

American Presbyterian.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 17, 1867.

LOOK AHEAD:—Dr. Breckenridge writes to the *Presbyter* that while he has confidence in the loyalty and firmness of the mass of the Church, he yet dreads lest the reactionary efforts of Drs. Junkin, Boardman, Baird and others, should lead to the election by hook or crook of an Assembly of their stripe, and so allow the Declaration and Testimony men to escape. He traces in the O. S. papers, "the signs of a general movement favorable to the vast and intolerable mischiefs involved in the success, nay even in the impunity, of those who issued that monstrous paper, and those who have affiliated with them." The *Presbyter* wisely advises him to see that matters at home in Kentucky go right, and assures him there is no danger from other quarters. It hints that some of those who joined in a "de-facto-ing" the Border States Church Courts did so only in order to get a vote in the next Assembly against the deliverances of 1860—6.

Dr. Breckenridge declares that the seceders of the Kentucky Synod held a secret conference after organizing apart from the loyalists, and that of three proposals (1.) to go South; (2.) to organize a Border States Church and (3.) to hold on by their Northern friends and "wait for something to turn up"—the last was adopted, and has been every where carried out except in Baltimore.

ANOTHER CASE OF PERMITTED CONFESSION:—"S. G. O." gives another instance of the way in which Dr. Pusey and those like him tyrannize over the consciences of weak-minded and scrupulous persons. He shows also the essential hostility of the whole policy to the family relation, as inferior in holiness, and their utter distrust of the divine order of society and the family:—

A young lady, under the guidance of her confessor, took a vow of celibacy for two years unknown to her parents. An offer of marriage was subsequently made to her, with their approval. It was not proposed that she should marry until the period of her vow had expired; but she had scruples in doing so even then, unless her director would give his sanction. He was solicited by her parents to grant it, but he refused, and the lady died single. The confessor was Dr. Pusey himself. "Now," says the *Times*, "we invite Dr. Pusey to give a simple answer to the question whether this story be truly related or not. It would be both superfluous and useless to enter further upon the justification of such practices. We want to know whether the facts alleged in this instance by our correspondent be true or not. If they be, no one will dream of impugning Dr. Pusey's motives; but we shall possess a decisive illustration of the real character of the system which he advocates."

"To argue in favour of habitual Confession in the English Church, is like arguing in favour of despotism in the English Constitution. The practice is antagonistic to every English principle. The plea that it is sanctioned by the Prayer-Book is utterly incredible, nor could any amount of special pleading convince an impartial judge that it can ever be reconciled with our formularies."

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, KENSINGTON.—The fifteenth anniversary of the Sabbath School of this church, was held on the first Sabbath of the year. The occasion was one of great interest, being celebrated with a warm and earnest jubilee spirit. In the morning, the pastor preached on the subject of the *Usefulness of Sabbath Schools*, and the duty of professing Christians and of parents in reference thereto. In the afternoon there was a great gathering. The exercises consisted of singing by the school, the reading of a semi-centennial report, embracing the history of the origin and progress of the school, by the secretary, addresses by Chas. Godfrey, Dr. Van Buren, Rev. Mr. Paxson, son of the veteran Sunday School missionary, and the pastor; and the presentation of class contributions for the missionary work of the American Sunday School Union. The aggregate amount offered was \$540, besides \$50 contributed during the year to the Soldiers' Orphans' Home, at Gettysburg. Three years ago the offerings of the school were \$200; and this jubilee anniversary closed with a pledge to raise the next year \$700. The school is under the efficient superintendency of Messrs. George Urwiler, and Timothy Matlack. Altogether it was a most inspiring occasion, and it was good to be there.

PENACODOR CHURCH.—Rev. Edward Webb, pastor of this church, reports many encouraging indications among his people, spiritual and otherwise. The attendance upon public services is very much improved, and the liberality of the people is enlarged. At the New Year's reception, given to Mr. Webb, they supplemented his moderate salary by a gift of \$235. We hope soon to hear from Penacodor, that news of spiritual awakening which is so sure to follow movements of this kind.

PITTSBURG, PA.—A few members of the Third Church, presented their pastor, Rev. Herriok Johnson, on Christmas morning, with the handsome sum of \$1200.

OUR ROCHESTER CORRESPONDENT.

PRESBYTERY OF ROCHESTER.

The annual meeting of this Presbytery was convened in the Brick Church of this city, on Tuesday last, at 2 P. M. Rev. Dr. Shaw was elected Moderator, Rev. E. B. Van Auken and Rev. Henry M. Morey, Clerks. In the absence of the previous Moderator, to preach the opening sermon, the Presbytery held a prayer-meeting, in connection with the Brick Church, on Tuesday evening, this being the week of prayer for the conversion of the world.

1. Among the items of business, we may mention, first, that the following persons were appointed Commissioners to the next General Assembly: S. M. Campbell, D.D., and Rev. A. McA. Thornburn, with Elders Frederick Starr and T. A. Newton, principals; and Revs. C. E. Furman and O. H. Barnard, with Elders William Alling and E. T. Huntington, alternates.

2. Rev. Dr. Campbell was appointed Commissioner to Auburn Seminary.

3. Notice was also taken of the appointment of the new Secretary of the Church Erection Fund, in which, under the circumstances, this Presbytery would be expected to take a particular interest; and the following resolutions were heartily adopted:—

Resolved, That we hail with peculiar interest and satisfaction the change in plan adopted by the last General Assembly in regard to the working of our Church Erection Fund; and that we pledge to the General Assembly for this our hearty co-operation and support.

Resolved, That we greatly rejoice also in the appointment of one of our own Presbytery, one so much esteemed and beloved among us as Dr. Ellinwood is, for Secretary of this Fund—a man whom we regard as eminently qualified for the place, and worthy of all confidence and support in his great and important work.

4. Rev. Dr. Clark, the new Secretary of the American Board, being provisionally present on the second day, by special invitation addressed the Presbytery in behalf of Missions. He spoke particularly of the want of men. He is now on a tour, visiting the theological seminaries in quest of them. The Board now wants sixty-five new missionaries; twenty to hold the ground already in our possession, and forty-five for new and opening fields of labor.

Dr. Clark presented these necessities very vividly and earnestly before our minds. He spoke substantially of the same things to large meetings in the evening, both in the Brick and Central churches. His addresses were brief, but pertinent and powerful, each time making a deep impression upon the minds of his hearers. All seemed delighted with the man and his remarks. Much, we are sure, was accomplished for the cause of Missions by his brief stay, of only twenty-four hours, among us.

5. Some changes should be noticed. Rev. H. W. Brown, pastor elect at Brockport, was received from the Presbytery of Lyons. Rev. W. W. Collins, now preaching at Penfield, was received from the Presbytery of Tioga; and Willis Clark Gaylord, a member of the Central Church of this city, a student of Theology, was received under care of the Presbytery, with a view to licensure for the ministry. The semi-annual meeting of the Presbytery is to be held in Sweden. In order to increase, if possible, the interest in the summer session, it is proposed to have a children's meeting, in connection with the Sunday-school in the place, in the afternoon; also a social gathering in the evening of the second day. This last is intended to be the crowning glory of the feast. All are expected to remain to this. And still further to enhance the real pleasure and profit of the occasion, the ministers and elders are invited and expected to take their wives with them—if they have any—that they may see how the business of Presbytery is done, and especially that they may "take part" in the closing exercises. It is hoped thus to hold every member of Presbytery in attendance until the business is ended; and also to make the meeting every way one of more interest and profit to the people where we assemble.

DEATH OF REV. FREDERICK STARR, JR.

The news of this sad event, which occurred in St. Louis on Wednesday last, came to this city by telegraph while our Presbytery was in session, and was received with profound sorrow and surprise. The Presbytery paused in the midst of its business to offer prayer for the afflicted father and his family.

Mr. Starr was a native of this place, son of Frederick Starr, Esq., so well known in all the enterprises of Christian activity, and an honored elder in the Central Church in this city. He was a graduate of Yale College and of Auburn Seminary, and had been nearly eighteen years in the ministry. He was first a pastor for five years in Weston, Mo., until driven out by border ruffianism. He then came back to this State, and became Secretary of the Western Education Society, and Financial Agent for Auburn Seminary, in which capacity he labored for

many years with untiring energy and marked success. He raised large sums of money for that school of the prophets, and was the means of lifting it up from a state of deep depression, or perhaps we may say of complete prostration, into a new life and real prosperity.

While so engaged, he received an urgent call to settle as a pastor at Penn Yan, where he spent three years, and from which place he went to St. Louis only two years ago; every where the same earnest, active, useful man. He could do about as much work as a half dozen common men. He seemed to have the strength of two or three rolled into one. Who would have thought of his dying until he was nearly a hundred years old? What an admonition to all who remain, to work while the day lasts!

He was a most dutiful, affectionate and beloved son and brother; and heavily the blow falls upon all his family friends. They have the sincere sympathy of this entire region of country, where the deceased was so well and favorably known.

To his life some more fitting tribute will doubtless be rendered by more competent hands; and we should be glad even now to write much more, if the limits of this communication did not forbid.

FASHIONABLE AMUSEMENTS.

On this subject, Rev. Dr. Campbell last Sabbath read, in a most solemn and impressive manner, at the opening of his morning service, the following paper, signed by every member of his session, eleven in all. It was introduced by most kind and considerate remarks; it is itself full of kindness: it is expostulation, not threats, and produced a profound sensation in the congregation. It cannot fail to do good:—

"The Session of the Central Presbyterian Church in Rochester, to the members of Christ's flock, over which the Holy Ghost hath made them overseers:

Dear beloved brethren:—"At this season of the year, when worldly gaiety is rife, and when it is the habit of the Church to devote a week to special prayer, we feel called upon to offer a suggestion upon the subject of unchristian amusements. We desire particularly to give our solemn testimony against such practices on the part of professing Christians, as card-playing, theatre-going and dancing. We regard these things as unedifying, as giving offence to pious minds, as dissipating serious thoughts, as leading to practices that are very reprehensible, and as presenting an example unwholesome to the world.

"Therefore, in all kindness, charity and forbearance, we do earnestly entreat of you, one and all, to abstain from these things, and from others like them; and to conspire together to maintain for our beloved Church that good name which it has hitherto enjoyed. Given under our hands this 2d day of January, in the year of our Lord 1867."

A GOOD TIME AT HORNELLSVILLE.

It was Christmas evening. The new Public Hall, which graces the village, was nicely decorated and well filled with the children and their friends for a Sunday-school festival. A big Christmas tree grew on the platform; back of it hung the national colors, not yet banished from our goodly land; and in front, stretching down through a good part of the hall, a long table groaning under the weight of good things pleading to be eaten.

But time would fail us to give all the particulars. Suffice it to say, that bright eyes shone with unwonted lustre that evening, and many hearts were stirred with peculiar joy; teachers happy in seeing so much enjoyment among the scholars, and the scholars happy in the love of their teachers.

Gifts, also, were the order of the evening, among which we can only mention a silver bell for the Sunday-school, from some of the young ladies; a beautiful set of Ruskin's works, and one hundred and thirty dollars in money for Rev. M. Waldo, the esteemed and worthy pastor of the church. All this, beside various pleasant addresses, with singing and social intercourse, made it a very merry Christmas that evening in the pleasant village of Hornellsville. Next time may we be there.

GENESEE.

ROCHESTER, Jan. 12, 1867.

MILFORD, DEL.—Rev. J. F. Severance, pastor of the church in this place, writes us as follows:—"Last Sabbath was a blessed day with us—17 united with us. There is an unusual interest with us now. The lecture room is well filled every night. God is evidently with us; and oh! that we might have a great blessing."

YOUNGSTOWN, N. Y.—The people of Mr. Burdick's flock, during the holiday week, supplied the parsonage with a number of articles which will add greatly to family comfort. A new bell has been purchased, and an effort is being made to remove the debt of the church, which promises to be entirely successful.

Lodi, Wis.—The Rev. Warren Mayo was installed pastor of the Church in Lodi by the Presbytery of Columbus, on the 2d inst. Sermon by Rev. M. Fish; charge to the pastor by Rev. J. N. Lewis; and to the people by Rev. M. Lawrie.

OUR CHICAGO CORRESPONDENT.

THE WEEK OF PRAYER.

Daily services are held this week in all our churches. There is also a union prayer-meeting held every morning at a central point, under the auspices of the Young Men's Christian Association. The regular noon meeting of the Association is also held as usual. At the union meeting this morning, it was reported that yesterday the noon meeting was overflowing, and that a degree of interest was manifested such as has not been observed since the Pentecostal days of 1857. Several persons present requested prayers for help in entering the "Strait Gate." The members of this Association are unremitting in their efforts and undaunted. They believe that, as one has expressed it, salvation is to penetrate society vertically, touching the highest point and reaching to the lowest. Not a little successful effort has been made to reach even the habitues of our saloons with the offers of Gospel. Two or three recent and remarkable conversions are reported among those who needed more than the waters of Abana and Pharpar to cleanse even the surface of their souls. The heathen at home are our special charge in these great cities. The leader of this morning's meeting hit a truth sentimentally when he said, referring to the Saviour's great commission: "We are to be foreign missionaries in our prayers and home missionaries in our work." There is an unusual degree of interest in nearly all the churches at present, and it is hoped that this will be a year fruitful in good.

CHURCH ERECTION.

I am sorry to observe so few reports of the collections of the third Sunday in December. It is true that was a day of storm throughout the North, and it is to be presumed that in most of our churches the collection was deferred, that the brightest sky might favor the object. None of the churches in Chicago took their collection on that day. The First Church is now gathering its subscriptions. It has already obtained, I understand, over \$1100, and is expecting to increase the amount. The pastor of the Second Church waits for subscriptions from some of the wealthier members of his church in Europe as the basis of his collection. If all would make this a cause to be pressed in this manner by personal and general solicitation, a whole year of stormy Sundays would not prevent a most noble contribution. It is surely needed, and if it is not given, our Church will have wasted more than one year, and have missed one of its grandest opportunities.

PAROCHIAL APPRECIATION.

The Second Church has recently demonstrated its appreciation of the long and useful services of its pastor by voting him an eight months' vacation, without diminution of his salary. It is understood that ample provision has also been made for the expenses of a journey "outré mer," if he desires to take it. No one deserves such a compliment more richly than Dr. Patterson. I have not yet heard whether he will avail himself of the opportunity thus offered.

DEDICATION OF CHURCHES.

The new chapel of the vigorous Ninth Church, the youngest of our sisterhood, is to be dedicated next Sunday. It is a plain, but tasteful structure, commodious enough for the present, not too good to give place to a larger and better one ere long. The new Olivet Church is nearly ready for occupancy. Rev. Mr. Rice, recently pastor of the Circular Church, of historic memory, in Charleston, is still supplying its pulpit. Mr. Rice was pastor of the Circular Church through all the years of the rebellion—himself one of the few loyal men in Charleston, whose affection for our flag was only second to their love for the Cross. He has a most interesting lecture on "An inside view of the Rebellion," which he will soon deliver in Chicago. It is endorsed by such men as Dr. Bacon. No point was more favorable certainly for an inside view than that of Mr. Rice, standing as he did by the great arteries of treason. The Seventh, and the Eighth Churches are making fine progress with their sanctuaries, and both have most flattering prospects.

PASTORAL LIBRARIES.

Among the good things done by our congregations at their annual meetings, was a vote by one of them to appropriate one hundred dollars per annum from the revenues of the church, for the increase of a library, already large, which is devoted solely to the use of the pastor. The library referred to, was founded a few years since by a munificent appropriation by one of the members of the church. The selection was left to the pastor, and was suited, of course, to his own wants, but, as the books selected were of standard value, they would be equally useful to any pastor into whose hands they might fall. One hundred dollars is but a small fragment from the revenue of any of our more wealthy churches, and no appropriation could be made which would prove

more remunerative to the church itself, than such a one as this. Why should we spend two or three thousand dollars every year for sustaining our choirs, without some thought of the mental supplies by which the pulpit might be enriched? Good music is of value, but a good sermon is better. No tools are too expensive for a watch-factory. Why should our ministers be expected to work only with the blacksmith's hammer and pincers? Salaries are not generally liberal enough to allow great expenditures for books. And when they are, the extra appropriation of a few dollars for a library which will be a permanent possession of the church, and which will enrich its pulpit for all time, is most wise and thoughtful. The church to which I refer is liberal in both directions, and does not think itself extravagant in either.

DR. MCMASTER.

The death of this eminent man is greatly deplored by the friends of a sound theological education, in the North-west. A man of great insight, no one could analyze and apply the truths of the Bible more clearly than he. A man of convictions deep-rooted as the hills, no one could impress a student more profoundly, with the thought that God's word can never pass away. He is gone. Let us be grateful that the truth he loved remains, and is firmer than the granite of a thousand centuries.

WABASH.

CHICAGO, JAN. 9, 1867.

News of Our Churches.

THE OIL REGION.—The pastor of a church in the oil regions, sends us a list of new names, and writes: "The oil excitement, which for two or three years threatened to sweep away almost everything of a religious nature, has abated. God is reviving his people here; sinners are being converted, and I wish your paper to help me in the Master's work."

MADISON SQUARE CHURCH, N. Y.—The members of this Church consecrated the closing hours of 1866 to public worship, in which Christians of other names took part. Although the weather was very unpropitious a large number came together, and enjoyed a season of prayer that will long be remembered. The pastor of the church, Dr. Adams, presided. Drs. Murray, Crosby, and Ganse, made brief but very interesting addresses; and prayers were offered by Drs. Field, Rogers, and Prentiss. Toward the close, Dr. Cox, the oldest minister present, made a few remarks, full of tenderness, and the closing prayer was offered by Dr. Hutton, in which two persons who were in deep sorrow, and who had sent to the pastor of the church requests for prayer, were fitly remembered.

UNION PRESBYTERIAL CONVENTION.—The ministers and elders of the two Presbyteries of Fort Wayne, Indiana, met for religious conference and incitement in the city of Wabash, 18th Dec., ult. Appropriate topics were discussed throughout three sessions.

CHICAGO, ILL.—Dr. Patterson stated, in one of his recent meetings, that there are now thirteen of the original members of the 2d Church alive, and thirteen have gone home. Of the thirteen living, eleven are still connected with the church, and next May will be the close of its first quarter of a century. He has been its first and only pastor.

NEWARK, N. J.—The South Park Church, during the past year, has paid off its debt and contributed for church purposes double the amount of the previous year.

THE WEAK CHURCHES OF OUR DENOMINATION.—The *Evangelist* discusses our duty to our less affluent brethren in an excellent leading article, appealing to the very idea of Presbyterianism, as uniting the churches for mutual counsel and assistance. It sums up the whole case thus:—"Our Western Synods cover vast spaces, meet with formidable opposition, and yet are weak in numbers and munitions. A large proportion of their churches are weak and feeble, and they sustain the ordinances of religion with difficulty. Their ministers are often brought into great straits, and know not what to do. Rendered desperate by want, in many cases they partially or wholly turn aside to secular avocations which furnish a more certain livelihood, and thus the general cause suffers great injury." It goes on to show that of the 764 Western churches none have above 600 members; only 3 have between 500 and 600; only 14 have between 300 and 500; and only 39 have between 200 and 300. Of the 694 Eastern churches, on the other hand, 5 have over 1000; 7 have from 600 to 800; 11 have from 500 to 600, &c., &c. The eight Eastern Synods, of which five-sixths are in the state of New York, do not occupy a field one-tenth as large as the Western, and have 90,437 members. The thirteen Western Synods have only 52,350 members, and have 431 weak churches, with less than 50 members each.