

American Presbyterian

CHARGE TO THE PEOPLE

OF THE NORTH BROAD STREET CHURCH, AT THE INSTALLATION OF DR. STRYKER, MAY 14, 1868.

BY REV. E. E. ADAMS.

BELOVED PEOPLE:—Mine still, in memory and affection; mine by relationship which others cannot claim, involving the origin to most of the history of this church and congregation...

We are permitted in this brief hour, to five over again the years that are gone, free from their cares, their apprehensions, and misconceptions, but bereft altogether of their hopes...

During the year of our separation, we have felt the antagonism that comes in the way of positive opinion and pressing duty. We have known the falshness of the world's promise, and the folly of trusting even ourselves.

The process of consolidating requires different, but not inferior, qualities. You have, as a church, experienced the one process, we trust you are enjoying the other...

I. And in the first place, let me say: Do not expect perfection in your Pastor. He ought to be, we believe he is, a wise and good man. But he is not superhuman, not infallible.

V. Show him your sympathy. Not by fulsome praise, but by just appreciation. Let him not feel that in preaching to you, he is beating the air. Be

bring the news to his ear. His family may have innocent and elegant tastes to gratify, or peculiar wants to be supplied. Will you question their propriety because they are not in the sphere of your experiences?

Indeed, it would be difficult to find a people who would make a formal demand of such sacrifice on the part of their pastor; and yet many very excellent churches do, almost unconsciously by continual pressure, impose on their ministers this terrible necessity.

It is not generally the lot of one and the same man both to inaugurate and complete a great work, either in the realm of science, or empire, or religion. The pioneer has not always the prudence and persistence needed for complete accomplishment.

You are liable to exact too much visiting from your pastor. Such is the state of society in these days, that families can not well be gathered, as they once were, for prayer and Christian instruction.

III. Pray for your pastor. He desires this. It will draw his heart toward you, and your hearts towards him. Meeting at the mercy-seat, you are close one to another.

VI. Labor with your minister. It is for him to lead in the activities of the church; but you are to follow so closely as to overtake him and do most of the work.

VII. Show him your sympathy. Not by fulsome praise, but by just appreciation. Let him not feel that in preaching to you, he is beating the air. Be

completely present at all the meetings appointed by the church. Where you have a right to expect your pastor, he has also the right to expect you.

VI. Cherish a genuine Christian friendship for him. It is nothing to be enrapured by his eloquence, or charmed by his social manners. Be his secretly his character, both for his sake and yours.

What looks to thy dim eyes a stain? In God's pure light may only be a scorch-brought from some well-worn field.

VIII. Overwork more. It behooves every member of a church to observe scrupulously its peculiar order. It is not certain that God has revealed a form of ecclesiastical government as the only authoritative one for the whole Church in all ages.

It is not likely that you will again hear words of this kind from me. My life in future, if I shall be spared, will be devoted to another work—the vineyard of the Lord. Nor will it be long, already, the tokens of dissolution begin to appear, and the waves of the great hereafter murmur to me on "the strand."

NARRATIVE

Of the State of Religion in the Churches of the Third Presbytery of Philadelphia.

With two or three exceptions the reports from the churches are of a most encouraging character. These exceptions however, are important, embracing some of the ablest churches in the body; having for many months been without pastors, they have experienced the usual trials of such a condition; and the aggregate reports of contributions and of progress in the Presbytery are sensibly affected by these vacancies.

Acceptable pastors have been found for the churches, and they will again, by divine favor, take the places of usefulness which it is so serious a matter to Christ's cause, and to the interests of our denomination to see but partially filled.

There are two other vacancies for which there is no immediate prospect of permanent supply. Everywhere else in the Presbytery there are most cheering indications. A number of the churches have had large accessions from the world; one reports sixty, another forty-two, another thirty-two, another twenty-six, another twenty-five during the year.

papers of dismission from the Third Presbytery of New York.

Several churches report a marked increase of efficiency in the lay element, and a spontaneity of movement among the Christian young men in establishing prayer-meetings, and in mission work generally, is remarked in one case; a zealous purpose to gather into the regular services of the sanctuary, by personal effort, the habitually neglectful, is spoken of by others.

The contributions of the churches to the General Assembly's causes have been made with a very good degree of regularity. Even the people churches are found doing something for every part of the schedule. The process of education through which our congregations have been led is nearly complete.

Cheering reports came from two of the rural churches in regard to Temperance movements. Through the efforts of the pastors of two contiguous parishes, aided by good men inside and outside of their churches, no licensed drinking places exist for the current year at least, in two whole townships.

We have cause for thankfulness in the divine favor upon our churches during the year past, and especially for His smile brightening the new year on which we just enter.

THE TIOPA RESOLUTIONS.

Mr. BURTON:—In the article copied from the Presbyterian in your issue of the 21st of May, 'Old School' says: 'The Presbytery of Tioga specified the doctrines of Mr. Barnes, Drs. Taylor and Park as those which we Old School men must regard orthodox.'

A MEMBER OF TIOPA PRESBYTERY.

SYSTEM IN GOOD WORKS.

The Rev. George H. Smyth, of the Sixth Presbyterian Church of Washington, D. C., remitting a contribution to the Publication cause, thus speaks of a new system, recently introduced into that church. The plan is worthy of the consideration of the less wealthy churches, especially.

organizing similar Societies. Of course, in large, wealthy churches, they would consider this mere babyism, but the weak churches need the stimulus and the work needs the means and interest of all.

Probably there are other Presbyteries that have many feeble churches, which do nothing for these objects, and yet, with a similar arrangement, might do much.

News of Our Churches.

PRESBYTERIES. Pres. of Troy.—Mr. Edward P. Sprague a graduate of Andover Theological Seminary, and a licentiate of the Essex North Association, Mass., was ordained and installed over the church of Salem, Wednesday, April the 29th.

Pres. of Delaware.—At the annual meeting held in Delhi, N. Y., April 28th, Col. James Lewis, who has just completed his studies in Union Seminary, was licensed to preach. Mr. Lewis and seven of his class are under appointment, by the Committee of Home Missions, to go into the Synod of Missouri.

As an important adjunct to progress, several churches spoke of the circulation of large numbers of the weekly denominational papers within their bounds. Cheering reports came from two of the rural churches in regard to Temperance movements.

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