

Editor's Table.

SERMONS PREACHED IN BOSTON ON THE DEATH OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN. Together with the Funeral Services in the East Room of the Executive Mansion, at Washington. Boston: J. E. Tilton & Co. 16mo., pp. 379.

The ear of the general public has never been more readily yielded to the teachings of the pulpit, than during the four years of our national trial; and when the rebellion culminated in the assassination of Mr. Lincoln, this popular feeling also seemed to reach its acme. The people, as by a single impulse, rushed in crowds to the churches, and hung upon the words of their spiritual teachers with a solemnity and an interest almost unequalled. Our great struggle in almost all its phases, and especially in the last, has presented so many moral and Scriptural aspects, and has been so closely and grandly connected with the progress of our country and our race, as sought by Christianity itself, that it has supplied inspiration to her ministers, and communicated uncommon interest and value to their discourses. The volume before us is designed to perpetuate some of these memorable effusions of pulpit oratory, called forth by the death of the President. It embraces a report of the funeral services at Washington, and twenty-four sermons and addresses by the clergy of Boston, including such well-known names as Drs. Kirk, Stone, Huntington, Hague, and others. It is a most interesting memorial of the occasion; full of patriotic and wholesome sentiments nobly expressed. The externals of the volume are very neat and substantial.

SHeldon. A Manual of Elementary Instruction, for the use of Public and Private Schools, and Normal Classes, containing a graduated course of object lessons for Training the Senses and Developing the Faculties of Children. By E. A. Sheldon, Superintendent of Schools, Oswego, N. Y.; assisted by Miss M. E. Jones, and Prof. H. Krusi. Sixth edition, revised and enlarged. New York: Chas. Scribner & Co. 12mo., pp. 471. For sale by J. B. Lippincott & Co.

A very thorough treatise on teaching by the "object method," every part of which shows a conscientious regard for the true interests of the scholar, as well as for the particular topic of instruction. The peculiarity of the method pursued is, that it aims to put in active and interested exercise the perceptive faculties rather than the memory of the pupil, the memory itself being the more effectually enlisted for a truth which the scholar has had a hand in developing. A full and valuable course of instruction is marked out and illustrated on all the leading topics, including color, form, object, number, size, weight, &c. Many engravings are given, and the whole is in a high degree graphic, itself exemplifying most successfully the system it is designed to inculcate. By the way, "object teaching," as the introduction informs us, is no novelty; being little else than the Pestalozzian system, modified and improved by the aid of further investigations and experiments. One of the parties named on the title-page, Krusi, is the son of a person who, for twenty years, was a leading teacher in the school of Pestalozzi himself.

We regard the appearance of such thorough treatises on teaching as this of Mr. Sheldon, and another of Prof. Wickersham, recently noticed, both of which recognize the claims of religion and are written in a truly Christian, though not dogmatical, spirit, as one of the most hopeful signs of the times.

J. S. CLAXTON'S BOOKS.

PHILIP IN PALESTINE. Edited by M. A. Edwards. 16mo., pp. 298. Philada.: J. S. Claxton. \$1.25.

A graphically written narrative of a Philadelphia boy's travels in Palestine, in the form of letters from the boy-traveller to a friend whom he left behind. They have all the charm and freshness of reality, and form a truly instructive book of travels. It is illustrated with spirited cuts and handsomely printed and bound.

THE POWER OF GOLD; or, Martin Walter. 16mo., pp. 220. 90 cts.

A story of much power and pathos, illustrating in the life of a poor Silesian weaver, who unexpectedly inherited a fortune, the hardening effect of covetousness on the heart and character.

THE PASTOR'S SON. By Helen Hazlett, author of the "Heights of Heidelberg." 18mo., pp. 148. 60 cts.

A sad story of failure in family government and in fidelity to pastoral duty on the part of an amiable but weak minister. The violations of Christian propriety in the Sanitary Fairs of the last four years, and the readiness of some ministers and many Christian people to wink at, or even approve of, such proceedings, are truthfully described and rebuked in this little volume.

From the same publisher we have:

THE TWO FRIENDS. By Caroline M. Trowbridge. 16mo., pp. 271.

CLIFTON RICE. By the author of "Win and Wear." 18mo., pp. 278.

IDA KLEINVOGEL. 18mo., pp. 115.

All the above are for sale at the Presbyterian Book Store, 1334 Chestnut St.

HENRY HOYT'S BOOKS.

THE SPRING RIDE; or, Partington Hall. From the Religious Tract Society. 16mo., pp. 282. Boston: Henry Hoyt. For sale at 1334 Chestnut street.

Quite an original story, in which the leading character reminds one of the eccentric Lady Hester Stanhope; its aim is to illustrate the power of the Gospel. The latter part of the volume contains "Irish Mission Scenes." The externals are elegant and substantial.

THE OLD BARREKS; or, Seeing the Light. By Caroline E. Kelly. Boston: Henry Hoyt. 16mo., pp. 344. For sale at 1334 Chestnut street.

An agreeably written story, full of profitable lessons, showing the enlightening

ing of a frivolous and ignorant mind with a sense of the truth of the Gospel, and the pleasure and profit of a life of effort for the evangelization and elevation of the poor. Beautifully printed and illustrated.

CHEAP SERIES OF POETS.

COMPANION POETS FOR THE PEOPLE. Illustrated. Household Poems. By Henry W. Longfellow. Boston: Ticknor & Fields, Sq. 18mo., pp. 96. Paper covers, 50 cts.

The publishers deserve the thanks of the public for undertaking this portable and cheap series. The typography is elegant, and the numerous engravings highly significant and in excellent taste. Even in these times, cheapness and elegance may be found in company, in some quarters. The exquisite "Household Poems" of Mr. Longfellow, will be followed by selections from Tennyson, Whittier, Robert Browning, O. V. Holmes, and Mrs. Stowe. Travellers will find the volumes admirably adapted to their wants.

PAMPHLETS AND PERIODICALS. BLACKWOOD'S EDINBURGH MAGAZINE for May, contains, Sir Brook Fosbrooke, I; Life of Sterne; Cornelius O'Dowd, XV.; Miss Majorbanks, IV.; To a Lark; State and Prospect of Parties.

New York: L. Scott & Co., Philadelphia: W. B. Zieber.

WESTMINSTER REVIEW for April, 1865, contains, Conte's Philosophy; St. John's Gospel; State of English Law, Codification; Modern Novelists; Sir E. Bulwer Lytton; Parliament and Reform; Canadian Confederacy; Contemporary Literature.

New York: L. Scott & Co., Philadelphia: W. B. Zieber.

PHILADELPHIA PHOTOGRAPHER for 1865. Beneman & Wilson, southwest cor. Seventh and Cherry.

THE END OF THE UPRIGHT. A memorial Sermon on the Death of Mr. Geo. W. Forbes, preached in the Clinton Street Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia, on the 8th of January, 1865, by Rev. Daniel March, D.D. Printed by the Session of Clinton Street Church.

HOURS AT HOME. A popular Monthly Devoted to Religious and Useful Literature. Edited by J. M. Sherwood, June. Contents, Embellishment—Christ Blessing Little Children; German Painters of the Modern School; Overbeck; St. Elizabeth of Hungary; Theology of the Beautiful; Bishop Berkeley in America; Rest; A Folded Leaf; How George Neumark Sung his Hymn; Fred, and Maria, and Me; Touched with the Feeling of our Infirmities; Hours at Home; A Visit to Goethe in Weimer; How to Treat our Wives; In memoriam: Personal Recollections of Mr. Lincoln; Sonnet; Odd Kinds of Ability; Lake Geneva and its Associations; Spring; The Choice of Companions; Recollections of Sea Sights; Our Quartermaster; General Sheridan; Short Sermon for Sunday-Teachers, No. II.; Abraham Lincoln; 'Tis Hard to Die in Spring Time; Sunday Thoughts; Pages for the Young; Margery; The Child and the Sunshine.

THE TAX PAYER'S GUIDE. An analytical and comprehensive digest of the Taxes, Rates, and Duties under the International Revenue and Excise Tax Laws of the United States. Being a concise compilation of the revised acts of Congress now in force, passed June 30th, 1864 and March 5th, 1865. By Thompson Westcott. Philadelphia: A. Winch, publisher.

LITTLE'S LIVING AGE, No. 1006, June 3, 1865. Contents, Galleries of the Louvre; Petermann's Land; The Clouded Intellect; The Murder of the President; President Andrew Johnson; Poetry.

NATIONAL DISAPPOINTMENT. A Discourse occasioned by the Assassination of President Lincoln. Delivered in Westminster Church, Buffalo, Sunday evening, May 7, 1865, by Joel F. Bingham, pastor of the congregation.

ELEVEN PRESIDENTS. The example and advice of men in office, and distinguished by their high position, are sure to attract special attention. Even a bad cause, commended by such example and advice, is brought into new favor. Why then should not a good cause gain some favorable regard in this way?

He who holds the highest office in the gift of a nation so large as ours, wielding power such as no monarch of the Old World possesses, may claim some respect from the world for his position. And where his words and acts are given emphatically to the cause of virtue, we claim for them respectful consideration. Eleven of the Presidents of the United States have given their signatures to a certificate that ought to command the attention of every citizen of the country. Three of the signatures were obtained more than thirty years ago, by Mr. E. C. Delavan. The others have been added from time to time, and as the incumbents advanced to the high dignity of their office. It need not be doubted, and we have good reason to believe, that the present distinguished chief magistrate will also add his name to this list of his illustrious predecessors. The certificate is as follows:—

Being satisfied from observation and experience, as well as from medical testimony, that ardent spirits, as a drink, is not only needless, but hurtful, and that the entire disuse of it would tend to promote the Health, the Virtue, and the Happiness of the community, we hereby express our conviction that should the citizens of the United States, and especially the young men, discontinue entirely the use of it, they would not only promote their own personal benefit, but the good of our country and the world.

JAMES MADISON, MILLARD FILLMORE, ANDREW JACKSON, JAMES K. POLK, JOHN Q. ADAMS, FRANKLIN PIERCE, M. VAN BUREN, JAMES BUCHANAN, JOHN TYLER, ABRAHAM LINCOLN, Z. TAYLOR.

Miscellaneous.

REPORT

OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY UPON PUBLICATION.

Presented by Dr. Eldridge, of Detroit, was adopted by the Assembly. It is as follows:—

The Standing Committee on Publication, to whom were referred the Thirteenth Annual Report of the Permanent Committee on Publication, the Eleventh Annual Report of the Trustees of the Presbyterian House, and other papers, beg leave to report that they have attended to the duty assigned them, and find, in examining those documents, among other reasons for congratulation and gratitude, these strikingly prominent:—

That the publications issued during the year, both as to number and volume, are considerably more abundant than those of any former year.

That the funds at the disposal of this department are largely enhanced, the collections and donations having been increased in amount, the \$50,000 fund completed and mostly paid in, while the sales of our publications have been advanced to \$36,000, from \$22,000 the previous year and \$16,000 the year before.

That \$9000 have been applied by the Publication Committee, according to the direction of the last Assembly, towards liquidating the incumbrance (\$20,000) upon the Presbyterian House.

Upon the basis of such facts as these, we may turn to the future with new resolution and fresh hope.

Among the points to be emphatically mentioned, in the judgment of your Committee, are:—

First. The great need of Sabbath-school books that shall come to us with the imprimatur of our Church. Why should not the Publication House be preparing to issue many such as are of unquestionable character, so as to meet the demands of the time and keep pace with the developments of the future? Those of the Union are many of them excellent; those from various other sources are some of them very good and answer the purpose well enough; but these sources are outside and their purpose we do not, always understand, while we have, wants no less distinctive and important. Should we not have a source of our own to look to for the best possible material on which to feed and bring up the children and youth in our Sabbath-schools? It is time that we were thoroughly equipped and at all points ready for the great and glorious work before us.

Second. As to the Periodical, in reference to which a former Assembly took some favoring action: It would appear, from statistics, that a monthly, such as was contemplated, might prove too expensive at the present time; while one less frequently issued, or example, on each alternate month, would perhaps accomplish the object in view. The Committee would, therefore, recommend that the Permanent Committee of the Church consider the subject of publishing some such periodical which they may unite in supporting, in proportion to the space they require and the funds at their disposal.

But, in this connection, a word upon pressing the circulation of such religious newspapers as the *New York Evangelist*, *THE AMERICAN PRESBYTERIAN*, and *The Christian Herald*. These are our denominational organs, and we should do more than has been done to push them in advance of all others, and even to the exclusion of some which have stolen in where they do not belong. Out-spoken efforts to set ourselves right before the people and keep the principles we love fresh in the hearts of those who are with us, but are many of them being insidiously perverted, are absolutely necessary. The importance of this matter at the West, as well as at the East, wherever religious papers from without are getting into our families, cannot well be overrated and should be watchfully acted upon.

But the burden of our report concerns the great need of more earnestness still, on the part of us all, ministry, eldership and membership, in sustaining the Publication Committee and urging on the publication cause. The condition of affairs in the Church, the new fields opening Southward, the peculiar exigencies of the transition period into which we are passing as patriots and Christians, conspire to enhance the importance of this department of the work. Strides of progress should at once be prepared for and attempted. The collections and donations ought to be increased without delay, every church in the connection, if not every individual, regularly forwarding their contributions.

Not will money alone answer; unless the publications are circulated, it will be locked up in them, and the wheel stopped at the fountain. Then will come stagnation at the publication house, and the shelves groan under useless burdens, while destitute thousands hunger and thirst for suitable religious reading. The publications must go forth. The circulation must be kept up, and immensely extended. As a denomination, we believe in the press; let us show our faith by our works. We love sound doctrine and sweet Christian narrative, becomingly arrayed in print; we feel the necessity now laid upon us of giving our full share of influence to the controlling forces which form society and shape the future. Let us act up to these sound and wise convictions. The religious literature which we have, and as a denomination can produce, must be thrown into the work.

By individual efforts, by ecclesiastical action, by presbyterial arrangements and agencies, we must take strong hold of the people and the age. Let us not flinch or falter. It is the good work of the Lord; it is our duty, by every proper means, to quicken, deepen, and extend the flow of these wholesome publications to the utmost bounds and all over the field. Let the hearts and hands of the Publication Committee be relieved and stimulated, the immense power of the Church drawn out and her infinite resources developed, in response to the importunate cries of the time upon which we have fallen, and in harmony with the wonderful providence of God among us in this land.

In conclusion the committee would offer the following resolutions:—

1. Resolved, That the churches be recommended to increase their contributions to the publication cause with a view to more extended and thorough operations, and with special reference to affording facilities for the gratuitous distribution of tracts and books among the freedmen.

2. Resolved, That the Presbyteries be recommended to appoint unemployed ministers within their own bounds to explore the field and act as colporteurs in circulating the books of the Publication Committee.

3. Resolved, That the recommendation of the last Assembly that a monthly periodical be issued by the Publication Committee, as a medium of communication between the church and its permanent committees, in the support of which these committees shall unite in proportion to the space they may require and the funds at their disposal, be renewed.

4. Resolved, That the Rev. W. E. Moore, Henry Darling, D.D., E. E. Adams, D.D., Rev. T. J. Shepherd, and Mr. Wm. E. Tenbrook, whose term of office now expires, be re-elected as members of the Permanent Publication Committee for the ensuing three years.

All of which is respectfully submitted. AZARIAH ELDRIDGE, Chairman.

THE RELIGIOUS PRESS.

[ADOPTED FRIDAY, MAY 26.] Edward D. Mansfield, LL.D., offered a report on the Religious Press, as follows:— The Committee appointed by the last Assembly to report on the relations of the Family Religious Newspaper to the Church, find that the subject committed to them claims now for the first time the attention of the General Assembly. This is not, however, because the Assembly has not appreciated the value and power of the Press as an instrument of evangelization; for in 1846 it appointed a Doctrinal Tract Committee, which has grown into a Permanent Committee of Publication with a capital of \$50,000 and a long list of valuable tracts and books. The Assembly has also, from time to time, commended the *Presbyterian Quarterly Review* to the confidence and patronage of its churches, and finally last year, at Dayton, authorized the publication of a monthly periodical as the organ of the Permanent Committee. But it is patent to every man that the newspaper has a wider and deeper influence upon the members of our congregations than tracts, books, or quarterly reviews. It comes nearer than any of them to the living preacher, in the time and manner of its ministrations. Hence, if the press is to be recognized by the Church as an instrumentality for good supplied to her by the providence of God, she ought to take a deep interest in the most popular and influential of its issues, the newspaper, and try to use it so as to promote the good of men and the glory of God. Thus far, there can be no difference of opinion. But how shall the Church manifest its interest and try to use the newspaper? Here there is great diversity of opinion and feeling.

The Methodist Episcopal Church early took the religious newspaper under its denominational patronage and control, established papers, appointed publishers and editors, and made all its itinerant *ex officio* newspaper agents. The growth, compactness, and power of that great denomination show the wisdom of this policy. Yet even in that Church there have been some who rebelled against this arrangement, as abridging freedom of discussion and the liberties of the people, and independent papers have from time to time been springing up.

In our own Church there has been a great deal of Presbyterian and Synodical action upon the subject of newspapers. Those which have been considered organs of the churches in particular sections have been commended, and our ministers have labored hard and often gratuitously to sustain them. One paper has been owned and controlled for more than twelve years by the four Synods of Ohio, Indiana, Cincinnati, and Wash. associated together for that purpose, and the results of the experiment have been satisfactory. Have all these experiments by other churches and by our inferior jurisdictions developed light enough on the subject to show us that the Assembly can and should do anything in the premises?

The facts briefly are: We have three weekly newspapers that are recognized as representing the denomination. They are located in three of our principal cities. They are equally loyal to the Church, and not rivals but co-workers in promoting its interests. These papers have all toiled hard and sacrificed much for the Church; not one of them could be spared; all of them should be liberally supported by our congregations. One or more of them ought to be in every family that attends upon our Sabbath preaching. They are the most efficient co-workers that our ministers can have.

Yet with a recorded membership of about 140,000, representing at a low estimate 50,000 families, it is probable that nearly or quite 30,000 families connected with our churches take none of the papers that are loyal to us as a denomination. Do they take no religious papers? Probably half of them do not, and read only secular papers; the other half take papers that are not loyal to us, and thus their attachment to the Church is weakened and undermined.

It seems to your Committee that the General Assembly should not regard such a state of things with indifference; that as "a bond of union, peace, correspondence, and general confidence," as organized to promote "charity and belief," &c., (Form of Government, p. 364.) it should at least send forth to the churches an expression of its views, should encourage those who are laboring to advance its interests, and should strive to save its people from influences that are secularizing or schismatic. We therefore propose for the adoption of the Assembly the following resolutions:—

1. That *The Evangelist*, *THE AMERICAN PRESBYTERIAN*, and *The Christian Herald*, and other weekly newspapers which are connected with our Church, be requested, if agreeable to them, from time to time to inform the Assembly of the number of copies taken by families connected with our denomination, to the end that the Assembly may take such action as it shall deem best for its own interest, to extend their circulation.

2. That the Assembly earnestly exhorts the families in its congregations to subscribe for and read one at least of the papers published for us as a denomination, regarding the influence of such a paper as second only to that of the preached Word in the moral and spiritual culture of the Christian household.

3. That in view of the influence of the periodical press, the vast amount of popular newspaper reading that is demoralizing, the ministers of churches connected with the Assembly be requested to preach on the subject, particularly impressing upon Church members the duty of being loyal to the denomination in this respect, and the duty of parents to provide the right kind of papers for their children to read.

It was listened to with interest and adopted unanimously.

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