

American Presbyterian.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1869.

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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.

Letters from the Hills, by "On the Wing," Present Position of the Prohibitory Law in Massachusetts, by a new Correspondent, On Sea and Shore, by "B. B. H.," American Board—Official Statement, page 2d. Editor's Table, Literary Items, Curse of Laboring Classes of England, Missionary Items, page 3rd. "At the River," (poetry) by K. H. J., Little Fanny's Watch, Child's Apology, Helping Mother, The Wife, Budget of Anecdotes, Blind Man's Fire-side, (poetry), Temperance Items, page 6th. Religious Intelligence: Reformed Churches, Congregational, Episcopal, Baptist, Anglican, Miscellaneous, page 7th.

The Baltimore Catholic Mirror publishes the statement that President Grant, when called upon lately by Father Wilson of St. Dominic's church, in that city, for a contribution, replied that he "had no money to spare, and if he had, none of it would be given towards Catholic objects, as during the recent war the Catholics as a body were rebels, and had identified themselves with slavery and rebellion."

PRIEST AND NUN.

We are very glad to welcome a new order of popular story books on the Romish controversy. Much that was highly objectionable and quite unsuitable for general circulation, even if true, found its way, under various auspices, respectable and otherwise, to public notice; and many sincere Protestants had become suspicious of the whole class of literature, by which the evil and dangerous influences of Romanism upon social and domestic life were professedly described. The effect has been bad. One important means of reaching the ear of the Protestant public was neglected. There has been a wide opening, much needing to be filled, for a perfectly pure, wholesome and truthful class of books, in which should also be used every legitimate means of riveting attention, arousing just fears, and hastening and energizing decision on the subject of the social aspect of Popery. In other words, the religious tale, founded on well-ascertained fact, and exhibiting the workings of admitted Romish principles on the social life of our own country,—not attempting those depths of iniquity which belong to the moral reform associations and the criminal courts,—is loudly called for among the five million Protestant families of our land.

Mrs. Julia McNair Wright is already favorably known by her list of books issued by the Presbyterian Publication Committee, one of which, Almost a Nun, was quite a successful venture in this department of writing. She has since undertaken a larger and more thorough work, in the same line, under the title of Priest and Nun, which eminently answers the need above described, and is destined, we are confident, to do a good work in spreading just views and in arousing the honest fear and indignation of the American people at the machinations of Rome, and at the easy indifference of our own people towards them. The craft of a system which recognizes no fixed code of morals, and which trains up a whole powerful order, as secret as Free Masons or a Liquor League, to every subtle art of policy for the increase and advantage of the Church, and its operations among a set of people, brought up as nominal Protestants, who refuse to believe the moral corruptness of Rome, and suffer their families and especially their daughters, during the period of their education, to fall into the hands of the priests and the nuns, are vividly portrayed. Almost every aspect in which Rome can in these relations become formidable to the peace, the health, the hopes, the personal safety and the destiny for this world and the next of families and of individuals, is effectively described, and wrought into a story of decided interest, of rapid and dramatic movement and of high evangelical tone. And startling as some of its statements are, the story of the imprisoned nun at Cracow, comes to hand, just after the completion of the volume, exceeding in its enormity the worst representations of this book, which may be classed among fictions.

We are glad to see that the book is to be pushed by agents, and that as the first issue of a new firm, Messrs. CRITTENDEN & MCKINNEY, it will be sure to be vigorously circulated. It is gotten up in substantial and attractive style, with nine full page engravings drawn and executed with unusual skill. The publishers deserve a large measure of success in an undertaking which is not only well-devised as a matter of business, but which is as well adapted to do good as many a purely religious tract.

AN INTERESTING ANNIVERSARY.

The second Sabbath of September was a high day in old Drawer's church, near Odessa, Del., being at once the annual season of reunion among the various congregations formerly connected with it, and the day of prayer for the blessing of God on the reunion of both branches of the Presbyterian Church in the United States.

Both these circumstances gave character to the services of the occasion, and greatly increased the satisfaction of all who participated in them. Old local associations renewed the life of the past, while the contemplation of great general interests lighted up the future with hope and joy. The concourse of people was very great from Odessa, Middletown, Port Penn and St. George's, with not a few from much greater distances in Delaware and adjacent States.

The old edifice was filled—pulpit, pews, galleries and aisles—with devout and attentive listeners. In the morning the sermon was preached by Dr. Crowell, pastor of Drawer's church, Odessa. His theme was, UNITY AMONG CHRISTIANS, as required and produced by their common profession of Christ as an indivisible Saviour; by their common obligation to Him as having been crucified for them, and their common profession of trust in Him and consecration to Him.

In the afternoon addresses were delivered by Dr. Patton, pastor of the Forest church, Middletown, and Rev. Mr. Gaylord, now of Lincoln, Delaware, who for twelve years had been pastor of Drawer's, Port Penn and Delaware City churches.

Dr. Patton gave a rapid and highly interesting review of the growth of the Presbyterian denomination in this country from the beginning; of the first separation between the Old side and the New, and the subsequent reunion, which continued eighty years; of the second disruption between the Old School and the New, with the causes, in part, which had combined to produce it, and the progress, especially during the last six years, towards fraternal correspondence and organic reunion.

Mr. Gaylord dwelt particularly on the unity of the whole Church as one army of the living God, part of which "have crossed the flood." He referred with great tenderness to many by name whom, as their pastor, he had been permitted to accompany "to the margin," and to see crossing over, in succession, alone, and entering within "the gates of pearl."

During both services, prayer, with special reference to the day, was offered by the ministers already enumerated, and by Rev. Mr. Beale, pastor of St. George's church.

The music, vocal and instrumental, was abundant and excellent.

Before the service—while the people in carriages and on foot "were gathering from near and from far"—during the intermission and at the close, there was much pleasant social intercourse and many happy "reunions" among families long scattered, among relatives and friends, "young men and maidens, old men and children."

At length, as the sun of that beautiful autumn Sabbath was descending in glory to the West, one group after another disappeared, one carriage after another rolled away, until the old church, which has stood on the hill almost a century, was left alone amidst the sleeping bodies of the dead, to be filled again, we hope, with a numerous, happy and grateful throng on the 2d Sabbath of September, 1870.

SUMMER RAMBLES.

The latter part of July we spent at Point Pleasant in New Jersey, and in a former letter we gave an account of our very pleasant sojourn there.

During August we were so constantly on the wing that we could hardly find time for correspondence. The early part of the month was spent among dear friends and relatives, and we may not lift the curtain of this private social life to let the world gaze upon it. Our Sabbaths were spent at Freehold, Raritan, N. J. and Rhinebeck, N. Y. among our Reformed, lately Dutch, friends. In the last two places we years ago officiated as Pastor, and as we stood in our old pulpits the most tender and delightful memories came to our mind.

But we turn from all these places, so full of pleasant associations to us, to speak of others of more general interest. A dear young parishioner, the daughter of one of our elders, and of our Sabbath-school superintendent, left her home in June to visit the green hills of Connecticut. Disease is preying upon her. Consumption has taken its grasp, and although the victim is fair and young, and full of life she cannot escape. Fannie Camp, the sweet girl of sixteen, is dying. We hasten to see her once again. How fair is the spot where she is visiting, and where each summer of her short life she has been accustomed to spend a few weeks. Meriden is a most beautiful city of some ten thousand inhabitants, situated midway between Hartford and New Haven.

It looks as if it had commenced its existence in a valley or hollow, which in form is like a huge basin. The hills rising on every side are very picturesque, and these are now well covered with large factories, and elegant private residences. As we look at those hills we think of the words of the Psalmist—"As the mountains are round about Jerusalem so the Lord is round about his people."

On one of these elevations, embowered in trees and flowers, is the mansion where social life, and hospitality, and intelligence and piety have their home, and from a window in this mansion Fannie looks out upon the lovely scene. But blessed be God her eye of faith beholds a lovelier city, built upon loftier and fairer hills. She looks up to the Mount of God, to the city not made with hands, to the Father's house of many mansions, to the home of eternal blessedness. Fain would she stay with father and mother and sisters and friends. Her young heart clings fondly to the endearments of earth. But God calls. Heaven has superior attractions. O, how full of joy we are to find this beloved youth sitting at the feet of Jesus. Consecrated in infancy to prayer and reading of God's word, although not a professor of religion, she is a disciple of Christ. She declares her unqualified trust in the dear Redeemer, and quietly waits the summons hence to glory. A few days after our visit she gently breathed her last earthly sigh, and went to her beautiful home in heaven. And now, while we look in vain for her smiling face in the home, in the Sanctuary, in the Sabbath-school, her remains are quietly resting amid the flowers of Meriden, and her soul we doubt not is joining with the ransomed spirits around the throne of God in singing the new and everlasting song.

Just before we returned home we made a flying visit to Saratoga. A friend is stopping at Dr. Strong's, and we seek him there. In a quiet part of the city of fountains, we find a most desirable home. Two physicians, father and son, have an institution, which all the year round is a resort for invalids, but in summer time is crowded with Christian boarders. The house will accommodate about seventy-five people. It has no bar, no ball-room, no opera house, but it is a real Christian home. The blessing of God is invoked at every meal, and after breakfast each morning the parlor is filled with those who join in singing praise to God, in hearing His word and calling upon His name. Our friend Cuyler is here. He usually spends his summers in this fairy spot, and as he has preached his eightieth sermon in Saratoga is a sort of Bishop, presiding over not only Presbyterians, but Congregationalists, Baptists and Methodists. With all the fashion and gaiety of this place which is very like Bunyan's picture of Vanity Fair—as an offset to the horse-race, the gambling and drinking saloon, and the ball-room, it is really refreshing to enter the Young Men's Christian Association rooms. Every morning from 10 to 11 o'clock these rooms are opened for prayer. The morning we were there the meetings were very largely attended and thrilling with interest. We have never seen the Fulton street prayer-meeting carried on with greater power than were these precious meetings at Saratoga. The cloud of blessing came over us, and broke in showers of divine love upon our heads and hearts. We were glad just at the close of our vacation, and when returning home from our summer rambles to enjoy this "sweet hour of prayer."

Home again! Work, toil, trial!—Yes, and welcome. Blessed be God for the privilege! O for grace to be faithful, and enduring that we may at length receive a crown of life! P. S.

CLEVELAND LETTER.

CITY CHURCHES.

Dr. Eels returned to Cleveland, and commenced his labors with his old church, on the first Sabbath of September. On the following Monday evening he had a very flattering reception by his old city friends, and the members of his church. He also had a very cordial greeting in Presbytery on the next day.

Dr. Lyman has been absent from the Euclid street church for several weeks. During his absence extensive alterations and improvements have been made on the inside of his church. He returned and resumed his labors on the second Sabbath of this month.

Rev. Mr. Lewis, Pastor of the Westminster church, after a somewhat protracted vacation, has returned, improved in health, and resumed his labors.

Dr. Goodrich has not taken any vacation this summer, but he has been absent a good deal on account of the sickness and death of his mother. On his return he preached a sermon entitled—"Reflections by a Mother's Death-bed." The sermon has been printed, and is a very filial and beautiful tribute to the memory of an excellent Christian parent.

OTHER CHURCHES.

The church in Newburg, under the pastoral care of Rev. Elroy Curtis, commenced the erection of a new house of worship, about the first of June. The walls are now up, and the roof on. It is hoped that the basement will be ready for use in a few weeks. The church in Streetsboro are renovating their old house of worship, and are giving other indications of a renewed vitality. The church in Parma, which became discouraged, have been so revived by the labors of a young brother, who has spent his seminary vacation among them, that they now think that they can live, and want to settle a minister.

Some of the Congregational churches connected with us, have been told that they must become fully Presbyterian, or leave us, and they are deliberating what to do. The probability is

that the roll of our churches will be somewhat less next year.

OUR ROCHESTER CORRESPONDENT.

SYNOD OF GENESEE.

This Synod held its annual meeting this week at Jamestown, a beautiful and flourishing village, in Chautauqua county, far away in the South-western corner of our great State, and the attendance upon the meeting was not so large as it would have been in some other locality. And yet to those who had not before been in that region, the trip and the visit were exceedingly interesting, especially the sail over Chautauqua Lake, which is a clear sheet of water, some twenty miles long and four or five miles wide, said to be the highest water in the world navigated by steam. It is 726 feet above Lake Erie, and 1,296 feet above the sea. It is almost a lake on top of a mountain; or a great spring, as it receives no affluents except a few little brooks. Its waters seem to come from hidden fountains. The outlet is at the south end, forming a beautiful and perennial stream, upon which the village of Jamestown is built.

Here is a fine water power, with various manufacturing, furnishing employment for a considerable portion of the inhabitants. And, beside this, a dairy business of some \$750,000 a year adds to the population and wealth of the place. And business of all sorts is rapidly increasing. The town is growing. New houses are going up continually. Many fine dwellings adorn the hillsides. The present population is estimated at 6,000. Some of the "oldest inhabitants" expect to see those figures doubled in the next few years.

The Congregationalists recently dedicated a new church edifice, costing \$28,000. It is of brick; an imposing, substantial structure. The Presbyterians have also a large and commodious house of worship, though it has stood some years and must ere long give place to a better and more modern house. This is the church with which the Synod met, over which Rev. Dr. Thompson, formerly of Buffalo, is settled, and where he seems to be much beloved and very useful.

Dr. Thompson was chosen Moderator, and presided with great acceptableness to those in attendance. The opening sermon was preached by Rev. Dr. Campbell of Rochester, the retiring Moderator. It was a rapid, interesting and suggestive sketch of the four great revival epochs of the last hundred and thirty years, characterizing each one as bringing out into special prominence one great central truth of the Christian system, Regeneration, Sovereignty, Repentance, Love. The central dates of these periods were 1740, 1800, 1831, and 1857. In the first Whitefield was the chief actor, in the second Nettleton, in the third Finney, and the fourth has no one central figure. It is the day of more general activity, lay agency and the like, all preaching, all laboring, man with man, to bring sinners to Christ.

Dr. Shaw preached the communion sermon from those marvellous words, "As thy day, so shall thy strength be." It was full of sympathy and cheer for a weak or wounded spirit.

The various benevolent causes were well represented, and the Synod gave them a patient hearing. All were much stirred by Dr. Ellinwood's representation of the condition and wants of the far West, as his eyes have recently looked upon them. By contrast, not per contra, we had Rev. Albert Bushnell, the veteran missionary from Africa, to tell us about the wants of the perishing millions of that dark land. It was very hopeful, however, to hear him say, that already there are 17,000 members of Christian churches on the west coast of Africa, and 20,000 children gathered in Christian schools. That is something done, and gives great encouragement to further effort in the same direction. The whole coast is partially illumined with the Gospel.

One of the chief matters considered by the Synod was Systematic Benevolence. A series of pointed and emphatic resolutions was introduced by Dr. Campbell, seconded by Dr. Waldo, ably advocated by both and by many others, and unanimously passed, inviting and urging all the churches within the bounds of the Synod to take a collection every year for each one of the seven causes commended to them by the General Assembly.

Further to urge and encourage this movement, a committee was appointed, consisting of one from each of our six Presbyteries, to have this matter in charge, and to see that each pastor takes such collection, or gives a reason for not doing so. It is proposed to have the roll of each Presbytery, and the roll of the Synod, called each year, to see who have, and who have not, complied with this rule of the Assembly. It is hoped in this way to stir up some pure minds by way of remembrance, and if possible, secure in each church a collection for each one of our various causes of benevolence.

A shameful deficiency still exists in regard to some of them; for instance, on Ministerial Education. While so many of the appropriations made last year to needy students could not be paid in full, and some most worthy young men were reduced to great straits, and almost discouraged about trying to enter the ministry, only 38 of the 106 churches of the great Synod of Genesee took collections for that cause at all,

they giving only \$1,162; and of this amount one church gave almost one third. The whole sum is only eight cents from each church member in the Synod; or, leaving that one church out, it is only five cents a member for the whole year; so much to supply the world with the ministry of reconciliation. It is hoped that our contributions may be better to all the causes another year.

It was, on the whole, an important and interesting meeting of the Synod. All seemed to enjoy it, and seemed to carry away much of its inspiration. GENESEE.

Rochester, Sept. 18, 1869.

PRIZE MANUSCRIPTS.—To writers who have sent in manuscripts competing for the different prizes offered by the Presbyterian Publication Committee, and who may think it is time for a decision to be made, the Committee's Secretary would offer a word of explanation. One hundred and fifteen manuscripts (in addition to our regular supply of publications) have been sent in thus far. Many of these are large, running to five hundred or more written pages. To examine them is a work of very great labor, as any one will find who undertakes the job, and the examination has been hindered by the absence from the city during the Summer of a number of the gentlemen of the Committee. It has, however, been pressed as rapidly as possible, and will be pressed to a conclusion.

It must be remembered by writers that though a decision adverse to the acceptableness of a book can be had on any one manuscript singly, an award of superiority can only be made after all the competitors of a given class have been read, and those deemed best compared. Then let our good writers exercise patience, and believe that the Committee will decide as soon as they can do so with fairness to all. The Secretary cannot say this directly to the writers, as their names are sealed and awaiting a decision. J. W. D.

We call attention to the announcements of Messrs. C. Scribner & Co., in our advertising columns. They include LANGE ON ROMANS, just issued, a new volume of the LIBRARY OF WONDERS, Reminiscences of JAMES A. HAMILTON; and especially a new programme for their sterling magazine: HOURS AT HOME, which they offer at very low rates in clubbing with our own and other first-class journals.

We will send HOURS AT HOME and our own paper to new subscribers to both for \$3.50 per annum in advance.

The church at Sidney Plains, Chenango Presbytery, N. Y., has been thoroughly repaired and enlarged this summer, and was formally dedicated to God, Sept. 8th. The sermon was preached by Rev. Geo. J. Miggins, Superintendent of City Missions in New York, from Luke 7: 5, "For he loveth our nation and he hath built us a synagogue," and the dedicatory prayer was offered by the Rev. S. Mandeville, of Masonville, N. Y. The services were interesting throughout, and attended by a large and attentive audience. The society is not a strong one, nor have they a superabundance of this world's goods, but they have expended more than \$6,000 in this work, and they have now one of the most beautiful and commodious houses of worship to be found in this part of the Susquehanna Valley. Rev. A. McMasters is now their pastor, having commenced laboring about a year ago. The village, situated at the junction of two railways, is growing, and with it our church must grow. We hope the successful completion of this (for them) great enterprise, will open a new era in their prosperity, and that the Lord will accept their gift, and acknowledge it by opening the windows of heaven and pouring them out a great blessing.

News of Our Churches.

The Presbytery of Cleveland and Portage met in Collamer on the 7th inst. In accordance with the recommendation of the General Assembly, the first half day was spent in Sabbath School exercises. The object was to exhibit some of the most improved modes of teaching. There were also several questions discussed: such as "the relation of Presbytery to the Churches and of the Churches to Presbytery;" and "the relation of Church members to the prayer-meeting." There were also two excellent sermons preached, and a communion season. The moral impression of the meeting was very good, though the weather was very unfavorable.

Reunion received the early attention of Presbytery. The "Basis" was read; the "Concurrent Declarations" of both Assemblies were also read; the Commissioners to the Assembly were heard, and others made remarks. The roll was then called, and the vote was unanimous approving the Basis. J. S.

The Presbytery of Onondaga at its semi-annual meeting in Cazenovia 14th inst., adopted the overture on Re-union by a unanimous vote. Rev. J. H. Burns is released from his pastoral charge of the Church at Granville, Ill., and goes to the Presbytery of Chicago to enter upon a new enterprise of Home Mission labors.

The Presbytery of Ottawa, Ills., has approved the Basis of Re-union.

The Presbytery of Grand River, O.—The minutes on Re-union read thus: The order of the day was taken up, and Presbytery proceeded to act on the Basis of Re-union submitted by the General Assembly. The roll was called and each member was afforded an opportunity of stating the reasons of his vote. Every member voted in the affirmative. A prayer of thanksgiving was then offered.