

OUR RELIGIOUS COLUMN.

TRUE CHRISTIANITY.

Great as has been the number of ascetic Christians, there is nothing ascetic in Christianity. That element is entirely wanting in the teaching of Christ. The "Man of Sorrows" continually invites his disciples to joy, and to the intimate essence of religion, though it be its ever accompanying shadow.

False views of repentance as little else than grief and pain, connected with equally false views of merit, led imperfect Christians at a very early age to undertake methods of self-punishment. The more they suffered here the less they should suffer hereafter. An exaggerated emphasis was laid on penitence as penance, penalty, and pain. Human sorrow came to be considered as a recompense, or satisfaction, for sin.

It is not to be wondered at, that so much voluntary trouble was set on against so much sin. More speculative minds, especially those of the Oriental Church, brought in a theory to support and recommend the practice, namely, that the soul could be best purified by the mortification of the body.

Out of these erroneous notions grew the whole system of hermits, ascetics, monks, nuns, and various self-inflictions, which have succeeded in leaving their mark on the religion of Rome and the Oriental Churches. The most remarkable thing about this is, that there is nothing like it in the Gospel.

There everything in it has the sweet innocent fragrance of childhood. Sufferings appear, indeed, but it is from the defect of piety, and not its abundance. Faith, hope and love tend to make the primitive believer happy; and a smile irradiates his countenance even amidst persecution, which perfectly agrees with the injunctions so often given in the Scriptures that we should live in joy.

Dr. J. W. Alexander.

THE DUNKARDS.

In our issue of last Saturday we published under the head of "Religious Intelligence" a paragraph about the Missouri Dunkards, to which exception has been taken by a member of that sect, who sends us the following communication, which will be found to contain some interesting information about a religious body that is but little known to the general public. We would remind our readers and the writer of the following communication that the paragraph in question referred particularly to the Dunkards of Missouri, and that it was in no respect intended to reflect in any way upon the sect or its peculiar observances either in that State or elsewhere.

Your attention is respectfully called to the "religious column" of your issue of Saturday, the 3d inst. Under the heading "Dunkards" are several errors, of which, it is hoped, you will publish a correction. How any writer could ignorantly make so many misstatements in so short an article is hard to conceive.

He says:—"The Missouri Dunkards have just been holding their annual meeting." The Dunkards, German Baptists, or, as they designate themselves, The Brethren, are an undivided denomination; that is, they have but one annual meeting, which is a general conference, and is always held on the first two or three days immediately following Whit Sunday.

He next asserts, "They have no church buildings of their own, but preach in other churches or in sheds or barns—in short, wherever they can get a chance." It is true their plain but often common meeting-houses may not be deemed to be called churches, yet such as they are, there are hundreds of them scattered over our country from New Jersey to California. If the writer in question would take the trouble he could find a "Dunkard" meeting-house in this city on Chestnut street, below Third, and in other places, as Germantown. They very seldom "preach in other churches," but quite often in the dwelling-houses or barns of isolated members, and frequently under the shady foliage of the grove or forest.

He says, "They have no ordained preachers." All their ministers are ordained according to what is supposed to be the scriptural mode. It is true they have no diplomatic authority from a theological seminary, but are chosen from among the laity of the congregation needing a preacher by a general and secret ballot without nominations. "Electioneering" is strictly prohibited so that, if divine guidance is sought, which is always recommended by the elders, its exercise may not be prevented by human influence. Their preachers are farmers, mechanics, doctors, teachers, etc., and as they receive no compensation they follow their secular occupations for a living.

This writer is correct in saying, "The Dunkards baptize by immersion," but this does not fully describe their mode. The candidate takes the kneeling posture, and is thrice immersed, face foremost.

He says further—and but for this, very likely no notice would have been taken of his article—"They maintain as a religious ceremonial foot washing, the men washing the feet of the women and the women of the men." I have without hesitation used the masculine pronoun in reference to this writer, for no lady would pen such a scandalous slander upon her sex as is the above assertion.

If the writer would go into a Dunkard meeting-house at the time of a love-feast, where the ordinance of feet-washing is practised, or upon any other occasion, he would find the seats free; but see a scrupulous separation of the sexes, the males occupying one side of the house and the females the other. When the sisters "wash one another's feet" they generally occupy the seats at the extremity of their side of the building. The spectators of their own sex being seated between them and the men, exclude, in a great measure, from the observation of the latter the performance of the ordinance by the former.

A DUNKARD.

SUMMARY OF CHURCH NEWS.

—The official reports of the various committees having charge of the Sheltering Arms Bazaar, New York, shows that the sum of \$62,738 has been realized, besides about \$1000 not yet collected.

—Bishop Kerfoot, of Pittsburg, Pa., strongly urges the wisdom of the free-seat system. Of the sixty regular Episcopal parishes in his diocese, but one-fourth rent their pews; in all the rest the seats are free.

—Miss Stocker, of Boston has left a legacy of \$5000 to the Assistant Bishop of Ohio, in trust for the education of young men for the ministry.

—The Rev. Milo Mahan, rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, and recently elected Professor of Systematic Divinity in the Theological Seminary of New York, died on Sunday, 4th inst., in Baltimore.

—In thirteen new Congregational churches in the vicinity of Boston, says the Christian Union, a noticeable feature is the provision for social religious life in the way of parlors, kitchens, and small conference-rooms.

—Rev. Enoch Pond, D. D., President and Pastoral Duties in the Bangor Theological Seminary, has resigned his office, to take effect when a successor shall be found. He retires with an annual appropriation of one thousand dollars, and the use of a house through life. Dr. Pond has been connected with the seminary thirty-eight years, having been elected Professor in 1832.

and in the afternoon Mark Hopkins, D. D., will deliver a commemorative discourse. In the evening addresses will be made by President Angell, of Vermont University, and by Rev. I. P. Langworthy.

—A new term of the Pacific Theological Seminary commenced on the 8th of August. Seven students were in attendance, with a prospect of more. The Rev. Drs. Benton and Moser were at their posts, and the prospects of the seminary are encouraging.

—The Rev. Dr. Nathan Lord, ex-President of Dartmouth College, is lying very low at his home in New Hampshire. He has no particular disease, but is sinking under the infirmities of age. About ten years ago he felt constrained to resign his official trusts at Hanover, because of approaching weakness of body, and since then has kept from public sight.

—The Rev. J. S. Bingham, D. D., of East Boston, has decided to accept the call of the church at Dubuque, Iowa, tendered for the third time.

—The Rev. J. Edwards Bell, late of this city, has left the Baptist denomination and joined the Congregationalists, and has accepted a call from the Old South parish, Reading.

—Professor Park, of Andover, is expected to leave England about the 17th inst. His health has been greatly improved, and he will be preaching in the Congregationalists, and has accepted a call from the Old South parish, Reading.

—The Rev. J. A. Daly has accepted the call of the First Congregational Church in Williamsport, Pa., and will begin work there at once.

METHODIST. —The Methodist Church in Omaha, Nebraska, rent places of business under their meeting house for \$10,000 a year.

—The Trustees of the Pacific Methodist College (Methodist Episcopal Church, South) have determined to remove that institution from Vacaville to Santa Rosa, California, where liberal donations have been offered.

—It is announced that Mr. Childs, of New York, has inserted a clause in his will bequeathing \$30,000 for a new professorship in the Wesleyan University, Middletown.

—The Indianapolis correspondent of the Western Advocate states that the United Brethren Church at Indianapolis has come over to the Methodist Episcopal Church, including several prominent ministers and congregations in and adjacent to the city. The cause of this defection among the "Brethren" is said to be the extreme measure adopted at their last annual conference touching secret societies.

—In Nevada the preachers of the Methodist Church are this year 23; last year, 20. The churches are seven instead of eight; the Sunday schools are fewer by three; but property in churches and parsonages has increased by \$4900.

—B. B. Dunn, Esq., of Waterville, Maine, a prominent layman in the Methodist Episcopal Church, has given \$10,000 to the "Maine Wesleyan Seminary and Female Collegiate Institute."

—The African Methodist Episcopal Church reports 350,000 communicants, 35,000 probationers, 1000 travelling, 5000 local preachers, and 7 bishops.

—A Methodist from New York has informed Mr. Pierce that he will give \$1000 towards building a Methodist church in Salt Lake City, to be worth not less than \$25,000, whenever the friends may decide to commence the enterprise. A wealthy and liberal member of the Methodist Church from Pennsylvania, sojourning here a short time ago, left word with Mr. Pierce that, whenever called for, a liberal sum from himself was at the disposal of the friends for the erection of a first-class Methodist church in Salt Lake City.

PRESBYTERIAN. —A. Champion, of Rochester, N. Y., has subscribed ten thousand dollars to the Presbyterian memorial fund.

—The Presbyterian Churches of New Orleans have just organized a number of parochial schools in that city, for the education of the children of their congregations. This has been done on account of a "entire" loss of confidence in the Public School system as now administered there.

—Rev. Dr. Prentiss, of New York City, has declined the appointment to the Theological Professorship in Chicago, made by the Presbyterian General Assembly in May last.

—The death is announced of Rev. William C. Anderson, D. D., of the Presbytery of New Albany. He was for some years President of Miami University.

—Those members of the Congregational churches of Washington, D. C., who followed the Rev. Dr. Boynton, have given up the attempt to form a new church, and have united themselves, one hundred in number, with the Assembly's Presbyterian Church, and on Wednesday last week the church invited Rev. Dr. Boynton to become its pastor, with a salary of \$2500.

—Churches have been organized during the last year, in connection with the Foreign Missions of the Southern Presbyterian Church, in Panama, one of the largest inland cities in the empire of Brazil; in Barranquilla, the largest seaport town in the United States of Colombia; in the great city of Hanchon, in Central China; whilst large additions have been made to the membership of those previously organized in the Southern Indian Territory.

—The Rev. Dr. J. A. Lyon, now pastor of the church in Columbus, Miss., has been elected Professor of Logic and Metaphysics in the University of Mississippi.

—In High Bridge Church, in Rockbridge county, Va., the ladies of the church have raised a sum sufficient to complete the payment for the manse occupied by their pastor, the Rev. P. B. Price.

—The Rev. Julius Straus, having changed his views on the subject of pealmody and communion and having made known his views to his presbytery (Muskegon), his name has been dropped from the roll.

BAPTIST. —The Rev. Dr. Hendrickson has instituted a suit against the Columbia Square, or Second Baptist Church, San Francisco, for the recovery of \$101,012-45 back salary.

—The regular quarterly meeting of ministers of the Baptist churches of this city and vicinity was held at the Baptist church in Roxborough, Twenty-first ward, on Tuesday last. There were about sixty divines present. The meeting was called to order at 10 1/2 A. M., and a theological essay read. At noon the company proceeded to the chapel of the church, where a beautiful repast had been provided by the lady members of the church. After dinner the meeting was again called to order in the church, and after transacting the usual routine of business, adjourned, highly pleased with their visit to this delightful locality.

GOVERNMENT SALES. —DEPUTY QUARTERMASTER GENERAL'S OFFICE, PHILADELPHIA, PA., Sept. 1, 1870. Will be sold at Public Auction, at the Schuylkill Arsenal, Philadelphia, Pa., on WEDNESDAY, Oct. 12, 1870, at 10 o'clock A. M., a large amount of Clothing, Camp and Garrison Equipage, and Quartermaster's Stores.

Amongst the articles to be sold are 18,000 blankets (woolens), and 50,000 knit shirts. Also pants, jackets, overcoats, etc., etc.

Printed catalogues can be obtained on application at this office.

Terms of sale—10 per cent. down, remainder on delivery.

STEWART VAN VLIET, Deputy Quartermaster General, Brevet Major General U. S. Army.

GROCERIES, ETC. WHITE PRESERVING BRANDY, PURE CIDER AND WINE VINEGAR, GREEN GINGER, MUSTARD SEED, SPICES, ETC. All the requisites for preserving and pickling purposes.

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The money is required for the purchase of additional Rolling Stock and the full equipment of the Road.

The road is now finished, and doing a business largely in excess of the anticipations of its officers.

The trade offering necessitates a large additional outlay for rolling stock, to afford full facilities for its prompt transaction, the present rolling stock not being sufficient to accommodate the trade.

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Worth at the lowest estimate five to eight times the amount of the mortgage.

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This Ship Canal—after five years labor and an expenditure of nearly a million of dollars, besides nearly half a million more for machinery and equipments—is nearly finished, and will be entirely completed the present season.

The tolls on the present commerce of Lake Superior would not only pay the interest on these bonds, but large dividends also to the Stockholders. This trade will be increased immensely next season when the grain from the great wheat-producing regions of Minnesota shall pass by this route (as it necessarily must) to the seaboard, by way of the railroad from St. Paul to Duluth, now just completed.

Send for maps and circulars. For sale at 95 and accrued interest by B. K. JAMISON & CO., Bankers, COB. THIRD AND CHESNUT STS., PHILADELPHIA.

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The Lake Shore and Michigan Southern Railway Company, for the purpose of providing for the payment of its several mortgage debts as they become due, has executed a mortgage to the Union Trust Company, of New York, as Trustee, upon the whole of its Railroad and branches, payable on the first day of July, in the year one thousand nine hundred.

COUPON BONDS of \$1000 each will be issued, with interest at Seven per centum per annum, payable semi-annually, on the first day of January and July, in each year, and REGISTERED BONDS of \$1000, \$500, and \$100,000 each, without coupons, with interest at Seven per centum per annum, payable quarterly, on the first day of January, April, July, and October, in each year, principal and interest payable at the office of the Union Trust Company in New York.

We call the attention of investors especially to this class of REGISTERED BONDS, which, on account of the SECURITY AFFORDED AGAINST LOSS BY ROBBERY, FIRE, OR CATASTROPHES, AND THE PAYMENT OF QUARTERLY INTEREST, offer an investment peculiarly desirable.

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SECOND, FOURTH, MCKEAN, and MOYAMENING and SNYDER AVENUES—Square of Ground. PENN SQUARE, No. 3 Merrick street—Modern Residence.

MAIN Street, No. 5746—Mount Airy Country Place. TWELFTH (South), No. 1713—Genesee Dwelling. FRONT STREET, Nos. 1515, 1517, 1519—Brick Buildings and large Lot.

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ALSO, SPECIAL AND ATTRACTIVE SALE OF 1500 CARTONS RIBBONS, by order of Messrs. Kutter, Luckeneyer & Co., the importation of Messrs. Soliman Freres. 19 3/4

150 PIECES MILLINERY VELVETS, by order of Messrs. Kutter, Luckeneyer & Co. SALE OF 2000 CASES, BOOTS, SHOES, TRAVELLING BAGS, ETC. On Tuesday