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## I. Literary.

### ICONOCLASTS.

BY J. W. LAPSLEY.

“YE shall destroy their altars, break their images, and cut down their groves.” This was the divine command to Israel as they invaded Canaan. Policy as well as reverence for the divine authority demanded strict obedience to the command. But it was not so obeyed as to put out of sight the temptations to idolatry; and again and again Israel sinned after the example of the heathen they had supplanted, became image worshippers, and suffered grievously for their apostasy. Hence image breaking was accounted a sign of devotion to Jehovah. Jehu said, “Come with me and see my zeal for the Lord,” and he went and broke down the image of Baal, and the house of Baal, burnt his images with fire, and slew his priests and votaries with the sword. But this was as far as Jehu’s zeal for the Lord carried him. While he had no real devotion to God, and, in fact, renewed the idol worship at Dan and Bethel, he made the divine commission an excuse for pursuing with lavish bloodshed his own schemes of worldly ambition. And there have been others besides Jehu in other ages who have trod in his steps. “Mohammed,” says Dr. Schaff, “started as a religious reformer fired by the great idea of the unity of the Godhead, and filled with horror of idolatry.” And he and his Caliphs, long after they became world-wide conquerors, full of ambition and given up to every cruel and sensual passion, continued to proclaim, “There is but one God,” and continued to the last their warfare on image and image worship. They made their professed zeal for the one God a cover and ex-

## HOME MISSIONS IN TEXAS.

BY REV. W. M. ANDERSON, D. D.

WHEN a contribution on this important subject was promised last spring for the September number of the magazine, I little knew what serious illness and other afflictions would come upon myself and family during this trying summer; and now, in a convalescent condition, amid the pressure of autumn work, I must give a hasty glance at a theme which demands careful study and exhaustive treatment. I say this because any other than careful exhaustive treatment will not sufficiently impress the reader with the importance of this work in this great field.

1. Let us first look at

### SOME FACTS ABOUT THE STATE OF TEXAS.

To say that it is the largest State in the Union may not impress you; but you can be impressed by a comparison. Suppose you take Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Rhode Island, Vermont, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, Indiana, and mix them together thoroughly until you have made a great State, and you have not yet an area as great as the State of Texas. The area of Texas is 237,504 square miles. Some one may say, you have the area, but not the population. I answer that there are only four States in the Union with greater population than Texas. These are New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Illinois. And these have some large cities, which greatly increase their number. It may be possible that Massachusetts and Missouri are about equal in population to Texas. The population of Texas is about 3,000,000.

There is quite a mistaken idea in some sections as to the character of the people in Texas. Some wrongly imagine that we are "a tough set," rather dangerous, in fact. We deny this "soft impeachment." We say to our accusers, "We are a part of you." Of necessity, this new State at the first was peopled by the older States, and many come every year from the older States.

Of course, by this time the number of native Texans is rapidly increasing; and while our population is cosmopolitan in charac-

ter, yet it is under the circumstances very homogeneous. As an illustration of where our people come from, I have in my session ten elders, one is a native of Texas, two are from Kentucky, one from Mississippi, one from Florida, one from Missouri, one from Tennessee, one from Indiana, one from Pennsylvania, and one from Scotland.

The population of Texas represents the varying classes found in the older States. They have the same love for freedom and truth, the same loyalty to the church where they have been taught it, and the same pride of character.

Amid the clash of varying ideas here found, there is sharper competition in trade, and our whole life is more distinctly aggressive.

To this great Lone Star State many of the sons and some of the daughters of the older States come every year to try their fortunes.

Many of these come before their decision for Christ and their loyal stand for the church has been made. This fact makes our work greater and harder.

The conditions being similar, a Western pastorate offers a greater opportunity and demands harder labor than an Eastern.

2. Let us now look at

#### SOME FACTS ABOUT THE SYNOD OF TEXAS.

The Synod is composed of eight presbyteries, but as one of them, Indian, is more directly under the Assembly's Home Mission Committee, and lies without the State, I will omit it in considering the work.

There are 145 ministers, 338 churches, and almost 18,000 members in Texas; but "what are they among so many?" I have no doubt that there are several thousand Presbyterians in Texas whose membership is in the old home church, or whose faded church letter—possibly typical of the faded religion—is hid away somewhere.

Many of these disconnected Presbyterians are isolated, and waiting and praying for an evangelist to come and organize a church.

Many of the churches are small, and the membership scattered, and they are not in a position to be easily grouped, and not able to pay a support to a minister in small groups.

As an illustration of these conditions, let us, for example, consider the work in Dallas Presbytery. This Presbytery embraces fifty-six counties. Fifteen of these are thickly settled, and contain only about 500,000 people. The remaining forty-one are sparsely settled, and contain only about 200,000. The whole Presbytery embraces about 80,000 square miles, an area about twice the size of the whole State of Virginia. Now, in some of these thickly settled counties there is not a single Presbyterian church. In others there are only one or two; while in none of them are there more than five or six. If I remember rightly, there are seventeen Presbyterian churches in York county, S. C.

There are but a few strong churches in Texas. Some of them seem to pay good salaries in comparison with churches in the East of similar strength, but bear in mind that the cost of living is greater here than in the East.

3. Let us now look at

#### SOME OF THE NEEDS OF THIS WORK.

(1), The work needs as ministers men who can "endure hardness" as good soldiers; men whose consecration will lead them to enter an undeveloped work and build from the foundation; men who are not seeking an easy work for health or pleasure. The conditions of the work to-day are the results of the labors of the great and good men who forty years ago came to the front and preached and worked under great difficulties. Many of them lived to see the Lord's rich blessing upon their labors, and some of them are still living.

But the work to-day demands the same kind of men, with the same metal, to meet similar difficulties.

(2), The work needs that all the pastors and leaders of the church work in the older States shall impress and urge upon all their friends who start for Texas to continue true to "the faith once delivered to the saints," and at once to identify themselves with the work, and work the harder because the needs are greater. As intimated above, there is no doubt that our number and influence would be greatly increased if all the Presbyterians who come to Texas would do this. It is not right for them to slide into some other denomination for the sake of convenience, or withhold their letters and active interest in our cause.

(3), The work needs the prayers and sympathy of the settled work in the older States. The churches of Texas are children of mother churches all over the older States, and should not the mothers pray for their children?

Prayer is the mightiest power within the grasp and control of man, and the whole church should keep the pioneer workers and missionaries in foreign lands in prayerful remembrance.

(4), Last, but not least, we need the financial help of the settled work in the East. The Assembly, through its Home Mission Committee, very rightly regards this as missionary territory, and therefore offers decided advantage in giving aid. Money here used is well spent, and the time will come when the West will help the East. The work here is more than we are yet able to perform, even with the generous aid given us.

We are glad to report marked improvement all along the line, and believe that a great opportunity now confronts the work in Texas.

May these scattered thoughts hastily thrown together lead every prayerful, generous reader to render any help in his power to this great work.