

American Presbyterian and Genesee Evangelist.

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JOHN W. MEARS, Editor.

THE FIGHT AGAINST SIN.

It is not alone numbers or strength that makes an enemy terrible. These may be met, evaded, or parried, or neutralized by superior skill or sagacity. But when to strength, the enemy adds depth, skill, strategy, he becomes truly formidable.

Such is the conflict with sin in our hearts. Not a mere struggle with abstract principles, but a contest, a strife, an agony. Not merely the action and reaction of diverse forces in our own natures, but a struggle in which great spiritual powers without and around us take an active part.

How shall the Christian carry it out? That he should make it his first business, that he should be untiring and unrelenting, earnest, energetic and vigorous, adding to his faith, soldierly virtues; that above all he should be prayerful, trusting not in his own strength—all this is plain.

1. Examine himself. He should know the nature of the enemy within him, where he is strongest, where he is entrenched, where are his weak points, and what is the best mode of attack. He should not fight at one that beats the air. Only an utterly ignorant or utterly reckless leader goes to meet his enemy, without gathering first such information as he may of his position, force and arms.

2. Just here is the place for the exercise of strategy. We should take peculiar measures for overcoming this besetting sin. It is the key of the moral position. It is the central point around which gather the entire forces of evil in the soul.

3. It is often a point of strategy in contending against besetting sins and inveterate habits and practices, to go beyond the strict rule of duty, and deny ourselves in things in themselves indifferent or harmless. The power of a vicious habit can be broken, and tone restored to a depraved system, and the moral nature be made to work healthfully only by a severe moral regimen (ascetics).

THE OLD SCHOOL CHURCH IN KENTUCKY. The excellent service done by Rev. R. J. Breckenridge D. D. to the cause of our country in Kentucky, is known and warmly appreciated by loyal people every where.

his successful approaches must be blockaded or destroyed utterly, delightful or even useful though they may otherwise be. And the whole evangelical community, as participants in this strife, sympathizing with the weak and struggling victims, as concerned for its own safety against the inroads of intemperance in this and coming generations, catching the spirit of Paul, flings away the sparkling cup and vows it will drink no wine while the world standeth, rather than a weak brother should be offended.

Recent developments, we are sorry to say, show no signs of improvement in the spirit of these Kentucky Presbyterians. Dr. Breckenridge's Danville Review is on the point of extinction on account of the odium created by its bold and powerful arguments for the cause of the Union. The company of Old School ministers by whom it was started is broken up, and the subscription list has got out of Dr. B.'s reach.

REV. O. N. BENTON.

But a few weeks ago we chronicled the acceptance of a chaplaincy in the 51st New York Regiment by this brother, then pastor of our church in Apalachin New York. We have now the melancholy story of repeating the announcement of his death as given in the military dispatches. In the desperate struggle which preceded the capture of Newbern. His regiment was prominent in the struggle, the sufferings, and the glory of that engagement, and Mr. Benton, like the true man that he was, shrunk not from sharing in its perils.

Mr. Benton, as we learn from one of his fellow students, pursued his theological course at Union Seminary New York after which he was employed in a missionary capacity by the American Sunday School Union. The field of his labors was in the vicinity of Lynchburg Va., where he acquitted himself to the acceptance of all.

THE CASE OF CHAPLAIN LEHART OF THE UNITED STATES SHIP CUMBERLAND was not unlike. The Christian Advocate and Journal says that Chaplain Lehart of the Cumberland, had been in the Naval service fifteen years and that the day before the disastrous engagement in which he lost his life he wrote to a friend: "It is as near my heavenly home from the old Cumberland as from any other place."

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ter. A number of Old School ministers from this state are also serving as chaplains in the United States army; but for the rest, a wide and, as we must believe, an irreconcilable diversity of sentiment prevails among brethren of the Kentucky Presbyteries and Synods. The Presbyterian had information some weeks ago, that a scheme was on foot to draw away the churches of Kentucky to the seceding organization of the Southern States.

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"WORSHIP." We have been deeply interested in the perusal of Dr. Darling's pamphlet on "Worship as an Element of Sanctuary Service," reprinted by Mr. Young, from the forthcoming number of the Presbyterian Quarterly Review.

After this bold and unqualified declaration, we look with some interest to the writer's proposed improvement in our method. It is found simply in a closer adherence to our Directory, which even a casual reader may see lays great stress upon devotion, and warns ministers against making their sermons so long as to interfere with or exclude the more important duties of prayer and praise.

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most, upon a part only of the Sabbath. And is not this the necessary result of that theory or practice of sanctuary service which wholly ignores the element of worship? If the church is man's church, and the leading conception in the mind is the listening to a set discourse, is it strange that men seem it a matter of little moment whether they attend regularly upon its services? Ay, more; if spiritual instruction constitute the very essence of a sanctuary service—if we are to go to God's house alone to be taught divine truth—why should not a man stay away from it, when at home, by his own meditations or reading, he honestly believes that that spiritual enlightenment would best be promoted? That God should be adored, and that this adoration should have some outward expression, all men instinctively feel. Satisfy them, then, that this is the great aim of sanctuary service, and they will not so often, and for causes so trivial, desert it.

It is not difficult for devout persons to realize that they have worshipped, in attending the services of a liturgical church; even the impenitent and unbelieving if the natural religious susceptibilities are not utterly dead, receive impressions and go away awed. They have something to go to church for, even if the element of instruction is insufficient to bring them. How then shall we accomplish the same results under our simple forms of worship? How shall we satisfy the devout and impress the thoughtless with a sense of something more than human in the aim and reference of the exercises? By introducing liturgical elements? So, not a few have argued.

PHILADELPHIA EDUCATION SOCIETY. The annual meeting of this Society was held in the Presbyterian House, on Tuesday, 25th of March.

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HOME MISSIONS. We have welcomed to our columns the recent contributions of our Committee on Home Missions, selected chiefly from the communications made to them by the Missionaries. We shall expect to be the medium of such communications to our readers, at least once a month.

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A THOUGHT FOR THE MONTHLY CONCERT. "WHEN the Son of Man cometh, shall he find faith on earth?" It seems to us that this inquiry may be appropriately made with regard to the present attitude of the Church towards the work of missions.

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OUR CHURCH NEWS.

A NEW CHURCH IN NEW YORK.—A new church, which promises to be one of the most prominent in the city, was organized at Dodworth's Hall, corner of Fifth Avenue and twenty-first street, on Friday evening, March 21st.

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NEW PUBLICATIONS.

Messrs. Brown & Taggart, of Boston, have resumed the publication of their very fine library edition of the WORKS OF LORD BA CON. Volume third has been laid on our table, which constitutes the eighth of the present issue, and leaves seven to be supplied as yet.

WASHINGTON A CHRISTIAN.—This is the title of Rev. Dr. Wylie's discourse delivered in the First Reformed Presbyterian Church of this city, the Sabbath following Washington's birthday. It is a very simple, but apparently exhaustive presentation of the evidence to prove the true evangelical piety and belief of the honored Father of his country.

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Messrs. Rugg & Carleton, New York, have issued a BOOK ABOUT DOCTORS, being a copious collection of anecdotes, covering nearly 500 large duodecimo pages, and presenting the craft in every imaginable attitude of interest to the public. Such a work, even if clumsily done, could not fail to be entertaining; this work is really valuable for the very considerable amount of curious information about medicine and practice in past generations which it conveys, besides the constant entertainment its portraits and anecdotes furnish to the reader.

A POPULAR TREATISE ON DEAFNESS, its causes and prevention, by Drs. Lighthill, with illustrations, has just been issued by Carleton, publisher, (late Rudd & Carleton) New York. It is a very clear and sensible discussion, designed apparently to recommend the authors' treatment of ear diseases by chemical vapors. 12mo pp. 133. For sale by W. S. & A. Martien.

DAYBREAK, or Bright Struggling and Triumphant. This is the title of an English story, published by R. Carter & Brothers. It is designed for older children and youth, and opens very well. 18mo, pp. 277, illustrated. For sale by C. S. Luther.

MAGAZINES AND PAMPHLETS.

THE AMERICAN THEOLOGICAL REVIEW for April, maintains its high and scholarly reputation. Prof. Hiecock, of Union College, opens in an article on the Pentateuchic Aspect of Modern Philology. His own peculiar view is introduced as meeting the demands of faith and philosophy alike—a truly rational Psychology, in which is the only door of escape from Pantheism and a philosophical entrance upon a pure Theism.

THE ATLANTIC MONTHLY for April, opens with "A Letter to a Young Contributor," full of sound advice to literary aspirants, sparkling with bright and apposite illustrations drawn from a fertile and well-stored mind. Prof. Agassiz's paper on Methods of Study in Natural Science is of great value and interest.

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