

American Presbyterian.

THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 1868.

Page 2nd, Conclusion of a Lay Sermon; "On the Wing" in Chicago, Dr. Tustin, an Occasional Correspondent in Steubenville, and Items of Religious Intelligence. Page 3rd, Dr. Beadle on Mollusks; Air, Light, Water. Page 6th, Family Miscellany. Page 7th, Editor's Table, and a second article on the Pennsylvania Germans.

THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON REUNION.—The Banner says: "We have been informed that the meeting of the Joint Committee on Reunion has been postponed one week, from March 4th to March 11th." One of the most prominent of the Old School members suggests a united concert of prayer in behalf of the Committee on the evening of that day. We second the proposal very heartily and trust that the friends of the cause will make and announce the necessary arrangements for the purpose.

We have received from the Sunday school of Tabor Church for Kolapoor Mission, \$50. Also, from sundry persons, through Miss Wetherill, \$46, towards replacing an Illinois Home Missionary's horse, which has been lost or disabled.

We have received Nos. 3, 5, and 6 of the Occident, the San Francisco Presbyterian paper, edited by Dr. Eells, (O. S.) and Rev. E. B. Walsworth, (N. S.). It is got up somewhat in the English style, comprising twelve pages about the size of those of the N. Y. Nation. It is very tasteful in its appearance, lively in its contents, able in its management, sound on local politics, the Sabbath question, &c., but silent on national issues.

The Dogmatist, as well as the Rationalist, is the constructor of a system. Indeed, whatever may be their actual antagonism in the field of religious controversy, the two terms are in their proper sense so little exclusive of each other that both were originally employed to denote the same persons.—Mansell, Limits of Religious Thought, p. 46.

Dogmatism and Rationalism may be considered as severally representing, the one the spirit which adds to the word of God, the other that which diminishes from it.—Ibid, p. 48.

REUNION CONVENTION AT NEW CASTLE, PA.

New Castle, Pa., February 19, 1868.

The Presbyterian Union Convention has just closed. There were present and had their names recorded, of the United Presbyterians, ministers 19, Elders 23, of the Old School, ministers 12, Elders 9; New School, ministers 2, Elders 4. Reformed Presbyterians (New School), ministers 3, Elders 1; Reformed Presbyterian (Old School) ministers 2, Elders 1, in all 35 ministers and 38 Elders.

The meeting was in some respects a very remarkable one. Respectable for its numbers and the character of the men composing it, it was marked by an earnest, devotional spirit, a courteous deference to each other, a spirit of forbearance, and a most earnest anxiety for Union, provided it can be accomplished without sacrifice of conscientious convictions. Candor, frankness, willingness to look in the face the real difficulties of the case were manifest.

The meetings continued for nearly two days. No such meeting has ever been held in this region—no one so marked by fraternal kindness and love. Every one seemed surprised and rejoiced that brethren so long separated by the strictest party lines, could come together, and with many earnestness discuss the knotty points which, for generations, have divided them, and separate with feelings of increased mutual respect and love. Such meetings cannot long be held without the most happy results. Possibly, the fact that in many of the congregations through this whole region there is an unusual attention to the subject of religion, may have had much to do with results reached by the Convention. It is to be borne in mind that this region, comprising Lawrence, Beaver, and Mercer counties, is to a remarkable extent settled by Scotch Irish people. Presbyterians, in the strictest sense of the word, noted for their intelligence, thrift, earnestness, obstinacy, fearlessness, and all those traits which so clearly mark this race. To understand the meaning of the conclusions arrived at, one must bear this in mind.

There was a preliminary prayer-meeting on Monday evening in Dr. D. X. Junkin's church, led by the pastor. I could not help noticing his familiarity with the old Psalms, apparently, in giving out the Psalm not depending on the book at all. He was assisted by Rev. W. T. Wylie of the N. S. church.

The Convention assembled on Tuesday, the 18th, at 11 o'clock. Dr. Scott of the Reformed Presbyterian Church was called to the chair. Rev. Mr. Miller of the U. P. Ch., and Rev. Mr. Morton of the O. S. were made secretaries. A business committee of two from each body presented in the Convention was appointed. Being a member of this committee, I could not but notice the spirit of fraternal kindness and forbearance manifested by every one. This committee reported a series of resolutions which formed the chief topics of discussion in the Convention, nearly all of which were adopted with remarkable unanimity. The discussions were marked by great earnestness and a good deal of ability, but still with a frank and kindly manner, comparatively little occurring to mar the harmony of the meetings. The speeches were limited to ten minutes.

Here are the resolutions adopted. I. Resolved, That the divisions in the visible Church are the result of sin, and a fruitful source of

evil, and should be regarded as a ground of lamentation by every lover of Zion. 2. That we regard a free and fraternal interchange of sentiment among the churches of the various denominations as one of the best means of removing misapprehension in regard to the causes of division, and as also a means of removing the divisions themselves.

3. That while we cannot ask of each other the abandonment of any principle for the sake of Union, yet, anything which is founded on nothing more than ancient custom, or which is merely a matter of preference, should be cheerfully laid aside for the sake of an object so desirable.

4. That we cordially agree in the statement of doctrine contained in the Westminster standards—the Confession of Faith and Catechisms, Larger and Shorter. 5. That the Convention enter into a free interchange of opinion on the subjects of Psalmody and Communion, in order to ascertain whether we can agree upon a statement of doctrine and practice on these subjects.

Among the speakers, I call to mind, at this meeting Rev. Dr. Junkin (O. S.); Drs. Vincent, Wishard, and Findlay, of Wilmington (U. P.); Rev. Messrs. Riggs, Torrance, Falconer of Clarksville (O. S.) and also Elder Francis (O. S.) who made a capital speech. Rev. G. K. Ormond of Youngstown and his brother, B. K. Ormond of Clarksville (both U. P.); Rev. Messrs. French, Peacock, and Cummings (U. P.); Rev. Messrs. McMillan, Smith, and Alford (R. P.); Rev. W. T. Wylie (N. S.); Rev. B. C. Critchlow, and many others whose names I cannot now recall; but I failed to meet my old class-mate and friend Dr. R. B. Walker, O. S., an earnest Union man whom I had counted on meeting, but who I understand was detained by an interesting work of grace going on in his church.

ACTION ON PSALMODY.

Early in the discussion on the fifth resolution Dr. Junkin proposed the following paper:—"With a view to giving definiteness to this discussion be it Resolved, that on the subject of Psalmody the recommendations of the Philadelphia National Convention be approved by this convention as a suitable basis of Union, so far as this subject is concerned." The following was proposed as a substitute by Rev. G. K. Ormond (U. P.): "Resolved, that the Convention propose as a basis of Union on the subject of Psalmody the following:—"In the ordinance of praise in the United Church a faithful translation of the Book of Psalms shall be used, to which may be added a faithful translation of such other portions of the word of God as may be suitable matter of praise; and as may be regularly adopted in accordance with Presbyterian Church order." The first four resolutions were adopted unanimously. After a long and most interesting discussion, the paper submitted by Rev. Mr. Ormond, and which was put forth as the ground on which the United Presbyterians were willing heartily to go into the union, was adopted by an overwhelming majority; some four or five only being heard in the negative.

In the afternoon, just before adjournment, a vote, by churches, was called for and taken, but in consequence of one-third or more being absent, as the matter was regarded as settled by the almost unanimous vote in the morning it was resolved not to record the vote. Some four or five brethren of the Old School, however, had had liberty to record their names in the negative. Among these were the names of, I think, Rev. Mr. Riggs and Rev. Mr. Torrance, of Clarksville, and Dr. D. X. Junkin.

It was then resolved, on motion of Rev. Mr. Alford (R. P.), that the different denominations present in this convention, take measures to bring before their respective supreme judicatories, at their next spring meetings, the conclusions arrived at in this Convention, on the subject of Psalmody, and to use all proper measures to have a Union consummated on said conclusions.

After a vote of thanks for hospitality received from the citizens and the appointment of a Committee to call another and larger Convention in the spring, the Convention adjourned sine die.

REMARKS OF THE CORRESPONDENT.

The unanimity arrived at in the difficult and perplexing subject of Psalmody was most unexpected. It is virtually, if not literally, the same proposed in the Steubenville Convention, and by Rev. J. B. Johnson, of St. Clairsville, Ohio, and also discussed at Wooster and Meadville. I have conversed personally with a large number of the leading and representative brethren of the United Presbyterian Church, in and about Pittsburg and Alleghany, on the subject of this proposition. Within a month or so, a marked change has taken place in their views on this subject. They feel satisfied that their Church can be brought to adopt this basis, and go heartily into organic Union. The same is probably true of the other Psalm singing Churches. Now comes the question, Whether the Old and New School bodies will meet them on this basis? There must be mutual concessions. The Psalm singers feel that that they have gone a great way. So they have. Shall we not do the same? If we find it hard to give up some of the sweet hymns, associated with our dearest and most hallowed Christian feelings, let us not forget that, in addition to all this, they give up virtually, very much of what they have been supposed to contend most earnestly for, through two or three centuries. A few years of earnest loving, fraternal sympathy, and co-operation make great changes of both sides of this difficult subject. We shall go on to love and prize the Psalms more and more. They will almost necessarily fall into greater liberty in regard to praise. A new version of the Psalms and seven or eight hundred new hymns in the very thoughts of the Bible, will surely afford us ample matter for praise in the worship of God. "And what do we gain for all this concession?" Such a union as the earth has never seen for power and efficiency. See what these United Presbyterians have already accomplished since their union. In many places actually doing more than Old and New School together. Look, too, at their system of Domestic Missions, really better and more efficient than that of either Old or New School. Let them be met in a spirit of the most cordial welcome. Then shall we present a front that may well make the powers of darkness tremble. Lord, hasten it in Thy time. J. S. T.

We have received from Frank L. Bodine, Esq., \$25 for Kolapoor Mission.

FROM OUR ROCHESTER CORRESPONDENT.

Rev. H. H. JESSUP, D.D., Returned Missionary from Syria, has just paid us a visit. He spoke with very great interest, Sabbath, February 23, of the progress of the Gospel in that distant land; occupying the pulpit of the Plymouth Church in the morning, and of the Central Church in the evening. He has a story of marvellous interest to tell, and he is quite able to tell it with thrilling effect on his congregation. The good people of these churches have not been so stirred for a long time, in behalf of the cause of missions. He came home sick; but is working hard, and getting well rapidly. He expects to return to Syria early in the fall; but if there were there now, he would gladly do more for the spread of the gospel in the earth, than he is doing now, by thus addressing the churches in behalf of the nations that sit in darkness.

GOING TO EUROPE. We learn that Rev. Dr. Fowler, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Utica, is somewhat out of health, and is about to take a furlough of six months to visit foreign shores. He has now been settled over that flock for seventeen years, and under his ministry the church has greatly prospered. He has well earned a season of rest. A few friends raise a thousand dollars towards his expenses, and five hundred more as a fund for supplying the pulpit in his absence. President BRYCE, and Professor UPDEGROVE of Hamilton College, are expected to occupy the desk while the pastor is away.

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN. We clip the following from one of the local papers, and from some things we have heard in various towns, it is time something of the kind was published.

Rev. H. E. TAYLOR.—A person bearing the above title has recently appeared among us, whose case deserves some attention. He is soliciting funds to publish a book; and, as specimen pages of his book, exhibits to us, which he has cut from "Arvine's Anecdotes." This deception, with several others like it, led a gentleman of this city recently to threaten him with a visit from the police, whereupon he left. Mr. Taylor's name occurs in the list of the Presbyterian of Congregational ministers; but he bears certain testimonials, mostly in print, which serve to corroborate his statements on Sunday wherever he can secure opportunity, so as to advertise himself for his week's work. He is said to reside at Evans, N.Y., and to have a good property there, making it quite unnecessary for him to go about soliciting funds. During the war Mr. Taylor received an appointment in the service of the Christian Commission. On his leaving the army his baggage was searched for stolen property, and he was advertised in the religious papers by George H. Stuart, Esq., as a person collecting funds without authority. He is "collecting funds" again, and that by very serious misrepresentation; and as he will probably visit the towns along the Central road, this notice is to caution pastors and parishes against him.

Rev. J. F. KENDALL closes his successful labors in Baldwinsville the second Sabbath of March; just three years after the dedication of the new house of worship built for him. Since that time he has received eighty-four members to his church; and every way the Society has enjoyed a high degree of prosperity.

Prof. Huntington, of Auburn Seminary, is to supply the pulpit for the time after the pastor returns. The salary of Rev. Dr. Knox, of Rome, has been raised, by the addition of seven hundred dollars. That is better than a donation visit.

CENTRAL CHURCH.—Yesterday completed Dr. Campbell's second year as pastor of the Central Church of this city. The church now numbers 706 members; a net gain of nearly 100 in the last two years, enough to form a very respectable colony for a new church. It is very probable that some of them will soon be called to consider the question of going out for that purpose. The great Mission Sabbath School, in West Avenue, sustained by this church, has long been regarded as the proper nucleus for such an enterprise, and the time is near when it will probably take shape and being.

The benevolent contributions of the Central Church for the past year amount to \$8,483—divided substantially as follows: Home Missions, (in various forms), \$1,344; Foreign Missions, \$1,681; Education, \$2,294; Impression, \$651; Ministerial Relief, \$200; Church Erection, \$1,773; other matters, \$789—all which is respectfully submitted; a good record to provoke others to love and good works. GENESSEE, Rochester, March 2, 1868.

OUR CHICAGO LETTER.

DEAR AMERICAN.—Many hearts were saddened among us this morning by the announcement of the death of Rev. E. A. Pierce, pastor of Calvary Church, which occurred yesterday, at Tallahassee, Fla. Our esteemed and lamented brother left his church but a few weeks since, with leave of absence for six months, hoping to find healing and restoration in the warm airs of the Gulf. Many feared that he would never be able to preach again in this region, at least; but few if any anticipated so sudden a termination of his life. For a little he seemed to be benefited by the change and rest, but soon relapsed, and passed suddenly away. Thus has departed a most useful and beloved Christian minister, in the very morning of his day, to the sore grief of his Church and congregation, and the deep sorrow of a large circle of brethren and friends. The entire period of the brief ministry of our deceased friend and brother was passed in this city; he having been for some years pastor of the Westminster Church, and for about ten years of Calvary Church. Naturally of a frail and delicate organization, ardent and devoted in spirit, and coming to an important charge without experience or accumulated preparations for the pulpit, he applied himself to his work with a closeness of pursuit which only a robust constitution and strong health could have long endured. His friends have for many months been anxious about him; but he felt so confident that a few months rest in a milder climate would restore him to health and to his much loved charge, that he departed, leaving also a youthful widow, the daughter of one of your own citizens,

who will return to the home she so lately left a happy bride, bringing with her her dead. May God comfort her.

UNION CONVENTION.

A Union Convention of the Presbyterians of Southern Illinois is now in Session at Centralia. They have thus far adopted the doctrinal basis of the Philadelphia Convention. Four branches are represented.

A NEW CHURCH IN NEBRASKA.

I am happy to chronicle the organization of a new church of our connection in Decatur Nebraska—the second in that new State,—under the pastoral charge of Rev. J. M. Peebles. Our church at Omaha, long our sole representative in all that vast region, has now a sister, a "little one," indeed, but a great acquisition, and the first we trust, of a goodly number to gather about them.

[More particulars of this enterprise, soon.] Rev. A. L. Brooks accepts the call from Peoria, Decatur, Illinois, leaving an important but difficult Church to seek a new pastor. So Peter must needs be robbed that Paul may be paid. I am happy to hear by private advices of a very general and very powerful revival of religion at Cedar Rapids, Iowa, embracing in its beneficent sweep almost entire congregations. The Church of our brother Knox has been signally blessed, and nearly all his congregation. And still the work advances. Similar tidings come to us from other quarters of the mighty work of God. NORTHWEST, Chicago, February 28, 1868.

News of Our Churches.

CITY CHURCHES.

GREENWICH ST. CHURCH.—This new born enterprise has been baptized at its birth by the Holy Spirit. For three successive weeks preaching service has been held every evening, followed by prayer meetings. These meetings have, been, from their commencement to their close, marked by a seriousness and solemnity that testified to the Spirit's presence. We have had no excitement, except the excitement of joy attendant upon the pardon of sin, the reception of the Saviour. Last Sabbath evening our little church celebrated for the second time the dying love of the Redeemer. 28 were added to our number, 17 being heads of families; of these, 23 were by profession, 5 by letter. To 16 of the 23 admitted by profession, the ordinance of baptism was administered; one of these had just reached the thirteenth year, another the sixtieth. The young and the old bowed together before the Lord. Not quite three months ago, we organized with 26 members—since that time our number has increased to 62; 30 having been added by profession, 6 by letter. Probably a dozen or more are at present under conviction, and will, we trust, soon find peace in believing. The Lord hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad.—WAT. HURON, Pastor.

BETHESDA CHURCH, KENSINGTON.—The installation of Rev. Wm. T. Eves, as pastor of this young church, took place on Wednesday evening, Feb. 16th. The spacious hall in which the congregation meets was crowded to its utmost capacity.

Rev. Dr. Allen, as Moderator of the Fourth Presbytery, presided, and put the Constitutional Questions. Rev. Dr. Sheppard preached the sermon, taking for his text the first clause of the Lord's Prayer, and from the Fatherhood of God, deducing the character of the Church as a family, and the duties incumbent upon its members.

Rev. Albert Barnes delivered an impressive charge to the Pastor, feelingly observing that it might be the last occasion on which he might be called upon to act in that capacity.

Rev. Frank Robbins delivered the charge to the people, urging them to love, honor, and sustain him: who was to break upon them the Bread of Life.

This new colony is already the scene of unusual religious interest, special meetings being held every evening, and about forty-five having asked an interest in the prayers of the Church.

NORTH BROAD STREET CHURCH.—We regret to announce that this important charge is still unoccupied. The unanimous call given some two weeks ago, to Rev. S. J. Nicolls, D.D., of St. Louis, (O. S.), has since been declined, the Providence of God manifest in both the spiritual and temporal condition of his church seeming too plainly to require his presence in St. Louis. A church building is going up, and a powerful work of grace is in progress in the mission school connected with his church.

MANAYUNK.—The Rev. A. V. C. Schenck, late Professor of Metaphysics in Westminster College, Missouri, has virtually accepted a unanimous call from the First Presbyterian Church of Manayunk; and commenced his regular duties there on Sabbath, Feb. 2d, under very favorable auspices. His necessary absence, during the following week was "improved" by the people of his new charge to some purpose; as many important changes were effected in the parsonage, which was also stocked with such a supply of fuel, new furniture and creature comforts as must leave the worthy incumbent, for some time to come, very "free from worldly cares and avocations." Your correspondent had the felicity of enjoying his first blank stare of amazement when, on returning with his estimable wife, on Friday evening last, from the residence of a friend (whither they had been invited for a few hours by one of the "pious frauds" usual on such occasions,) he found his parlors alive with unbidden guests; and he and Mrs. Schenck the salient points for a battery of bright eyes and pleasant faces. Rev.

who were present on the occasion will soon forget the outpourings of the new pastor's heart in prayer for his people; or the strains of the immortal "Long Metre Doxology" that so fitly closed the pleasures of the evening. M.

CHURCH ERECTION.—Clinton Street Church, we are glad to report has contributed five hundred dollars to this cause.

FLOUBTOWN.—Rev. G. H. Hammer has become stated supply of this church, having transferred his relations from the Presbytery of Meadville to the Philadelphia 4th. We are happy to announce that 17 persons mostly by profession, have been added to the church since he commenced his labours with them.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT.—Mr. Editor I wish to acknowledge through your excellent paper the receipt of a pocket book containing one hundred dollars in greenbacks, and a receipt for the AMERICAN PRESBYTERIAN for one year, a present from a lady of the First P. Church, Philadelphia. The money has enabled me to purchase a horse to ride to my appointments instead of walking. I wish also to acknowledge the receipt of a box of goods for myself and family from the Ladies Miss. Sewing Society of the same church. The box was filled with articles just such as a family needs, and while those kind hearted ones are making God's ministers and families comfortable with the good things of this world, may the good Lord best their spiritual blessings and the consolations of the gospel.

Rev. Wm. M. TAYLOR. Newburg, Ills., Feb. 21st, 1868.

CHURCHES.

Old Du Quoin Church has been depleted by the organization of a new church at Du Quoin on the Illinois Central, but is moving in the direction of building a new church.—The church at Tamaroa, Ill., has had regular preaching since August, and a lot of land, sufficient for church and parsonage, has been donated, upon which a church is to be erected the coming spring.—The Church in Edwardsburg, Mich., has had an accession of twenty members since Rev. Edward was sent thither by the H. M. Com. The edifice has also been repaired and other necessary things have been done to put it and the Sabbath school in working order.—The walls of the new church edifice in Coldwater, Mich., were carried up to the top of the basement last fall, and quite recently a subscription of \$25,000 has been completed to finish the Church, and it is hoped it will be enclosed before next Winter.—Dr. Nelson writes to the Herald that the congregation in East St. Louis have finished the basement room of their new church, and occupied it for the first time last Sabbath. It is a commodious and attractive room. This is the second Protestant place of worship in a city, containing, I am told, six thousand people. Bro. Gregg has worked nobly, and deserves to be liberally sustained. Three railroad companies (Chicago & St. Louis, St. Louis & Terre Haute and Ohio & Mississippi) gave each \$500 toward the church, and the Wiggins Ferry Co. gave most of the land on which it stands.

New Churches.—Rev. S. C. Clark organized a church at Morrisstown, Cass Co., Mo., which is supplied by Mr. D. M. Naughton, licentiate. He was to organize another at Austin, Mo., on the following Sabbath. He has moved from Greenwood to Hudson, Mo., and is soon to organize three more churches. On Sabbath, February 16th, Rev. C. W. Seaman, organized a German Presbyterian Church in Lebanon, Illinois, consisting of seventy-nine members. He has also organized a church in Trenton, a village some six miles east of Lebanon, consisting of sixty-eight members. Those in this place who were but a few weeks since profane Sabbath-desecrators are now found among the devout worshippers of the Most High. Mr. Seaman is a German by birth and education. Some months since he was invited to take charge of a Home Mission field in St. Louis, Mo., and while there, learning of the utter destitution of his countrymen in this portion of Illinois, he felt it to be his duty to come among them, and the success that is crowning his efforts is truly wonderful.

REVIVALS.—The Herald reports revivals in Clinton, Ind., where twelve have been received on profession; in Portsmouth, O., where over thirty asked an interest in prayer, and nearly all found Christ; in Amesville, O., where over thirty are inquiring; in La Grange, Wis., where eight were received on the first Sabbath in February; in Columbus, Ind., where eight were received on examination, within a few weeks; in Rob Roy, Ind., where there have been twenty-seven accessions as the result of three weeks' meetings; and at Greenwood, Ind. Their Alton correspondent, formerly of the Reporter, sends word of Revivals in Easton, Mo. (a new church) where sixty-seven were received February 10th, and the work is still going on; at Breckinridge, Mo., (also a new church, where a new house of worship was dedicated in December); at New Providence, Mo., where 23 have been converted since the week of prayer, and 19 have joined the church; at Pleasant Prairie, Shelby Co., Mo.; at Maaha, Ill., where several have come out on the Lord's side, including four recently married couples; at Pana, Ill., where converts are being daily added to the church; and where there were ten admissions, February 2d. The Evangelist reports a revival at Susquehanna Depot, where there were over ninety conversions, including many young men and several heads of families. This work is the culmination of a religious interest that has been growing since the settlement of the Pastor, one year and a half ago. Rev. H. H. Jessup has been pleading the claims of the Foreign Mission field upon the converts. The Church in Oakland, Cal., had an accession of ten members. One convert brought forward his five children, recently made motherless, for baptism.

MINISTERS.—Rev. Chas. A. Conant, of Five Corners, N. Y., has removed to Clinton and Osceola, Mo.—Rev. H. L. Brown has entered on the pastorate at Marion, Ind.—Rev. Wm. Hart of Malden, N. Y., has received a unanimous call from the Assembly's church in Washington, D. C., to become its pastor.—Rev. Firam Hill, has taken charge of the new church at Holden and Harboursville, Cass Co., Mo.—Rev. Henry H.