

Religious Intelligence.

PRESBYTERIAN.

Presbytery of Maumee, O. S.—The report of the late meeting of this Ohio Presbytery says:—“The free conversation on the state of religion disclosed the fact that all of our churches are in a prosperous condition, and some of them the Lord has especially blessed.”

A Veteran Gone.—Mr. Robert C. Reid, a resident of Ohio since 1800, died at his residence near Xenia, Ohio, October 17. He was one of the pillars in the old Scottish Covenant Church of Greene County, having belonged to that denomination for over fifty years. “Agate,” the Washington correspondent of the Cincinnati Gazette, is his only surviving son.

Continued Accessions.—The work of grace among the churches of the New Castle Presbytery continues, and the pleasant fruits thereof are gathered in from time to time. At a recent communion season, thirty-four persons were added to the church at New London, Chester County, Pennsylvania, of which the Rev. R. P. Dubois is pastor.—Presbyterian.

Synod of Baltimore, O. S.—The Narrative speaks deplorably of the absence of revivals, abounding intemperance, profanity, vice generally, and the spirit of worldliness. It is, however, enabled to say—“It gives us the greatest pleasure to learn that the churches along the border, which the vicissitudes of war had torn and scattered, not only give evidence of vitality, but are putting forth efforts to heal the breaches and repair the desolations of Zion.”

Recounting Backward.—Two years ago the Presbytery of New Orleans withdrew from the C. S. A. General Assembly, and took an independent position. Last month it met and rescinded that action, and took its place once more with the Southern Assembly. Rev. J. H. Hollander, the man whom the rebel officers, while the city was in rebel hands, threatened “to lock up his church and burn him in it,” withdrew from the Presbytery, on the ground that “he could not countenance a Southern organization.”

A Church Revived.—Rev. Charles E. Van Allen was, on the 31st of October, ordained and installed over the Presbyterian (O. S.) Church in Middle Smithfield, Pa., by the Presbytery of Newton. This church had been for some years without a pastor, and was in a depressed and unhappy condition. In the settlement of Mr. Van Allen, the people, as if moved by a common impulse, laid aside their differences, rallied around him, repainted and refitted their house of worship, repaired its surroundings, have raised an excellent choir, and procured a melodeon; and best of all, find their harmony, zeal, and liberality already crowned by the special influence of the Holy Spirit. Some cases of hopeful conversion have already occurred, and strong hopes of more are cherished.

Valuable Meetings.—Some of the Presbyteries in Western Pennsylvania are holding Presbyterial Conventions—not meetings for ecclesiastical business, but for discussion and prayer, with special reference to the new era of the effusion of the Holy Spirit. The Banner says of the Convention of the Presbytery of Allegheny City, on the 1st inst.:—“There was much of a spirit of humble and penitent confession of shortcoming among the ministers and elders, and of earnest, importunate supplication for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. At least one brother was able to tell of a band of praying wives and mothers in his congregation, and of another band of young ladies who are accustomed to meet every Sabbath evening, one hour before the public services, to pray for themselves and their pastor. Resolutions were adopted recommending to the several pastors to make arrangements for holding promoted religious services in their congregations, laboring together, two and two, in the work, and at such times as they may judge most suitable. The Banner also speaks of deep, prayerful, and hopeful interest, as the feature of similar meetings in other Presbyteries.

Items.—The First Presbyterian Church in Indianapolis is about erecting a new church edifice which will be the largest and most commodious in the West.—Rev. O. H. Hazard, late of Bordentown, was installed over the Second Presbyterian Church in New Brunswick, New Jersey, October 26.—The rebel Rev. Dr. Layburn has been invited to a pastorate in New Orleans. There is also talk of getting up a Presbyterian paper there, to be under his editorial charge.—Rev. A. Steed, of Shelby County, Missouri, while successfully working two churches, has during the last five months carried on a colportage agency for the Presbytery Board of Publication, selling \$500 worth of its issues, and distributing gratuitously 15,000 pages of Tracts.—The Associate Reformed Synod of New York, at its late meeting, resolved to reopen its Theological Seminary at Newburgh, New York, and elected Rev. Drs. James Harper, of New York, and J. B. Dales, of Philadelphia, as Professors.—Professor Jacobus has returned from his European tour, and resumed his duties in the Theological Seminary at Allegheny City.

CONGREGATIONAL.

Revivals.—Sixteen members were added to the Congregational Church in Hamstead, N. H., the first Sabbath in November—the fruits of the recent revival. A religious interest has existed in the Pinkerton Academy at Derry for some weeks past, and several conversions have taken place. At the meeting of the Brooklyn Conference-action was taken upon two important subjects—the supply of men in sufficient numbers for the ministry, and the evangelization of the outlying population in New York and vicinity. The Conference sanctioned the action taken by the National Council, with reference to lay preaching, and regarded that as the way in which we are to find relief in the present exigencies of the country.

Washington.—The new Congregational Church at the capital was “reconsecrated” by a Religious Council, on the 15th inst., Dr. J. P. Thompson, of New York, preaching the sermon. A correspondent of the Congregationalist says:—“The urgent and immediate necessity of this organization is a permanent building. With a church edifice, a large number of pews could be instantly rented, or at least I judge, this to be the fact from what I hear said upon the subject. As it now is, numbers of Congregationalists attend church in other places, not choosing to detach themselves from places where they have been accustomed to attend till they are able to accommodate in the new church.” The Rhode Island Conference gave its attention to the following points, under the general subject of Parochial Evangelization.—1. The responsibility of every church for the evangelization of its distinctive parish, or portion of a parish.

2. How may religious efforts in behalf of those in agricultural districts at present beyond the reach of the ordinary means of grace be conducted? 3. How may the outlying classes of manufacturing districts be most effectually reached by the churches of Christ? 4. How may the population of our larger towns and cities, native and foreign, be evangelized?”

Right Topics for Ecclesiastical Meetings.—The Congregationalist’s report of the late meeting of the Andover, Mass., Conference says:—“After a prayer-meeting of half an hour, the morning was occupied with a discussion, opened by Dr. Blanchard, of Lowell, on the question whether, and how far, the promise of the Comforter, recorded by St. John, was intended for all believers, or not only for the apostles; or how much of the promise is left over for us. A larger number took part in the animated discussion that had followed than had ever done so before since the Conference was organized; and what was more gratifying, a much larger proportion of laymen. Utterance was given by some to the conviction that we do not understand or appreciate all that is possible in Christian experience, or in Christian labor and success, through the gift of the Spirit; and an expectation was expressed, indeed, it was perhaps the distinguished feature of the meeting, and seemed a general expectation, that we are soon to have a time of great spiritual refreshing; that it is near, even at the doors.”

GERMAN REFORMED.

Harrisburg Mission Church.—A communion season was held in this church on the 29th ultimo, under very favorable circumstances. The services were conducted in both languages by the pastor, the Rev. F. Fox. Thirteen persons were added to the church.—G. R. Messenger.

Domestic Missions.—From the annual report of the Home Missionary Board of the G. R. Church of this country, made to the General Synod, it appears that there are now fifty missions under the care of the Board—an increase of seventeen during the year. Three of those last year reported have become self-sustaining. Nineteen new stations have therefore been established by the Board during the past twelve months—a practical evidence of progress most cheering to all. The finances of the Board are reported in a healthy condition. Receipts of contributions during the year, \$8,885 29. Balance in the Treasurer’s hands, \$233 27. The Church Extension Fund, a part of the operations of this Board, amounted to \$10,111 37, which amount has been wisely expended in relieving feeble churches.

REFORMED DUTCH.

Items.—A new R. D. church, with good prospects of thriftiness, was organized in Pottersville, N. J. on the 2d inst.—Rev. Wm. Fulton was re-installed over his former parish in Manunk, on the 9th instant.—Rev. Dr. Quackenbush has sailed for Europe, and is expected to represent the Board of Foreign Missions of the B. D. Church of this country, at the meeting of the Evangelical Alliance which is to be held in Holland.—The R. D. Church, corner of Tenth and Fifth Streets, in this city, have placed in their church a beautiful tablet memorial of their former pastor, Dr. Bethune.

METHODIST.

Large Collection.—Sabbath before last, the Rev. Dr. Durbin presented the missionary cause in one of the Methodist Episcopal churches, (Rev. Mr. Payne’s in Williamsburg, L. I.) and a plate collection was made of \$4,300. In the afternoon, G. P. Disway, Esq., and others, addressed the Sabbath school, and the children gave \$500. Another contribution was made in the evening, carrying up the whole to \$6,000. Items.—The Methodists are erecting a fine church of cut stone in Carson City, the capital of Nevada. They have in that State three other churches, and a membership, probationers included, of 293. Sabbath schools 17, with 803 scholars.—Rev. Messrs. Wheeler and Hart, appointed missionaries to China, are about leaving for their field.—The Centenary Committee of the Methodist Church have recommended that the first Sunday in January, 1866, be observed as a day of special prayer for a blessing upon the centenary services of the year, and for the outpouring of the Spirit upon our land.

EPISCOPAL.

The Pennsylvania Coal Regions.—At a late meeting of the Schuylkill and Lehigh Conventions, Rev. Mr. Getz read a report of his very interesting and successful work at Mahoning City and Hazleton, at both of which places churches have been built during the few months of his missionary labors in Mahoning City and parts adjacent, and another missionary will be appointed to the other part of the field. It is the purpose of the Convention to increase this missionary work in the mining districts, and a committee of laymen was appointed to procure subscriptions to a special fund for that purpose. In the Susquehanna coal region, the corner-stone of a new church in Shamokin was laid on the 7th inst. This is the result of a missionary enterprise commenced no further back than last spring. A parish has been organized, and the field is represented as full of promise.

The Southern Church.—Bishop Davis, of the Southern Carolina Diocese has issued a Pastoral on the present and prospective relations of the diocese. He denies that the organization of a separate Southern Church is a schism. He says:—“The Southern Church is now rightly constituted, and is an independent and integral branch of the Church Catholic. As such, she can, of right, shape her own course. She is, also, free to return to her union with the Church at the North. Which shall she do? This is the great proposition.” He urges that the tendencies of the age are political and secular, and its ruling powers are those of combination. This, he says, secures dominion, but is dangerous to truth. The territory of the Union is also too vast for any one Church. “Our Southern country is limited, homogeneous, and not given to speculations. Does it not appear, then, that this is our surest foundation for peace and truth? I declare to you, brethren, my strong desire is, that, under the mercy and guiding providence of God, the Southern Church may be enabled to maintain her present independent position. This I will seek, and to this I give my best efforts.”

Items.—The Convention of the new diocese of Western Pennsylvania has elected as Bishop, Rev. J. B. Kerfoot, D. D., now President of Trinity College.—The large and costly edifice of St. George’s Church, New York, (Rev. Dr. Tyng’s) was destroyed by fire on the 14th inst. The loss is estimated at \$300,000, on which there is an insurance of \$75,000.—The consecration of Rev. Dr. Clark, the newly-elected Bishop of Nebraska, took place in St. James’ Church, Chicago, his late parish, on the 15th instant. Six bishops and more than fifty clergymen of the Church were present.—Bishop Stevens recently in Lebanon, Pa., confirmed nine persons, in connection with Rev. Mr. Abel’s mission in Lebanon, Colebrook, and Cornwall.

LUTHERAN.

Decreasing.—We had no idea that the shadow of the Lutheran Church was growing less; yet such is the case, according to the statistics of the Lutheran Almanac. The copy for 1865 gives the following grand total:—Ministers, 1,543; congregations, 2,765; communicants, 292,723. The Almanac for 1866 gives: Ministers, 3,523; congregations, 2,632; communicants, 286,273, or a decrease of 20 ministers, 133 congregations, and 6,450 communicants.—Lutheran Observer.

A Pastorate Divided.—The charge containing the congregations of York Sulphur Springs and Petersburg, in York County, Pa., has become so much strengthened as to allow of the settlement of a separate minister for each. Rev. P. Raby has resigned the old charge, to accept a call from Middletown, Pa. Church Dedicated.—A new edifice for the Lutheran Mission in Millerstown, Perry Co., Pa., was dedicated on the 5th ult. Rev. J. J. Kerr is the missionary, and is laboring with great activity and with no small success.

BAPTIST.

Education of Colored Ministers.—The Baptist Home Mission Board are about opening four schools for the education of colored ministers in the South. Rev. J. G. Binney, D. D., is to superintend the school in Richmond or Washington; Rev. H. J. Ripley, D. D., at Savannah; and Rev. J. Chaplin, D. D., at New Orleans. The other school will be in the north-west quarter of the Southern field, but the arrangements are not yet perfected.

Items.—The American Baptist Publication Society calls for \$50,000 for Sabbath-school work among the whites and colored people of the South. Libraries are wanted for 2000 schools, and it is intended to sustain colporteurs in every Southern State.—At the Free-Will Baptist General Conference at Lewiston, Maine, a short time since, a resolution prohibiting the ordination of ministers who use tobacco was adopted.

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS.

The Friends in the West are following the footsteps of their English brethren in making a movement towards co-operation with other Christians in works of philanthropy and general Christian effort.—At their yearly meeting, recently held at Richmond, Indiana, a member arose and stated that he had lain “heavily upon him” to allude to a subject of great interest and vital importance—the extension of the influence of this part of the Church to persons outside the bounds of our Society. Reference is here had to a co-operation of the Friends with the Bible Society, Tract Societies, Evangelical Societies, First-Day Schools, Education, &c. Statistics read show that there are 2969 families and parts of families, and 11,955 members belonging to the yearly meeting; that 244 persons were received into membership during the past year, and 66 ceased to be members. The yearly meeting directed the subordinate meetings to endeavor to raise this year \$30,000 to aid their various works of humanity.

TEMPERANCE.

A Substantial Movement.—A “National Temperance Society and Publishing House” was organized last week by the Committee appointed at the Saratoga Convention. It contemplates a large issue of publications, and special labors in churches and Sabbath-schools. Wm. E. Dodge was appointed president, Wm. A. Booth, treasurer; and on its list of Vice-Presidents are Gen. Howard, Gov. Buckingham, M. Baldwin, Rev. Dr. Beaman, and Geo. H. Stuart. Its Board of Managers is composed of such men as Hon. E. A. Lambert, E. C. Delarun, Wm. B. Spooner, Rev. Messrs. Foss, Cuyler, Newell, Stricker, Dunn, and Tyng. All persons who subscribe the total abstinence pledge and pay one dollar are annual members. Life members pay \$20; Life directors \$100, and Life patrons \$500.

MISSIONARY.

The Best of Signs.—A Baptist missionary in India writes:—“Quite a number of our best boys have given up very remunerative government employ and have entered the ministry. This cheers me. I feel that we may look for success such as we have not seen yet.” He further writes:—“At our annual meeting we had reported fifteen traveling preachers; but the Board was so much encouraged at the report of the preachers, that they appointed ten new men; so that we are now running twenty-five men as traveling preachers.”

Another Missionary Fallen.—We have received intelligence of the death of Rev. Samuel A. Rhea, of the Western Mission, of the American Board, while on his way from Tabriz to Orghmiah, with Mrs. Rhea. They spent the night at a small village, where Mr. Rhea was attacked with sickness, resembling cholera. Not finding any comfortable accommodations, they left the next morning, traveling on horseback, although he was still suffering from the disease. They had not proceeded far before he became much worse, and he died suddenly on the road.

Australia.—No more difficult work has been undertaken anywhere than that among the aborigines of this country. The Moravians have made an encouraging beginning in elevating the natives from their deep degradation. The converts walk worthy of their high calling, not bringing reproach on the cause which they have espoused; some young people are coming forward as candidates for baptism, and the schools have been attended in a manner that gives reason to hope for the future. The amount of success already received has induced the Melbourne Committee in aid of Moravian Missions to commence a new mission among the wild tribes residing in the District of Cooper’s Creek.

FOREIGN.

English Services in Germany.—A correspondent of the Christian Advocate, writing from Berlin, says:—“It is an honor to our country to be represented abroad by such a minister as Governor Wright. He is now happily situated at No. 24 Regenten Strasse, and is in the active discharge of his duties. Mainly through his efforts, we have begun English service, and design to continue it every Sabbath through the winter. Our first sermon was preached last Sabbath by the Rev. Mr. Wright, of North Carolina, and the little hall was well filled, mostly by persons from England. The great hindrance is a lack of a suitable place of worship.”

MISCELLANEOUS.

Four Hours Ahead.—In three months from the time that oil was found at Pithole City, there was a town built containing from eight to twelve thousand people, and within the circumference of a mile there are produced three thousand barrels of oil per day. Presbyterians of the “Other Branch” were for once up to the spirit of the age, and commenced preaching there four hours in advance of the Methodists, who are generally the pioneers. Other towns grow up in centuries—this in months. Well, therefore, may the hours be noted. A theatre was erected at Pithole when two months old, which, in the absence of church buildings, is used as a church. Thus, after all, it seems that as ready as Presbyterians and Methodists were to occupy the field, Satan was a little in advance of both.—Evangelist.

American Bible Society.—This Society is now passing through its jubilee year, and the occasion is wisely seized upon for special contributions as a thanksgiving to God for the world-wide results of its fifty years of labor. A circular recently issued by the secretaries says:—“The whole plan for celebrating the jubilee year has met a hearty response from our friends in every part of the country. Many resolutions of our auxiliaries and ecclesiastical bodies have already been forwarded. Some of these evince a noble, practical sym-

pathy. The Massachusetts Bible Society has appropriated \$5000 for the Arabic Scriptures. One society in the West voted to raise a thousand dollars beyond their usual donation. Another in New Jersey aims at \$2500, which is more than double its last annual receipts. In Indiana an effort is making to raise \$10,000 among the Sabbath-school children. In Illinois it is proposed that their special jubilee gifts be \$50,000 above the ordinary receipts. We hear of liberal things devised by liberal hearts in Ohio, New Jersey, and New York. Specific contributions have been frequently received for the freedmen, the South, and other objects. Many Bible societies will celebrate the jubilee year in their own time and way, thus making little jubilees all over the land. Addresses and sermons will be delivered by ministers and other friends of the cause. The echoes of our jubilee trumpets are returning to us from beyond the seas.”

Christian Unity.—A Platform.—The new movement which, from several late inter-denominational meetings in New York, has grown into an organization under the name of the “Christian Union Association,” is receiving great favor. At a late meeting of the Association, attended by clergy and members of the Old and New School Presbyterians, Reformed Dutch, and Baptist churches, Rev. Dr. Ferris, presiding, the following “Declaration of Principles and Plans,” reported by Rev. Dr. Vermilye, was unanimously adopted:—

“Knowing it to be the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, the King and Head of the Church, that his people should be all one, and through Him; and believing that the Holy Ghost, by his Divine power, hath in these latter days wrought effectively upon the hearts of Christians, thus drawing them together in faith, love, and charity: Therefore, moved by convictions of imperative duty, and encouraged by the events of Providence, we, the members and friends of the American Christian Union Association, do set forth the following declaration:—

1. That, the unity of the Spirit creates the unity of the one Holy Catholic Church, and that the doctrines of the common salvation as set forth in what is called the Apostles’ and the Nicene Creeds, compose the broad basis with which all subsequent formularies of the Evangelical denominations of the Christian Church cohere.

2. The Church, thus one in spirit, and agreeing upon the cardinal and eternal truths of revelation and redemption, ought to be and may be so united in visible fellowship, as to give evidence to the world that it is one in spirit, faith, and purpose.

3. Denominational organizations do not destroy spiritual oneness—any more than the several members of the human body destroy its integrity—so long as they are animated by the mind of Christ.

4. As the ‘communion of saints’ is an article in the universal creed of the Church, and ought to be incorporated among its usages, we believe that wise, fraternal, and expedient measures should be taken to bring into closer union all who now love and serve the same Lord, and confess themselves to be ‘brethren one of another.’

5. These five propositions compose the fundamental principles upon which this Christian Union Association has been organized. These furnish the warrant for its existence, and define the main object it will labor to attain.”

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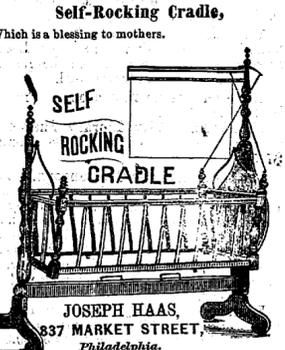
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