

American Presbyterian.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1867.

Our European correspondent gives another Sabbath in Paris; Rev. Justus Doolittle writes an admirable letter from Tientsin; Arizona Territory is also represented among the remote places reached by our correspondents; the microscope, small Hymn books and Preaching in the Woods—all on page second; Rural Economy and Scientific Items, page three; Family Circle with a fine piece of original poetry, page sixth; Book Notices and Literary Intelligence, page seventh.

We print the action of a number of Presbyteries of the other branch on Re-union, from which it appears that while a single Presbytery, Indianapolis, disapproved of the favor shown by its delegates in the Cincinnati Assembly to the minority report on Union, two others, Sangamon and Des Moines, took action unfavorable to Union, although their Commissioners at Cincinnati voted in its favor. The position of another, Fort Wayne, unanimously against Union, is the same as indicated by the act of their Commissioners. Thus three Presbyteries, all in the Northwest, have reversed their record for Re-union made in the General Assembly, while only one has taken the contrary course.

The Democratic County Convention at the close of its sessions, in this city, two weeks since, adopted a series of resolutions, from which we extract the following:

1. That the passage, by the last Republican Legislature of Pennsylvania, of a law forcing negroes into passenger railway cars, notwithstanding the companies offered special cars for their accommodation, is but the prelude to a forced association with white citizens at the ballot-box and in the domestic circle; a political amalgamation, and a social miscegenation which we utterly repudiate.
2. That the Democratic party is pledged so to revise both Federal and State legislation as to . . . modify or abrogate all laws which restrain the intercourse of friends, and the innocent amusement and recreation that in a busy world should be vouchsafed to toiling industry.

The first of these resolutions puts the Democracy in an opposition to the progress of justice and equal rights, which makes their name a mere mockery, and shows a repugnance to the colored race, which it is perfectly notorious their Democratic brethren, among the slave-breeders of the South, never felt. The second resolution also pledges the party to the overthrow of the Sunday Laws of the State, if they are successful in regaining power. The Democracy is becoming more and more committed to ungodliness. We set over against the resolutions, an extract from the speech of Senator Wade, of Ohio, delivered a few days since, in the gubernatorial campaign now going on in that State:

"Why don't they try to find out what has dwindled them to nothing, and built us up to such a power? It is the great spirit of righteousness permeating and pervading the party with which we have acted. We have stood gloriously by the country and by our principles; and with the exception of one year since the great Republican party was organized, it has met with nothing but victory. These men don't appear to understand why the old Democratic party has fallen under the ban of the people and has become a hissing and a byword among men. Why is it? Because they have departed from every principle of republicanism. . . . We were founded in republicanism and righteousness; and with the favor of Almighty God, that is why we are triumphant, and why we shall not fail. Why, brother Thurman, on the principles you advocate to-day, if you gain a victory you must plant your batteries very high; you must storm the Sebastopol of the Almighty, and shell Him from His throne, before your principles can predominate. . . . He will not give you any assistance; you are warring against Omnipotence and the benevolent designs the Almighty has toward this nation; and the principles of tyranny and partiality will be trampled under foot."

THE SERVICES IN CHESTNUT ST. THEATRE.

A service well-nigh unprecedented in Philadelphia and perhaps in the whole country, was held on Sunday night last. It was preaching to the masses in the Chestnut Street Theatre—the leading theatre in the city. The proprietor, Mr. Sinn, cheerfully granted the use of the building for these purposes, at the request of the Phila. Y. M. C. A., through the Secretary, Mr. Collins, at a sum merely sufficient to cover the expense of lighting, although he had refused the building to a well-known infidel lecturer of the city at \$250 a night. The Association, with characteristic energy, had arranged for and advertised the meetings, and the Lord was manifestly with them in this new effort to advance his cause. Such a gathering for the simple purpose of promoting the spiritual welfare of the masses has not been seen in this city for ten years, since the days of the Jayne's Hall Prayer Meetings. Indeed, we are of opinion that twice as many persons as ever got into that great prayer meeting would have responded to this movement on the part of the Association, had there been room to hold them: We went to the building with some anxiety as to the result of the experiment. Arriving about forty minutes before the services commenced, we found a dense throng of people on both sides of Chestnut street, very much as when some unusually popular performance is going on; and a solid mass of human beings moving up the broad stairway, which had already densely filled the lower part of the house and second tier and were now pouring into the third tier, which more than half an hour before services began was crowded in every part, and the whole house from the pit to the ceiling was one compact mass of hearers. The proprietor of the theatre, who, with his wife, was present, estimates the number at three thousand. We should think as many more must have gone away, unable to find entrance. As to the character of the audience, they were for the most part, exactly the persons sought to be reached by the service; an old resident of Philadelphia says sevenths of them are outside of the regular ordinances of the Church. Gamblers, harlots, professed infidels were there, to hear the preacher speak of righteousness and of a judgment to come. The deportment of the multitude was as orderly and quiet as that of any refined congregation. The order of services and hymns had been printed on a small handbill and distributed to the crowd upon entering. At about quarter to eight, Rev. Mr. Talmage, (of the Ref. Dutch Church) the preacher of the evening,

attended by Mr. Simons, the President of the Association, and Mr. Geo. H. Stuart, appeared on the platform, and the services were opened by singing, "All hail the power of Jesus' name," the audience rising and joining to such an extent as to fill the house with the volume of sound,—the first hymn of praise, as Mr. Talmage remarked, ever sung within these walls. Then followed selections from Scripture, in the book of Acts; first the account of the riot in the theatre at Ephesus,—thank God, said the speaker, we can now preach the Gospel in a theatre without danger of riot;—then the conversion of the jailer at Philippi, the suddenness of which was commented on; and finally the Descent of the Holy Ghost at Pentecost; on which the speaker remarked that only by such manifestations as that at Pentecost could the world ever be converted to Christ. A nation must be born in a day. Such a multitude as this must move in solid phalanx into the kingdom. A brief prayer was offered; the Psalm "Show pity Lord, O Lord forgive," was sung, and the preacher rose for the sermon. Before announcing the text he said: "There are some persons opposed to preaching in places not especially consecrated. Therefore to-night, for all the religious services to be held in this theatre, I now solemnly, in the name of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost, dedicate this house to the high and holy purposes of religion; and may all who come here find the place full of the presence of God, and to many may it be the very gate of heaven."

He then read the text, using, as in the selections, a small volume which he held in his hand; 2 Cor. v. 10: "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad." The grand, imperial, theme of the pulpit; The Judgment Day, which few dare boldly to handle, from an overwhelming sense of the inadequacy of all human powers to the task, was well chosen by the preacher for his audience. By apt and full quotations from the inspired volume he established the fact and showed the awful nature of the day. He proposed to speak first of the Judge, then of those who are to be arraigned before him, and lastly of the sentences announced.

The Judge, he said, would be impartial, merciful and just; the parties before the tribunal, would be: the good, all blasphemers, the poor and oppressed, defrauders and charlatans, outragers of public law and order, all mere moralists, and lastly all who have rejected the Gospel. In conclusion, the despair of the unconverted at the Judgment, was vividly described, and the speaker paused at the height of his description, exclaimed: "I thank God we are of this side of that, and continued to preach Jesus and to urge and offer an immediate salvation to the hearers.

The sermon, entirely extempore and forcibly and unaffectedly delivered, was admirably adapted to hold a miscellaneous audience and showed much of the skill of the experienced political speaker. The preacher put himself in hearty sympathy with his audience where he could, and yet boldly denounced their sins and even their false morality. And while the hearers were scarcely overwhelmed and awed by the transcendent greatness of the theme, it was impossible that they should fail, under the ordinary influences of the Spirit, to be aroused and arrested, and made to see, in some measure, their guilt and danger, and the great way of escape through the freely offered cross of Christ.

But perhaps the most hopeful and remarkable part of the services was yet to come. Before the benediction was pronounced notice was given that a prayer meeting would be held immediately, in the rooms of the Association directly opposite. When the assembly dispersed, a great tide immediately set across the street and poured through the door way and up the stairs into the rooms. The library was completely filled in a few moments, and the crowd swarmed up stairs into the chapel, multitudes not being able to gain admittance into either place. Meetings were organized in both rooms. Mr. Stakeholder presided in the library and Geo. H. Stuart, Esq., in the chapel. At the latter meeting, after a number of brief prayers and addresses, in response to the invitation given, sixteen persons, all young men but two, arose for prayer. The people of God looked on with wonder and joy at this auspicious, and for the most part, unexpected, opening of the new campaign and seemed to hear the encouraging promise of the Saviour: "Thou shalt see greater things than these." At 10 o'clock the meeting had closed and the congregation dispersed.

FROM OUR ROCHESTER CORRESPONDENT.

FATHER KETCHUM.

Those who attended the State Sunday-school association at Lockport, will remember the venerable form of Jesse Ketchum, who was invited, with two or three other aged men, to a seat upon the platform, out of respect, not only to his years but to his excellent character also. We did not then know that he would so soon be called to his rest. He died in Buffalo on Saturday evening, the 7th inst., at the age of 85 years. He was a native of this State, but lived for many years in Toronto, Canada, where he accumulated a handsome fortune in the tanning business. He afterward added largely to his estate by profitable investments in Buffalo, where he has resided since 1845.

Always conspicuous for his benevolence, beside other acts, he built the First Presbyterian church of Toronto at his own expense. He also contributed largely to the erection of Westminster church of Buffalo. But he was more particularly known, perhaps we may say, for his enthusiastic interest in the public schools. Every child knew his benevolent face. He often visited the schools, and was accustomed to make his calls the more welcome by generous and judicious presents of books to the children.

His last act of benevolence, it is said, was to give a large lot of land in Buffalo, worth \$20,000, for the founding of a Normal school, with the characteristic condition, that it should somehow yield \$300 a year, to be used in keeping up his donations of books to the children of the public schools.

His death is a marked event in the history of the Buffalo churches. The pastors have all lost a friend; while the teachers and children of the public schools will be acknowledged as among the chief mourners.

SYNOD OF GENEVA.

This body held its annual meeting this week in Geneva. In the absence of the previous Moderator, the opening sermon was preached on Tuesday evening by Rev. Dr. Hogarth of Detroit, who was providentially present, so far on his way homeward from Europe. He is looking very well, much improved by his foreign tour, and he preached a grand sermon from the words,

"He spake as never man spake." He started on Thursday for his home in Detroit.

Rev. Wm. K. Platt, of Hector, was elected Moderator. Rev. J. D. Krum, of Seneca Falls, preached the Communion sermon. Rev. A. M. Stowe and others were heard upon Home Missions; Rev. C. H. Wheeler and others for Foreign Missions. The devotional meetings, each morning, were well attended and deeply interesting. The whole session was highly satisfactory. The Synod is to meet next year in Corning.

HAMILTON COLLEGE.

The fall term opens well. The freshman class is large, and considerable numbers are also added to the other classes. During vacation a capital improvement has been made in the college chapel, the old-fashioned and uncomfortable seats having given place to nice pews, with other advantageous changes.

Dr. Peters, whose reputation as an astronomer, is well established both in this country and in Europe, is formally elected to the chair of astronomy which he has already filled for some years by appointment. He is not a mere teacher, but an original and able observer in his lofty science.

PERSONAL.

Rev. N. M. Clute, of Oakfield, has received and accepted an invitation to serve the Congregational church of Clarkson in the work of the ministry, and is to enter at once into his new field of labor.

DR. DAGGETT TO NEW HAVEN.

It has already been announced that Dr. Daggett, of Canandaigua, has received and accepted a call to the Church in Yale College. We understand he is expecting to enter upon his labors in that city about the middle of October. He leaves a large and delightful church to fill one of the most important and difficult and responsible positions in the land. Who can hope to satisfy a thousand critical students, gathered from all parts of the country, with varied tastes, sympathies and capacities, in that half-fledged and formative period of their intellectual development? If fine taste, ripe culture, superior intellectual endowments, fine voice and graceful manner can do it at all, Dr. Daggett can do it. And still we cannot help contemplating the change with some little solicitude for his continued usefulness. We trust it is all for the best. He will be greatly missed from this region. No man in Western New York is a more universal favorite.

A SILVER WEDDING.

One of those unique delightful family gatherings so named, was held in Angelica on the 31st ultimo. Alfred Lockhart, Esq., an esteemed elder in the Presbyterian church of that place, a banker and merchant also, with his estimable lady, so received the congratulations of his numerous friends. A large number of the family relations passed the day socially, and in the evening the citizens more generally called to pay their respects to the happy pair who passed so large a part of the journey of life together. It was a pleasant and brilliant occasion.

REV. J. H. VINCENT.

This gentleman, Secretary of the Sunday-school Association of the Methodist church, was in our city last week, holding an Institute. It was not very largely attended. It was confined mostly to his own denomination. And yet if we could judge from what little we witnessed, and from much more we heard from the lips of others, good judges of such matters, we should say that he was admirably adapted to the work in which he is engaged, giving instruction and stirring up increased interest in the Sunday school work in his own denomination. He is just such a Secretary as we greatly need for our own Sabbath-school Committee. He is clear-headed, self-possessed, earnest, easy, natural, an inventive teacher, and an eloquent speaker. Where is another such a Vincent for our Committee?

PICNIC.

The Brick church Sunday-school of this city rallied about eight hundred strong, filled twelve cars, and went last week to Avon for a picnic. We fell in with them returning, and they had evidently had a very pleasant time of it; quite unlike that which fell to their lot last year, when they went to Livonia, spent the whole day, and returned in one unceasing drizzling rain; so incessant that the children could not leave the cars, but after waiting four or five hours upon the track returned to the city as they went. But this year the day was all that could be desired, and the happiness of the children was like an overflowing fountain.

THAT READING ROOM.

In Geneva they have one of the most pleasant and well supplied reading rooms which we have found anywhere. It was started by the gift of a thousand dollars from Mrs. William Wadsworth. It occupies two very pleasant and commodious rooms, upon the main street of the village, well lighted, well ventilated, and every way attractive. Here are twenty five of the Daily Papers, here are the Weeklies, and Magazines, to the number of about one hundred in all. It is conveniently situated, free to all, and frequented by many. GENESEE.

ROCHESTER, Sept. 21, 1867.

PHOTOGRAPHS OF MINISTERS.—We call attention to the card of Mr. J. H. Freet, in another part of the paper. His plan is endorsed by Rev. H. E. Niles of York, and other ministers in the interior.

REV. B. KENDALL, the well known instructor of youth in the city, is enlarging the scope of his popular institution at 13th and Locust Sts. See advertisement.

FROM OUR CHICAGO CORRESPONDENT.

NEW CHURCH EDIFICE IN THE CAPITAL OF IOWA.

DEAR PRESBYTERIAN:—Des Moines, the picturesque and thriving capital of Iowa, is a city of some eleven or twelve thousand souls, with a rapidly augmenting population. The very recent arrival, at this point, of the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad, now hurrying forward to connect with the Union Pacific, at Omaha, has given a new impetus to the growth of the place. As the permanent capital of one of the very finest States of the Union, now being settled and developed by a superior class of immigrants, and with a rapidly exalted by none, it must become a large and important town.

You will be glad to know that Presbyterianism has obtained here a well established footing. Two churches of our own order, one of the Old School and one, I think, of the Cumberland branch of our numerous family, represent its faith and polity. Some twenty to twenty five years ago our brother, Rev. Thompson Bird, came hither "in advance of all others," and laid, in what was then and longer, known as "Fort Des Moines," a very outpost of civilization, the foundations of the "Old Central" church. Though very feeble, he still lives; and having, in early days, bought some acres of ground for a "cow pasture," in what is now the very centre of the town, although it no longer answers the purpose for which it was bought, it happily places this excellent and most useful minister in his day, beyond the fear of want in his declining years. When the history of Iowa shall be fully and justly written, the name of THOMPSON BIRD will not be among the least of those who assisted in laying the sure foundations of her greatness in intelligence and religion.

And now the "Old Central," the mother of churches, having too long worshipped in a building entirely unworthy of its position and membership, and having recently secured the able and most acceptable services of Rev. T. O. Rice, as its future pastor, has aroused itself to erect a house of worship which shall be fully worthy of the Capital of the State, and a "House of Ages" for itself and its children for generations. The corner-stone was laid a few days since with appropriate ceremonies and a most able and interesting address by Mr. Rice, and already its walls tower many yards above the foundation. When completed, it will measure 117 feet in length by 82 in breadth, and will be much the noblest and most imposing Protestant church edifice in the State. I should be glad to give you a more detailed account of the edifice, and an outline, at least, of the able address of Mr. Rice, but my limits do not permit.

SYNOD OF IOWA.

On Thursday evening last, at half past seven o'clock, the Synod of Iowa convened at the Third church of Des Moines, Rev. J. M. Philips, pastor, and was opened by a sermon from the Rev. J. N. Crittenden, of Keokuk. Rev. H. H. Kellogg, of Marshalltown, was chosen Moderator, and Rev. G. H. Chatterton, scribe. The attendance was unusually good. Our church at Omaha was represented, if we mistake not, for the first time, in Synod;—a full delegation, consisting of its excellent pastor, his wife, and elder Kellom, being present. Delegates from other bodies added to the interest of the occasion by their presence and their communications.

I will not attempt giving you any detailed account of the proceedings, confining myself to such as have more than a local interest.

A new Presbytery, to be called the Presbytery of Omaha, was constituted, embracing in its limits the counties in Iowa, which border the Missouri river, together, with that part of the Synod lying beyond the same river.

The Presbyterian Committee of Home Missions was unanimously requested to appoint Rev. Wm. Campbell, of Adel, Synodical Missionary for the Synod of Iowa.

A communication was received from Rev. G. R. Moore, principal and proprietor of the Young Ladies Seminary at Lyons, Iowa, proposing to sell that institution to the Synod for the sum of \$15,000. The property is supposed to be worth not less than \$40,000, and is in every way very desirable, and admirably located for its purposes. In view of the great advantages proposed in this offer, Synod accepted the same, provided the required amount can be raised; and appointed Rev. H. L. Stanley, of Lyons, its agent to attempt the obtaining of funds. Rev. J. B. Morse, of Clinton, was designated as Principal of the Seminary, and it is supposed he will accept and enter upon the duties of the post in October, next. Should Mr. Stanley, in the prosecution of his work, visit any of your Eastern communities, it is to be hoped he will meet with such substantial encouragement as the unusual merits of the undertaking should secure for it. Nothing more than this will be needed to make it an entire success.

The Synod also received under its care, and commended to the patronage and liberality of the churches at home and abroad, the Parson's Seminary at Cedar Rapids, of which more anon.

The sessions of Synod were concluded by a large and popular meeting, held at the Central church, in the interest of Home Missions, Church Erection, and Education. Stirring addresses were made upon these topics, and a very excellent impression is believed to have been made upon the community. The meeting was a decided success. Synod adjourned to meet next year in Dubuque.

On the whole, the spirit of this meeting of Synod was decidedly good. There is evidently a great and much needed improvement in the condition of the affairs of our Church in Iowa. The religious state of the several churches is generally cheering, and a decided progress has marked the past year. Faith, courage and hope characterized the plans adopted for future growth and usefulness. A very pleasant incident of Friday's proceedings was a recess, while the whole body went to pay its respects to our honored and beloved brother Bird, whose illness prevented his being present at the meetings of Synod.

Rev. Mr. Yale, Commissioner from the Synod of Iowa (O. S.), expressed the opinion that the body he represented were generally in favor of reunion upon the plan of the Joint Committee. And here I may add, that the Presbyteries of Iowa City and Des Moines (N. S.), at their respective meetings last week, voted unanimously to the same effect.

NORTH WEST.
DES MOINES, IA., Sept. 16, 1867.

News of Our Churches.

RESIGNATION OF DR. JOHNSON.—The application of the Rev. Herrick Johnson, D.D., asking the Third Presbyterian church of this city, to unite with him in asking the Presbytery to dissolve his pastoral relation with this church, was considered at a large meeting held September 11th. Dr. Johnson made a full statement of his reason for asking to be permitted to leave a people to whom he was greatly attached, which was solely the delicate state of his wife's health, which required her to be absent from this atmosphere at once, if any hope of recovery was to be entertained. The congregation would have willingly granted a furlough to the pastor for a year had it been thought best by Dr. Johnson. But he was unwilling that the church should remain in suspense, while the state of Mrs. J.'s health was such as to make it most probable that she could never return to this place so as to make it her permanent home. In view of this, the people reluctantly consented to unite with the pastor in the application, and it was unanimously voted to continue the salary until the first of January. The removal of Dr. Johnson is greatly regretted by all denominations. While here he has been abundant in labors, and God has blessed his efforts. He expects to spend the winter in Marquette, for the benefit of his wife, where he will preach to a small but spirited church now vacant.—Pittsburgh Banner.

MINISTERIAL.—Rev. P. S. Cleland has been compelled to resign his agency for the Freedmen's Aid Commission, his health not permitting him to prosecute the work with vigor.—Rev. C. M. Blake, military chaplain; offers to preach freely to the people of Prescott, Arizona.—Rev. S. Murdock resigned the charge of the Presbyterian church in Craneville, N. J., on the 13th inst., and is now seeking another field of labor.—The church in Quincy, Ill., having lost Dr. King, has been supplied by Rev. W. W. Atterbury.—Rev. D. C. White, from the Congregational body, and, at the present time, ministering to the Church in Barton, Ohio, asked to be admitted to Grand River Presbytery, and having given a hearty affirmative reply to the constitutional questions, was received to membership.—The Rev. Isaac W. Atherton, of the Cedar Rapids Presbytery, Iowa, was received by the Presbytery of Chillicothe of the other branch, at its late meeting.—Rev. Arthur W. Sanford was installed pastor of the Church of Erie, Mich., September 15th.—Part of Professor H. B. Smith's report on the United States for the Evangelical Alliance was read, in the absence of Dr. Patterson, of Chicago, by Dr. Prime, of the New York Observer.

NEW CHURCH IN WOODSIDE.—On Sunday evening, 8th, a meeting was held at the house of Mr. C. C. Hine on Bellevue avenue for the purpose of organizing a Presbyterian church. Rev. Dr. J. Few Smith, who had just preached a most interesting discourse to a crowded congregation from the words "The Lord hath need of him," was chosen Moderator, and Mr. Albert Best, Secretary. H. H. Nichols, C. C. Hine, B. F. Baldwin, E. G. Fautoute and William F. Pettit were elected Trustees, and seventeen hundred dollars were subscribed on the spot towards the building of a chapel. Twenty-three members were enrolled and Messrs. C. C. Hine and James Swinnerton, Jr., were appointed a committee to apply to Presbytery for organization in due form.—Newark Advertiser.

HAMILTON COLLEGE.—The College year has opened favorably at Clinton. The students are generally on the ground, with a fine accession in the Freshman and Sophomore classes. A great improvement has been made in the chapel; the entire room below re-seated, painted, and cushioned, the gallery out down in front and fitted up comfortably for the use of the Professors and their families. Prof. Peters, whose fame as an astronomer is world-wide, and who has had charge of the Litchfield Observatory for several years past, has been elected to the Professorship so munificently endowed by E. C. Litchfield, Esq., of Brooklyn. The College Campus and Hamilton Monthly are periodicals issued by the students weekly and monthly; well conducted and well deserving the patronage of the Alumni and friends of Hamilton who would keep posted in the current literature and events of the College.—Cor. Evangelist.

THE PRESBYTERIES ON RE-UNION.—The correspondent of the Christian Herald says: The Presbytery of Crawfordsville stood as a unit in their vote, endorsing the plan proposed by the Committees. We anticipate great benefits from re-union in this region. Where both branches are weak, the churches feeble and wide apart, divided as we are, the out-posts are often not in supporting distance of each other or strong enough to give aid even in an emergency. Re-union in this region, if it gives confidence, affection and co-operation, will more than double the strength of both branches.

GRAND RIVER PRESBYTERY, O., passed the following: "Resolved, That the Presbytery of Grand River earnestly desire the re-union of the