

OUR TRIP SOUTH.

We left home May fifth, went down the river from Muscatine, Ia. to Vicksburg, and thence by rail to Wesson, Miss. Here we spent a week with Bro. Sisson who has labored over twenty years in the south. He is a missionary pastor of the A. M. E. Church. He has seen much hardship, and though not a black man, has chosen to 'bear all things' for the poor and lowly. He has aided largely in the distribution of the Day-Star and other reading matter among these people. We were at home here and though we could not go about the country much because of the heat and our own ill health, yet we were able to talk with many of the colored people and thus learn their true condition.

OPPRESSION STILL EXISTS.

Some whites do not like to see the colored man prosperous, and often use unlawful means to hinder the successful and enterprising. This has the effect to discourage all saving habits and encourage a hand-to-mouth system of living. Work hard, then as soon as pay is received have a frolic and spend all; this is the common practice, and the result is shabbily dressed men, women, and children in homes of the poorest description. Very few are skillful workmen and scarcely any of the young men or women are learning trades. Many think that the only way for them to succeed in business is to go farther north where they will have a fair and equal chance to obtain and hold property.

Schools for colored children are held a portion of the year and are supported in part from the public funds. Northern schools of industry are few.

We visited one near Jackson, Miss. where from one to two hundred are taught. We went into their tin-shop, wagon, blacksmith, and carpenter shops, and went through their large gardens and orchards and looked over their five hundred acre farm. We were so pleased with what we saw that we are thinking of moving down there to help and encourage those who are doing the very best kind of missionary work.

THE AIM OF THIS SCHOOL.

'Is to fit for practical life all who may seek its advantages, without regard to sect or race.' We were told that great changes are now going on in the minds of the ruling classes of the south. Northern teachers are invited and encouraged. Violence and immorality call loudly for a gospel of purity and peace. Good land is cheap—five to fifteen dollars per acre, improved and near the R. R. We would like to see YOUNG CHRISTIANS GO SOUTH.

The old saying 'go west' is of little value now but many thousands of educated, working, Christian young people ought now to emigrate south. Their skill, learning, and abilities would be in demand; and their homes though humble would prove an object lesson to the community. To free the colored race was a very great work; but I believe a greater work is yet to be done in teaching these people to become good and useful citizens. One said to us 'It is not

preaching these people need so much as industrial home-schools where the young may be led into habits of cleanliness, purity, and Christian living.

Good reading matter is appreciated, as some in nearly every family can read; but few feel able to purchase. We have collected and forwarded some twelve hundred pounds of papers, tracts, and books with two or three barrels of old clothing. The R. R. charges are now so high we hardly think it best to continue unless special rates can be obtained.

While on board the river steamers we had many serious religious talks with men of all classes and countries. We tried to speak the truths of God on all proper occasions and never has the way seemed to open so easily and the words come more of divine ordering. The prayer of my wife, 'May you be a blessing to every one you meet,' seemed to be fully answered.

We were gone from home about five weeks, spent about thirty dollars, and traveled twenty-six hundred miles over one of the most needy fields in our land. We would like to see a mission boat on our rivers laboring to give a day of rest to the men who are now bearing the burdens of travel and traffic, and dwell in an atmosphere of profanity, licentiousness, and intemperance. Let us pray for a River Mission for the 'Father of Waters' and all its branches.

O Lord, send laborers into this harvest field. Ep.

War is Satan's masterpiece. So artfully has he covered its deformities; so cleverly has he drowned the shrieks of its victims in the roll of drums and the bray of trumpets, that men have almost ceased to recognize its hideousness. Under the influence of this strange delusion they have learned to call evil good and good evil, until the destroyer of his species has become the man whom kings and people delight to honor. Be it so! 'The fire and hammer of God's word' are competent to shiver every plea which a Christian can advance against the advocacy of peace. Show us, if you can, some method of reconciling contraries. Show us how you can love your enemy and stab him to the heart; how you can feed him while you burn his crops, or give him drink when you destroy his aqueducts; prove to us that vengeance is synonymous with mercy, that cruelty is another name for meekness, that by fire and sword you overcome evil with good, and we will then admit that you can carry on war without infringing the spirit of the gospel.

It is a hard lesson for the world to overcome evil with good, but let us as Christians follow our Divine Master, put away the sword lest we perish by it, and trust in God for protection, while acting in obedience to His commands.

'When a man's ways please the Lord, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him.'

Prov. xvi: 7. Sel.

Unless we are exactly Scriptural, our piety and perfection may answer to the description: 'Very good of its kind, but not a very good kind.' Sel.

GOOD THINGS

FROM BRO. HOWARD'S DIARY.

In the ministers' meeting Mr. Angell of the society to prevent cruelty to animals, had a vote passed unanimously praying for a law against killing birds for millinery purposes, in which vote I fully sympathized. Now for a petition against cruelizing both animals and men in war. The swollen-bodies and sky-pointing legs of dead horses, the mutilation of some by shells, and the prostration of others over-driven and cruelly beaten always come up to me with Gettysburg. I saw no bird there. I heard none sing. Birds cannot stay in outer darkness. There is no music there, but groaning and gnashing of teeth.

Thursday, Feb. 18. I found Fred Douglas busy—He was a man of the Garrison stripe in early abolition days, but personal provocation and the war swept him with the popular current. But he has no doubt of the correctness of the gospel principle of opposition to war. I was glad to hear him say that no man could be expected to do his best for the cause of peace, who has not had supernatural illumination and experienced a divine call. He said 'I will gladly sign any petition, speak on any platform, become a member of the American Peace Society, and aid as your representative abroad where I go on a farewell visit to old anti-slavery friends. He gave me a warm endorsement of our principles over his own name. I count on Fred Douglas even in old age as a leader and teacher of his race in the principles of gospel peace.

Feb. 17. The 18th report of the women-suffragists gives assurance of coming success—certain parts sound as if written by Susan Anthony herself. At any rate, its condemnation of war is so pronounced that when women vote we may hope they will vote against war, as they say they will against rum. If they could abolish war, there would be no need of their becoming soldiers, a profession for which it has been said nature has incapacitated them. Their timidity, their inability to become soldiers as well as their moral sensitiveness and earnestness would influence them to oppose war. But they are of like passions with men, too easily provoked, and their tongues and pens as often stir up the strife that results in bloodshed as do those of the opposite sex. In the Civil War women were violent and now that it is over, are not the quickest to forgive injuries real or imagined.

March 16. I was agreeably disappointed today. Going home from the office I heard inspiring music, which has appropriated the name 'martial.' I expected to see the usual parade of soldiers and the usual admiration among the boys for warriors and war. But the band ceased and certain voices took up the same strain with a tone of triumph that reminded me of 'Hosanna! Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord!'

I cannot say that the sight of men and women

tramping through the muddy streets was grateful, and the hoarseness of some of the voices seemed to me alarming as to the health of these well meaning people, but to hear street music employed 'to save and not to destroy' seemed to me like converting it. So when I went to Tremont Temple with the same 'Salvation Army,' and heard the foolish and frivolous titles that out-masoned Masonry, and saw uniforms, the nervous excitement, the magnetizing, and was distracted by the noisy demonstrations, I was distressed. But when a woman sweetly sang 'I'm Not My Own,' and the speakers bore witness to the power of the cross in transfiguring their lives and consecrating them to unselfish efforts to save men, even in ways that excite ridicule and persecution, and when a man at my side burst into tears, and a converted burglar and a gambler each spoke of his coming from darkness into light, I saw the 'secret of the Lord' underlying all their grotesque and coarse demonstrations. I felt convinced the Lord is not in 1886 altogether confined to the still small voice of the Quakers, so grateful to my taste and feeling, but chooses salvationists, drums, cornets, and tambourines to call the people to hear his message, and employs even military accoutrements, titles, uniforms and music in saving ways.

Henceforth the bands and banners looked to me like that big gun in a shop window in Washington. It was 'converted' from killing men to throwing a line over a house or a ship to save them. All things do work for good. When all swords become plowshares, all guns all bugles, and all of the drums will proclaim salvation. Advocate.

GATHERED THOUGHTS.

From Humane Journal.

When fish are caught they should be quickly killed, and there is no surer method than to give them a quick, sharp blow on the back of the head behind the eyes. A quick death brought about in any way is preferable to allowing them to die from remaining out of the water, and tearing of the flesh by the hook. The meat no doubt will be much more healthful; and best of all, there will be a sweet consciousness of having caused no needless suffering. Boys, remember this.

\$5000 was offered as a prize for the best car in which to ship live stock comfortably and nearly five hundred models were sent in. The best ones refused the prize, but the object was reached and one hundred Burton stock cars are now in use. See advertisement in Humane Journal. (Now let us have a law to compel their use)

5,000,000 birds a year are destroyed to supply our ladies' hats with ornaments. A fine of \$1.00 for wearing such ornaments would soon stop the slaughter of the innocent warblers.

The world grows better. Kind hearts delight in building homes for the helpless and suffering, and seldom do we see enjoyment sought by witnessing suffering. Drinking-fountains for man and beast, small whips, reasonable loads, and improved roads all tell us of a time coming when they shall not 'hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain.'