

Religious Intelligence.

The Reformed Churches.

Presbyterian.—Rev. Dr. Sprague of Albany, celebrated the fortieth anniversary of his settlement, Aug. 29th. During this period every other pastorate in the city has been changed from one to nine times, and in the Synod of Albany only one minister remains.

The ninety-fourth anniversary of Pigeon Creek church, W. Pa., was held with appropriate services, August 24. Twelve Sunday scholars of 1822 were present.

The church of Wellsville, O., was burned Aug. 28th. Measures were immediately taken for rebuilding.—The church of Wilkinsville, Pa., was dedicated, Aug. 29th.—The church at Bellefield (Pittsburgh) destroyed by fire some months ago, has been rebuilt, and was to be dedicated on the 12th.

Rev. Matthew Brown Riddle, a son of the Rev. Dr. Riddle, who was formerly pastor of the Third church, Pittsburgh, and is at present settled in Martinsburgh, West Virginia, has been compelled by feeble health to resign the pastoral charge which he has held for some time of a Reformed (Dutch) Church in Newark, N. J.

Chillicothe Presbytery has been strengthened during the past year by the addition of the Second church of Greenfield and the Third church of Chillicothe, each numbering over a hundred members. They came from the U. P. Church, and their pastors, Rev. N. H. Prestley and R. H. Campbell, both active and talented young men, came with them. The Presbytery unanimously approved the Basis of Reunion.

The Synod of Missouri, stands alone now, as the representative of the "Declaration and Testimony" party which gave the O.S. Church so much trouble. But it is gradually drifting Southward, and has adopted the Hymn Book of the Southern church.

The N. Y. Observer publishes letters from two ministers of the Reformed (Dutch) church, in favor of the union of their body with the Presbyterians. This is an answer to a declaration by Dr. Ferris, that he did not know of a single minister of the Church favorable to such a movement.

Every member of one of the Home Missionary churches in the U. P. branch, says the Christian Instructor, regularly attends the weekly prayer meeting, and every male member takes an active part.

Rev. J. Romeyn Berry, D. D., was installed pastor of the Reformed (Dutch) Church, Fishkill, Aug. 24th.

A lady in Philadelphia—name withheld—proposes to furnish the sum necessary to build a house for the First Ref. (Dutch) church, in Minnesota, which has lately had its pastor installed.

Rev. Anson Du Bois, D. D., leaves the Second Reformed (Dutch) church of Schenectady to settle at Amelia, C. H., Va., where there is a Dutch colony. He hopes, says the Intelligence, to persuade Northern men of our communion to purchase in that vicinity, to establish an educational institution, and gather an enterprising congregation for the Reformed Church.

Other Denominations.

Congregational.—Dr. Kirk has resigned the charge of Mt. Vernon Street church, Boston, of which he has been pastor 27 years. Cause, "growing infirmities." A colleague is spoken of.

The South church, Chicago, of wood, costing \$25,000, with a \$5,000 organ, was opened for worship, Aug. 29. Oakland Avenue church will be open this fall. Grand stone structures of the First and Union Park churches are going up rapidly. Wicker Park church is moving for a building. There are twelve Congregational pastorates in Chicago.

New Congregational churches have been organized for more than a year, at the rate of two a week.

The Congregational Union, in its sixteenth annual report says that from the organization of the society to the present time, 375 churches have received aid, and 383 houses of worship been built. Of these, 37 are in New England, 62 in Illinois, and 61 in Iowa.

Rev. B. F. Parsons has resigned the charge of Springfield St. church, Boston, the building being owned by one man, and the congregation having no guarantee of permanent occupancy.

Rev. Daniel Fitz, D. D., senior pastor of the South church, Ipswich, Mass., died, Sept. 2, aged 74 years.

Rev. H. A. Shorey was installed pastor at Camden, Me., Sept. 1, Baptist and Methodist delegates being present, by invitation, as regular members of the Council. Whereat the Congregationalist asks: "Has the time come when Congregationalists are ready, as a body, to sanction the abandonment of some of the truths of the Bible which they hold as most precious, without even the effort to ascertain whether they are held by its candidates for ordination? We trow not."

Mr. Shorey had been acting as financial agent for Bangor Seminary, for which he had raised \$30,000 in Maine.

Rev. Hiram Mead has resigned at Nashua, N. H., with a view to accepting a professorship in the theological department at Oberlin.

Episcopal.—The Diocese of Wisconsin has 5,580 communicants, 974 having been added the past year.

The annual commemoration of the Popham, Me., colony of Englishmen, at the mouth of the Kennebec in 1607, took place on the 28th ult. This was an eccle-

siastical settlement with a clergyman of that Church, as its instructor; and in which the Liturgy of the time of James I. was in constant use, thirteen years before the landing of the refugees from Leyden on Plymouth Rock. Bishop Neely was invited to act as chaplain, and in fulfilling this office, he took a part of the service used by the Rev. Richard Seymour, the chaplain of the colony.

—There were 265 confirmations in the diocese of Maine last year,—an increase on the year previous.

—A lecture was attempted to be given by Father Ignatius, at Tottenham-court road, recently, on the subject of the Reformation. Father Ignatius said the "Reformation was a curse" when such an uproar occurred that the lecturer was unable to proceed for a quarter of an hour. He said he was at perfect liberty to express his own opinions. He was an Englishman, and had as much right to claim the privileges of the Magna Charta as anybody. Martin Luther was a bad man, and one of his doctrines was that if an infant was baptised and was not one of God's elect, and was thrown into a fire, it would not burn until it had done something to merit damnation. He (Father Ignatius) was a persecuted man, and the Protestants could not bear to hear him say a word which they did not preach. The uproar here became so great that Father Ignatius was obliged to retire. The audience then made a rush upon the platform, when the gas was turned out, and the lecture terminated in almost a riot. Father Ignatius being allowed to speak for only about half an hour.

—During the past few months Gloria Dei, or as it is more generally known "Old Swedes," Church has been undergoing a thorough renovation. It is by many years the oldest place of worship in this city, having been built in the year 1700, with bricks imported from Sweden for the purpose. For a long time it was considered one of the finest buildings in Pennsylvania, and all strangers coming to the Colony deemed their visit incomplete unless this church had been duly examined and admired. Its pulpit was regularly supplied with missionaries sent over from the Church in Sweden.

Methodist.—The average salaries of the married men in the Cincinnati Conference, exclusive of house-rent, was, the past year, \$906, and of single men \$544, including board.

—At Carlisle, Ind., between three hundred and four hundred have been received into the M. B. Church during the present year. Nearly all the probationers are being received into full membership.

—The vote of ten Conferences has been reported, all going very heavily for lay delegation. The Conferences, are of course, entirely made up of ministers.

—Revolutions are reported in many churches in the vicinity of Boston. The camp-meetings, generally, are regarded as having been quite successful spiritually, although great complaints of Sabbath-breaking and mere pleasure seeking among visitors are heard, as usual.

—Four hundred students are now graduating from the twenty colleges under the charge of the Methodist Episcopal Church. A great many of these design to enter the ministry. Also several Methodists are graduating from other colleges who intend joining the Methodist Conferences.

—The Centenary Collegiate Institute, at Hackettstown, N. J., will have power to grant degrees to young ladies, while it will also provide the usual course of study for young men.

Baptist.—\$30,000 have been left towards the endowment of a "Female College" in Thomasville, Ga.—Newton Theological Institute has a Junior Class of fifteen.—Fifty-two Baptist churches in S. Missouri have but seventeen houses, thirteen of which are small log houses and four unfinished frames.—At New Baltimore, N. Y., a candidate was immersed in his 37th year. He had been under conviction seventy years.—The invested funds of Brown University, are \$441,000.—Reports of Conferences meeting about this time, present, on the whole, only a moderate degree of encouragement.

Revival Items.—The religious interest in Washington at the open air meetings of the Y. M. C. A., still continues. The shower of Divine grace is falling upon the lowest and vilest parts of the city. One rum-seller has given up his trade, and now exhorts those whom he lately tried to ruin. Many young men, arrested in the street by the singing, have followed the meeting to the rooms of the Association, and there asked for prayers and been converted. The revival is remarkable, having commenced among some of the worst classes of the city, in all the heat of summer, at open air meetings, held after dark.

—As a result of the three weeks' meeting held in Lowell in June, nineteen new members were received to the church July 25.

—The revival in Richmond, Ind., which has been in progress for about six months, is one of the most remarkable on record. About nine hundred persons have been added to the various churches. Out-door meetings have been held twice a week, and a noon day saloon prayer-meeting has become nearly a permanent institution. Sometimes as many as fifteen prayer-meetings in private houses have been simultaneously held in different parts of the city.

Miscellaneous.—A Sabbath school at Winchester, N. H., and another at East Hartford, Ct., celebrated their semi-centennials Sept. 1st.

—The Mohegan tribe in Connecticut number eighty persons.

—Out of a population of some 95,000 persons, in Milwaukee, probably not over 25,000 are Americans. The city is completely under the control of the Germans, and that means under the control of beer and rationalism.

—The Independent's opinion of the comparative value of theology and science—meaning we suppose natural science—is given parenthetically, as follows: "Moreover, if a young man is to devote himself not to theology, but to science, (and, generally speaking, the latter is by far the more useful pursuit) he will still find," &c. As this language is held in an editorial reply to a letter from a college student having the ministry in view, must it not be construed as a positive discouragement to the pursuit of the sacred profession; as not only the utterance of a theory, but of an ill-concealed hostility to the ministry?"

—The Young Men's Christian Association of New York, one of the largest and most influential in the country, and perhaps in the world, have decided to open their rooms on the Sabbath as well as on week days, and to have religious services there on Sabbath evenings. The fine building of this association, now about complete, will cost \$485,000.

—It is to the credit of Commodore Vanderbilt that he had the moral courage to choose his partner, not from among the gay butterflies which fit around the charmed circle of fashion at Saratoga, but a modest and retiring lady who, with much intellectual culture, is endowed in an eminent degree with all the Christian graces; one, moreover, as we are glad to know, who has always taken an active part in every enterprise within her sphere, designed to advance the cause of the Master.—Episcopalian.

Romanist.—Bishop McFarland, of Hartford, sailed on the 1st instant, to attend the Ecumenical Council, taking with him \$10,000 for the Pope from his diocese. He received also \$5,000 to defray his expenses.

—Bishop Lintz, of Austria, who was lately imprisoned for disobedience of the laws, is to be made a Cardinal, "in consideration of the afflictions and sufferings which the perverse and anti-religious spirit of our epoch is preparing for the Church and its servants."

—A new church edifice 60x120 was dedicated at Jacksonville, Ill., Aug. 28. It seemed necessary to state that "the society has a good-repute for sobriety and morality."

—The New York itemizer of the Episcopalian commenting on the very large sum of money going from that diocese to the Pope (over \$40,000) asks: "What is it, then (to speak plainly), but downright robbery of the poor Irish servant girls in New York, to be thus subtracting so heavy a percentage of their hard earned wages for the benefit of an Italian prince, who already has more cash than he can profitably invest? When the cold weather comes on, be it borne in mind, it will not be to these Bishops and Archbishops that the cry will come up for bread and fuel, but to the great body of our tax payers—a very respectable proportion of whom believe in neither Pope nor Popery."

Unitarian and Jewish.—A correspondent of the Liberal Christian says that he does not know a single "popular" Unitarian minister, nor one who occupies even a good place, that is living on the salary paid him by his congregation. In every case there is an eking out by writing or extra labor of some sort.

—Dr. Osgood in his last letter to the Evening Post, says: "I am surprised to be assured on high authority that the press in Austria is very generally in the hands of the Jews; and if a paper of any mark is started there, they are likely before long to get possession of its columns. Two great interests seem to be largely in their control—money and music—or the means of living and the art of obeying life on; and those who control these powers may largely rule the press, which is the organ of business and society."

Jansenist.—There are, according to the Church Journal, 25 churches and 28 clergymen to whom this title pertains, in Holland. There is an Archbishop—Henry Loos of Utrecht, and two Bishops; J. H. DeVries is General Secretary.

Scientific.

—Helmholtz's theory of the sun's heat, that it is a hot body cooling the heat, having been produced during the falling together of its parts when the system was formed, is now the current one among astronomers. Its rate of cooling by radiation is 1° Far. in not more than 4,000 nor less than one year. Chemically it contains iron, sodium, and silicon, but the peculiarly inflamed substance is hydrogen, as observations on the corona of flame during an eclipse has shown. This observation was made last year at Aden, in Arabia by German savans. The heat, radiated out in 81 days would, if transmuted into physical force, be sufficient to carry our earth round her entire orbit. On any possible hypothesis the sun cannot have been radiating out heat for much more than 100,000,000 years, so that the "geological ages" of Lyell Darwin &c., are gross exaggerations.

—Emmanuel Kant, before he became a metaphysician, wrote on physics. He first pointed out the fact that as the tide-wave of the sea is held back by the joint attraction of sun and moon while the earth rotates under it, it must act as a friction brake and cause a constant diminution of the rate of the earth's rotation. Later astronomers and mathematicians confirm this, and have calculated that the loss in a century is 22 seconds. Consequently the earth must have revolved with greater rapidity in its earlier periods than at present. Sir W. Thomson, a Scotch mathematician, calculates that about 100,000,000 years ago the rapidity of rotation was about three per cent greater than at present, being about the amount necessary to cause a fluid mass of the earth's size to assume, in solidifying, the shape which it now bears. But if, as the geologists assume, it had been solid ten thousand millions of years ago, when the rotation was twice as fast as at present, the shape assumed in solidifying at some yet earlier date would have been quite different. The enormous periods of some geologists actually carry us back to the times when the centrifugal force must have been great enough to whirl every loose object on the surface of our globe out into free space.

These calculations go to overthrow such speculations as those of Darwin in his "Origin of Species," in which he assumes that 300,000,000 years must have elapsed since the close of the secondary period, and bids his reader "close this volume" if "he can read Sir Chas. Lyell's grand work on the Principles of Geology, yet does not admit how incomprehensibly vast have been the past periods of time" disclosed by geology.

The rate at which the earth has been cooling—whether the origin of its heat has been chemical or mechanical—is, if uniform, such that not more than 98,000,000 years ago the heat on the surface must have been 7,000 Far., a degree sufficient to melt the strongest rocks. Ten thousand years must have elapsed before the surface was cool enough to permit of even vegetable growth. If the rate is not uniform the rate of cooling has been continually accelerating, and the date of solidification is much more recent.

The Geologists are very angry at Mathematicians and astronomers like Sir W. Thomson for intruding on their own field and exploding their theories of indefinitely protracted ages for the "development of a species," and the evolution of the existing order of things. Huxley almost refuses to listen to them and addressing his brother geologists says, "We have exercised a wise discrimination in declining to meddle with our foundations at the bidding of the first PASSER BY who fancies our house is not so well built as it might be." Did ever the most intolerant adherent of the Mosaic cosmogony excel this from a great living geologist: "I should certainly not accept any mathematical result connected with Geology, and if it were inconsistent with our mode of treating our science, I should not accept 1,000,000,000 nor 100,000,000,000 years nor any limit whatever imposed by physical science." Contrast with this Sir W. Thomson's reply: "For myself I am anxious to be regarded by geologists not as a passer-by, but one who is constantly interested in their grand subject and anxious in any way, however slight, to assist them in their search for truth." The geologists seem infested with the worst spirit of a Trade's Union.

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