

THE DREW THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY.

LETTER FROM MADISON, N. J.

The Site of the New Methodist Divinity School—A Charming Grove, and a Fine Old Country Mansion—New Buildings to be Erected—Preparations for the Reception of Students—Daniel Drew, Esq., the Founder, and the Different Professors.

EVERING TELEGRAPH SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE. MADISON, N. J., August 8, 1867.

Proceeding to Newark by the regular route, I there took the Morris and Essex train, and, after a ride of seventeen miles through one of the finest and most attractive sections of the Eastern States, found myself in the village of Madison. This place is situated directly on the line of the Morris and Essex Railroad, and being but twenty-eight miles distant from New York city, is within easy reach of that great Bedlam and Pandemonium combined. It is one of those straggling, rambling, dislocated little towns which stretch through a mile and a half in one direction, with an indefinite and greatly varying breadth. The inhabitants are a mixture of the genuine, old-fashioned, simple-minded country folk and the smart, new-fashioned, aristocratic people who glory in the fact that their manners and ways of life are tainted with the leaven of the city. The houses partake of the character of those that dwell within them. Some are models of rustic Jersey simplicity, while others are ornate without and metropolitan within. Little patches of garden and little clumps of trees lend their charms to the place; and, taken altogether, it is just one of those delightful inland villages which possess enough of the country air to afford repose, while they savor too much of the city to permit the sojourner to sink into indolence and ennui.

Passing out of the town by the continuation of one of the main streets, and in a probably unrecalled in extent by anything of the kind in New Jersey. About midway of its length there is an opening which is provided with large and elaborate iron gates, and flanked on either side by a portico of brick, built of stone, and quite fanciful in its architectural details. Turning into the enclosure through the open gateway, you find yourself in a grove which, without exception, is the most extensive in all that section of country. It embraces full sixty acres, and many of the trees are of such dimensions as to be probably a part of the original primeval forest. If there is any fault to be found with them, it is that they are too thickly planted; and in some places a neglect to clear away the underbrush, and the young shoots which have sprung up on all sides, and which are not only a nuisance, but one with a melancholy sense of isolation from the world.

Leading up from the gateway is a broad avenue, completely shaded by the huge trees on either side, and at the end of this stands a large mansion, built of brick and coated with white paint. It has a frontage of sixty-five feet, is almost as spacious in depth, and at the rear a wing is extended in each direction, making the entire length of this portion of the building over one hundred feet. Extending the entire length of the mansion is a piazza fifteen feet in width, the floor of which is laid with blocks of black and white marble in alternation. The main roof projects over this spacious portico, and is supported by massive fluted pillars. At the rear is another wing, a piazza extending the entire length of the building, and shaded by a cluster of vines and the branches of the forest trees. The mansion is two stories in height, exclusive of the basement, which is high, and thoroughly ventilated and drained. The entire mansion is divided into different apartments, all of which are large and airy. One of the parlors, in particular, is of magnificent proportions, and very elaborate finish, while the dining-room at the rear of the main hall is even more spacious and handsome. With the exception of the piazza, the entire establishment is furnished in the most costly style, the articles being generally of a heavy pattern, in strict harmony with the mansion and its surroundings.

Scattered through the grove about this palatial residence are several smaller buildings, which were the necessary accessories of such an extensive establishment. In addition to a large, plain wooden farm-house, a laundry, with a dwelling for the laundress near at hand, and other structures devoted to household and other purposes, there are two buildings which are in keeping with the great mansion around which they are grouped. One of these is an elegant stone structure of tasteful architecture, which was erected just before the war, at a cost of five thousand dollars, and intended for the permanent residence of an old Irish servant of the family. When finished, the faithful nurse took possession, but remained there only a day or two, when she suddenly died, and was removed to the great house to die in the presence of her life-long friends and patrons. The other is a brick stable, fifty by ninety feet in dimensions, and two stories in height. This has been, in its day, one of the most complete in the whole country, and for some years it was tenanted by the famous trotter who was the "Fashion" in sporting circles, as well as in name.

The view from the front does not detract from the interest created by the extent and romantic character of the place. The grove surrounding the mansion is elevated, and the slope of the hillside continues for some distance, when the land again begins to rise, and in the distance breaks into a series of verdure-covered hills, which are an offshoot of the Blue Mountains. Surrounding the grove are some hundred and eighty acres, unencumbered by trees. One hundred acres of this has been under cultivation, and is now in good condition. The remaining eighty acres is thrown into a single field, and for many years past the ploughshare has not turned its soil. The whole estate is known by the appropriate name of "The Forest," and until within a few weeks past was the property of the Gibbons family. The first proprietor of that name died in December, 1832. He was the owner of "Fashion," and erected the noble mansion about thirty years ago, at an expense of \$91,000. A man of ample means, of cultivated tastes, of luxurious habits, and of a genial, hospitable nature, he purchased this extensive domain, and adorned it in the manner I have attempted to describe, for the use of himself and his friends. The name and the number of the latter was legion, and at the country seat of Mr. Gibbons they were sure of a hearty welcome and a princely entertainment. On the death of the first proprietor, "The Forest," with its accompaniments of mansion, stables, horses, and farms, passed to one of his sons, who did not inherit all the tastes of his father. The establishment, however, has always been kept up in a style which did not detract from its early prestige, and the friends of the family still maintain a wide acquaintance, and the hospitality undiminished. But the late proprietor passed a great portion of his time abroad, and as the mansion and its surroundings were getting out of repair from the lack of his personal superintendence, he was not loath to dispose of the whole concern at the offer of a good round price.

Such an offer was made by Daniel Drew, Esq., of New York city; and a few weeks since the title passed to him, in consideration of the payment of \$150,000. The entire estate of two hundred and forty acres, the buildings, the furniture, and the farming utensils and stock thus became the property of Mr. Drew. But the purchase was made with no view to his own personal use. He has long been determined to found a Theological Seminary for the education of candidates for the ministry of the Methodist Episcopal Church. At first he contemplated locating it at Carmel, Putnam county, New York, and with this view a charter was procured from the Legislature of that State. Being dissuaded from this, several sites in the Western States were examined, and the new institution some time since being established in the neighborhood of South Amboy, N. J. The estate near Madison was finally fixed upon, and it is the general opinion of all who have examined the definite location that a more eligible or attractive one could not have been secured. It will be necessary to obtain a charter from the New Jersey Legislature at its next session; but the original one will be retained, with slight modifications, in order that property may be held by the institution in both States. Now that the site for the Seminary has been selected and purchased, extensive alterations and additions are being made to the buildings. The old mansion house is to be slightly remodelled, so as to accommodate two of the Professors and their families. The large parlor and the stately dining-room, however, will not be disturbed, but the interior thereof will be refitted for use on important occasions. On the site of the present farm-house, another substantial residence for a professor is to be erected without delay, and others will follow as and when they are needed. A chapel, library building, recitation hall, lecture room, a refectory, and a club-house for such of the students as desire to economize, are also to be erected immediately. The large and substantial stable already spoken of is now undergoing alterations to adapt it to use as dormitories and studios. Within a few weeks will also present its former character will be removed; the doorways and passages will be filled up with masonry, and other and more appropriate ones substituted for them; a third story, after the stylish French pattern, so popular, will be added; and the interior then divided into several apartments, eleven feet by twelve each in dimension. Two of these will be allotted to two students, the one to be used as a study room, and the other as a sleeping chamber. These alterations and additions will cost about \$20,000, and by the time they are completed the building will not only be as well adapted to its destined purposes as any other in the country, but it will be exceedingly attractive as far as the exterior is concerned. As soon as the increase in the number of students demands the room, the necessities of the institution will be met by the erection of other dormitories of the same elegant and convenient character. In addition to the expense attending these improvements of the grounds, Mr. Drew will furnish the buildings completely throughout, and will also present to the Seminary a larger and more complete theological library than any other in this country. His agents are now engaged in the purchase of the books, and several thousand volumes have already been ordered from the United States and Europe. Large additions will be made to the library during the year, and when complete it will cover the whole field of theology and its kindred branches of literature, ancient and modern, English and foreign. It is expected that the entire collection of books, when these proposed measures will not fall short of \$250,000, which will cause the outfit of the Seminary to reach a cost of \$400,000. And as a permanent fund for its independent support hereafter, the generous and enlightened founder will add a case of \$250,000, to be securely invested for the sole benefit of the institution. This princely liberality of a layman of the Church is surely worthy of commemoration. As a further increase of the resources of the Seminary, it is the intention of the Trustees to acquire the grounds in the form of a park, with numerous walks and drives, and then to divide up a large portion of it into building lots of from one to ten acres each, which will be leased for twenty-one years, subject to cancellation or renewal on a new valuation at expiration. The lots are being rapidly pushed forward, and it is expected that everything will be in readiness by the 15th of October next, on which day the Seminary will open its doors to the students. The term will commence on the third Thursday in September, and continue eight months, terminating on the third Thursday in May. The regular course of study, the completion of which entitles the student to the degree of Bachelor of Divinity, will be completed in three years, and will cover the different branches of exegetical, historical, systematic, and practical theology. This course is arranged with reference to the attainments of college graduates, and an applicant for admission to it is required to produce a diploma from some college or university, showing that he has received the degree of "Bachelor of Arts," or, if he cannot do so, to pass a satisfactory examination before the Faculty in classical and general literature, and in the sciences. Such a course of want of classical preparation will prevent them from pursuing the regular course, will be admitted to a partial course, requiring two years for its completion. With reference to the other requirements for admission to the Seminary, the circular of the institution says: "Applicants for admission who are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church must bring a certificate of local preacher's license, or a recommendation either from a quarterly conference or leader's meeting, certifying that the applicant is a proper person, as to moral and Christian character, to enjoy the advantages of the Seminary. Members of other Churches must bring satisfactory written recommendations from ministers of the Church to which they belong." With regard to the expenses of the student, the ample endowment of the Seminary will make it possible to place them very low. There will be no charge for tuition, room, or use of the library; and the Club House, which is to be erected will be for the use of those who desire to economize in the matter of board by the formation of clubs.

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Three of the regular professors in the Seminary have already been selected. The first of these is the Rev. John McClintock, D.D., LL.D., who is President of the Institution and Professor of Practical Theology. Dr. McClintock is the most scholarly and popular of divines in the Methodist denomination, and for many years has enjoyed its full confidence. From 1869 to 1864 he was pastor of the American Chapel at Paris, and while residing in that city was constantly in consultation with our Minister to France, the Hon. William L. Dayton. He contributed greatly by his advice to the efficiency of the conduct of our affairs by the latter, and when the position suddenly became vacant by Mr. Dayton's death, so high was President Lincoln's appreciation of his ability and services that he tendered the appointment to Dr. McClintock, who felt constrained to decline its acceptance. For several years past Dr. McClintock has been engaged, in conjunction with Dr. Strong, in the preparation of a general Cyclopaedia of Biblical Literature, the first volume of which has just been given to the public. This work promises to be the most extensive and reliable of the kind that has ever been undertaken.

The Rev. Bernard H. Nadal, D. D., is the Professor of Historical Theology. He has held one of the most important stations in the denomination, and during a portion of the war was pastor of the leading Methodist Church in Washington, where he enjoyed the confidence of President Lincoln and the leading statesmen of the country. Among his congregations were many sympathizers with the rebellion, but by his untiring efforts he prevented a split in the church, notwithstanding his stern loyalty, to which he gave as free utterance in the pulpit as in private life. Some years ago, Dr. Nadal was a Professor in the Indiana Asbury University, and for two years he held the Professorship of Philosophy and English Literature in Dickinson College, although he has not entered on the duties of this position. Since 1866 he has been the pastor of the Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church of Philadelphia.

The Professorship of Exegetical Theology has been tendered to the Rev. John W. Lindsay, D. D., of the New York Conference, formerly a professor in the Wesleyan University, at Middletown, Conn., and at the present at the college of Genesee College, Lima, N. Y. The Professor of Systematic Theology has not yet been selected. Mr. James H. Worman, an accomplished linguist, and a son of Professor Worman, of the University of Berlin, Prussia, has been appointed Librarian and Tutor. In closing this lengthy letter, a few words concerning Mr. Drew may not be inappropriate. He is now in the seventy-third year of his age, but is still in the full vigor of health and mental activity. He was born in Putnam county, New York, and his early youth upon a farm. Becoming tired of this he engaged in business as a drover, and in this rather humble and unattractive calling laid the foundation of his princely fortune, which is now variously estimated at from \$12,000,000 to \$20,000,000. Mr. Drew, though tall, is of slender form and delicate features. He is by no means fastidious as to his personal appearance, and by a stranger would not be taken for the shrewd, sharp capitalist that he is. An anecdote of the Methodist Church, which illustrates his disregard of outward appearances. He was once going up the Hudson on the magnificent steamer Daniel Drew, when he was roughly accosted by a dandified individual with the query: "Do you belong to this boat, Mister?" "No," replied the unpretentious millionaire; "but the boat belongs to me!" Mr. Drew has always been extremely liberal with his money, especially when appealed to on behalf of the Church of which he is a member. Some years ago he built a handsome church at Carmel, in his native county of Putnam, New York, and this he now supports in a liberal manner. At the same place he has also established a Female Seminary, which is in a very flourishing condition. His donation of \$650,000 towards the establishment of a Divinity School is a characteristic specimen of his enlightened liberality, and an act for which he will long be held in grateful remembrance, not only by the members of the Methodist Church, but by the good men of all denominations.

Storm Signals by Means of the Telegraph and Cannon. WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY, No. 145 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, August 8, 1867.—A. Watson, Esq.—Dear Sir:—Numerous duties have delayed me to your letter of July 23rd. When any considerable number of cities or towns shall order the reports of storms which you suggest, they making their own arrangements for bringing signals guns according to the plan proposed by you, I will take measures to see these supplied. This company is always ready to serve any great public good in any way consistent with business and purposes. Very respectfully, WILLIAM ORTON, President.

The storm signals, by means of the telegraph and cannon, are intended mainly for the benefit of agriculture and commerce; to give warning of approaching storms during harvest in time for farmers to get their crops in, or to get under cover, or in a situation to make out their land, and at the same time to give warning to vessels on our numerous bays, rivers, and lakes, in time to seek places of safety, or prepare for the coming storm. The harvest having nearly passed, it is therefore proposed that the storm signals be tested as to their reliability by commencing a trial, satisfactory system can then be extended over the whole country in time for the harvest next year. The plan is as follows:—When a storm commences in any part of the country, and is traversing towards any city having arrangements to fire signal guns, the first telegraph station over which it passes will immediately send the news to such city, stating the kind of storm that is approaching. Three guns are to be fired as a warning of a coming storm; at intervals of one minute if a hurricane, or a destructive storm is approaching; at intervals of three minutes, if it is an ordinary storm, and is moving rapidly, and at intervals of five minutes if it is slowly.

As a good-sized cannon can be heard distinctly from fifteen to twenty miles in all directions, or a space of from thirty to forty miles, by firing signal guns, the principal cities and towns, situated on bays, rivers, or lakes, vessels of all kinds will thus be warned in time to seek places of safety, or prepare for the coming storm. The Western Union Telegraph Company, with lines extending over the entire Union, having offered to furnish the cannon, and to be procured as soon as any considerable number of cities and towns shall so order, it is therefore proposed to the boards of trade or city authorities of all such cities, to be signalled, that millions of dollars in ships and cargoes, and also numerous lives, will be saved. Where a fort, navy yard, arsenal, or barracks is located in a city or port, the signal guns proposed to be fired upon solicitation from its city authorities or board of trade, the firing here is at the discretion of the city or port authorities. At Fort Washington, and at several seaports the signals may be repeated at distant ports. In this way a city or port may be advised of the approach of a storm, if the press at seaports will publish this article, and several cities shall act in concert. A. WATSON, Washington, August 10, 1867.

THE DUTCH IN AFRICA. Exchange of Territory between England and Holland. From the Manchester Guardian, July 17. A convention between Her Majesty and the King of the Netherlands for an interchange of territory on the West coast of Africa, was signed at London on the 5th of March, and the ratifications were exchanged on the 6th instant. The convention recites that the interchange would conduce to the mutual advantage of the two powers, and would promote the interests of the inhabitants of the territory. Her Majesty cedes to the King of the Netherlands all British forts, possessions, and rights of sovereignty or jurisdiction which she possesses on the Gold Coast to the westward of the mouth of the Sweet river, where their respective territories are contiguous to the King of the Netherlands makes a like cession to Her Majesty of Netherlands forts, possessions, and rights of sovereignty or jurisdiction to the eastward of the mouth of the Sweet river. The tariff to be enforced after the 1st of January, 1868, in the possessions of the two powers upon the Gold Coast imposes a three per cent. ad valorem duty on the invoice price of all goods except beer, wine, spirits, tobacco, gunpowder, and firearms, for which specific duties are provided. If the customs officers of either power are not satisfied by the master of vessels insufficient, they are to be at liberty to take the goods on public account, paying to the importer the amount of his valuation, with the addition of ten per cent. thereon.

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The Utah Gold Mines. We learn that Colonel Bright, Special Postal Agent, has arrived in town. He is said to report that the new mines are good; that the quartz lode discovered is a rich thing; and the placer veins that he tendered the appointment to Dr. McClintock, who felt constrained to decline its acceptance. For several years past Dr. McClintock has been engaged, in conjunction with Dr. Strong, in the preparation of a general Cyclopaedia of Biblical Literature, the first volume of which has just been given to the public. This work promises to be the most extensive and reliable of the kind that has ever been undertaken.

The Rev. Bernard H. Nadal, D. D., is the Professor of Historical Theology. He has held one of the most important stations in the denomination, and during a portion of the war was pastor of the leading Methodist Church in Washington, where he enjoyed the confidence of President Lincoln and the leading statesmen of the country. Among his congregations were many sympathizers with the rebellion, but by his untiring efforts he prevented a split in the church, notwithstanding his stern loyalty, to which he gave as free utterance in the pulpit as in private life. Some years ago, Dr. Nadal was a Professor in the Indiana Asbury University, and for two years he held the Professorship of Philosophy and English Literature in Dickinson College, although he has not entered on the duties of this position. Since 1866 he has been the pastor of the Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church of Philadelphia.

The Professorship of Exegetical Theology has been tendered to the Rev. John W. Lindsay, D. D., of the New York Conference, formerly a professor in the Wesleyan University, at Middletown, Conn., and at the present at the college of Genesee College, Lima, N. Y. The Professor of Systematic Theology has not yet been selected. Mr. James H. Worman, an accomplished linguist, and a son of Professor Worman, of the University of Berlin, Prussia, has been appointed Librarian and Tutor. In closing this lengthy letter, a few words concerning Mr. Drew may not be inappropriate. He is now in the seventy-third year of his age, but is still in the full vigor of health and mental activity. He was born in Putnam county, New York, and his early youth upon a farm. Becoming tired of this he engaged in business as a drover, and in this rather humble and unattractive calling laid the foundation of his princely fortune, which is now variously estimated at from \$12,000,000 to \$20,000,000. Mr. Drew, though tall, is of slender form and delicate features. He is by no means fastidious as to his personal appearance, and by a stranger would not be taken for the shrewd, sharp capitalist that he is. An anecdote of the Methodist Church, which illustrates his disregard of outward appearances. He was once going up the Hudson on the magnificent steamer Daniel Drew, when he was roughly accosted by a dandified individual with the query: "Do you belong to this boat, Mister?" "No," replied the unpretentious millionaire; "but the boat belongs to me!" Mr. Drew has always been extremely liberal with his money, especially when appealed to on behalf of the Church of which he is a member. Some years ago he built a handsome church at Carmel, in his native county of Putnam, New York, and this he now supports in a liberal manner. At the same place he has also established a Female Seminary, which is in a very flourishing condition. His donation of \$650,000 towards the establishment of a Divinity School is a characteristic specimen of his enlightened liberality, and an act for which he will long be held in grateful remembrance, not only by the members of the Methodist Church, but by the good men of all denominations.

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