

American Presbyterian.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1869.

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

THE EDITORIAL COMMITTEE.

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Rev. Samuel W. Duffield, Special Correspondent.

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, II. by "On the Wing." An Obituary, The Rock of the Church, is Christ or Antichrist? Rev. A. M. Stewart's Letters, XLIV, page 2nd; Editor's Table, Literary Items, Items of Romanism, Conversion of Noah Webster, How to be Saved, Diet of Brain Workers, page 3d; Man (Poetry), by S. W. Duffield, Memories of Childhood, by Bishop Morris, The Soldier and the Substitute, "Make it so Plain that I can get hold of it," Budget of Anecdotes, page 6th; Religious World Abroad, page 7th.

Lafayette College begins its sessions of 1869-70 with one hundred and seventy students, sixty two of them Freshmen.

Of the 150,241 persons who live by teaching school in these United States, over 100,000 are women.

Allegheny Seminary (O. S.) opened its sessions Sept. 14th, with twenty-four students. Six more are expected. Dr. Hodge delivered an address.

Rev. J. B. Bittinger, D. D., of Sewickleyville, Pa., has declined the presidency of Washington and Jefferson (united) College, to which he was recently elected.

A new Sunday law, closing Barber shops and clearing boot blacks from the streets, went into effect in Washington last Sunday. The law, it is said, was originally introduced into the Councils, by a leading colored barber.

The Catholic Standard corrects the assumption in the letter of the Moderators to the Pope, that Presbyterians had been invited to the Oecumenical Council. It says: "No such invitation has been extended to them. They are urged by the charity of the Holy See to pray for the grace to return to the Church of God."

Dr. Dorr, just deceased, may be reckoned as the direct successor of the venerable Bishop White, as rector of Christ church. On the Bishop's decease, in 1836, Rev. J. W. James was chosen rector. The church was then closed for repairs, and before it was opened again, Mr. James had died, about a month after his election. Since 1857, Dr. Dorr resigned his work and salary to Rev. E. A. Foggo.

The Scottish Episcopalians, who own the greater part of all the land in Scotland, have recently furnished a grand cathedral at Inverness. They expended some \$140,000 in gold on its erection, rather less than some single American congregations have expended for the same purpose, but they are not out of debt. So instead of putting their fingers deeper in their own pockets, they are begging £1,000 of an English Missionary Society, the S. P. G.

At the recent meeting of the British Association, Archdeacon Freeman read a paper opposing Darwin's theory of the Origin and Development of Natural Species. The Archdeacon revived the old Platonic doctrine that the various species were created after the pattern of ideas preëxisting in the Divine Mind. Moses coincides remarkably with Plato, in saying that species were created "after their kind."

In the Convention of Illinois, which met this month, a new canon was proposed and referred to a committee, providing that if, at any time pending proceedings against a clergyman under a canon of the diocese, an application be made by him for the interposition of any civil tribunal to stay or delay such proceedings, he shall be suspended from the exercise of the functions of the ministry, and shall not be allowed to attend in person, or by counsel or agent, upon any subsequent proceedings in regard to the offense alleged against him. This is intended to prevent future interruptions to ecclesiastical trials like that witnessed in the late Cheney trial.

The recent attempt of a German septic to assassinate a Lutheran minister in a Berlin church, while he was repeating the creed, has led to a renewal of the discussion as to the spiritual condition of that country. The English papers have long letters, many of them full of curious misapprehensions. The general conclusion arrived at is that things are not so bad as they were, but that in some sections of the country, the great mass of the German people have lost all hold on the truth of Christian doctrine. Many probably are no more familiar with the inside of a Church, than was the Berlin butcher, who happened to attend at the very service at which this attempt of assassination took place.

He exclaimed: "Whew! Firing guns in the creed? Why that's new. They didn't do that when I was a boy!"

The Pope has had his word about the content atrocity at Cracow. It is to censure the Bishop for calling the saintly jailresses "demons." Our Romish exchanges are publishing all sorts of versions of the affair, but these don't hang together well. One story, told "on good Catholic authority," denies the whole story of constraint and imprisonment, and says that Barbara confined herself to her own room through excessive scrupulosity of conscience. Another version, also on good Catholic authority, is, that she was confined because suffering from some horrible form of madness—mania erotica seems to be hinted at. In either case, whether the torture was self-inflicted, or inflicted on a maniac, the main fact remains the same.

A very sad week has the past one been to the observer of human affairs as brought to our notice by the daily press. Homicides and deeds of daring violence; frauds and defalcations, especially the corrupt and costly transactions in certain departments of the Methodist Book Concern, just brought to light; the bad blood stirred up against our country in Spain, and the intense and disastrous frenzy got up by artificial means in the New York money market, revealing more clearly than ever, the almost despotic power of a small and perfectly unscrupulous clique over the finances, the credit, and the welfare of the entire country—these have constituted a scene far from agreeable to contemplate. They are loud calls to all Christ's people to keep themselves unspotted from the world; to pray and watch lest they be drawn into the widening, yawning vortex of evil, while the pulpit is summoned to utter, clear and loud, its warnings and denunciations against the forms of wickedness that seem to be sweeping in upon a flood of popularity and of moral indifference, and threatening to undermine the seats of justice themselves.

"THE POST" AND THE TICKET.—We have two papers in this city which represent the two wings of the Republican party. The Post represents the Radicals, fights the rings, demands the nomination of decent men, and the withdrawal of scamps who have secured nomination. The Press fights for "what the party chooses" with a rigidity of discipline which it learnt in the Democratic ranks. Since the change in the Democratic ticket, the two have changed sides. The Press urges the bad nominees of the party—especially for the Legislature—to withdraw. The Post cries, "Who's afraid?" and supports the whole ticket.

OUR ROCHESTER CORRESPONDENT. SYNOD OF GENEVA.

The annual meeting was held last week in Watkins, in the new Presbyterian church, erected at an expense of \$50,000, by the late HON. JOHN MAGEE of that place. It is a beautiful, commodious, and convenient brick edifice, a fitting monument of the generous man who erected it and gave it to the congregation. It is modeled somewhat after the Brick Church of this city, with Sabbath-School Rooms, Lecture Room, and Church Parlor in the rear. It is neatly frescoed; finely carpeted; seats nicely cushioned; church lighted with gas; gallery at one end; organ and choir on the right hand of the pulpit, on a raised platform and shut in by a low railing. The choir is intended only to lead the congregational singing, which is chiefly done by the help of our own most excellent Social Hymn and Tune Book. Rev. F. S. Howe has now ministered for many years to this congregation—a man much respected and beloved by all. The Church was never before enjoying so great prosperity. It shows how much a neat, tasteful church edifice will help impart spirit and life to a congregation, as well as attract strangers to its pleasant retreat, and so add to its numbers.

The opening sermon in Synod was preached by Rev. Horace Eaton, D. D., of Palmyra, from the words, "To preach the gospel in the regions beyond you." The central thought of the sermon was the outworking power of the gospel. It naturally seeks the regions beyond. It will not be shut up to ourselves. If we have the true gospel in our hearts, we shall try to give it to others far and near.

This grand old thought was beautifully elaborated, and enforced with a great variety of striking and happy illustrations. If we dared to make any criticism, it would be, that the continuity of the discourse was sometimes broken. Some of the remarks, though beautiful, were fragmentary. Or, at least, their connection with the great theme was not apparent. And yet, as a whole, the discourse was a string of pearls. The figures of speech were indeed sometimes homely, sometimes so quaint as to provoke a smile, but almost always striking, and sometimes very beautiful. Dr. Eaton thinks in metaphors.

We shall not attempt to follow the routine of the Synod's business, but only notice a few of the more important particulars. Dr. Wood of Geneva, was elected Moderator. Dr. Goertner was heard in behalf of Hamilton College. We are glad to hear him say that the fall term has opened prosperously. Fifty-three have entered the Freshman class. Nearly half the graduates of that college have become ministers of the gos-

pel. Two hundred of its graduates have been educated at Auburn Seminary. Three hundred are still living, and doing the work of the ministry. Hamilton College is a Christian institution. It belongs to the Church, and the Church should take good care of it.

Rev. A. D. Stowell, of Elmira, by appointment, read an essay on amusements, which interested the Synod so much that a Committee was appointed to publish it, and many pledged themselves to take copies.

The report on Elmira Female College, which is under the care of this Synod, showed that that institution is enjoying a high degree of prosperity. It has a larger number of students than it has had before in some years. Over one hundred names have been entered for the present term, and over ninety boarders are already in the house. Within the last year also great improvements have been made in the college buildings and grounds.

We learned incidentally, however, that Prof. Ford, upon whom an important part of the instruction in this institution has devolved, has leave of absence for one year. He is starting for a tour round the world. He goes first to California, then to China, India, Syria, Europe and home. His place, of course, will be supplied by others in his absence.

An admirable and stirring address was made by Rev. W. W. Atterbury, of the New York Sabbath Committee, in regard to the encroachments made and intended on our Christian Sabbath. He presented the subject very forcibly, and stirred the hearts of all present deeply. His address was eminently practical also, showing plainly what is to be done to resist these infidel encroachments.

Rev. W. A. Niles, D. D., of Corning presented some admirable resolutions, urged by a good speech also, on the subject of graded or improved Sabbath-school instruction. A large Committee, Dr. Niles chairman, was raised to take the matter into further consideration, and see what can be done.

The Proprietors of Watkins' Glen seemed disposed to do liberal things. They not only sent in tickets, admitting all the members of the Synod to the Glen, but offered them free passes to the end of time; free access also for all the Sabbath-schools connected with the Synod. Many of the members of the Synod availed themselves of the opportunity thus offered to see this wonder of nature. It certainly is one of the greatest of natural curiosities, and one can scarcely tire of looking at its beauties again and again, whenever opportunity offers.

CHANGES AND ITEMS.

Rev. Geo. Bayless, who has served the first Presbyterian Church of Phelps with great acceptance the past year, has resigned his charge, and been dismissed by the Presbytery of Geneva, that he may go to our church in Dubuque, Iowa.

Rev. Robert E. Willson, of Clyde, whose resignation his people have twice refused to accept, has finally been dismissed by the Presbytery of Lyons, and will seek another field of labor.

The First Church of Watertown, Rev. Dr. Porter's are making repairs and improvements, inside and out, on their church edifice, to the amount of \$3,500. It will look better, and be loved more tenderly, when it is done.

Rev. Geo. S. Boardman, D. D., who has supplied the pulpit of the Presbyterian Church in Rome, during the pastor's absence in Europe, was presented by the people with a silver service, on retiring, as a testimonial of the esteem in which he and his services are held by the congregation. He now goes to supply Dr. Miller's church in Ogdensburg, while their pastor visits the distant East. GENESEE. Rochester, Sept. 25, 1869.

News of Our Churches.

The Presbyterian Church of Hokendauqua, Pa., was dedicated with impressive and appropriate services last Sabbath, September 26th, the morning sermon being preached most touchingly and powerfully by the Rev. Richard H. Allen, D. D., of the Pine street church, Philadelphia, the prayer of dedication being offered by the Rev. Cornelius Earle, of Catsauqua, who for some years past has faithfully fostered this young enterprise to its present position. Excellent sermons were preached in the afternoon and evening by the Rev. Charles D. Shaw, of the Central church, Delaware, and by the Rev. Thomas J. Aiken, of East Whiteland, Pa.

Encouragement and happy success seem to crown this, our new church at Hokendauqua. We have reason "to thank God, and take courage." J. A. L.

Ministerial.—Rev. J. B. Brandt, Secretary of the Y. M. C. A. of Indianapolis, has received a unanimous call to the Seventh church (O. S.) of that city.

Rev. J. O. Sloan has begun his labors with the church at Bells Plains, Miss., vacant by the removal of Rev. Lewis O. Thompson to the College at Watertown, Wis.

Rev. S. D. W. Westfall (late of Lyons, N. Y.) takes charge of our churches at Redwood and Beaver Falls, Minn., vacant by the removal of Rev. Chauncy Hall westward to Yellow Medicine, Minn.

Rev. Jas. B. Little, of Dayton, O., is called to the church at Mankato, Minn., vacant by the removal of Rev. T. Marshall, of St. Louis.

Rev. W. C. Smith, of Huntington, Ind., has begun his labors with the church of Urbana, Ill.

—Rev. A. S. Dudley leaves Logansport, Ind., after a laborious pastorate of four years. He returns to Morrow, O., on account of ill health.

—Rev. Alvin Cooper resigns the pastorate of the Second church at Durham, N. Y., after a ten years' pastorate. He leaves after Dec. 1st as the two churches propose local re-union. Both are pastorless.

—Rev. H. M. Scudder has reached the Atlantic States, preaching in the Second church of Chicago, Sept. 12th.

—Rev. Ed. D. Neill was the first Minnesota Superintendent of Education, and founded our two churches in St. Paul. His appointment to the Consulate at Dublin was among the first made by President Grant. A new school-house in St. Paul has just been called the "Neill school-house" in his honor.

—Rev. John Waugh, of Canton, N. Y., has accepted a call to the church of Carthage, N. Y., and enters at once upon his new charge.

—Rev. Charles M. Whittlesey, a graduate also of Auburn Seminary, and step-son of the late T. A. Mills, D. D., has received and accepted an invitation to the Mission enterprise in East Utica, supported by the Westminster church of that city. He has preached a year or two at New Berlin, but now removes to this new and promising field of labor.

—Rev. Charles A. Dickey, who has left Pittsburg, Pa., to take charge of the First church in St. Louis, Mo., has been presented with a silver tea-set by some members of his old charge [U. P.] in Allegheny, Pa.

A few years ago a "New school" Presbyterian minister settled on a wide and desolate missionary field in Minnesota. The venerable man, (he is now nearly seventy years of age,) commenced preaching the Gospel to his neighbors. After a while the way seemed open for the organization of a church. The Agent of the American Home Missionary Society urged that the church about to be organized should be Congregational. His other arguments, failing, he threatened the old veteran with the withdrawal of aid from the Society if the church was organized as a Presbyterian church. The missionary replied, "I can take my staff in my hand and beg from door to door, if necessary, but I cannot and will not consent to your terms." And he did not. A Presbyterian church was organized and connected with a New-school Presbytery. The threat was executed; the missionary aid was withdrawn. The missionary knew why. His family did not. And, though several years have elapsed, they have but recently learned, but not even now, from him, why they were left without support. Time and Providence set all things right. To-day this venerable missionary has the pleasure of knowing that there is scarcely a family for miles around him that is not connected with his little church, and he joyfully anticipates the coming reunion of the two great Presbyterian bodies.—Cor. of The Presbyterian.

Churches.—Rev. Dr. Wisner, of Lockport, has in his church what he calls the Children's Sabbath. That is, on the morning of the Sabbath after the Communion, he preaches upon infant baptism, the duties of parents to their baptized children, the promises to those who fulfill those duties, and similar topics. At this time also, children are presented for baptism. The second Sabbath of this month, twenty-three were brought forward at one time. On the previous Children's Sabbath, nineteen were so presented, making forty-two. Most of them are the children of the converts of the recent marvellous revival in his church.—Evangelist.

—Rev. Charles F. Mussey, late of Batavia, N. Y., is engaged getting up a colony to go with him to start a new town in Kansas. About twenty families are now pledged, and he hopes to have fifty. He takes three elders from the church of Le Roy. Some of their number are out prospecting for a location; and the plan is to carry school and church with them. They expect to be able to organize a church with some twenty or thirty members at once. One of their number is quite competent to take charge of their singing, another has been a successful Sunday-school superintendent.—Ibid.

—The church at Elba, N. Y., eighty-six members, are overhauling and repairing their house of worship. They are looking for a pastor.

—The church of Junius, N. Y., have refitted their house of worship at an outlay of \$2,100, and it was rededicated August 26th. In the fifty-eight years of its history it has had 433 members. At present it has sixty-eight; and is free from debt.

—Four new churches have been organized in Minnesota: at Lake Crystal, near Mankato, of fourteen members; at Madelia, of nineteen members; at Dault of twenty-five members (where a fine church edifice is going up); at Home, on the Minnesota River, August 29th, of twenty-one members; with a rotary eldership.

—Lanesboro' and Le Scur churches in Minnesota are building houses of worship.

—The Mundy, Mich., church dedicated a beautiful house of worship, the first erected in this fine farming region, and by the joint subscription of every family in the town.

—The First and Third churches of Newark, N. J., held a Reunion meeting Sept. 19th.

Church Courts.—The Synod of Iowa met at Kossuth settlement. Dr. Spees of Dubuque was elected Moderator. Most of the time was taken up with a most vexatious judicial case, from Mr. Dimmick's church at Omaha, which has not only previously harassed the Session and the Presbytery, but is now on its way to trouble the General Assembly. After its constitution Synod held its sessions in the O. S. Church, and each day a table was spread in the N. S. church. The conversation on the state of religion developed the fact that there had been an increase during the last year of 17 churches, each of which was supplied with preaching; 287 communicants; and only 173 in Sunday school membership. The Synod extends from the eastern line of Iowa to the western line of Nebraska, and has in its connection 98 churches, 3,682 communicants, and 4,585 Sunday school membership, and it affords a magnificent field for missionary labor.—Herald.

Presbyteries.—The Presbytery of Hudson has just held its stated meeting. The Rev. John N. Boyd was chosen Moderator, and Messrs. Bell and Nichols clerks. The overture from the General Assembly respecting Reunion was reached at an early hour, and after a brief discussion, the answer of the Presbytery was given in the affirmative by a unanimous and rising vote.

Resolutions were then introduced by one of the oldest and most judicious members of the body, bearing on the action of the united Church in the adjustment of the boundaries and relations of the inferior judicatories, which elicited some debate; but after some modification they were passed with entire unanimity. The most important of these is the following:

"Resolved, as the earnest and unanimous conviction of this Presbytery, that if the Reunion of the two branches of the Presbyterian Church, referred to in the preceding minute, shall be consummated, it will be for the harmony and edification of all the parties to this union that the first General Assembly of the united Church, in whatever action shall be taken to readjust the boundaries of any of the inferior judicatories, should provide that ample time and opportunity be given to those judicatories to make known their respective preferences and their views in the premises."

Provision was made, by a special appointment, for a full representation at the adjourned meeting of the Assembly at Pittsburgh, if either of the present commissioners shall be unable to attend. The sum required from us for the Mileage Fund was also put into our Treasurer's hands with instructions to forward it to the Assembly.

The Presbytery met in a new and beautiful house of worship erected last year by one of our substantial congregations, and wholly paid for; which to us gives gratifying evidence of their prosperity and progress. Another of our congregations is now engaged in enlarging and beautifying its house of worship, at a cost of several thousand dollars, for which they have made full provision."

The Presbytery did not deem it necessary to appoint a Standing Committee on Vacancies, as we have none. Our pulpits are all supplied. O. M. J.

The Presbytery of Chenango, at an adjourned meeting on the floor of Synod, at Sidney Plains, N. Y., Sept. 22d, gave their unanimous assent to the Reunion of the two branches of the Presbyterian Church on the following basis: "The Reunion shall be effected on the doctrinal and ecclesiastical basis of our common standards; the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments shall be acknowledged to be the inspired Word of God, and the only infallible rule of faith and practice; the Confession of Faith shall continue to be sincerely received and adopted as containing the system of doctrine taught in the Holy Scriptures; and the government and discipline of the Presbyterian Church in the United States shall be approved as containing the principles and rules of our polity." W. H. SAWVILLE, S. C.

North River Presbytery at its recent meeting in Freedom Plains, by a unanimous vote, approved the Basis of Reunion. STATED CLERK.

Crawfordsville Presbytery met in the church of Newton, Ind., September 3, 1869. Mr. Mark L. Milford, licentiate, received a letter of dismission from the Presbytery of Athens, within whose bounds he is laboring. Mr. James E. Cowin was licensed to preach the Gospel. The plan for Reunion, indorsed by the Assemblies, was unanimously adopted. The condition of most of the churches is full of encouragement. Their fields are opening wider.

CARD. John P. Crosby, Esq., having resigned the office of Treasurer of the Church Erection Fund, and Mr. A. N. Brown having been appointed in his place, all remittances hereafter may be addressed to the latter, at 30 Vesey street, N. Y.

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