

American Presbyterian.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 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.

Venice, by "B. B. C.," *Presbyterianism in Boston, III., The City of Calvin, Narrative of the Synod of Pennsylvania, page 2nd; Editor's Table, Literary, Scientific and Missionary Items, page 3d; Memories of the Old Kitchen (Poetry), Mr. Hammond's Letters, VI., It's the only Hope, Two Faces, How Victoria Travels, Non-interference, Liquor Selling, Night Air, Budget of Anecdotes, page 6th; Religious Intelligence, Reformed Churches, Episcopalian, Congregationalist, page 7th.*

—Another of "B. B. C.'s" letters from Venice will appear next week; also one from "S. C. P.," continuing his Sabbaths on the Continent.

—A telegram from a Paris banker gives the sad news that Rev. Dr. Henry, pastor of the North Presbyterian church (Sixth street, above Green), died October 8th, of the Syrian fever, when about to start on his return from the Holy Land. He was thirty-eight years of age, had been pastor of the church for five years, and leaves a widow.

—Our Boston correspondent, "Axtell," concludes his valuable series on Presbyterianism in that city. Many facts of deep interest have been industriously collected in these articles, showing that like an exotic, Presbyterianism has had a hard struggle for existence in that city, but like the tough thing it is, it has managed to maintain itself, and now begins to show signs of having become thoroughly acclimated.

—Elder Charles Godfrey, of North Broad street church, gave an account of his recent travels in Europe, to a large audience, in the lecture-room of the church, on Wednesday evening of last week. The listeners were delighted with the instructive matter and the animated style of the speaker, and regretted that the lateness of the hour compelled him to pause before entering Paris.

The Pacific, (Congregationalist, San Francisco,) thus closes an article in response to ours upon the new relations of our church to the American Board:

"It is pleasant to think that among any of our brethren, who are separating from us, the suggestion of such a proposal should arise. It would be strange, indeed, if our New School friends could leave those with whom they have been so closely co-operating for sixty years in this oldest and most endeared of all the American missionary societies at work in foreign lands—leave all the tender and noble associations of its quickening past, and be so happy in the new nuptials, as not to drop a tear over the relations that are about to be sundered. Therefore, we welcome and heartily reciprocate this almost solitary reference, as far as the newspapers are concerned, to a class of feelings which must be waiting expression of many hearts."

—The Committee of the O. S. Assembly to investigate the affairs of the Danville and Chicago Theological Seminaries, seems to have been made up of very moderate men. Dr. Landis complains that at Danville they held no communication with him or Dr. Breckenridge, that they stayed but one day in Kentucky, and that they were composed entirely of men who dissented from him on sundry theological and ecclesiastical issues. While he and others concerned were excluded from their councils, some were admitted to them who had not earned that privilege by their devotion to the Church or the Union.

In regard to the Chicago Seminary, the Committee publish the fact that they agree to recommend a compromise. Dr. Lord is to retain his professorship, but Mr. McCormick is to be released, the despatch says, "from paying the \$25,000 due the School," which means, we suppose, half of the last \$50,000 installment now due. Three directors are to resign and others acceptable to each party will take their places. This compromise has been agreed to.

—It will be remembered that a year ago Rev. C. H. Malcom, and the second church of Newport, R. I., held a union communion to which Pedobaptist churches of the city were invited, and that it was thought necessary to notice the fact at the meeting of the Warren Association to which he and his church belong. Resolutions were offered affirming that "this Association regards an invasion of the Scripture law in inviting to the Lord's table those who have not been baptized, contrary to the universal custom of Christendom, as an infringement of the divine order and a violation of Christian propriety." This resolution was finally referred to a com-

mittee of five, Mr. Malcom himself being one. This committee, at the meeting of the Association recently held, recommended the following as a substitute: "That the Warren Association, while recognizing the independence of the churches and disclaiming the right to legislate for them, does not sympathize with the principle of open communion in Baptist churches." Mr. Malcom, as a minority of one, reported a recommendation of entire toleration on this matter. The majority Report was adopted.

OUR ROCHESTER CORRESPONDENT.

INCIDENTS.

Some incidents, connected with recent revivals, have lately come to our knowledge, which remarkably illustrate the power of Divine grace. Three persons were recently received to one of our churches, who were over seventy years of age; two, who were over eighty. In connection with the same church, three neighborhood prayer meetings were established and maintained by the people. In one of them, where forty-five persons were present, forty-two took part in the exercises of the evening, by remarks or prayer. Twenty family altars were erected in connection with that one congregation, which is not a large one.

One of the men who was converted after he was eighty years of age, was soon called to test the power of his new faith to sustain him in the hour of greatest need. He passed down into the valley of death, fearing no evil, but giving God thanks that he had not been cut off at an earlier day, with all his sins upon him. Christ was all in all to him; and so he entered into rest.

In another revival not a thousand miles from us, a young Romanist was converted, and came out firmly on the Lord's side. Nothing but contempt and persecution awaited him among his own friends. Indeed, his father turned him into the street in the dead of night, to seek shelter and rest where he could find them. He went to his new Protestant friends. One of them kindly received him under his own roof, and kept him for two months, until a permanent place and employment could be obtained for him. He is now in good hands; doing well in business, and holding firmly to his Christian hopes.

In the same glorious revival, a young Jew was converted. He, too, was made to know that "a man's foes shall be they of his own household." He, too, was turned out of doors, but finally taken back again. Indeed, his bigoted, Jewish father was forced to confess, that his son bore abuse so meekly that it was beyond his comprehension. He thought there must, after all, be something in this new faith. He felt almost like becoming a Christian himself. The Jew was less bigoted than the Papist.

ANNIVERSARY.

The Sabbath-school of the First Presbyterian church of Utica recently celebrated its fifty-third anniversary. The scholars of the school filled a large part of the church, and addresses were made by Prof. M. M. Merrill, of Utica, and Prof. N. T. Clarke, of Canandaigua. This school has not labored in vain in the Lord. It has something to show for its fifty-three years of existence. On either side of the communion table, there was a tablet headed, "Our Representatives." On one, "Preachers of the Gospel;" Rev. Ezekiel Williams, Geo. S. Wilson, Charles Stuart, Edward Bright, B. B. Hotchkiss, John Morgan, Oliver Bronson, Henry S. Clarke, J. H. Dwight, L. S. Merrill, E. D. Morris, Wm. John, Anson J. Upson, Charles Dunning, John R. Lewis, Adam Martin.

On the other, *Missionaries to heathen lands*: Maria S. Loomis, James Garrett, Mary B. Sampson, H. G. O. Dwight, Asabel Grant, S. Wells Williams, W. Frederick Williams, Sarah Pond Williams, Mary J. Carroll, Alfred North, Harriet A. Sheldon, Sarah Dean, Theodore Pond.

This certainly is a fine record. Some of these names have weight and influence. Among them will be noticed especially those of Prof. Upson, of Hamilton College; Dr. Morris, of Lane Seminary; the late Dr. Henry Steele Clarke, of Philadelphia; Dr. Dwight, Missionary to Turkey; Dr. Grant, of Persia; Hon. S. Wells Williams, of China, and his brother, W. F. Williams, of Turkey. That school certainly is well represented in all the four quarters of the globe. It is fit they should hold an anniversary, and cheer and encourage themselves by looking over their honorable history.

ITEMS.

The Superior Court at Buffalo recently sentenced eighteen prisoners to the Penitentiary at Auburn, whose aggregate imprisonment embraces a term of forty-four years and two months. That will do for one batch. They could easily make the next larger, however, by licensing a few more grog shops. Effects naturally follow their causes.

The First church of Auburn have decided to retain their old bell for the new and enlarged house of worship. It is a good bell, and they are already familiar with its pleasant sound.

The Second church have greatly improved their house of worship. The interior is repainted, and made much more pleasant; the entrance and front so altered as to be much more convenient and attractive.

Rev. William E. Knox, D. D., of Rome, as you noticed last week, has accepted a call of the First Presbyterian church of Elmira, and is to remove to his new field of labor some time in

this month. His own church has passed very complimentary resolutions upon his going, expressing regret, and love, and best wishes.

Rev. Augustus C. Shaw, of Clayville, son of Dr. Shaw of this city, has received a call, which we trust he will accept, to the Presbyterian church of Fulton.

One of our Rochester dailies, speaking of Dr. Todd's new book, "The Sunset Land," says of the author, "Dr. Todd will be remembered as a somewhat eccentric Connecticut clergyman, of more than usual briskness of expression and pretty wide observation." So much for a worldwide reputation. Pittsfield, where Dr. Todd has been settled for about thirty years, used to be in Massachusetts.

Rev. S. H. Howe, of Independence, Missouri, has received and accepted a unanimous call to the Presbyterian church of Cortland. He is to commence labor in his new field on the first of January.

GENESEE.

Rochester, Nov. 5th, 1869.

—Ten persons charged with murder were arraigned in the Court of Oyer and Terminer, in our city, last week. One of the victims, a boy of ten years, was killed probably in mistake and without murderous intention. Two of the prisoners are implicated in the same murder; so that we have at least eight murder cases which have accumulated for our courts since the 4th of July last. One is a case of wife murder; but none of them are clear cases of deliberate purpose to kill, though they may be proved to be such. It would seem to be disagreeable evidence of the want of proper police arrangements, that five of these homicides occurred in the open streets, and two others in public places—all in four months. Rum, as usual, figures prominently among the causes of the disturbances which led to these sad results. One of the victims was struck in a tavern brawl, and died in half-an-hour. Another case, not yet in court, but occurring within the same four months, is that of a German who died last week at the Pennsylvania hospital, from wounds received in a quarrel begun in the tavern at Front and Pine streets. On the same day in which this man died, a fight took place in a tavern at Eighth and Shippen streets, in which one of the parties was severely stabbed in the side. Are we not ripe for a vigorous and united movement, this winter, at least for such legislation as will enable us to suppress these chief centres of depravity and crime?

PRESBYTERY OF HARRISBURG.

The Presbytery of Harrisburg has just held another meeting in the Borough of York, one of its most favorite places of social and religious enjoyment. Its small number was reduced on the present occasion by the absence of two of its most punctual ministers, one on account of his own long continued paralysis, and the other (Rev. Wm. Sterling, of Williamsport) on account of the sudden paralysis of his eminently useful and beloved wife on the preceding day, just as he was about to attend upon the public services of Sabbath evening. Two others of our number were occupied in distant fields of labor, and were dismissed at this meeting; the one (Rev. C. M. Blake, late chaplain in the army) to unite with the Presbytery of Oregon, and the other (Rev. H. Baker, recently a Stated Supply to a colored church in Harrisburg) to labor among the freedmen of North Carolina. Our meeting, however, was not without its usual interest, especially as a more than ordinary portion of time was given to religious exercises. Some signs of prosperity were reported, which peculiarly cheered our hearts. The Church of Northumberland, which has for a long time made no progress, has under the administration of Rev. A. D. Moore, its new and efficient pastor, awakened to new life; and after a precious revival, and an increase of numbers, has refitted and much beautified its house of worship, and entered upon a new career of congregational activity and energy. The second church in Williamsport, having outgrown the dimensions of their new and beautiful edifice, have just colonized into a third church of nearly sixty members, erected for the new colony a chapel at an expense of above sixteen thousand dollars, and for several months have sustained in it the regular preaching of the Gospel. The very building in which we were assembled, had just been erected by the church at York, and has become a model in this region for all similar structures. It was erected on the ample grounds which surround their beautiful church edifice, but fronting upon another street. It was divided into a lecture room, a Sabbath-school room, an infant school room, a library room, and a session or committee's room; and was fitted up in each with every convenience and even luxury, which the most advanced art has devised. Although this congregation has lately been called to mourn the loss of a beloved and faithful elder (Dr. H. M. McClellan, whose virtues and character have been set forth by his pastor in a commemorative discourse, well worthy of general circulation,) its Sabbath-school, under the instruction of an earnest corps of teachers, and its well-known superintendent, its meetings for prayer, its Christian association of young men, and its temperance organization, show no diminution of activity, and are annually bringing a rapid increase of members and spirituality to the Church.

In compliance with recommendations from the General Assembly, inquiries were made into the reason of any ministers who had to any extent withdrawn from the work of the ministry, and we were gladdened with the evidence that all were diligent and attentive to their obligations. It occurred, however, to some of us, that a similar inquiry might be extended with some prospect of usefulness, into the position of many in the ruling eldership. Measures also were entered upon to secure the dissemination of regu-

lar intelligence concerning the various departments of church work, by the general circulation of the Presbyterian Monthly, to obtain more accurate statistics regarding the number of communicants, to secure full and accurate histories of each congregation connected with the Presbytery, to have deposited in the libraries of seminaries and the Presbyterian Historical Society all copies of occasional publications by our ministers and elders, and to secure a more systematic and enlarged contribution to the benevolent schemes of the Church.

The overture of the General Assembly on the subject of re-union was carefully, and after a season of special prayer, unanimously answered in the affirmative. Members, however, found it impossible to restrain some expression of their feelings when they remembered the long and delightful association and fellowship, which they had enjoyed during the last quarter of a century. The very ground on which we were then assembled had been the scene of the bitterest and most painful perhaps of all the proceedings, which had led to the great schism of 1838. In that very church our beloved brother Barnes had been suspended from the ministry, amid excitement and cruelties which the most Christian spirit found it hard to forget, and in that very borough have taken place the civil proceedings which became necessary to secure the peaceful possession of the property of our Churches. There were not a few yet alive who remembered the turmoils and terrors of that period, and who contrasted them with the subsequent thirty years of a fellowship under another regime, which has not known a jar, but has each year increased in intimacy and profit. And yet we did not hesitate to cast in our vote for the re-union, because new circumstances have induced us to confide in the vast majority who have so cheerfully and nobly sustained the banner of re-union in the other branch. We think we discover even in the minority of that body, an enlargement of views and a spirit sufficiently in harmony with the spirit of the age, to make it impossible to revive the controversies and jealousies of former times. At least, we hope the great body of the Church at the present day have a practical aim and an earnestness of purpose, which will have no time or taste for such contentions.

The Commissioners to the General Assembly were directed to be present at the adjourned meeting at Pittsburg; but it was Resolved, "That in case the re-union of the two branches of the Presbyterian Church shall be consummated on the basis agreed upon by the Assemblies, it is the earnest conviction of this Presbytery, that before any action shall be taken for the readjustment of the boundaries of the inferior judicatories, ample time and opportunity should be given to those judicatories to make known their respective views and wishes in regard to a subject of such extreme delicacy." The spirit which dictated such a resolution was by no means factious or jealous of our brethren, but one which was anxious only for future peace and efficiency. The extraordinary circumstances into which we, who reside in the interior of Pennsylvania, will be thrown, we do not suppose will call for any new principles of elective polity, and yet we may be supposed to have decided preferences regarding the geographical boundaries within which we are to dwell.

The next stated meeting was appointed to be held on the first Sunday in May next, at half past seven o'clock, P. M., in the church of Spring Mills, in Centre county. C. P. W.

REV. A. M. STEWART'S LETTERS.—XLVIII.
LAKE TAHOE.

Our world's Creator, while living in it for a time, saw meet to change His abode and centre of operations, from His native city to the shores of Lake Genesaret. This quiet retreat had, no doubt, for the pensive Saviour, many attractions, beside calling to discipleship the simple fishermen. Long and lovingly did He gaze at those placid or troubled waters, together with the grand scenery which surrounded them.

The sea of the Galilee I have not seen with the natural eye. Only in imagination have I followed the footsteps of Jesus, on and around its waters; and have read also the minute descriptions of various tourists. Conceptions thus formed lead to the impression that this American Lake, now called Tahoe—the old Indian name, and pronounced, with the *a* in the first syllable broad, and gentle accent on the last syllable—formerly called Bigler, after an ex-Pennsylvanian—in variety, beauty and grandeur of scenery excels Tiberias. That Lake of Genesaret nestles away down among the mountains, lower than the level of the Mediterranean. Tahoe also nestles among mountains, but far up towards their summits, a mile above the Pacific. The Sea of Galilee is said to be some nine miles long and three to five wide. Tahoe is thirty long by ten to twelve wide; although, from the transparency of the atmosphere it appears much less. Its surroundings are lofty ranges and peaks of the Sierras. Several elevations on the west side are still covered with snow, and on a few it does not all melt during the summer. Groves of pine, fir, and cedar come down nearly to the water's edge the entire circumference, which is more than a hundred miles, following the numerous bays and indentations. Many of these sons of the forest are from four to six feet in diameter. While walking among these grand old trees, a peculiar aromatic fragrance is constantly enjoyed; which sacred writers celebrate as the "smell of Lebanon."

No island or shoal exists in this little highland sea. The water seems almost as clear as our atmosphere. Fish can be seen a hundred feet below the surface. In various places the Lake is very deep, having been sounded to the depth of 1,500 feet. Although in so high a latitude it never freezes over. On one side, near the water's edge, a large hot spring bubbles up. Fishermen who have been here for years, are of opinion that other hot springs rise in various places beneath the water.

The waters are so light, owing to their great elevation above the sea, that swimming is quite a difficult and laborious exercise; good swimmers having hard work to keep their bodies long above water. [But the bodies of the swimmers are also light. The difficulty is probably in filling the lungs with the thin air.—Ed.]

But the boating is light, very romantic, exhilarating especially when connected with fishing. Much of these four days' sojourn is being spent upon the water in little row and sail boats. One day was spent coasting for ten miles, and landing at various points of interest. In one of these excursions, Mrs. Stewart was fortunate enough to catch a speckled trout weighing over five pounds. This was done with a line let down from the boat a hundred and twenty feet. Were Peter and his fellows here, they need hardly toil all night and catch nothing.

Like as on Genesaret, storms sometimes come down quite suddenly from the mountains and toss Tahoe into fury; and almost as suddenly subside, leaving a great calm, with the water as placid as a mirror.

The people of San Francisco are talking and planning about making a new outlet for the Lake, and conveying its waters between one and two hundred miles down to the Capitol of the Pacific, and world's emporium in time to come. The idea is not Utopian, but practical. When accomplished, they ought to have fountain jets nearly a mile high, playing around the bay of San Francisco, and water enough beside for a city of ten millions.

A small, rude steamboat has been built, and is running on the Lake, but principally in the lumber business. This is said to be the highest water in the world in which a steamboat runs. But few houses have as yet been built or settlements made around the shores. Tahoe City at the north end, where we stop, consists of a hotel and connected building kept by mine host Lyons. For excellent accommodations—abundance of the finest trout included—visitors pay three dollars per day. Perhaps it should not be written lest it become too much of a clerical resort; but, being and because a minister, I pay nothing. The number of those who make it a summer resort has not as yet been large; but these must increase year by year. These natural attractions for summer vacations must eventually draw multitudes to admire and enjoy. The little ponds of Scotland; Geneva, Constance, Como, *et id omne genus*, in grandeur and interest fall far below this water and these mountains.

—Notwithstanding the effort made a few years since to consolidate the non-episcopal Methodist Churches of this country into one organization, and the apparent success of the movement, resulting in the dissolution of the Wesleyan connection and the Protestant Methodist Church, and the organization of the "Methodist" Church, it appears that the dissolution was not complete. The consolidation increased the divisions. The several non-episcopal bodies retain their existence, with the "Methodist" Church added to the list. Recent efforts have been made to unite the Methodist and the Protestant Methodist Churches, but as yet without success. The latest thing on the tapis is an attempt to unite the Methodist Protestant Church and the Methodist Episcopal Church South. The prospect of success is not brilliant, though *The Episcopal Methodist* and *The Methodist Protestant* of Baltimore, are discussing the matter with apparent earnestness.

LONDON, Nov. 4.—The Rome correspondent of the *Post* says, concerning the expected action of the Oecumenical Council, "The dogmatic definition of the Assumption of the Virgin will encounter no obstacle. The Pope earnestly desires the consolidation of this dogma. The erection into a dogma of the necessity of the Temporal Power is not considered possible, except by its most ardent champions. The foundation and preservation of that power do not afford elements of a dogma, and a belief in its necessity is not even a *proxima fidei*, but only of high importance. Probably the protests of 1862 and 1867 will be revived. It is suggested that the liberal bishops will advise that terms be made with the kingdom of Italy, so that all appointments, even the Pope, may be conferred without distinction of nationality, but such a change of policy, although desirable, is improbable at present, and must be left to time and the force of events. The Council does not have the initiative with respect to the syllabus, and it is absurd to think that the syllabus will be abrogated. It is more probable that the Bishops will be asked to sanction it, by open and unanimous admission, and to explain such portions as are obscurely worded or erroneously interpreted. Beyond these points the Council will only be occupied with questions of internal discipline, such as reform measures, reunion of schismatics and heretics with the Church, modifications of religious orders, amelioration of instructions of the clergy, and the adaptation of the judicial powers of Bishops to the condition of society. It is important to observe that the initiative in everything belongs to the Pope alone, and as the Roman Catholic Hierarchy is strongly and judiciously constructed, it is improbable that any serious opposition will be manifested."

LONDON, Nov. 5.—Rev. Mr. Temple, recently appointed Bishop of Exeter, in reply to an address, expressed a hope that as a Bishop he might know nothing of parties in the Church, but cooperate with all.

DUBLIN, Nov. 2.—Archbishop Cullen, in a pastoral just issued, exhorts all members of societies similar to the Fenian organization to abandon them. He adverts to the evils sustained by Spain and Italy through the action of secret societies, and says the members of such organizations will incur the penalty of excommunication, and cannot participate in the jubilee which has just been published.

PARIS, Nov. 7.—The Archbishop of Paris, in a pastoral letter on the Oecumenical Council, maintains that the French concordat is opposed to any decision of the infallibility of the Pope without discussion.