

American Presbyterian.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 12, 1869.

REV. JOHN W. MEARS, D. D., Editor. No. 1334 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia.

THE EDITORIAL COMMITTEE.

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Mr. Robert E. Thompson will continue to act as Editor of the News Department.

Correspondents in every Presbytery and Synod will promptly furnish us with fresh items of news from their respective fields.

Notes of Portland, Me., Impressions of Europe, by "B. B. C.," 111. Pyramids and the Mosaic Chronology, Page 2d; Editor's Table, Rev. Halsey Dunning, (Sermon Concluded), Romish Church (Items), Page 3rd; Penitential Hymn, Firmness of Religious Principles, Dressing at Saratoga, Budget of Anecdotes, Missionary Items, Page 6th; Religious Intelligence, Page 7th.

School advertisements are inserted at one-third deduction when payment is made strictly in advance.

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The name of the nun imprisoned in Crawford for twenty-one years, and lately released, by the government, is Barbara Uryk. The fact—known only in convent circles before—was revealed by an anonymous letter in woman's hand-writing, addressed to the authorities. Her cell was only seven paces long by six wide, containing all kinds of filth, and without the slightest decent accommodations—no chair, bed or table. It was warmed neither by fire nor sunlight, and yet the woman was destitute of all clothing! The bishop seems to have been ignorant of the outrage, and has suspended the father confessor and the superioress. It is also said that he will dissolve the convent. The Attorney General has taken the matter in hand.

The New York Times says:—"The Water-street Mission, having outlived the reaction which set in upon it, according to the law of most undertakings, seems to be really doing good and to deserve support. Here is an account of a hundred poor women taken away from the wretched cellars of that neighborhood, and along with these, fifty drunkards fished out,—and twenty of them earning their decent livings, to say nothing of the Sunday-school—though we would say some thing of it—with its eighty pupils, who in going to it certainly show a resolute purpose to be good. The directors are doing a good work, with little public applause, and we hope they may procure the \$15,000 which they want to build their house."

FROM OUR ROCHESTER CORRESPONDENT.

ITEMS. We see it reported that twenty-two convicts were received at Auburn prison in the month of July—four in one day and from one of our smaller cities. We have no doubt that fifteen of those twenty-two convicts would now be upright and useful citizens, if it were not for the grog-shops of our land. We license, authorize and establish the temptation at every corner of the streets, and then punish men for falling into it; set the trap and then blame the silly prey for being caught by it. We see also that Supt. Day, of the Inebriate Asylum at Binghamton, thinks that no temperate person can really reform, except by a strong exercise of will, great determination. The world's experience proves that no confirmed inebriate is safe until he gets the grace of God to help him. "Great determination" may be better than willing weakness; but after the will has once been broken down, and the conscience debauched by these criminal indulgences, man's strongest determination in himself is only weakness. We have in our city a young man, in professional life, who has tried a great many times in his own strength to reform, but all in vain: He would run well for a few weeks, and then in some evil hour, the temptation would again be too much for him, and he would descend to the lowest depths of degradation. He now sees and acknowledges that his only hope is God; his only safety in being a true Christian and getting divine help with which to battle against his deadly enemy. We would that every poor inebriate who tries to reform, could be made to understand this, and seek at once that help without which nothing is sure. The Presbyterian Society of Clinton are preparing to embellish and improve their church edifice very considerably; and have also commenced the erection of a chapel. It has been quite generally supposed that a new church

would soon be erected there. We have thought the time had come for it, and that a large and more eligible church edifice would add considerably to the congregation. It certainly would be a great convenience at commencements. But the Society know their own affairs best.

We are glad they are about to get an admirable pastor. Mr. Hudson is beloved by his congregation at North-east. They will not willingly part with him; and yet he is eminently qualified for the important position to which he is called, at Clinton, and we doubt not will make himself acceptable and useful in that community. We hope a great blessing will follow him to the new field of labor.

The indefatigable Dr. Gogarten was in our city a few days since, looking after the interests of Hamilton College. He is trying to show some of our rich men one of the very best things they can possibly do with their money. He wants \$100,000, more or less, to endow a scientific course for Hamilton. Where is the man that will give his name to such a Department of this admirable institution? It would be an honor growing brighter with passing years. It would be doing good long after the donor had passed from earthly scenes. It would be a sort of immortality of honor and usefulness worth far more than the \$100,000 it might cost. Who speaks for the prize?

We learn that the first proof edifice for the Cabinet and Paintings of Ingham University is progressing finely under Mrs. Staunton's guiding hand. It will be a valuable addition to the buildings of the institution, and will enable its numerous friends to think much more comfortably of those treasures of science and art which when they are more securely housed. It would be a great loss indeed if some unlucky day they should be devoured by the flames. They are worth all the security that can be thrown around them.

We hear that Rev. Pliny F. Sanborn has received a most cordial welcome to his new pastorate in Springfield. His salary is \$1000, and parsonage, which last the people have been enlarging and putting in complete order; beside this, he and his family are receiving daily proofs of his people's kindness in the presents of useful and valuable things pouring in upon them. He is remembered in West Bloomfield, where he spent twelve years, as a most industrious and efficient pastor. Such we do not doubt, he will be in Springfield.

Rev. Dr. Hawley of Auburn is made the happy recipient of a purse of \$500 from his appreciative and loving people. This is perhaps the more complimentary from the fact that they are now engaged in building a very expensive church. They still have something handsome for their esteemed pastor.

Rev. Myron Adams accepts the invitation to the Presbyterian church of Dunkirk, and expects to enter upon his new field of labor about the first of September.

Rev. O. H. Seymour of Hammondsport has received and accepted a call to the Presbyterian Church of Trumansburg.

The First Presbyterian church of Elmira have sent a call to Europe for the services of Rev. Dr. Knox of Rome.

GENESEE.

Rochester, August 7, 1869.

THE ELDER OF HALF A CENTURY.

Memorial notice of Mr. John C. Clark, of St. George's, Delaware, by his pastor, Rev. D. J. Beale.

Mr. John C. Clark, who departed his life on Thursday night, July the 29th, 1869, in the 71st year of his age, was born in this vicinity on the 6th of March, 1799. The Clark family emigrated to Delaware from the State of New York. From what foreign country they immigrated thither is not known. Between the years 1730 and 1736, one Captain Clark commanded a vessel, which sailed from New Castle to New York city. This Captain Clark was the great-grandfather of the deceased. He had a son John, who was the great-grandfather of the deceased, and who was born on the 11th of January, 1710. Said John Clark, then a young man, was accustomed to accompany his father, the Captain, in his voyages, on the vessel referred to.

One day, a young widow Hadley, who lived upon and owned a farm in this neighborhood, took passage on Captain Clark's vessel at New Castle, bound for New York. During the voyage a congenial intimacy sprung up between young Clark and Mrs. Hadley, which, by and by, ripened into affection, and terminated in marriage. They settled on the farm already alluded to, and which the youngest son of the deceased now lives upon.

From this pair sprung the large Clark connection of this region. The name of one of their sons, who was born on the 12th of October, 1737, and who died on the 16th of May, 1791, was John. This person was the grandfather of the deceased. He lived and died in this neighborhood.

George Clark, son of John, just mentioned, and father of the deceased, was born in Red Lion Hundred, September 4th, 1767, and departed this life, December 5, 1838. He was a man of good mind and manners—a man of uncommon popularity and influence in the community. He died in the triumph of faith in the 72d year of his age.

Thus, the deceased belonged to a pious family, being born within the pale of that covenant, which is well ordered in all things and sure; and to which pertains the blessed promise: "I

will be a God to thee, and to thy seed after thee."

Although he had the disadvantage of losing his mother early, he was thoroughly instructed in the principles of our holy religion, by his most excellent father, and his amiable step-mother. So perfectly had they taught him that matchless form of sound words—the Shorter Catechism, that, until the day of his death, he could repeat it accurately. Just as the pious instructions of Eunice and Lois, the mother and the grandmother of Timothy, laid the foundation of his future character, so this early training gave shape and definiteness to the views of the deceased, and fitted him for after usefulness.

It is believed that the late Mr. Robert Porter, of Wilmington, who was universally esteemed one of the holiest of men—who was so remarkable for his piety that, at his death, the Rev. Dr. Gibbert, contrary to his invariable custom, preached a funeral sermon—it is believed, that that good man was the instrument, in the hands of God, of our friend's conversion. This occurred when Mr. Clark was at school, and yet in his teens. From this time forth, he grew in grace and knowledge, as he grew in stature, and advanced in years.

As in everything else, so in religion, he did nothing by halves; but from first to last, he was a whole-hearted Christian. He went about doing good, believing it to be his happiness and duty to bless and benefit others. His early vital piety, Christian charity and spirit for earnest work evinced themselves, as some present well remember, in his organizing and conducting a prayer-meeting at Franklin School House, nearly fifty years ago. Thus, in the fervor of his first love, he exhibited a zeal and devotion which commanded the respect and confidence of the entire community, to an extent that few young men ever attain; and this was the more remarkable, that in those days the young men less frequently made profession of religion.

As an evidence of his prominence and popularity in the church, of which he was then, and until his death continued to be, a worthy member, he was elected, and ordained a Ruling Elder before he was twenty years of age, in which office he has actively served the St. George's Church for more than half a century.

Mr. Clark was married to Miss Elizabeth Reynolds, July 18th, 1826, and hence had lived in that sacred relation for more than forty-three years. From what I have seen and from what I have heard, I am prepared to affirm that there could not have been a more kind, devoted and noble husband, or a more affectionate, considerate and noble father, than Mr. Clark.

There have been twelve children in this family, five of whom have preceded their father into the eternal world.

It was the heart disease that removed our aged brother. For several years he had suffered occasionally from this source; but only for the last two or three years had these attacks been very severe or frequent. Two years ago his life was despaired of; but, from that stubborn spell he seemed to have entirely recovered. During the present summer the attacks had been very frequent, sudden and alarming. Again and again his sons near by have been summoned from their homes to his bed side, in the night-time, to see their father die. On Friday night, July 23d, he came within a step of death; and on Tuesday last his attacks were scarcely less severe; but the set time for his departure had not yet arrived. On Wednesday, the 28th, he felt so much better that, but for the earnest entreaty of his family he would have attended a meeting of the Trustees of the Poor, held at the city of Wilmington.

On the day of his death he visited Delaware City on business, and, on return, called at the houses of three of his sons. Having reached home, and taken tea, he entered into cheerful conversation with his family.

It was now time for "family duty," as he was always accustomed to call the evening and morning devotions. In his prayer he offered most fervent petitions for all the neighbors around for all the members of his family; for his pastor, who had been in the family for two or three days; and for all the interests of the beloved church, which was so dear to his heart. He very earnestly besought God that brotherly kindness, sincere affection and Christian charity might prevail in our church and congregation, and that the rich blessing of God might attend the labors of him who stands on this watch-tower of Zion.

Although the family were, at the time, deeply impressed with the freedom and the fervor of the prayer, little did his wife and daughter suppose they were hearing that familiar voice in prayer for the last time. It was now half past nine o'clock.

As Mr. Clark was retiring, the clock struck the hour of night, and he observed, "That's ten—an hour later than usual." But a short time had elapsed before he expressed the fear that he was about to have one of his seasons of pain and suffocation. Soon his wife was convinced that his fears were not unfounded. He arose in pain and with considerable difficulty of breathing; but he did not seem to be nearly so ill as he had often been before. He prayed, "Lord Jesus, have mercy on a poor sinner." He said to his wife, "I am fearful we'll be alone."

"No," said she, "the Lord is with us." "Yes, that is true—God is here," he faintly replied, and reclining upon the bed, he breathed his life out sweetly there, without a struggle or a moan.

Thus occurred the first death in our congregation during the current year; thus fell asleep in Jesus our oldest Ruling Elder, and main pillar in the Church; and thus departed one of the purest and best of men it has ever been the speaker's privilege to meet.

Dying, when he did, and as he did, so beloved, so lamented, and with such a record; dying at his own home and on his own bed, without a half-hour's suffering, and in the full use of his reason; full of years and full of honors, and, best of all, dying in the acceptance of God and with meekness for the glory-land, surely, these are circumstances of comfort and of mercy connected with this afflictive dispensation.

Only the day before his death he was asked the question, if he did not fear to die, to which he promptly replied: "Of course I feel very solemn when I have my severe attacks, but I cannot say that I fear death either at such times, or at any time. I feel satisfied that I am prepared to go." And he did approach death—

"Like one who wraps the drapery of his couch about him, and lies down to pleasant dreams."

What a privilege to die thus! and what a privilege to see one die thus!

At home and abroad Mr. Clark was an eminently social man. He was most affectionate in his own family. He loved to have frequent family reunions. None that were present will ever forget his joy, as, on the seventieth anniversary of his birth, he had gathered around him his children and grandchildren with a few others—including his pastor's family, in his palatial residence at "Prospect Fair."

He loved little children, and little children loved him. He was generous and noble-hearted friend, and he made friends wherever he went. He was perfectly transparent, for you knew him at the first interview; and all after acquaintance served to ratify and increase the favorable opinion you then formed of the man. He was given to hospitality. One always felt at home in his house.

Taking in account the slender opportunities for education he possessed in his youth, his knowledge was both accurate and extensive. He was a great reader, and remembered well what he read.

It was a rare privilege to ride over the neighborhood with the deceased, and to have him give the history of each farm and family as you passed them by; and it was a pleasure to hear him recount the incidents of his childhood and youth, with which his faithfully retentive memory was well laden.

He was early to bed and early to rise. He never smoked a cigar or chewed tobacco. He had always been temperate in all things.

With very decided opinions and deep conviction, he was always a faithful, fearless advocate of what he believed to be the truth. And whenever occasion called for it, he would freely, frankly and kindly express his conscientious and well matured convictions. No man in this region was more active and influential in the Temperance cause than he was!

Although Mr. Clark had been for many years a Director of Delaware College, President of the Board of Trustees of the Poor for New Castle county, a Bank Officer, etc., etc., yet he never held any high political trust, nor did he seem to desire it. The only office he was ever heard to say he wished to fill was that of Trustee of the Poor. He remarked to a friend, when once his name was mentioned in connection with the gubernatorial chair, "I had rather be Trustee of the Poor than Governor of the State."

It is almost superfluous to say that the Church, most of all, engaged his thoughts and plans and prayers. The morning of his last day on earth was spent in conversing with his pastor about the early history of the St. George's church. I assisted him in searching his library for the life of Dr. John Rodgers, the first stated pastor of this church, which, when found, he listened to the reading of with fixed attention and intense delight—stopping the reader here and there to explain a little, or to throw in an incident, or an anecdote, which tradition had handed down.

Jerusalem was above his chief joy. Never needlessly absent from the sanctuary himself, it always grieved him to know of the absence of others. For many years he had been in the habit of making out, and handing to the pastor, a list of absentees from the Communion Table.

Thus, in this presence, I pronounce Mr. Clark to have been a model man, a model Christian, and a model elder. Faults he may have had, he must have had—but I know not what they were.

No man hates unwarranted praise of the dead more than I do; but it is due to truth, and no offense to the proprieties of the occasion, to assert that those who knew the deceased the best, held him in the highest esteem—that he did more for the Church of which he was a member than any one that survives him—that the odor of his name, in all this region of country, will be sweet for years and years—that, although he was one of the wealthiest men in State of Delaware, he was one of the most modest and unassuming of her citizens—and that what he was, in most respects, we all may well desire to become.

His industry, integrity and genial manners, joined to his early piety, and knowledge of the Scriptures, makes him a model for the study and imitation of our young men. We are accustomed to study the lives and characters of our public men, and strive to copy after them, when perhaps we can scarcely draw a single lesson of practical wisdom from thence; adapted to our sphere in life. Of what value, as examples, are the lives of most of our statesmen, poets and philosophers? Of what value to us as models of integrity, virtue, and piety are the lives of Voltaire, Chesterfield, and Byron, or Alexander, Hannibal and Napoleon? It is not the lives of those men, or such as these, that we should study or strive to imitate. We need no more Caesars or Byrons, or Bonapartes, or Voltaires, but we do need more upright, downright, devoted Christians like the deceased. And his life and labors, his aims and his doings, furnish more real wisdom for us who are left behind him than all the biographies of all the Caesars.

THE TOTAL ECLIPSE OF AUGUST 7th.

The total solar eclipse of 1869 has been more closely and successfully observed than any previous phenomenon of the same class. It may be gratifying to the national pride of some to know that this country already contains a greater number of large refractors than can be found in any one kingdom of the Old World. Yet none of these, owing to their position, could be brought into requisition for observing the total eclipse. Our astronomers have been obliged to travel hundreds, and in some instances, thousands of miles, to reach the points of observation on the line of totality to which they were severally assigned. A large party of scientific observers, including Prof. Winlock of Harvard; Alvan Clark, and others, obtained some gratifying results at Shelbyville, Ky.; and took several photographs of the sun. The red protuberances and Billy's beads were distinctly visible. Prof. Winlock observed eleven bright lines in the spectrum, only five having been previously determined. Near Springfield, Ill.; a party under the coast survey made observations. They were aided by Prof. Pierce, of Harvard, Prof. Twining, of Yale, a Professor from Canada, and the Hon. Alex. Evans, formerly M. C. from Maryland, spoken of as an enthusiastic amateur astronomer. The party was favored with remarkably fine weather. As the eclipse progressed, the photographic party took

impressions rapidly, and recorded at the same time the instant of obtaining their pictures. Not less than 235 photographic impressions of the sun were taken from the beginning to the close of the eclipse. At 4 h, 45 min., the diminution of light was very perceptible, and at 5 o'clock a singular leaden hue began to spread over the heavens, especially toward the north-west. At three minutes past 5, or a little more than two minutes before the total obscuration, the planet Venus was seen. Within six seconds of the prediction, the last rays of the sun disappeared, and that instant the corona burst forth in all its splendor and beauty. Another moment and the red flash of a protuberance burst forth on the left hand limb of the sun, like a tongue of flame jetting out horizontally. Soon another jet flashed vertically downward from the lowest limb of the sun. Others, observing with the aid of the telescope, saw several more of these protuberances. Meanwhile the heavens had darkened sufficiently to permit a view of the following planets and stars, besides Venus; viz: Mercury, Mars, Saturn, Regulus and Arcturus. A herd of cattle feeding at a little distance from the reservoir did not seem to pay any attention to the change. The horizon all around was lightened up by a sort of dim twilight, for four or five degrees in breadth; and above this rim of light hung a dark, leaden canopy, increasing in depth of shade toward the zenith. Suddenly the sun burst out again from behind the beautiful corona, and almost instantly the corona and red protuberances vanished. The spectroscope was not employed in the observations at this place, nearly all the instruments, and those skilled in their use, having gone to Shelby, Ky., and Des Moines, Iowa. Most of the astronomical observers of this eclipse have come to the conclusion that by far the greater part of the phenomenon called the corona, if not the whole of it belongs to our own atmosphere, rather than to any atmosphere either of the sun or moon.

At Des Moines, Iowa, extensive preparations had been made by the United States Naval Academy, by the United States Coast Survey, and by members of the Surgeon-General's office of the United States Army of Observation on the light and heat of the sun, with the spectroscope, and for taking photographic negatives of the eclipse in all its phases; while Prof. Peters, with an able corps of assistants from Hamilton College, N. Y., fitted out by the munificent donation of E. C. Litchfield, of Brooklyn, was prepared to observe all the phenomena which might be of interest to the world. The central line of totality was discovered to be nineteen miles north of Des Moines, by a variation of fourteen seconds in the actual time of commencement of the Eclipse from that called for in previous calculations. The correspondent of The Tribune says:—"With this very slight delay, the exhibition began, and the shadow swept from the northwest to the southeast in majestic grandeur, dwindling the sun into a crescent. As the moon advanced, the jagged outline of its surface projected upon the clear face of the sun formed an undulating line of inky blackness upon a silver base, and caused some of the most interesting phenomena preceding the total obscuration. When about five-sixths obscured this line reminded me of the outline of the Catskills, as seen from the Hudson, and at the southwestern point of the crescent, at one time, a projection on the moon's surface swayed the line on the sun's rim; and a strip of silver about seven degrees in length, where the sun was still seen through a valley on the moon's surface, wholly separate from the crescent, shone for nearly ten seconds before the advancing satellite entirely obscured it. But the glory of a total eclipse is its totality, and soon the pallor of the advancing shadow spread an indescribable gloom over the whole face of nature. Dogs affrighted ran howling to their kennels; a flock of turkeys, surprised that night had found them so far from their accustomed roost, ran hurriedly to cover, and birds and animals showed the utmost signs of fear. On swept the swift moon, and its shadow, like a pall, blackened the earth until, as suddenly as a candle is snuffed, the sun's last rays were obscured, and then, with a halo of glory, the jagged outline of the corona shone from behind the black moon, which seemed motionless, and pink-colored flames marked the protuberances which astronomers are so intently studying. In this case they shot out from the sun's surface certainly not less than 50,000 to 75,000 miles and shone with a brilliant, rosy lustre. Mercury appeared on the instant that the sun was obscured; and disappeared with the first ray that shot out from behind the receding orb. Venus could be seen for a minute before the eclipse became total, and for three minutes after the sun began to emerge. The time of the total obscuration was 2 min 53 sec. The observers having in charge the examination of the heavens around the sun, did not find any intra-mercurial planet. The photographers secured excellent negatives of the eclipse in all its phases, and taken in all for all, no more satisfactory exhibition was possible than that witnessed."

They that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and pierce themselves through with many sorrows. This text has been sorrowfully illustrated by Mr. Frank W. Ballard of the Y. M. C. Association of New York. In an evil hour he speculated in stocks to increase his savings. A sudden decline in the market gave him the choice of selling out at a great loss or secretly borrowing \$5,000 from the Insurance Company of which he was Secretary. This was the second evil step and led him down until he owed the Company (with out their leave) \$63,000, and as his losses left him unable to pay it, exposure and disgrace awaited him. He retired to his native place a disgraced and ruined man, but his character has so endeared him to his friends, that they are going to raise and pay back the entire sum, while his employers have no intention of prosecuting him.

Stated Clerks of Presbyteries wish to remind the members of those judicatories of the SPECIAL ASSESSMENT OF FOUR CENTS for each church member, required for defraying the expenses of the adjourned meeting of the Assembly in November. It is desired that the amount be collected and paid over at the fall meetings.