

Original Communications.

REV. A. M. STEWART'S LETTERS.—XXIX. Austin, Nevada, January, 1869.

BETTING. You Bet—with a peculiar jerking accent on both these monosyllables, is now, on the Pacific coast, and especially in Nevada, a pet provincialism. To a new comer, and on the first hearing, there is an entire bewilderment as to its intended meaning.

HOW STARTED. Such provincialisms usually have their origin in some well-known and familiar habit or business among the people. You bet, is big with philosophy; it conveys a volume of meaning, giving a more distinct conception of Pacific society in a very important aspect than could be furnished by a hundred labored essays.

Men, women and children bet even about the most trivial things. You are surprised to hear persons of acknowledged respectability in society, and mutual friends also, when differing in opinion, it may be, about the most insignificant matter—one saying, "I'll bet you so much"—"Done," says the other. Each has his hand in his pocket in an instant for the gold piece or pieces named, which are generally headed to a third person.

This demoralizing habit grows legitimately among the adventurous multitude who are on the Pacific slope. There exists a wide-spread, inordinate and too often unscrupulous desire to become suddenly rich; and this without the toil, the care, the time and prudent industry usually demanded in the acquisition of honest wealth.

Under such conditions the "appetite grows by what it feeds upon." The gaming table is merely the consummation, and no more dishonest nor unmanly than many another betting scheme under more plausible appellations.

POLITICAL BETTING. The most reliable newspapers of California give it as their judgment that between one and two millions in coin changed hands in that State alone on the decision of the late Presidential election,—an enormous sum, no doubt proving a far greater curse to those who won, than inconvenience and suffering to those who lost.

Remedy. Is there any remedy against this wide-spread and still increasing canker of money gambling? Or must its slang phrases become a part of our English vocabulary; and the next edition of Webster have introduced into it, "You Bet?" There certainly exists no remedy in the disease itself. Like cures not like in such a fatality.

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ness, like our secular journals seem to do? Thanks be to God, there is a remedy, one only, for this and all other maladies which debase our race—a remedy sure and perfect: The true Gospel leaven. These sinners must be born again ere they leave off their betting. If we who preach had but faith as a grain of mustard seed, this mountain would soon become a plain before the onward movements of Christ's kingdom.

A. M. STEWART.

THE FIFTY-THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF THE SUNDAY SCHOOL OF THE FIRST CHURCH, HARRISBURG.

The School is not as large in numbers as some others in our city, nor as earnest and active. It might safely confess to many shortcomings, but in years it is among our seniors, having entered on its fifty-fourth year. For two-thirds of its life it has been under the wise and admirable superintendency of its present veteran leader, and all do most heartily wish that thirty-four more years could be added to his past term of service, and then in 1903, and in the 87th year of its age, what an Anniversary would it celebrate!

We do not at all think that Anniversaries are the forte of this School, yet would we be glad to hear of anything more beautiful, instructive and impressive than were the exercises of the late Anniversary. An attempt was made to render Bunyan's immortal work, the Pilgrim's Progress, by hymns, recitation, and illustrations with the Magic Lantern.

The church was most beautifully decorated for the occasion. The pulpit was removed, and the large platform, built for the General Assembly, was again erected. The pillars of the pulpit recess were tastefully dressed with evergreen, and against the wall of the pulpit recess, above the words "The Pilgrimage," was hung an evergreen Cross, surmounted by a Crown.

At the appointed hour, the church was crowded by spectators. The room was darkened, and a marble statue of John Bunyan, of life size and exquisite workmanship, appeared on the wall of the pulpit recess. Then the choir of leading singers with the young speakers, came marching in with most admirable precision and singing—

"We are marching on, with shield and banner bright."

This opening scene could hardly be surpassed for beauty and impressiveness. Every heart was thrilled. Then followed a brief prayer by the Pastor, and from that moment to the close of the exercises the interest deepened. The recitations from Bunyan and from the Scriptures were given clearly and impressively. The illustrations were generally of life size, or very nearly so, and most aptly represented the different periods in the journey of the Pilgrim.

It was an occasion long to be remembered, and one, it is hoped, of happy and hallowed influences on the minds of both young and old. The conception of the programme was a most happy one. The execution of it, in singing, recitations and illustrations, gave most complete satisfaction and pleasure to all who were privileged to see it.

QUIET. I am not so young as I once was. No one will question the truth of this statement, although everybody does not realize it as I do. One evidence of the fact impresses me, as I see it in myself. I love quiet so much more than I did in my younger days.

My young friend who reads this, may imagine that I am either dozing away my days in the easy chair of second childhood, or that I have had a very stormy life, and am thankful for a little rest at its close.

And my life has been a quiet and happy one, with very gentle discipline from my Father's hand. More and more, however, do I love the quiet that comes from experience of God's goodness, sure trust in His mercy through Christ, and undoubting belief that "all things work together for good" to me.

This is a compensation for the loss of some of the pleasures and capabilities of earlier life. Perhaps we do not always estimate it highly enough. There are sad instances of women who, in middle life, or even in old age, seek happiness still in the excitements of gay society and amusements—

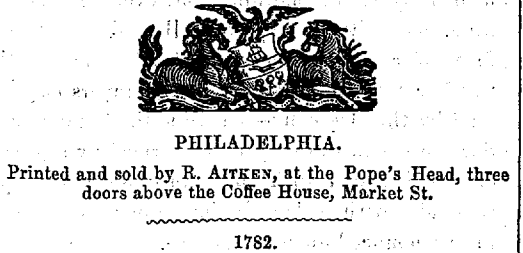
Quiet from fear of evil." This is said by Solomon to be the blessed condition of those who "hearken to the Lord." What a blissful state! Not only to be protected from all real evil, but from even the fear of it.

Yet many who are strong and calm when sorrow or danger is really present, torment themselves and others by a constant fear of coming evil—hardly enjoying blessings in possession, for dread of losing them—

THE OLD CONGRESS BIBLE.

A copy of this rare and interesting volume having fallen into the hands of one of the Editors of the American Presbyterian, we have supposed that a transcript of the title page and preface to the work would prove interesting to our readers.

THE HOLY BIBLE. Containing the Old and New Testaments, newly translated out of the Original Tongues, and with the former translations diligently compared and revised.



By THE UNITED STATES IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, SEPT. 12th, 1782.

The Committee to whom was referred a memorial of Robert Aitken, Printer, dated 21st Jan., 1781, respecting an edition of the Holy Scriptures, report, "That Mr. Aitken has, at great expense, now finished an American edition of the Holy Scriptures in English; that the Committee have, from time to time, attended to his progress in the work; that they also recommended it to the two Chaplains in Congress, to examine and give their opinion of the execution, who have accordingly reported thereon—the recommendation and report being as follows: PHILADELPHIA, Sept. 1st, 1782.

particular attention the edition of the Holy Scriptures, published by Mr. Aitken. He undertook this expensive work at a time when, from the circumstances of the war, an English edition of the Bible could not be imported, nor any opinion formed how long the obstruction might continue.

Your most obedient, humble servants, (Signed,) JAMES DUANE, Chairman, in behalf of a Committee of Congress, on Mr. Aitken's Memorial.

Rev. Dr. White, and Rev. Mr. Duffield, Chaplains of the United States, in Congress assembled: Report—

Agreeably to your desire, we have paid attention to Mr. Robert Aitken's impression of the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments. Having selected and examined a variety of passages throughout the work, we are of opinion that it is executed with great accuracy as to the sense, and with as few grammatical and typographical errors as could be expected in an undertaking of such magnitude.

Your very respectful and humble servants, (Signed,) WILLIAM WHITE, GEO. DUFFIELD.

Philadelphia, Sept 10th, 1782.

Hon. James Duane, Chairman, and the other Honorable Gentlemen of the Committee of Congress, on Mr. Aitken's memorial. WHEREUPON, Resolved, That the United States, in Congress assembled, highly approve the pious and laudable undertaking of Mr. Aitken, as subservient to the interests of religion, as well as an instance of the progress of arts in this country, and being satisfied, from the above report, of his care and accuracy in the execution of the work, they recommend this edition of the Bible to the inhabitants of the United States, and hereby authorize him to publish this recommendation in the manner he shall think proper.

(Signed,) CHAS. THOMSON, Sec'y.

DR. BACON ON THE ASSEMBLY OF 1831.

From his review of Dr. Baird's (so-called) History of the New School. The General Assembly of 1831 was in some respects a very provoking affair to the party represented by our author,—the Immoderates—the sectarian party—the party opposed to any toleration of theological differences.

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immediately, with one of his blindest smiles, yet not without some transient expression of anxiety in his countenance, replied that it would be unwise and dangerous to raise such a question; and nothing more was said on that point.

The wise men of that Assembly thought that a great difficulty had been disposed of, and were devoutly thankful. It was thought that much had been gained for evangelical truth and freedom, and Catholic influence in the Presbyterian body. Had not the supreme judicatory taken a most important step in the way to a comprehensive union? Had it not pronounced distinctly and with unexpected unanimity against the narrow and divisive notions of the Philadelphia Presbytery? Was it not fairly settled that a minister holding such views in theology as Mr. Barnes held, might, with a good conscience, and without incurring the charge of perjury or hypocrisy, profess to "receive and adopt the Confession of Faith as containing the system of doctrine taught in the Holy Scriptures?"

The New Englander, for January.

Foreign.

The Orange Party in Ulster (as we foretold a month ago) seems hopelessly split up by the election of Mr. Johnstone for Belfast. A section of this party has become thoroughly democratic.

The Pope's health is very precarious, still he moves about industriously. He lately visited Civita Vecchia, where he was very cordially received. Before leaving he expressed himself in very different terms from those of his recent mild letter "to all Protestants."

Lay Evangelists for the Continent.—In the present state of French and Belgian Protestantism, with pastors underpaid and thinly scattered, it has been felt by many that the creation of a class of pious schoolmaster-evangelists might, under God, prove of great utility—such men earning their bread as schoolmasters, and at the same time laboring to spread the gospel, according to the opportunities afforded to them.—Monsieur Aimé Humbert, late ambassador extraordinary from Switzerland to Japan, and at present rector of the Academy of Neuchâtel, and Professor R. W. Mossall, of the same Academy are now attempting to meet this want.

Comparative Statistics.—A recent writer in the London Examiner gives some statistics which he says are copied from "the most reliable authority." In these it is found that the proportion of murders to the population is:—In England, 1 in every 198; in Holland, 1 in every 163,000; in Prussia, 1 in every 100,000; in Austria, 1 in every 77,000; in Spain, 1 in every 4,113; in Naples, 1 in every 2,750; and in Rome and the Papal States, 1 in every 750—showing thus that far the best state of things is in Protestant England, and far the worst in Roman Catholic Rome. In regard to the marriage relation the statistics are that the percentage of illegitimate births is:—In London 4; in Paris 48; in Brussels, 53; in Vienna, 118; and in Rome, 243!