

OUR RELIGIOUS COLUMN.

MODERN PREACHING AND MODERN CULTURE.

How far has the pulpit of to-day lost its hold upon the respect and even the notice of the most cultivated minds? Surely no very precise answer can be given to this question; and yet he must be both deaf and blind who does not know that between these two runs a chasm wider than ever before.

Polished and profound literary productions cannot be wrought, year out and year in, at the rate of two a week. Moreover, we are to remember that much of what we call commonplace in sermons is so far from the fact that, in this age of diffused knowledge and cheap books, the best thought of the world is becoming common.

It is only fair, then, to a great and most laborious and devoted profession, to indicate where the trouble really lies. A great many cultivated people at present do not like to hear preaching. Why? Partly, no doubt, because they already know more than most ministers do, and they can learn nothing by listening.

So far as preaching can be made more thoughtful, learned, eloquent, cordial, persuasive, it is the duty of the preacher to make it so. It is none the less our duty to say that, if every preacher of this age could preach like Paul, preaching would continue to be an impertinence and a bore to those whose minds have swung away from that system of belief which constitutes the basis of all Christian preaching, good or bad.

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—The Rev. Otis Gibson, missionary of the Methodist Episcopal Church to the Chinese in California, has purchased a valuable tract of land within the African Methodist Episcopal Church in his Episcopal district alone.

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There were but two candidates for the ministry, there are now nearly three hundred, being equal to nearly one-third of the roll of ministers. The Rev. C. H. Thompson, pastor of a colored Presbyterian Church in Newark, has been made a Doctor of Divinity by a college of Pittsburg, Pa. The President says: "Dr. Thompson is one of the most finely educated clergymen connected with the Presbyterian denomination in New Jersey."

At a late meeting of the Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church in New York, a petition from the Theological Seminary at Allegheny that Tarzetti's Latin Treatise on Theology may be exchanged for English textbooks was voted down. The theological course is to be seven months instead of five, during four years.

Some months ago the First Presbyterian Church, Lynchburg, Virginia, made out a call, with cordial unanimity, to the Rev. Richard McIlwaine, of Farmville. The invitation to become their pastor Mr. McIlwaine did not see the way open to accept, and it was not presented further. Within a few weeks past it has been renewed, and under circumstances which have constrained both himself and his congregation at Farmville to consent to his removal.

The Presbyterian seminary at Chicago reports property in buildings, lands, notes, cash, etc., of \$434,000, bringing an income of \$13,000, less \$20,000 in interest, leaving a net income of \$100,000, to be made up later to \$200,000. They also ask \$100,000 for the Forest University, to be increased to \$250,000.

The Southern Presbyterian announces the death of the venerable missionary, Dr. Kingsbury, on the 27th of June. The departure of this good and faithful servant of the Master cannot surprise the Christian public, but the close of such a life cannot fail to awaken solemn reflection in the minds of many. Dr. Kingsbury went down as a missionary to the Indians about 1816. For more than fifty years he faithfully, quietly, and meekly served his Master in making known to those committed to his care the unsearchable riches of Christ.

John Bertram, Esq., of Salem, Mass., has purchased an estate in that city for \$9500, and presented it to the South Congregational Church for a parsonage. Harvard University has conferred the honorary degree of LL. D. on the Rev. Dr. Leonard Bacon, and Knox College the degree of D. D. on Professor J. M. Hoppin, of Yale College.

It is estimated that \$1,000,000 will be necessary to put the various Congregational Theological Seminaries in the country upon their proper foundation. They are at Andover, Yale, Bangor, Hartford, Oberlin, and one in California—the Pacific Seminary. Something is proposed to be done for them this memorial year.

—In reply to the charge that Congregationalism is dying out in New England, the Congregationalist shows that since 1831 that denomination in Massachusetts added to its force 213 new churches, and over 42,000 members, thus nearly doubling its ministry and more than doubling its membership in the last 40 years. This is somewhat better than the increase in the population of the State.

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LUMBER. 1870 SPRUCE JOIST, SPRUCE JOIST, HEMLOCK, HEMLOCK.

1870 SEASONED CLEAR PINE, SEASONED CLEAR PINE, CHOICE PATTERNS, SPANISH CEDAR, FOR PATTERNS, RED CEDAR.

1870 WALNUT BOARDS AND PLANK, WALNUT BOARDS AND PLANK, WALNUT BOARDS, WALNUT PLANK.

1870 UNDERTAKERS' LUMBER, UNDERTAKERS' LUMBER, RED CEDAR, WALNUT AND PINE.

1870 SEASONED POPLAR, SEASONED CHERRY, ASH, WHITE OAK FLOOR AND BOARDS, BICKORY.

1870 CIGAR BOX MAKERS' CIGAR BOX MAKERS' SPANISH CEDAR BOX BOARDS, FOR SALE LOW.

1870 CAROLINA SCANTLING, CAROLINA H. T. SILLS, NORWAY SCANTLING.

1870 CEDAR SHINGLES, CYPRESS SHINGLES, MAULE, BROTHER & CO., NO. 2000 SOUTH STREET.

PANEL PLANK, ALL THICKNESSES, COMMON PLANK, ALL THICKNESSES, 1 AND 2 INCH FLOOR BOARDS, WHITE PINE FLOORING BOARDS, YELLOW AND SAP PINE FLOORINGS, 1X AND 3/4 SPRUCE JOIST, ALL SIZES, PLASTERING LATH A SPECIALTY.

United States Builders' Mill, FIFTEENTH Street below Market.

ESLER & BROTHER, PROPRIETORS, (429 3/4) Wood Mouldings, Brackets and General Turning Work, Black-Rail Turners and New Castings, A LARGE ASSORTMENT ALWAYS ON HAND.

R. R. THOMAS & CO., DEALERS IN Doors, Blinds, Sash, Shutters WINDOW FRAMES, ETC., N. W. CORNER OF EIGHTEENTH and MARKET Streets 412 1/2 PHILADELPHIA.

FURNACES. Established in 1835. Invariably the greatest success over all competitors whenever and wherever exhibited or used in the UNITED STATES.

CHARLES WILLIAMS' Patent Golden Eagle Furnaces, Acknowledged by the leading Architects and Builders to be the most powerful and durable Furnaces offered, and the most prompt, systematic, and largest house in this line of business.

HEAVY REDUCTION IN PRICES, and only first-class work turned out. Nos. 1132 and 1134 MARKET Street, PHILADELPHIA.

ROOFING. PHILADELPHIA. PAINTING and ROOFING CO. TIN ROOFS REPAIRED. All leakages in Roofs warranted to be made perfectly tight.

REFORMED. —Of the ministers of the German Reformed Church in this country, 180 preach in German and 225 in English. —Two citizens of Fordham, Westchester county, New York, are to build an \$8000 parsonage for the Rev. Mr. Brush of the Reformed Church.

FIRE AND BURGLAR PROOF SAFE. J. WATSON & SON, Of the late firm of EVANS & WATSON, FIRE AND BURGLAR PROOF SAFE STORE, No. 53 SOUTH FOURTH STREET.

WHISKY, WINE, ETC. KEYSTONE PURE WHEAT WHISKY, Distilled from the Grain

T. J. MARTIN & CO. KEYSTONE DISTILLERY, NORTHWEST CORNER OF TWELFTH and WASHINGTON Sts. STORE, No. 150 North FRONT Street, PHILADELPHIA, PA.

Alcoholic Liquors Pure. The pungent aroma of the food oil and biting acids present in all of them is so strong as to raise the temperature of the stomach and excite the action of the stomach towards its existence when the noxious draught has gone down.

Keystone Wheat Whisky. Pure Whisky Distilled from WHEAT, and being made from the grain, possesses all its Nutritional Qualities.

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PROPOSALS FOR STAMPED ENVELOPES AND NEWSPAPER WRAPPERS. POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, July 11, 1870.

SEALING PROPOSALS will be received until 11 o'clock A. M. on the 1st day of August, 1870, for furnishing all the "Stamped Envelopes" and "Newspaper Wrappers" which this Department may require during a period of four (4) years, commencing on the 1st day of October, 1870.

STAMPED ENVELOPES. No. 1. Note size, 3 1/2 by 5 1/2 inches—two qualities. No. 2. Ordinary letter size, 3 1/2 by 5 1/2 inches—three qualities.

STAMPED NEWSPAPER WRAPPERS. Six and five-eighths by nine inches (round cut)—one quality.

EMBOSSING, WATER-MARKS, PRINTING, RULING, AND MANUFACTURE OF MANUFACTURE.

When the envelopes and Wrappers must be stamped with postage stamps, of such denomination, style and design, must have such water-marks or other devices to prevent imitation, and bear such printing and ruling as the Postmaster-General may direct.

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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HIGHWAYS. OFFICE, No. 104 & FIFTH STREET, PHILADELPHIA, July 28, 1870.

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS. SEALED PROPOSALS will be received at the Office of the Chief Commissioner of Highways, until 11 o'clock A. M. on MONDAY, August 1st, 1870, for the construction of the following three-foot sewers, viz.: on the line of WALLACE Street, from FIFTEENTH to SIXTEENTH Street; on the line of NORTH Street, from FIFTEENTH to SIXTEENTH Street; on the line of SPRING GARDEN to about 100 feet south of the south line of GREEN Street; on the line of OXFORD Street, from MARCHER to AMERICAN Street; on the line of RANDOLPH Street, from GIRARD Avenue to THOMPSON Street; on the line of MORRIS Street, from SEVENTH to EIGHTH Street; on the line of SANSON Street, from THIRTY-EIGHTH to THIRTY-SEVENTH Street, thence on THIRTY-SEVENTH Street south to WALNUT Street; on the line of BEACH Street, from GREEN to COATES Street; on the line of LAWRENCE Street, from THOMPSON to JEFFERSON Street; on the line of SIXTH Street, from THOMPSON to SUMMIT, north of JEFFERSON Street; on the line of THIRD Street, from CURT Street to SUMMIT, north of George Street; on the line of TWENTY-SECOND Street, from VINE to WOOD Street; on the line of CLAY Street, from the sewer in TWELFTH Street westward to the angle in CLAY Street; on the line of FIFTH Street and YORK Avenue, from GREEN to BUTTOWOOD Street; on the line of SEVENTH Street from WILLow to GREEN Street, with such manholes as may be directed by the Chief Engineer and Surveyor. The understanding to be that the sewers herein advertised are to be completed on or before the 31st day of October, 1870. And the contractor to take bills preparatory to the property fronting on said sewer to the amount of one dollar and fifty cents for each lineal foot of front on each side of the street as so much cash paid; the balance, as limited by ordinance, to be paid by the city; and the contractor will be required to keep the street and sewer in good order for three years after the sewer is finished.

When the street is occupied by a city passenger railroad track, the sewer shall be constructed alongside of said track in such manner as not to obstruct or interfere with the safe passage of the cars thereon; and no claim for remuneration shall be paid the contractor by the city until the sewer is completed in accordance with the Act of Assembly approved May 8, 1869, which shall be strictly adhered to. The Department of Highways reserves the right to reject all bids not deemed satisfactory.

All bidders may be present at the time and place of opening the said proposals. No allowance will be made for rock excavation, except by special contract.

MAHON H. DICKINSON, Chief Commissioner of Highways.

PROPOSALS FOR BUILDING A PUBLIC HOUSE IN THE TWENTIETH WARD. SEALED PROPOSALS, endorsed "Proposals for Building a Public House in the Twentieth Ward," will be received by the undersigned at the office, southeast corner of SIXTH and ADELPHI Streets, until THURSDAY, August 4, 1870, at 12 o'clock M. For building a Public House on a lot of ground situated on Eleventh Street, near Thompson Twentieth Ward.

Said school-house to be built in accordance with the plans of L. H. Esler, Superintendent of School Buildings, to be seen at the office of the Board of Public Instruction, No. 1111 Chestnut Street. No bids will be considered unless accompanied by a certificate from the City Solicitor that the provisions of an ordinance approved May 25, 1866, have been complied with. The contract will be awarded only to known master builders.

By order of the Committee on Property, H. W. HALLWELL, Secretary.

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