

American Presbyterian.

THURSDAY, JUNE 18, 1868.

Mr. Barnes' charge to Dr. Johnson, New Manufactures in the Smoky City, Second Letter from Rev. A. M. Stewart, The Christian Light in Force, Page 24; Editor's Table, including Lange's Corinthians and many Theological Juvenils, and Miscellaneous Books, Page 3d; What Stella could not bear, Old World Monsters, Rev. T. L. Culyer on The Christian's Title, with Poetry, &c., Page 6th; Our Special Correspondent's lively account of the trip to Gettysburg, Page 7th.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

For Kolopour Mission, S. S. of Norristown Central Church, 27 30 E. O. Thompson and S. S. Class, 34 00 G. W. F., 5 00 \$66 30

A Floral, Fruit, and Fancy Fair is now being held at the Lecture Room of the Wharton St. Presbyterian church. Tickets, 50 cts.

We have received numbers I. and II. of The Cretan, a monthly paper issued by the Greek Relief Committee in Boston. It is filled with matters of great interest as to the struggle now waging in the East between the barbarism of Islam and the—however imperfect yet—Christian civilization of our brethren in the lands of the faith in Crete. How successful that struggle has been on the part of the latter is shown by a map in the II. number, exhibiting the very small space in the island now occupied by the Turks.

A farewell soiree was given to Rev. E. P. Hammond, in Glasgow, May 26th, under the auspices of the Glasgow Foundry Boys' Religious Society. Lieut. Colonel D. Davidson occupied the chair. Amongst others on the platform were the Revs. Dr. Paterson, A. A. Bonar, J. Wells, D. Pirret, J. McGregor, Professor Macklin, J. M'Dermid; Bailie Govan, Councilor Laughland, &c.

The Chairman expressed the great pleasure he felt at being there that evening, and especially at meeting an old friend to whom he well remembered as having been years ago engaged along with himself in a blessed work in Scotland—that of assisting in the furtherance of a great awakening. They all knew that he alluded to his dear friend Mr. Hammond. (Cheers.)

Dr. H. S. Johnson then read the report from which the following is an extract:

Mr. Hammond has held 34 meetings in the course of 39 days, from 18th April to 25th May (yesterday) in which he has spoken to 30,000 people in 7 districts of the city. Following up Mr. Hammond's meetings in various quarters of the city, 20 meetings have already been held—not including the regular meetings of the Foundry Boys' Society. These meetings have principally been addressed by laymen. Upwards of 10,000 people have attended these meetings. At every one of the above meetings very many have remained to the inquiry meeting held after them.

After several other addresses, Mr. Hammond gave an account of children's meetings in Syria, where Rev. Mr. Jessup, of Beirut, acted as interpreter, and Jerusalem where many English-speaking children were living, and where Bishop Gobat and Dr. Barclay had requested him to address them. He spoke of the crown of thorns which had been presented to him by Dr. Gobat, and which he had used at meetings on the Continent and in England, with evident good effect.

The Glasgow Morning Journal which gives an account of this soiree, says nothing of the future movements of Mr. Hammond.

A despatch to the Morning Post dated "New York, June 15th," says:

An immense meeting for the reunion of the Presbyterian Churches was held last evening in the Rev. Dr. Hall's Church. Numbers went away unable to gain entrance, and addresses were delivered by Revs. Drs. Adams, Stedd, Prime, Hall, H. B. Smith, Satphen, Robert Carter, and Geo. H. Stuart, Esqs. Devotional exercises were conducted by Drs. Skinner, Hatfield, and Crosby. Intense but suppressed feeling was manifested when Dr. Hall introduced George H. Stuart, and Dr. Adams on behalf of the audience, extended him the right hand of fellowship. Mr. Stuart held the vast audience until nearly ten o'clock.

LYONS FEMALE COLLEGE.

Rev. H. L. Stanley is in this city under appointment of the Synod of Iowa, endeavoring to secure valuable property valued at \$45,000 for the small sum of \$15,000. The enterprise received the cordial endorsement of the General Assembly at its late meeting at Harrisburg. It has also been recommended by the pastors' Association of Ministers held at the Presbyterian House, and by many brethren individually. It is a rare opportunity to secure an institution on the Mississippi. Will not some brethren in the Presbyterian Church adopt it and hand down their names for all time in the great valley of the West. The sum of \$5,000 is already pledged. Mr. Stanley may be addressed at the Presbyterian House, 1334 Chestnut Street.

The Article, "Undersold Himself," on our Family Circle page, does injustice to an estimable body of Christians. The name of the hero was not Jacob J. ... but the story is a true one.

ANNUAL NARRATIVE Of the State of Religion within the bounds of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, May, 1868.

Standing at the end of thirty years in the history of a great denomination, we may probably revert, in this connection, to the course of that history, and notice some among the prominent characteristics in the religious development of this portion of the Christian Church.

Dividing this period into decades, we discover, first, an era of aggregation and assimilation on the part of the scattered fragments remaining after the disruption. Not only those churches and ecclesiastical bodies whose connection with the old Presbyterian stock was severed by that act, but also others in various portions of the country, inspired by sympathy with them as to doctrine and position, were thus early drawn together, bone to his bone and flesh to his flesh. The coalescence of these congenial elements resulted, in a comparatively brief period, in the organizing of a new Church—a Church possessing a high degree of religious vitality, full of vigor, and of hope, and in some respects peculiarly fitted to do good and a great work for Christ.

In the second decade, we discern a measure of progress and growth every way remarkable, when considered in contrast with the youthfulness of the denomination, and with the unfavorable circumstances among which it struggled toward maturity. This growth and progress were attained far less through any adjustments of polity, or any positive attempts at denominational action, than by the faithful and effective preaching of the Word, by the conversion of souls through the truth, by the culture of believers in holiness, and the increase of piety in the individual church. And, though the lack of such denominational activity, and of a policy clearly understood, led, during this era, to some losses on various sides; and though irreconcilable divisions respecting almost every constantly agitated the young denomination, and finally brought on the withdrawal of those who constituted its representative body, yet the era closed with a decisive advance in the number of churches and communicants, and in nearly every other element which would indicate a healthy and vigorous Christian life.

The third decade just closing, has been a period of organization and consolidation, in respect both to doctrine and polity, and to various forms of religious activity. A clearer adjustment of our ecclesiastical system has been secured; more uniform and harmonious methods of stating and applying the Gospel have been attained; a more judicious and productive theory of Church action is at length recognized and adopted. Not only the present year, but every year in this decade, has borne progressive testimony to a great structural change in these particulars—a change effected at no serious loss in respect to the past, prolific of good in many directions, and full of promise for the future. As we stand at the close of this period, we are permitted in this matter to recognize, in a peculiar way, the good hand of our God upon us. We are permitted to see Him, not only bringing us through this formative stage at no sacrifice of unity or of spirituality, but also thus endowing and equipping us for more vigorous action, for larger and wiser enterprises, for a nobler work and a nobler testimony in time to come.

Studying the general history of the denomination during these three periods, which are thus seen to stand in the order of a sound and healthful development, we observe many indications of a continuous progress in all that constitutes true growth. Each of these periods shows an advance on the preceding in respect to the number of communicants, churches, and denominational organizations. Each indicates an increase in internal strength and resources, and an improvement in outward position, and in relation to other branches of the Church of Christ. Each exhibits an enlargement of territory, as well as of plans, and a steady movement of the denomination parallel with the amazing march of the national magnitude. Our beloved Church was providentially planted, at the first, along those lines of latitude where the various elements of New England life meet and mingle with those from the more central and Southern States. Like every other American influence or institution that is vital, it moved westward, along the same or neighboring parallels, planting new churches in every rising State, sending missionaries among the pioneers of each opening territory, constantly striving to plant the standard of its doctrine and polity wherever American civilization extends. For its devotion to the cause of freedom it has, indeed, been excluded from the Southern States; yet it is a suggestive fact, that the fifty-five Narratives received by your Committee, came from Presbyteries representing no less than seventeen States and four territories, and that these States and territories lie exactly in that central zone of influence in which American ideas bloom most freely, and in which our American life—political, social, religious—finds its noblest expression.

This geographical distribution of our Church is a fact to be carefully taken into account, in studying its religious history, even for a single year. For, although the Gospel is equally precious to men of all latitudes, and although the Spirit of grace be not limited by the boundaries of States, it still is true that our interpretation of that Gospel finds easier access to certain types of mind than to others, and that our churches take root more or less readily, according to the general character of the communities wherein they are planted. The Presbyterian Narratives themselves suggest this diversity. In some instances they speak of forms of hindrance and sources of discouragement, which are not felt universally; in others, they allude to successes and advances for which, so far as visible conditions extend, it would be unreasonable to look elsewhere. The growth of a Christian denomination does depend, in some degree, not merely on its internal qualities or purposes, but likewise on its position, and on the external circumstances affecting it. The history of our churches in the older States, lying east of the Alleghenies, cannot be exactly identical with the history of those subsequently organized in the States between the mountains and the Mississippi, or of those still different churches more recently planted beyond the Father of Waters. A similar variety will be found to exist among the churches along the borders of either of these "old" divisions, as is manifestly indicated by the Narratives from Northern and Southern Ohio respectively, as from the contiguous States of Michigan and Indiana. And in considering the state of religion for the current year, it is our duty to take such diversities into account, and to estimate the measure of success attained with suitable reference to the external as well as the internal conditions under which that success was secured.

Taken in general, the history of our churches during the year now closed, must be regarded as one of marked prosperity. Though the Presbyterian Narratives do not furnish sufficient statistical information, yet they convey the impression of a decided advance in many important directions. The number of sanctuaries erected or essentially repaired, or of instances where indebtedness for houses of worship previously erected has been paid; of mission schools or enterprises provided with fitting accommodations; and of parsonages built or purchased, and ministerial libraries procured, is probably greater than in any other previous year in our history as a denomination; the general increase of wealth, since the close of the war, exhibiting itself in these as in so many secular directions. Some of the Presbyteries report a corresponding measure of equitable liberality in the support of the ministry; and such reports may properly be regarded as the index of a general, though by no means universal, fact. It is believed that a similar increase of benevolence is manifesting itself, at least in some sections of the Church, in the assistance of candidates for the ministry, and in the endowment of institutions consecrated to the cause of Christian education. Another interesting sign of prosperity, appears in increased attendance upon the various means of grace, in a marked advance in the Sabbath-school work, and in the general favor with which our churches and ministry have been regarded. It is obvious that many of the prejudices once entertained against our denomination, in certain sections, have not only ceased to exist, but have been supplanted by a sincere respect and a cordial sympathy, which furnish ground for the strongest hopes in the future. Many Presbyteries afford decided evidence of this in their statements respecting both the enlargement of congregations and the ingathering of youth for religious instruction. It is safe to say that in no previous year, has so large an aggregate of adult minds been brought within our denominational influence; and although the number of pupils in our Sabbath-schools has, in previous years, exceeded the entire aggregate of our church-membership, the Minutes of the present Assembly will probably indicate a gratifying advance in this direction also.

The work of denominational extension, and of aggressive effort in behalf of the Gospel, has been efficiently carried forward during the year. What has been presented in general, in the Reports of the Executive Committees on Home Missions and Church Erection, highly encouraging as it is, is abundantly confirmed by the more detailed statements given in the Presbyterian Narratives. Though these Narratives indicate the existence of many scores of vacant and destitute churches, numbers of which are without suitable sanctuaries, yet we have great occasion to rejoice in what by the Divine blessing, has been accomplished through these instrumentalities. This great want has not been partially supplied, but the work of diffusing a sound denominational and Christian literature through our Publication Committee, and through the excellent newspapers devoted to our interests, much has been done at least in some sections of the Church, for which we have equal occasion to rejoice.

While a few of the Presbyteries confess that extension and worldliness have prevailed within their borders, the general testimony of a very different character. Although the Narratives do not afford such statistical information as would show just how many churches have been revived or how many additions have been made to such churches in the aggregate, yet their statements indicate, in a marked degree, the presence of the Spirit of God among our congregations. And where signal revivals have not occurred, that Spirit has still revealed His presence in general attentiveness to the Word preached, in the edifying of saints, in many silent conversions to Christ. Several of the Presbyteries bear witness to such quiet and continuous visitations of the Holy Ghost, descending as the rain upon the mown grass, and greatly gladdening the heart of His church, even when more copious showers of conversions are not accompanied. As a whole, the year has been one of unusual blessing, not simply in respect to the temporal welfare of the churches, or to their external position and influence, but likewise in that inward experience of the truth, that consolatory growth in piety, that enlarged spiritual life from which, as from a vital seed, all outward prosperity must proceed.

While we thus discover much in the Narratives of the Presbyteries that is worthy of our joy and gratitude, these Narratives present some unfavorable facts, which should call out our deepest and gravest concern.

The first of these is that, notwithstanding the degree of success attending our Home Missionary work, the state of all the churches in our connection are very unequal, and are stated in many instances to be in a deplorable condition. Some of these are temporarily in this condition; but there are multitudes of feeble organizations, scattered through our vast missionary field, which must be regarded as perennially liable to have provision for their own spiritual wants. In the single State of Ohio, 99 out of 137 churches were reported to the last Assembly as vacant, and although some of these have since been supplied with preachers, and others that had been deserted from their stations are united with other denominations in order to preserve life, yet it is safe to say that as many as one in five of the churches in that State are now destitute of regular ministrations. Similar, though not equal, destitutions exist in other portions of that great single field, in the States on the north, and in the West, and in the Ohio on the west and north, which must be regarded for the present generation, at least, as the main missionary field of our Church. In that triangle, more than one hundred and fifty vacant churches were reported to the Assembly one year ago, and the Presbyterian Narratives for the current year do not justify the hope, that this number has been greatly diminished. While such vacancies as occur even on missionary grounds in the older States, are readily supplied, and while the regions beyond the Mississippi are attracting to themselves a large number of laborers, this great cen-

tral region, or at least the southern half of it, is suffering great, and perhaps increasing, destitution. For every church established in the States and territories west of the Mississippi, a church languishes and dies in Ohio or the contiguous States; and should this condition of things long continue, our denomination will be broken in two at the centre, and our hold on the central West be lost forever.

The other startling fact is the lack of men to fill these numerous vacancies—a lack which is confessed and deplored by the Presbyteries in all portions of our denominational territory. While the number of ministers on the roll exceeds the whole number of churches by more than three hundred, the vacancies reported to the Assembly of 1867, were above three hundred and fifty. These statistics would seem to indicate that, subtracting the number of foreign missionaries, nearly one-third of our ministry were not at that time filling the pastoral office, and also to imply that there is little need of additional laborers. Yet the vacancies continue to exist, and the solemn and urgent call for help comes to us with each successive year. These hundreds of feeble, languishing, dying churches, must not be suffered to perish; and men must be found who will be willing to take these churches in their weakness, and nourish them into hope and strength, and self-support. Our denomination needs missionaries; in the old heroic sense of that term; and if there be not piety enough in the churches to produce and train such missionaries, and to sustain them in their arduous work, we may well fear and tremble for the result.

Some of the Presbyteries seem to anticipate relief from these kindred evils, in and through reunion; and forcibly present the lack of suitable laborers and the lamentable destitution of the churches, in both of the bodies to be united, as among the strongest arguments for such union. It now seems probable that the validity and reach of this argument will soon be practically tested; yet it must not be forgotten that separate or united, we shall never cease to need missionaries, both to supply existing churches, and to bear our standard into new regions as they open before us. Especially will this be made manifest when we enter in earnest upon the great task of evangelizing the South, as well as the remote West, and attempt to prosecute, on any larger scale, that vast work among the freedmen which has already been auspiciously begun.

The Presbyterian Narratives allude frequently to the want of men to fill these vacancies. The following table shows the number of vacant churches reported to the Assembly of 1867.

Table with columns: Name, State, Vacant Churches, Date. Lists various Presbyteries and their respective numbers of vacant churches across different states like Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, etc.

It has already been said that Narratives have been received from ninety-five of the one hundred and eleven Presbyteries connected with our denomination. The following Presbyteries have failed to report: Troy, St. Lawrence, Tioga, Wellsborough, Delaware, Meadville, Athens, Fort Wayne, Fox River, Des Moines, Omaha, Charleston, Kingston, San Francisco, San José, and Washoe. The absence of these documents, of course, diminishes by just so much the material and the value of this general Narrative.

We are called to record the decease of no less than thirty-seven ministers during the year. Four of this number had reached that period of life, when human strength becomes labor and sorrow; and one other had passed the allotted three-score years and ten. Yet the larger part were brethren upon whom the active duties of their sacred calling still devolved; and some were, whom the Master called in the prime of their manhood, just as they had fully entered upon their ministerial career. Let the lessons inculcated by such unusual mortality reach and affect every heart, and let us live and act that, like these departed ones, we may, when absent from the body, be present with the Lord. The list of the deceased is as follows:

Table with columns: Name, Place, Date. Lists names of deceased ministers and their locations and dates of death.

By order of the General Assembly, EDWIN F. HARRIS, Stated Clerk.

congregation then joined in singing the Te Deum. The dedication of the church edifice at Watkins, N. Y., erected by the late Hon. John Magee, took place on Thursday, May 14th. The edifice stands in the centre of the village, upon an ample lot, and is one of the best specimens of village-church architecture. It is of brick with stone trimmings, slate roof, and a graceful tower with ample session and Sabbath-school rooms in the rear. No pains or expence were spared to make it substantial and enduring, but nothing was given to mere show. The Second church, Bloomington, Ill., have let the contract to finish the spire, and are about to place a large bell in the tower. Within a few months, twenty-six members have been added to their fellowship, and others are to unite at the next communion. Bloomington is growing fast, and the house is becoming too small for the congregation. Enlargement by adding thirty feet to the rear of the present edifice is their only remedy. The church in Jerseyville, Ill., received forty-six to communion recently, the fruits mainly of a revival in progress during the winter and spring. The Presbytery of Lawrence, has seven unfinished church buildings, which it is hoped will be completed during the present summer. Ground was broken for a new church to be known as the South church, at the Iron Works, Albany, a month ago. The edifice will be costly and beautiful, and is the gift of Henry Burdick & Sons. The Hon. Erastus Corning presented the site, which is located very eligibly and beautifully on the hill north of the Wynantskill and near McMillan's Mill. The cost will be about \$50,000. A correspondent of the Herald writes: "Since the commencement of this year we have enjoyed a precious work of grace in Kingsville, Ohio. On the first Sunday in March, twelve were added to our church. On the first Sunday in May, nineteen more were received, all but five on profession. The other churches have shared largely in the fruits of this revival." The Second German Church of Cincinnati was organized on the 31st of May, 1863, with fourteen members. It now has seventy-seven members; fifty-three of whom have been added to profession. Services are held in a hall, but it is necessary to build a church, and the congregation, though poor, has resolved to try to do so. Widows who live by sewing and washing have subscribed \$10 to \$15 each, and others even beyond their means. A liberal Christian merchant has subscribed \$500. The brick-makers have donated 47,000 bricks, and if the other good people will help the church will secure this summer a neat house 35 by 65 feet. Ministers in the State of Illinois, Ill. Rev. Mr. Kelly supplied his congregation a few Sabbath mornings since, by announcing his purpose to resign his pastoral charge in an early day. Henry Buswell, formerly of Central College, has gone to

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News of Our Churches.

CITY CHURCHES.—At recent communion seasons the following accessions have been made: Clinton St., 15 on profession and four by letter; North Broad St., seven by profession and fifteen by letter; First church, five by profession and three by letter; Olive church, five by letter and five by profession, all but two heads of families. We understand that an organ suitable for this church edifice (Olive) has been contracted for with Hask of Boston, to be set up by the 1st of October, the money being mostly already raised by members of the congregation.

PRESBYTERIES.—Madison recently met in the church in Lawrenceburg, Ind., and ordained Mr. J. R. Mitchell and installed him as pastor of that church. For thirteen years this church has had nothing but stated supplies; but within a year upwards of thirty members have been added and its prospects are brightening. The Third Pres. of New York, May 22d, ordained Mr. Christopher A. Brown (who graduated from Union last year) to the work of an Evangelist. He takes charge of the Temple St. Cong. church (colored) of New Haven. The Pres. of Ashm., at its recent meeting at Amesville, Ohio, received two new churches—the church of Huntington, in Gallia county, of thirty members, formerly in connection with the First Synod, and the Berea Presbyterian church, of fifteen members, lately organized in Hoeking county.

CHURCHES.—In Westmaster Church, Brooklyn, on Sunday, May 24th, the heads of a family (Gen. Herman and his wife) who for many years have been French Catholics, made a public profession of their faith, and were baptized. Our church in Potsdam, N. Y., having recently sold their church edifice for use as a State Normal School, have begun to erect another of the famous Potsdam sandstone, in Gothic style. The main building will be 50 by 90 feet, with an L. 50 by 40 feet for session room. Estimated cost \$30,000. On the first Sabbath in March thirty-five united on profession with the church in Del. Miss. N. Y. Again on the first Sabbath in May thirteen were received, some on profession. The Second Church of Cincinnati, has finally decided to sell its property on Fourth St., and move to town. The whole matter of sale, purchasing a new lot and erecting a new church has been committed to the Board of Trustees. In Osborn, Ky. the new church edifice was dedicated May 10th. The church was organized in the Fall of 1860, and the present membership of the church is 34. The First Church of Chicago recently paid up its one installment of debt of \$22,000, and the