

American Presbyterian.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1865.

BILLS have now been sent to all subscribers who have not paid in advance for the current year.

LOOK AT THE BOTTOM OF THE BILLS, and you will find the explanation in the sentence which reads "Less 50 cents, if paid within three months from date."

No subscriptions received, and no accounts closed, for less than six months. No attention will be paid to requests for discontinuances, unless the settlements are made in accordance with this regulation.

THE NEXT UNITED PRAYER MEETING will be held on Tuesday evening, 21st instant, in the First Presbyterian Church, Manayunk, Rev. A. Culver pastor.

THE "EVENING BULLETIN."—This old established, reliable, sound, and loyal evening paper, one of "the institutions" of our city, has recently been sold to a portion of the former owners, for the sum of \$90,000, within a fraction.

PHILADELPHIA BENEVOLENCE.—The report of the work of the Union Benevolent Society among the poor of this city, for 1864, foots up as follows:—The visitors made 11,425 visits; distributed relief to 3,445 families; 54 of those under their care were sent to school, and 560 sick provided for; 4,889 orders for coal were given out.

AN IGNORANT ASSERTION.—One of the pleasant religious aspects of the times, is the care which the secular press generally takes to keep itself informed of the state of things in the churches, and the respectful tone in which it speaks of whatever concerns the interests of religion.

The best evidence, perhaps, that no such progress is taking place, is that pastors and people are still waging, with but slightly abated fierceness, the sectarian controversies that are making a thousand infidels for every convert to the truths that are common to the whole divided and belligerent brotherhood of Christians, under whatever variety of name they are distinguished;

The stupidity of the assertion contained in the commencement of the above extract is the more inexcusable because cordiality between different evangelical denominations is one of the known and recognized principal religious features of the times, diffused throughout all Christian lands, and nowhere more obvious than in this locality where the above utterance was made.

FROM OUR CORRESPONDING EDITOR.

QUARTER CENTURY SERMON.

Rev. A. G. Hall, D.D., of the Third Presbyterian Church, of Rochester, has been indulging in this felicity,—for such it may be regarded for a clergyman, in these times of change, to retain his position and continue his usefulness, in one place, for so long a time.

And this furnishes us a pleasant opportunity to say a word in regard to this church, for which we have had a right to indulge some special affections, ever since we stood, with about ninety others, gathered in its aisles and areas, to take upon ourselves, for the first time, the solemn vows of church fellowship.

EARLY HISTORY. The early history of this church was striking and somewhat chequered. It was the scene of the first, and we had almost said the brightest, ministerial labors of Rev. Joel Parker.

We have sometimes wondered if his life might not have been quite as useful, though far less varied, if he had remained here to this day, and had never been anything else than pastor of the Third Church.

THE CHURCH ORGANIZED. Preaching was commenced with a view to the formation of this church in December, 1826. Mr. Parker was then a mere licentiate, but a short time out of the Theological Seminary; but his preaching was with power.

The church was organized February 28, 1827. In 1828 it reported one hundred and fifty members; in 1832, four hundred and two; but in 1837, only two hundred and fifty, a large number having been dismissed, in the meantime, to form the First Free Church, of Rochester.

THE EARLY LABORERS. In the early days of this enterprise, the famous Josiah Bissell, a man of remarkable energy and enterprise was the moving spirit.

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After Mr. Parker and Mr. Finney left? after preaching of such a high order, and revival scenes of such marvellous interest, which had lasted almost without interruption for five years, the pulpit of the Third Church was not a desirable place for any ordinary man.

Rev. Luke Lyons was called, installed, and dismissed—all in less than seven months. Rev. William C. Wisner, then a young man, just beginning to preach, and without the fine reputation for intellect and power, which he has since so well earned, was the regularly ordained and installed pastor, for about eight months.

Of course, the ship was already in a storm, with breakers ahead. Their fine stone house of worship was sold for their debts, and they were driven by stress of weather into a little shelter near by. The house was bought, and long occupied by the Second Baptist Society, whose late accomplished pastor, Rev. Geo. D. Boardman, the good city of Philadelphia was pleased to get away from us last year.

After Mr. Wisner left, the church was two years without a settled minister, and came near utter dissolution. Indeed, the question of disbanding, we are told, was seriously contemplated, and probably would have prevailed, except for a letter received by one of its members in the spring of 1834, while Mr. Parker was preaching at New Orleans, saying that he was soon coming North, and would spend the summer in Rochester.

This gave cheer to their counsels. The plan was to get their old, first minister to supply them for a time, and give them a new start. Mr. Parker, however, did not come; but the mere hope of his coming enabled them to turn the current, and in November of that year, Rev. William Mack, then a licentiate, (and since a minister at Knoxville, Tennessee,) came among them, and commenced preaching. Under his ministry, the church gradually revived, and built a new house of worship. After a successful pastorate of five years, Mr. Mack was compelled to leave, on account of ill-health.

Rev. Albert G. Hall was installed November 10, 1840, and still continues in the pastoral relation. In the mean time, the house of worship built during Mr. Mack's ministry has been burned down, rebuilt, and finally torn down, to give place to business blocks; and two years ago the society completed another, and much more desirable church edifice, in a better locality, where the quarter century sermon was preached, to a large, and

attentive, and gratified audience on Sunday, 29th of January, 1865, reviewing the past, and prospecting for the future.

THE REUNION.

And on Thursday evening of this week, the congregation, "in expression of their esteem for Rev. A. G. Hall, D.D., and in grateful appreciation of his devotion in a ministry of twenty-five years as their pastor," held "a reunion of the present and former members of the congregation in social assembly with their pastor," at the new house of B. H. Hollister, Esq., on Plymouth Avenue.

have transpired in this city. When we returned here but two years ago Mr. Coit was pastor at St. Peter's, now Dr. Yeomans; Dr. Pease was in the First Church, now Mr. Beadle; Jonathan Edwards had just left the Plymouth, now Rev. D. K. Bartlett is its pastor; and while Mr. Ellinwood, of the Central Church, is far away seeking health, Rev. Dr. Chester, of Buffalo, supplies his place.

THE PRESBYTERY OF UTICA. This body held its annual meeting at Vernon, commencing on Tuesday, Jan. 31. Rev. S. W. Bruce was elected Moderator; Messrs. Dunham and Manly, Clerks.

A question of great interest, which came up at this meeting of Presbytery, was the subject of Cheese-making on the Sabbath. This is giving serious trouble in some of our churches. Church members are seduced into, and are patronizing the cheese factories, with all the noise and work incident to those extensive operations.

On one occasion a man rose and said, "I have lived a very wicked life, having been engaged as a pirate in the slave trade. Pray for me, if you think it will be of any use to pray for such a wicked man as I am."

On the afternoon of Wednesday, February 1st, Mr. G. L. Hamilton, who was a licentiate of Rochester Presbytery, and a graduate of Auburn Seminary, was ordained and installed as pastor of the Church of Vernon. In the absence of Dr. Darling, of Albany, the sermon was preached by Rev. John Lyle, of Utica; ordaining prayer by Rev. W. E. Knox, of Rome; charge to the pastor by Rev. Dr. Fowler; charge to the people by President Fisher.

Rev. Dr. Fisher and Rev. M. E. Dunham, with Elders J. E. Warner and J. C. Gallup, were elected Commissioners to the next General Assembly. Elder James Cook was elected Commissioner to Auburn Seminary.

Rev. J. N. McGiffert, the "Presbyterial agent" for Foreign Missions, made a full and elaborate report, such as the General Assembly wants from all the Presbyterial agents, showing that the contributions to this cause had increased within the bounds of Presbytery, within the past year, nearly nine hundred dollars. This is partly owing, we know, to Mr. McGiffert's faithfulness.

A very interesting revival of religion is now in progress in the Presbyterian Church of Attica, under the faithful labors of Rev. John Wickes, their pastor.

In Brasher Falls, also, St. Lawrence county, the Lord is doing great things for the little church there, such as they have never before known. Twelve persons were received into the fold last Sabbath, nine of them heads of families, and among the most prominent citizens of the place. It was for those we saw that the heart of the pastor, Rev. S. W. Pratt, was yearning but a few weeks ago, when we were there, and now he has his reward.

We cannot speak of any revival in this city, and yet twelve were received into the Brick Church last Sabbath, and seven into the Central.

TABOR CHURCH.—INTERESTING COMMUNION.—A very precious communion season was enjoyed on the last Sabbath in the Tabor Presbyterian Church in this city, Rev. George Van Deus pastor. It was the first sacramental service in the new church, the dedication of which we recently announced.

Rev. Albert G. Hall was installed November 10, 1840, and still continues in the pastoral relation. In the mean time, the house of worship built during Mr. Mack's ministry has been burned down, rebuilt, and finally torn down, to give place to business blocks; and two years ago the society completed another, and much more desirable church edifice, in a better locality, where the quarter century sermon was preached, to a large, and

she walked some three squares to the church, with a step, which, but for the lines of almost ninety years, on her face, might have spoken of the sprightliness of youth. It was a moving and joyful sight—this late but happy folding of one so long astray upon the mountains. Precious and safe be her rest where the Great Shepherd keeps guard!

CHEERING NEWS FROM THE ARMY.

Every Christian who has a son, brother, or friend in our army, will peruse, with earnest thanksgiving to God, the subjoined letter from Rev. Wm. Sterrett, pastor of the Third Reformed Presbyterian Church of this city, and well-known as one of the most judicious, earnest, and successful of our city pastors, confirmatory of the numerous reports of the progress of the revival in the army, which reach us from every quarter, but which want of space prevents us from publishing:—

During my term of service I have visited all the stations of the Christian Commission but two in the Army of the Potomac and of the James. In the Army of the Potomac the base of operations is City Point. At this place the base hospital for the Army of the Potomac is located. The number of patients varies from time to time; at present there are about six thousand. There are four other stations at different points in the Army of the Potomac, namely, Meade, Parke, Warren, and Patrick. In the Army of the James the base of operations is Point of Rocks, on the Appomattox. In addition to this there are four other stations in the field.

At all these stations there are buildings and tents in which meetings are held with the soldiers. The attendance upon these meetings is always good; usually the chapels are crowded. I have never seen more attentive hearers than in these meetings. After a sermon has been preached the meeting is thrown open for prayer and exhortation. It is quite common for twenty or thirty to stand up or hold up their hands, asking those who are Christians to pray for them.

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News of our Churches.

CANNONVILLE, N. Y., is astir in the labors of Christian love. Our church there has just comforted its pastor, Rev. J. J. Hough, with an increase of salary, and also donations to the amount of between \$150 and \$200.

NEW HARTFORD, N. Y.—Rev. Mr. Furbish, late chaplain in the army, has accepted a call to the church in this place, and arrangements for his installation were made at the meeting of the Presbytery of Utica, on the 1st inst.

MONTGOMERY, N. Y.—The pastor, Rev. J. M. McNulty, has recently been presented with a purse of \$400, as a token of the affection of his people. The congregation recently raised \$1,400 to cancel a debt of \$700. We judge that debt to be finished.

ONWARD WITH THE GOOD WORK.—The High Street Presbyterian Church, Newark, N. J., (Rev. Dr. Poor's), has taken its place among those which rejoice in freedom from debt. A late generous rally to the figure of \$8,000 is what has done it. Another act of generous justice (there is such a quality as that) has been performed by a handsome and permanent addition to the pastor's salary.

ITHACA, N. Y.—The First Presbyterian Church in this place is about to suffer the loss of a valued pastor, Rev. Dr. D. L. Torrey, whose state of health compels him to offer his resignation. We have few finer churches in Western New York than this, showing, after the lapse of a generation, the foot-prints of the remarkable pastorate of the venerable Wisner.

DRYDEN, N. Y.—Since the week of prayer, some thirty or more appear to have experienced conversion. Among them are Sabbath-school scholars, students in the Academy, and heads of families. The pastor writes:—"We held services afternoon and evening. The work of grace is free from excitement, and in the inquiry meeting we find many who are led there by the Holy Spirit, and are asking, what must I do to be saved?"

MOUNT VERNON, N. Y.—The pastorate in this place is again filled: Mr. G. C. Hamilton was ordained and installed over this church, on the 1st inst., by the Presbytery of Utica. The sermon was preached by Rev. J. Lyle, the city missionary in Utica, a new man on the field, who is making his influence felt as a man of earnest Christian effort, and adaptedness to the peculiar work which he has assumed. Dr. Fowler, of Utica, charged the pastor, and President Fisher, of Hamilton College, the congregation.

FROM RICHVILLE, ILL., we hear, through a letter from Rev. T. S. Reeve to the Christian Herald, of a protracted meeting, with the following among other results:—"Over one hundred persons, from thirteen to fifty years of age, have professed to have found peace and pardon through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. A divided church has been harmonized—a scattered flock has been re-gathered, and God is now adding, nearly, if not quite or more, one-third to their membership." Among these converts are five young men just about to enter the army.

LANE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY.—We learn through an exchange, that Rev. Wm. Van Vleck, one of the graduates of this institution, has recently presented to the Trustees the sum of ten thousand dollars for the immediate purchase of the best of the recent theological books of Great Britain and the continent. This, with the large and valuable collection purchased in Europe several years since by Dr. Stowe, and the additions since made, will form one of the most important theological libraries in the country, and be an inestimable boon to the West.

The new library building, erected at the expense of Preserved Smith, Esq., of Dayton, is nearly finished, and promises to be, in respect to light, convenience, simplicity, and elegance, all that its projectors designed. It will be open several hours each day, and every facility be afforded of access to the literary treasures on its shelves.

OXFORD, OHIO.—Rev. Mr. Kummer's church, in this place, is enjoying the special effusion of the Holy Spirit. The work is especially powerful in the Western Female Seminary there located. A writer in the Christian Herald says of it:—"It seemed to begin with the year. About a fortnight since it broke forth in its full power and suddenly. Christians were not prepared for it. Prayer had been offered and means had been diligently employed; but the coming of the Lord to his temple was, after all, a surprise, so overwhelming was it. Everything yielded to it. Last week, Thursday, the stated exercises of the school were omitted, so intense was the desire to attend wholly to eternal things. And now, out of one hundred and sixty pupils, there is scarcely a single one who does not appear to have given up her will to God. On every occasion the eagerness to be taught the way of life is very touching. The hushed air, the ear inclined, the eye filled, the face radiant, the soul speaking out its hunger and thirst, all make it most delightful to dispense the gospel. It is really impossible to close a religious service, so quick, and earnest, and pertinent are the questions that follow each other about the duties and the difficulties of the Christian. Of course, those who had been serving the Lord before are now greatly quickened. This part of the work is hardly less marked or important than the conversion of the impenitent. A new and far better life has begun in all."

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STURGIS, MICH.—Our thrifty church in this place has just disencumbered itself of a debt of \$1,200, and complimented its pastor, Rev. W. C. Clark, with a visit, which left in his hands upwards of \$200.

KESSEVILLE, N. Y.—We recently noticed the ordination of Rev. Mr. Butler at this place. The congregation has since placed in his hand a donation of \$328, cleared off the church debt, and, as we learn from The Evangelist, is receiving tokens of a spiritual blessing.

ORDINATION.—Mr. A. McMasters, a licentiate laboring as Stated Supply with the churches of Fly Creek and Exeter, N. Y., was, on the 17th ult., ordained, without installation, to the full work of the gospel ministry, by the Presbytery of Otsego, in session at Cooperstown, N. Y. Rev. S. J. White, of Gilbertsville, preached the sermon, and Rev. Charles Gillette, of Milford, gave the charge.

CANISTO, N. Y.—A business note from a gentleman connected with our church in this place, to one of the editors, says:—"For the past three weeks we have had meetings every evening. Twelve whom we think substantial, have passed from the world to Christ—perhaps more. The members have been much blessed by the reviving of their spiritual strength."

DECEASE OF MRS. HAMMOND.—A note from Vernon, Connecticut, conveys the intelligence that the aged mother of Rev. E. P. Hammond had a joyful and triumphant transition on the 7th inst. She died at her residence in that place.

Mr. Hammond goes to Detroit this week.

VICTORY OF THE ORTHODOX IN FRANCE.

Our readers may remember the agitation caused last year, among the Protestants of Paris, about the refusal on the part of the Presbyterial Council to re-engage the Rev. A. Coquerel, Jr., as pastor. This clergyman is the son of the Rev. Athanasius Coquerel, who has been, for many years, one of the leaders of the Rationalistic party in France, and the son seems to be no more orthodox than the father. After he had supplied the pulpit as a suffragant (a kind of a vicar) for a certain time, the Presbyterial Council voted not to renew his appointment, on the ground of his sympathies with Renan. This act caused quite a sensation in France, and even the political papers took part in the controversy. Whatever could be said by the adversaries of the Council, the act was an accomplished fact, and no one could alter it. The Rationalists had to submit and console themselves by declaiming against the "bigotry" and "intolerance" of the Evangelicals. This year, they have been at work very actively in electioneering, as the Presbyterial Council had to be renewed, so as to secure, if possible, a majority in that body. The Orthodox, on the other hand, have prepared for the contest, and we hear from a late French correspondence that the five members who have been elected are all of the Evangelical party, a fact of great importance at the present juncture of affairs. Mons. Guizot, the great historian and statesman, was the leader of the orthodox, and no doubt has done much in securing this success, which is gained, however, at the cost of elimination from the council. His prominent position and activity in this matter prevented his being re-elected; but if he is personally beaten, he has had the satisfaction of seeing the good cause triumph. Another member of the Presbyterial Council is to be elected soon; it may be expected that this election will also cause a stir in the Protestant world of Paris.

THE CONFLAGATION OF LAST WEEK.

A calamity of unusual severity befel the southern section of our city on Tuesday night and Wednesday morning of last week. Nearly two thousand barrels of petroleum, stored above ground, on Ninth and Washington streets, took fire and poured their burning contents in a perfect torrent two feet deep along the gutters, and covering half the width of Ninth street, for three blocks. The flames rose to the height of the eaves of the houses, and the inhabitants, while their houses were burning over their heads, were hemmed in by a torrent of flame flowing in some localities, all around them. In several families were burned out. In one house, a whole family perished, without being able to make any perceptible attempts to escape. In another, the mother and five daughters perished, the husband and two sons having escaped, severely injured. This family, the WARES, were connected with the Wharton St. Congregation, the mother and one daughter being members, and the other children connected with the Sabbath-school. Mrs. Ware had only on the Saturday preceding, become a subscriber to this paper. Mrs. Ware had already passed through the awful torrent, with her boys, comparatively unharmed, and was returning to look for her husband, who delayed a moment in the house, when she fell, a sacrifice to her womanly affection and solicitude. Another husband succeeded in saving nothing from his house but the corpse of his wife, prepared for burial.

Large contributions for the sufferers are being made, and prompt action has been taken by the judicial and legislative authorities against the storing of petroleum in the city limits.

FREE LABOR FOR THE FREE SOUTH.

The following information has lately been communicated by the Hon. J. C. Underwood, of Alexandria, Va., U. S. Judge of the District of Eastern Virginia, in reply to inquiries by Prof. W. H. Woodbury, of Norfolk, Va.:—"The first sale of land and city property, in Norfolk, Portsmouth, and vicinity, will begin on the 30th of January next. This property, formerly owned by rebels, has been confiscated for their disloyalty and for non-payment of taxes imposed by Congress; and I think we shall sell one or four millions' worth during the months of January and February, and I trust it will be purchased, as the property here has been, by truly loyal men, and that the effect will be the same with you as with us, to wit: the making that desirable portion of the State as loyal as New England."

CANADA.—The Canada courts have finally and decisively settled the point that there shall be no protection for rebel raiders in that province. Burley, one the rascals so summarily released by Judge Coursal and re-arrested, after going through the whole round of legal resorts, is at length doomed to be delivered up to our authorities for participation in the St. Alban's raid. Others who have been re-arrested, must of course follow suit. The Canadian Parliament opened at Quebec, January 19. The Governor General, in his opening speech, strongly urged the point, that Canada cannot be an asylum for persons committing unlawful outrages within the territory of the United States. Coursal has been suspended for his atrocious decision, and will probably be removed.