness are the subjects of his displeasure. Is it "the church paper?"

4. The Abbeville Medium. This paper is owned by Associate Reformed Presbyterians. Its editor, like the editor of the Chester Lantern, the Winnsboro News and Herald, and the Associate Reformed Presbyterian, pays the expense of publication and then puts the profits into his own pocket, and not into the treasury of the Church. The editor comes from long line of Associate Reformed Presbyterian ancestors, and while he cannot use "the Sabbath" with the same emotion as does the Lantern, he is steadfast in the faith. Is the Medium "the church paper?"

5. The News and Courier. The editor of this paper was born with "Sabbath" printed on his tongue, but he has been associating with the Charleston gentlemen so long that he says "Sunday" in his paper. For this reason, we think we must rule him and his paper out of any chance to be "the church paper."

6. The Abbeville Press and Banner. Although this paper is edited by a crank who doesn't always keep step with every self-appointed Sir Oracle, it is owned and published by the strictest of the strict Associate Reformed Presbyterians. Born and bred in the faith, they are as true and as faithful to the church as were their forefathers for a hundred years. Is the Press and Banner "the church paper?" Judging from the amount of religious matter that appears in its columns, and basing opinion upon the effort which it has made to help the preachers on to perfection, it would seem that Mr. Caldwell had reference to the Press and Banner when urging the people to take "the church paper." The claims of the Presbyterian and other papers upon the church are about equal to the claims of the Press and Banner. Each of the newspapers are in one respect at least on exactly the same footing. But as one star differs from another star in glory, so one of these newspapers may lead the others in excellence, but the fact remains that each is owned by private individuals who reap benefits of their labor. All are laboring especially for their own personal interest and incidentally working for the upbuilding of the Church.

Mr. Caldwell is kind to the Press and Banner, but he will please excuse us from accepting his kindness when it is at the expense of the brethren, either one of whom is as much entitled to official or syndical recognition as the Press and Banner. When we have our money invested in a private enterprise it is not in good form to use the Church to advance one brother's interest at the expense of others.

While on the subject of church papers, it may not be amiss to suggest that the Associate Reformed Church does need a church newspaper. A newspaper that would come up to the requirements of one of the best educated denominations in the South is one of the greatest needs of the Church. You may talk of church colleges as you please, but a church paper is of the greatest importance. A paper which is owned by the Synod and edited by the representative ability of the Church, and published in the interest of the church and its colleges, is a great power for good—a power which is not exceeded by any other enterprise. It touches the people everywhere, and when it measures up to the requirements of the Church, it is one of the noblest purposes in view we predict for its editor, Mr. James Henry Rice, Junior, the best of success in his efforts to advertise and build up the waste places along the coast. In the coming of Mr. Rice Georgetown has an acquisition to its best element, and he deserves all good things from all the good people with whom he comes in contact.

May "The Carolina Field" flourish and prosper as the green bay tree, and bring forth fruit of the most useful kind.

Among the pleasant callers at the Press and Banner office last week was John K. Aull, Court stenographer. He is a son of Mr. E. H. Aull, editor of the Newberry Herald and News, and for energy, ability, and pleasant manner, he is a worthy descendant of the distinguished editor.

You can get all of the Dukes Mixture smoking tobacco you are looking for whole sale or retail at Speed's Drug Store.

We have a nice line of ladies hand bags which we are selling at reduced prices—Speed's Drug Store.

"Mother Barksdale's Story of Her Wonderful Life."

The Press and Banner is in receipt of a copy of "Mother Barksdale's Story of Her Wonderful Life," and we have read it through with interest. The story of her life is interesting, especially to those of us who have known Mrs. Barksdale, and have been for a long time more or less acquainted with her life and her good works.

When she was young she was notably handsome and engaging in her personality. Her heart and her hand were sought in marriage by various suitors, and three times she entered the holy estate of matrimony. But notwithstanding the fact that she was three times married, more than one half of her womanhood has been spent in widowhood. One after another, death removed her husbands, and now for a long time she has been a widow.

Among others who courted her was a rich old man in Tennessee. He was seventy years of age, while she was young and handsome. Upon her refusal to marry him, he offered to settle upon her one-fourth of his vast estate. This she refused, and in that refusal, a cold and heartless world would say that she made her greatest mistake. An old fool of seventy, who marries a pretty girl of twenty-five, is almost sure to be called to the heavenly shores before his bride is safely installed in his earthly mansion.

In that event the pretty widow would have enough money to set up her second husband in all the comforts of life, and whom she might marry for love, while he had an eye to business. And if that second husband was a young man, the probability is, that the happy young couple would have in store for them many years of happiness at the old fool's expense.

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It was, as we understand, her support of helpless children that compelled her to mortgage her farm.

If we are not in error, the proceeds of this mortgage was expended in caring for little children who had lost their natural protectors.

Seeing that she must give up the work in which she was so much interested, or else become bankrupt, she sorrowfully gave up the burden which she had carried for years, and then, she, in her old age, went to work in her own behalf, and, as she states in her book, has paid off the debt on the farm.

The book is an interesting one, and will be read with pleasure.

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Injustice.

The Abbeville Mail, in its almost daily reference to Judge Prince, among other things, says that he will not approve the pay certificates of witnesses whose testimony is immaterial or words to that effect.

It may be lawful for the judge to withhold the pay of a witness who leaves his farm, pays his expenses at a boarding house, remains for days in Court at the command of the Court which requires his presence, but it is neither equitable nor common fairness for the court to use its authority to oppress the citizen by depriving him of his pay.

If the testimony of the witness is immaterial, it was no fault of his that he was required to dance attendance upon a court which would refuse to pay the fee.

In Abbeville the Judge who presided recently was, in our opinion, a little harsh with the court filices and a little inconsiderate of the rights or feelings of the people of this community in refusing them the use of the Court room. The Judge had a perfect right to make certain requirements of the officers as to the condition of the Court House during the sitting of the Court, but we fail to see wherein he was warranted in barring the people out of their own house between terms for holding Court. His action was in striking conduct with the action of Judge Kinch, who, recognizing the situation promptly, suspended the former Judge's order in favor of our public school.

The old Court House is out of date, anyhow, and might well be sold. A new and better Court House is what the people of Abbeville County should have. It might be situated outside the public square. With the money which the old house, including the plank shatters, would bring, supplemented by a small tax, a house worthy of this people could be bought.

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