

My son, attend unto my wisdom, and bow thine ear to my understanding.—Prov. v. 1.

## OUR BIRTHDAY.

**O**N Thursday last our Association reached its 20th Birthday. The brethren assembled in conference joined with us at the noon hour in a service of praise and thanksgiving. We feel grateful to God for all He has done for us and for all He has permitted us to do for Him, at the same time we are conscious that those 20 years are marked by much of failure. From the failures we would take warning, from the success we draw encouragement, and now start out upon another year with a determination to know nothing "save Jesus Christ and him crucified."

## THE LOST SHEEP.

**W**E have, in the parable of the lost sheep, a striking illustration of the Lord Jesus seeking lost sinners.

It is a well-known fact that sheep never find their way home of their own accord, but wander farther and farther away, so that it needs the shepherd to go and seek for them, and bring them into the fold.

We were as sheep going astray, and turning every one to his own way, so that, unable to find our way back to God, we had to say we were LOST, and it was those who were *lost* that the Son of man came to seek and to save.

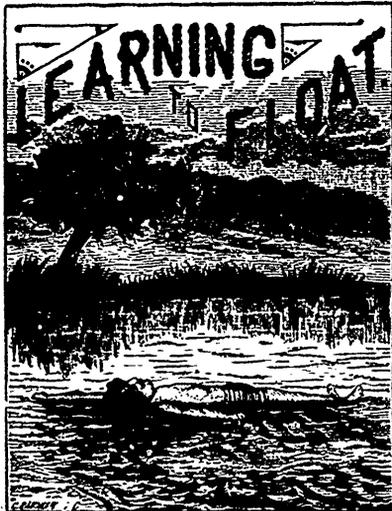
Then you always find if one sheep goes the wrong way the others are sure to follow. A gap in the hedge is found out by one, and the others are sure to follow it into the next field. Ah, reader, are sinners not like sheep in this respect?

## YOUNG MEN'S BIBLE CLASS

EVERY MONDAY EVENING,

AT 8 O'CLOCK.

ALL INVITED.



**A** YOUNG man was in deep anxiety about his soul. For weeks he had been *trying* to find peace, as he represented it. But no peace came. A friend, seeing his difficulty,

said:—

"Walter, did you ever learn to float?" (With a look of surprise.) "Yes. But why do you ask the question?"

"You shall see presently. You remember you were told that water was heavier than your body, and that if you laid yourself on your back quite still, with nothing but your face above the surface it would support you."

"Yes; and so it did."

"But did you find it easy to trust yourself to it? Did you float the first time you tried?"

"No; I could not lie quite still, and trust to nothing but the water. I struggled or tried to catch at something to keep me up, and down I went."

"Just so, Walter; and that is the reason why you do not find rest and peace in Jesus. You do not trust Him.

Take fast hold of instruction; let her not go; keep her; for she is thy life.—Prov. iv. 13.