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BRAVE AND PIOUS OFFICERS.

Whether pious men are becoming more numerous in high stations in the army, or whether piety itself is stimulating and expanding the capacities of its professors in the responsible and perilous positions they occupy, and thus bringing them into public notice and honor; it is certain that the attention of the people has of late been aroused more than ever before, to the cheering fact that among the bravest and best of our military men are to be found some of the brightest illustrations of the Christian character and life. It is a matter of unspeakable gratitude that there are men of the highest positions in our army, who are not afraid or ashamed, in the most unreserved manner, to confess Christ before their associates, and to carry out their Christian principles in the sphere which they occupy. They make it easier for the pious soldier in the ranks to maintain his profession. They leave their regiments and divisions and corps with a general sentiment in favor of personal religion. They help to check the demoralizing influences of the military life, to prepare the soldier for his high duties and his constant liability to sudden death, and if he lives, to send him back to civil life, a blessing and not a curse to the nation he has helped to save. They set before all classes of men, a most needed and salutary example, showing them convincingly, that God may be served and piety maintained under circumstances far more vexatious and unfavorable than any presented by the common round of daily life. They give us a much needed proof, that all we want to enable us to serve God faithfully in any calling, is the heart to do it, and not the opportunity. They stop the mouths of gainsayers, by showing them the heroic qualities which men instinctively admire, in connection with the more lowly virtues of true piety. They help materially to overthrow the unchristian opinion held by a certain class of infidels, and lately expressed by Mill, that "whatever exists of magnanimity, high-mindedness, personal dignity, even the sense of honor, is derived from the purely human, not the religious part of our education," and that "the ideal of Christian morality is passive rather than active; Innocence rather than Nobleness; Abstinence from Evil, rather than Energetic Pursuit of Good." The impetuous rush of thousands of American Christians, under the pure promptings of religious principle, to the forefront of this struggle, disproves such shallow cant of infidels. The armless coat-sleeve of that brave Christian, Major-General Howard, disproves it. The great social philosopher, John Stuart Mill, would have looked very contemptible if he had attempted to follow Gen. Howard's speech at the late anniversary of the Christian Commission, by reading those and similar witless extracts from his late work on Liberty.

We are willing to set our faces against these false and dishonorable conceptions of Christianity, with whatsoever ability they may be urged, a single paragraph from the speech of General Howard at the anniversary meeting. It will not lose its force, if we remember that the speaker had left his right arm on the battle-field of Fair Oaks, and had shared in the dangers of Chancellorsville, had planted our flag and maintained it on Cemetery Hill at Gettysburg, and had participated in the late brilliant victories in East Tennessee. Said the General:

"I trust that as I return to those regiments you love, your earnest prayers may follow me, that evil in their ranks may be repressed, that the soldiers may sing hymns to God, that when they go into the battle they may go without a particle of fear because they know in whom they have faith. My friends, I heard a gentleman who was not a Christian, say, with reference to General Magruder on the other side, 'He cannot be a very brave man; he cannot have true courage.' 'Why,' was asked, 'because he is a bad man; one who delights in destroying young men, and leading them into shame and degradation.' My friends, the highest type of courage is the Christian spirit. By the blessing of God, I have been enabled to exercise a clear conviction on this subject, and I have faith that when he chooses to call me away, I will be with him, not because I am good, holy, or righteous, but because I have a Saviour, an all-sufficient Saviour, who is able to save me and the chief of sinners. Therefore, I say I can go into battle, and fear no evil, and would to God that every officer in the army, (Applause) and every soldier, (Increased applause) should declare from the sincerity of his heart that God had done such great things for him." (Long continued applause.)

Among the pious and brave officers who have lately been before the Philadelphia

public, we cannot overlook Colonel Gregory of the 91st Pennsylvania, re-enlisted Volunteers. This regiment, led on by its gallant Colonel, whose horse was killed under him and himself wounded, advanced to within twenty-five feet of the rebel entrenchments at the heights of Fredericksburg, nearer than any other portion of the army. They also held the Round Top, on the extreme left of our position at Gettysburg, against repeated assaults of the foe. Their brave Colonel has not only re-enlisted in the service of his country, but has just been re-installed into the eldership of the Presbyterian Church in this city, having previously held the same office in Cincinnati.

A few evenings ago, his regiment had a most enthusiastic reception at Concert Hall, where a full set of colors was presented to them by the ladies of Philadelphia, in place of the tattered and bullet-marked flags which so significantly testified to their valor. The vast hall was thronged to overflowing with the citizens, ladies, and friends of the regiment. It was our privilege to open the exercises with prayer. And through the whole ceremony, nothing was clearer than that the ruling influence and master-spirit was Christian. It was thrilling to hear that officer, whose blood through more than one wound, had been given for his country, so fully acknowledge the divine superintendence in our affairs. And when he summoned the youthful "Color" Sergeant to come forward, and receive as a sacred trust, dearer than life, the newly presented colors, and earnestly commended him to the divine protection, the bright and starry folds seemed to shine with a radiance not of earth. Equally encouraging was it to hear from Colonel Gregory's lips such a full and cordial recognition of the moral bearings of the contest. He had been asked when would the war end; and in reply he would say, that he had made up his mind, that when the last fender was stricken from the last slave in America the war would come to a close. Heaven grant, exclaimed the Colonel, that there shall never be peace, until every rebel shall lay down his arms, and the shackles be broken from every slave in the land.

The Roman army had pious centurions in Judea; France had her Coligny and Schomberg; Russia had her Suwarrow, England her Havelock and Vicars; the army of the American Union has already had its praying Washington; and, in these days, may point gratefully to her Howard, and her Gregory as specimens of the combination of sincere and active piety with the highest military qualities—a combination not un-frequent in the hosts contending for our nationality and union.

MORE RESPONSES.

Our friends, and the friends on our field, of those important interests of the church represented by the Press, have not ceased their efforts to extend the circulation of our paper. Single names, and clubs continue to come in, and among the pleasantest features of the movement, is the renewal of effort again and again on the same field, by the same pastors, with success. Already, in less than two months, one-fifth of the entire increase of subscribers, absolutely necessary to sustain us in our present form, has been obtained without other effort on our part than the offers to agents made in our columns. These will be found on the last page; and we call the attention of such pastors and friends of the paper as have not yet exerted themselves, to our prospectus there printed.

Several letters recently received contain such cordial sentiments, that we cannot withhold them from our readers. A pastor in New York State, writes:

Your paper has always been a welcome guest. We propose to entertain it during 1864, especially since it has grown "in stature," and may we not also say, "in grace." Your journal may be truly entitled, "a religious family newspaper." It is helping its readers to love God and our country. It is intellectual, it is spiritual; it is loyal, it is good. May the blessed Lord smile upon you over, and aid you in responsibilities second to none.

Another pastor in New York, sending us three new names, says: "I think I can procure more when I have time. Your Rochester Correspondent is the right man in the right place."

Still another, in the same State, sends us a third installment of new names and writes as follows:

"Success attend your enterprise. I could have sent you the name of another subscriber to-day, a minister at another, but

I told him to set himself at work introducing the PRESBYTERIAN among his people, and to send on his name with a number added thereto."

We take pleasure in laying before our readers the following from a divine in the other branch of the church, whose name, in our own branch, is fragrant with the sweetest odors of Christian courtesy and brotherly love.—Rev. Septimus Tustin, D. D., of Washington City. He says:—
I cannot close without congratulating you on the enlargement of the AMERICAN PRESBYTERIAN. I sincerely hope that your reward will be commensurate with your efforts to gratify and benefit your readers. Whilst I rejoice in the success of the Editorial Advocates of my own branch of the Presbyterian Church, I feel that I can, without subjecting my ecclesiastical loyalty to suspicion, wish you, with a hearty good-will, GOD SPEED. THE AMERICAN PRESBYTERIAN, by its kind and catholic spirit, has nestled itself in the confidence of my family, and is treated with a consideration, only surpassed by what is due to more ancient and intimate friends.
Maneo in optimis vinculis.
SEPTIMUS TUSTIN.
Washington City, February 4th, 1864.

News of our Churches.

FIRST GERMAN CHURCH, CINCINNATI.—Members of the Second, Third and Popular St. Churches in the city, and of the Walnut Hills and College Hill Churches, recently made up a purse of \$170, as a donation to Rev. G. W. Winnes, of the First German Church, which was very acceptable, as his salary had been entirely too small to meet his expenses during these war times. The Christian Herald is glad to learn that the Young Men's Home Missionary Society have pledged, Mr. Winnes a handsome addition to his salary for next year, and that the condition and prospects of the Church are highly encouraging.

PORTSMOUTH, O.—The Trustees of the First Church have added \$300 to the salary of their pastor, Rev. E. P. Pratt, D. D. The recent collection for Home Missions taken up in Dr. Pratt's Church, amounted to \$288.17—the largest collection ever taken up in the church. This is a good example for our Western Churches.—Herald.

MORE DONATIONS.—The Herald contains Rev. David Gould and wife's acknowledgment of a donation visit from their people of Ripley Church, Ohio, Jan. 1, the substantial results of which were about \$100, mostly in money.—Rev. Geo. D. Horton, of Dexter, N. Y., acknowledges in the Evangelist, a donation visit from his friends, Jan. 21st, amounting to \$135.

CHENANGO PRESBYTERY met at New Berlin, N. Y., Jan. 12th. The pastoral relation between Rev. Alfred Ketchum and the Church of Sydney Plains, Del. Co., was dissolved. The following persons were elected as commissioners to the next General Assembly, ministers—S. N. Robinson and J. L. Jones, as alternate—Laymen, Joshua Pratt and Deacon Joe DeFores.

CHURCHES ON THE ADVANCE.—The First Church, Milwaukee, Rev. Dr. Towne, was reported entirely free from debt, at the last annual meeting, Jan. 20th, and its financial condition better than for fourteen years.—The church in Medina, N. Y., according to the Evangelist, has just cleared off a floating debt of several hundred dollars which had for years withstood all efforts of the kind; the financial condition of the church was never so prosperous as now.

ONTARIO PRESBYTERY met recently in the church at Genesee, N. Y.; which five years ago, was divided by some "Old School" zealots to make room for a church of the other branch. We doubt, with the writer in the Evangelist, whether our brethren would, if they could, repeat such acts of division. The pastoral office is apparently duly respected in the churches, ten of which have pastors or pastors-elect, and none stated supplies. Rev. A. L. Benton was chosen Moderator, and Rev. G. P. Folsom, permanent clerk, in place of Rev. Dr. Barnard, of Lima, resigned on account of ill health. The opening sermon by Rev. A. H. Parmelee was an earnest and encouraging exposition of the power of the preached word. Commissioners to Gen. Assembly: Rev. J. R. Page, principal, Rev. Dwight Scovel, alternate; Elders, H. Reynolds, M. D., principal, C. W. King, of Nunda, alternate. An order for collections and a Presbytery agent for each of the General Assembly's benevolent schemes was appointed. The subject of intemperance received the earnest attention of Presbytery. Adjourned to meet at Nunda, Feb. 8, to install Rev. Mr. Marsh over the church in that place.

REV. E. E. ADAMS.

The beloved pastor of North Broad St. Church has so far recovered from his recent nervous prostration as to be able to be with his people and conduct the services at the last Friday night prayer meeting. He then stated that a consultation of physicians had just been held on his case, who agreed that no serious apprehensions of the result need be entertained, and that a brief period of entire repose—perhaps as little as two months—would be sufficient for his restoration. We rejoice with the congregation in this satisfactory announcement.

HOME MISSIONS.

On application from the churches they serve, the following ministers were commissioned by the Presbytery Committee of Home Missions at their regular meeting.—Twelve of whom were under commission last year:
Rev. Israel C. Holmes, Maple Grove, Wis.
E. J. Hill, Thornton Station, Ills.
S. B. Shaw, Oneida and Roxand, Mich.
Rev. E. S. Smith, New Providence, Ind.
Jas. A. Darrah, West Ely, Me.
C. Osborn, Dearbornville, Mich.
S. P. Hildreth, Dresden, O.
J. W. Elliot, Coudersport, Pa.
C. Q. Reynolds, Hunter, N. Y.
E. W. Brown, West Dresden, N. Y.
W. H. Smith, De Soto, and Olathe, Kansas.
Rev. J. B. Preston, Omro, Wis.
J. L. Nash, Council Grove, Wilmington and vicinity, Kansas.
Rev. H. Van Houten, Hawley, Pa.
T. Hempstead, Fairbury, Ills.
P. G. Buchanan, Watsonville, Cal.
J. E. Conrad, Blue Earth City, Winnebago City and vicinity.

FROM OUR ROCHESTER CORRESPONDENT.

DEAR EDITOR.—Perhaps the matter of greatest interest just now among your glacial readers in all this region may be designated by the pleasant terms, *donations, surprises, purses*, and the like. There seems to be a perfect shower of good things falling down upon the devoted heads of the faithful pastors. Congregations seem to have got loose and lawless. They think nothing of walking into their minister's house, especially in his absence, taking possession of the entire establishment, lighting up parlors, and bed rooms, spreading out their viands in tempting order. This being done, they uniformly take it for granted that the good man of the house will return most unexpectedly at this particular juncture, amazed and confounded at the scenes of enchantment before him.

Then what an eating and chatting; what delightful expressions of good will flow from lip to lip; what animation and real delight rule the flying hours whilst love and fellowship are wearing deeper channels in every happy heart. How easy it is for a people in such circumstances to recall every virtue of the devoted pastor, and forget every fault. They never saw his excellence more clearly; they never loved him more ardently; they never desired his long life and continued usefulness more fervently; and never before thought of so many ways in which they might aid and cheer him in all his earnest endeavors to promote their welfare. What good resolutions are then formed. They mean to attend all the prayer meetings, and "take a part" whenever called upon; to be punctual and constant in attendance upon the sanctuary; to be wakeful and docile hearers; to see that the salary of their dear minister shall be liberal and punctually paid; and that every thing shall be done which is necessary to his highest comfort and usefulness.

And then, as all such social gatherings must have an end, the time comes for separation. But first there is a little service entrusted to some competent hand, as the crowning act of the evening. The pastor is somehow hustled very gently into some conspicuous part of the room; whereupon all is silent and expectant, as the mouth-piece of the congregation begins a little set speech. He tells the pastor how much they love him, how highly they prize his counsels, and how utterly unable they are adequately to reward him for his faithfulness; but begging him to accept "this slight token" of their high appreciation of his services, and their most fervent wish for his continued prosperity and usefulness.

The pastor, good meek man, is astonished, overwhelmed by this unexpected and undeserved kindness. Words are inadequate to express his obligation, his love,

and his gratitude. He can only wish that he were half as worthy of their confidence and esteem as they seem to suppose; and if the sincerity and fervor of his present intentions can only make him so, he certainly shall henceforth serve them more faithfully and acceptably.

There has not been, perhaps, in all the year, a meeting of the congregation more delightful, or really more valuable than this; none which has done more to strengthen the minds of the people to receive the truth to the highest advantage from his lips. And the past month, the opening of the year, has witnessed, in substance, many such gatherings which shall not fail of their reward. Rev. Mr. Fox, of Ogden, was the recipient of three hundred dollars; Rev. Mr. Phelps, of Chili, one hundred and thirty; Rev. Mr. Starr, of Penn Yan, two hundred; whilst other ministers, such as Mr. Folsom, of Genesee, and Mr. Boardman, of Binghamton, have had handsome additions made to their regular salaries.

Who can doubt that every one of these pastors will be stimulated to higher and nobler efforts for his people? There will be a marked improvement in pastoral visitations and pulpit ministrations. In many cases, also, we doubt not, revivals will speedily follow.

Query.—We wonder what effect such a phenomenon would have upon editors and correspondents. Why couldn't they write better articles, or preach better type-sermons to their vast congregations, after such a pleasant surprise? And how they too would be astonished and overwhelmed with the unexpected and undeserved kindness. But it must be confessed that our parish is rather widely scattered for such an operation; and an editor's sanctum is seldom large enough for all his parish to assemble in; so he must find his reward in his work.

MR. HAMMOND'S LABORS.

Many readers of the Presbyterian will rejoice to learn that this devoted servant of Christ has been greatly blessed in his labors in Haverhill, Mass., as he was but a few weeks before in Lawrence. Great crowds have filled the Town Hall night after night to hear him preaching. Daily prayer meetings and children's meetings have also been held. Pastors and people of different denominations have joined in a delightful harmony of effort, while the great God has been pleased to add his blessing, and many souls, it is confidently believed, has been truly converted. We are greatly indebted to some unknown friends for keeping us informed of this blessed work in that region, and for many incidents of special interest in connection with it.

But we are pained to add that Mr. Hammond's health is so much impaired by these exhausting labors, that he is reluctantly compelled to desist altogether, and seek its restoration by foreign travel. He is about to start for Palestine, expecting to be absent about a year, and to make an extensive tour in the East. The prayers and blessings of thousands will follow him, hoping for his complete recovery, his safe return, and his greatly augmented usefulness in the future.

FREEDMEN'S RELIEF.

A good work has been done this week in this city in behalf of the poor refugees within our lines, especially in the Southwest. Old clothes, enough to cover the nakedness of a thousand or twelve hundred of them, have been collected, by a spontaneous and general effort, and are now being sent off, as fast as possible, to the relief of those poor creatures who have not already perished for want of just such assistance, so easily bestowed.

Similar efforts are being made in Utica, Adams, and other places; Freedmen's Relief Associations being formed, not with a view to this present spasmodic effort alone, but to continue and aid, as may be necessary, in the care of these millions emancipated by the hand of Providence, and plainly committed to our guardianship.

At the same time the mania for *Sanitary fairs* is still raging. A monster one is to come off in Buffalo on the 23d of February; Ex-President Fillmore is President of the association; and the Buffalonians are determined to do the thing up just as handsomely as it can be done by any people under the sun. We do not doubt they will raise a large amount of money.

At Elmira also a similar movement is on foot for the "Southern Tier of Counties." Little Elmira too will do all she can, especially as she aspires soon to be a

city. This place having been from the beginning of the war, a rendezvous for troops, its business and population have been greatly augmented; so much so that its inhabitants are moving, as we understand, for a city charter. And we do not see why they have not as good a right as the inhabitants of any place. The honors would become them.

The Presbytery of Utica held its annual meeting last week at New Hartford, and attended to the usual routine of business, beside which an earnest and important discussion arose, in which Rev. Drs. Fowler and Fisher took a leading part on the subject of *Sabbath-Cheese-making*. It seems that this is a growing evil in that dairy country. Large cheese factories are being erected in every direction. The milk of great numbers of cows is brought together daily from many surrounding farms. Must this be so on the Sabbath?

A committee previously appointed reported to Presbytery—1st, that such work was not a necessity; and 2dly, that while the private or domestic making of cheese on the Sabbath may prevent a large number of persons from attending public worship, the factory system, by its greater publicity, tends to destroy the quiet and encourage the open profanation of the day.

The report also recommended that a special committee be appointed to examine all the facts in the case, and prepare a circular for Presbyterial action at the semi-annual meeting in June next. In accordance with this recommendation the same committee, consisting of Rev. Dr. Fisher, Rev. Mr. Manly, and Elder J. K. Brown, were appointed to this service.

The Ladies of New Hartford have also set on foot a course of lectures, from such eminent men as Dr. Cox, Pres. Fisher, and Prof. Upson, the lecturers to give their services, and the proceeds of the course to go to the Sanitary Commission. We should expect every man, woman and child of the place to attend those lectures and compel a success.

PERSONAL.

Rev. John Wicks, who has been for several years pastor of the church at Brighton, near Rochester, has received and accepted a call to the Presbyterian Church in Ripley, in the western part of the State. We have known Mr. Wicks well, and trust he has fallen into good hands—into a pleasant and productive field of labor. He was highly esteemed and much beloved in his Brighton parish. He is a scholarly, earnest and judicious man—he wears well. If we had their ear, we could commend him warmly to the confidence and love and co-operation of those among whom his lot has fallen.

Rev. Simon J. Humphrey, of Beloit, Wis., as we learn also, has received and accepted the appointment of District Secretary of the American Board of Missions for the Northwest, to reside at Chicago. This is the right man in the right place. Mr. Humphrey was settled for a time over the Presbyterian Church in Newark, Ohio. From there he was called, a few years since, to the pastorate of the 1st Congregational Church of Beloit, Wis., where he has labored with so much earnestness, diligence, and acceptableness, as seriously to impair his health. His people gave him the whole summer in which to rest and recruit; but even this was not enough. He is still too much unwell to return to the pastoral work. An outdoor life will doubtless be better for him, and we are glad that he has accepted this appointment, for which he is peculiarly qualified in all respects; well educated, gentlemanly, pleasing in address, catholic in spirit, acceptable alike in both denominations, with whom he must co-operate, earnest in piety, and withal a man of excellent business education and habits.

On this latter point we speak from the best of testimony, for he received his business education in this city, where he has many relatives, and where he is still remembered with peculiar interest. We doubt if a better man could be found for the post. He will handle missionary themes with decided ability; he will be a pleasant guest in any house; an acceptable speaker at missionary and ecclesiastical meetings; and at the same time prompt, judicious and accurate in all business matters. We trust he will find such welcome with pastors and churches in all the great West, as these qualifications and the merits of the glorious cause which he represents should command. GENESSEE.

ROCHESTER, Feb. 5th, 1864.