

### CORNER STONE LAYING.

The Corner Stone of the New Methodist Church Was Laid Last Sunday With Impressive Ceremonies.

Last Sunday was a red letter day in the history of Methodism in this place. It marked an epoch in their history which had been anxiously looked forward to by the congregation. For several years the necessity of erecting a new church was apparent, and last fall the ground was broken, and from that time to the present the work on the same has been pushed forward under the direction of an efficient building committee. The day was all that could be desired, and it seemed as if nature was in sympathy with the movement. Half past three o'clock, the hour fixed for the ceremonies, witnessed about two thousand people congregated around the new building, and in which audience was gathered representatives from all denominations of the Town. After appropriate remarks by the pastor Rev. B. C. Conner, in which he spoke feelingly of the fraternal spirit which existed among the different churches, stating that all the ministers of the town were present with the exception of Rev. D. N. Kirkby of St. Paul's Episcopal Church who was unavoidably detained on account of holding service at Catawissa. The next number on the program was the singing of hymn No. 859 as found in the Church Hymnal. Led by the choir of the church the whole audience joined in the singing, and made the welkin ring with the words.

O Lord of hosts, whose glory fills  
The bounds of the eternal hills,  
And yet vouchsafes, in Christian lands,  
To dwell in temples made with hands;

Grant that all we who here to-day  
Rejoicing this foundation lay,  
May be in every deed thine own,  
Built on the precious Corner-stone.

Endue the creatures with thy grace  
That shall adorn thy dwelling-place;  
The beauty of the oak and pine,  
The gold and silver, make them thine.

The heads that guide endue with skill;  
The hands that work preserve from ill;  
That we, who these foundations lay,  
May raise the topstone in its day.

Even the birds in the surrounding trees seemed to catch the spirit of the occasion and lent their voices to the melody.

Rev. M. E. McLinn, of Virginia, read the prayer as laid down in the discipline for occasions of this kind, after which there was responsive scripture reading conducted by Rev. G. W. Currin, of the United Evangelical church, which was followed by a brief scripture reading from the New Testament by Rev. A. W. Hont. Rev. I. M. Patterson, of the Presbyterian church upon being introduced made some very appropriate remarks, dwelling largely upon the good feeling which existed between the different denominations of the town, and congratulating the congregation upon the progress they had made in the new enterprise. Rev. C. H. Brandt of the Reformed church said among other things "that only a few months ago we met here to break ground and I brought you the greetings of my congregation. We come to-day to bring you greetings for the success you have attained. This gathering assures us that the building will be completed, and we invoke God's blessing upon your endeavors. The corner stone suggests several thoughts, 1st. Its prominence. The corner stone is the prominent one. So it is with the christian, he is a prominent man by reason of his good works. 2nd. Its durable character. It has been selected with great care. This is also a characteristic of the christian. It has a name. People by looking at it will know what church it is. The christian has a name and it is written in the Lamb's Book of Life. 4th. The stone contains something valuable to the church. So with the christian, he too contains something. Character, Integrity and all that goes to make up a manly man, and it was all brought about by the Lord Jesus Christ.

Then came the singing of hymn No. 861.

This stone to thee in faith we lay;  
To thee this temple, Lord, we build;  
Thy power and goodness here display,  
And be it with thy presence filled.

Here when thy people seek thy face,  
And dying sinners pray to live,  
Hear thou in heaven, thy dwelling place,  
And when thou hearest, Lord, forgive!

Here, when thy messengers proclaim  
The blessed gospel of thy Son,  
Still, by the power of his great name,  
Be mighty signs and wonders done.

Thy glory never hence depart;  
Yet choose not, Lord, this house alone;  
Thy kingdom come to every heart,  
In every bosom fix thy throne.

The pastor then stated that Sunday had been arranged for the ceremonies, for the reason that many persons had desired it to be on that day, as they could not conveniently attend at any other time. He said that there were those present who could remember the erection of the first old frame church in 1837, and who could remember when the society was but few in numbers and worshiped in a wagon shop; while scores were present who had witnessed the erection and dedication of the brick structure in 1857, the largest church edifice in the county at that time, which has recently been torn down, the site covered by the foundation walls of the present large, substantial, and beautiful building in course of construction.

That the boys and girls present would be glad in after years to remember that they were present upon this occasion.

He also stated that he desired their presence for another reason, and that was, that churches could not be built without money. That at the breaking of the ground, when the congregation was not nearly as large, the offering amounted to \$50, and from this immense audience a handsome sum ought to be realized. After the offering which amounted to a little over one hundred dollars was received came the important part of the program to wit, the laying of the stone. It was presented by C. E. Yorks from whose quarry the other stone are obtained, upon which is chiseled in raised letters "First M. E. Church, Bloomsburg, 1896," which was done by Mr. Evans, the contractor.

In the stone will be placed a copper box, the gift of L. E. Whary and wife, containing the following articles:

A Bible, the gift of John J. Wagon-seller.

A Church Hymnal, the gift of Rev. B. C. Conner and wife.

Discipline, 1892, the gift of Lloyd T. Sharpless and wife.

Conference Minutes, 1896, the gift of Clinton C. Peacock.

Original Class Book, dated 1832.

Subscription book for the old frame church, dated Dec. 17, 1836.

The History of Methodism, in Bloomsburg, written by I. W. Hartman and wife.

Copies of the *Christian Advocate*, the *Epworth Herald*, the *Pennsylvania Methodist*, the *Bloomsburg Daily*, the *Bloomsburg Republican*, *Bloomsburg Columbian*, the *Bloomsburg Sentinel*.

The names of the class leaders, trustees and stewards of the church; the names of the building committee; the names of the officers, teachers and scholars of the Sunday School; the names of the members of the choir; the officers and members of the Epworth League, the officers of the Junior League with a short history of the organization, also Junior League badge; officers and members of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society; Photograph of the old church and tabernacle, catalogue of Normal School, and a paper of the Normal School.

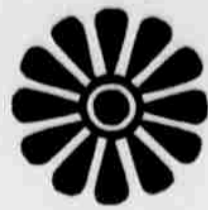
Prayer was offered by J. W. Henson, who in a fervent manner invoked God's blessing upon the enterprise, and thank Him that He had put it into the hearts of the congregation to erect this temple. The doxology was sung, the benediction pronounced by Rev. H. Johnson, of the A. M. E. church, and then the exercises came to a close.

The church is being constructed of beautiful grey stone, which are obtained at the quarry of C. E. Yorks, and is trimmed with Indiana lime stone, and when completed will be one of the finest edifices in Central Pennsylvania.

### THE WATCHES RECOVERED.

It will be remembered by our readers that last week the residence of Mrs. Robert Young on Cegtre street, was burglarized and three watches belonging to her son Robert were stolen; and that the parties were subsequently arrested at Berwick and placed in the jail at this place. Last Thursday a postal was received from the authorities at Berwick stating the children of Henry Cooper, of Nescopeck, had found two watches along the creek, and as the burglars had traveled in that direction it was supposed that they had thrown them away to avoid detection. Mr. Young went to Berwick, and identified the watches as being those which had been stolen from him. The same parties also broke into the residence of Levi Hippensteel, in Millin township, ransacked the house, and took away with them a pair of his trousers which one of the parties wore when arrested.

## A MAY BOOMERANG.



Prices cut down to positive Bed Rock to move our enormous stock of Spring and Summer clothing which has been coming from manufacturers. Bought for cash at far below regular figures. The reasons for this stock reduction sale are that the first weeks of April were very warm which created a big demand for spring and summer clothing. The unsettled condition of the weather the latter part of the month slackened trade, and we had ordered heavy from clothing makers. That stock has been coming in daily, and now the first week in May finds our tables overloaded with summer suits which **must be moved**. Your opportunity of the season is here. You know all about the high reputation of our goods. You know all about our fair dealing and our reasonable prices. And now right in the very midst of the clothing buying season we inaugurate a sale that appeals to every father and mother in the valley. Suits for men and young men at \$5.00 that never sold for less than \$6.50 and \$7.50 and \$8.50, this reduction sale at \$5.00. Men's elegant dress suits at \$7.50 that never retailed for less than \$9.00, \$10.00 and \$12.00, but our overloaded tables compels us to sell at this reduction sale at \$7.50 in light, dark and medium colors, single or double breasted or cutaways. At \$9.00 and \$10.00 we sell extra fine all wool suits in very fine pin striped worsted, unfinished worsteds, blue and black extra fine serges, etc., made up with silk or satin linings, or plain if preferred. We have taken 300 knee pants suits from our \$1.75, \$1.98 and \$2.25 grades, of which we have too many, and placed them on sale at \$1.48. These suits are absolutely all wool, guaranteed fast color, perfect fitting, made with double knee, extra buttons and double sewed, and are beyond a doubt the best values ever offered in children's suits. 1000 pair of washable knee pants worth 25c. will be on sale at 10c. each. All wool knee pants, 50c. kind at 25c. Men's and young men's all wool pants, black, blue, chevots and light colors, absolutely fast color, \$1.50. Best kind, Sweet, Orr make, warranted not to rip, \$1.98. Washable suits, 6 different styles at 49c. 300 men's working pants in all sizes at 39c., worth \$1.00 pair. 25 dozen men's laundried colored shirts, worth 65c., at 39c. These prices are for this Special Stock Reducing Sale only. After it goods go back to regular prices, and we guarantee you that every item advertised is positively on sale and taken from this stock. Your opportunity of the season is here.

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### BURIAL OF MRS. FUNSTON.

The funeral services of Mrs. John A. Funston were held at St. Paul's church last Friday afternoon at 3 o'clock, and were conducted by the rector, Rev. D. N. Kirkby, who was assisted by Bishop Rulison, the latter remaining here for the occasion after his regular annual visitation. It was an unusually beautiful and impressive service. As the casket was carried into the church, the Bishop, the rector and the choir in full vestments entered from the Parish House, and preceded it up the center aisle, the rector reading the opening sentences of the burial service, while the organist played a solemn dirge in subdued tones. When the friends were all seated, the anthem "Lord, let me know mine end and the number of my days," was sung, the Bishop leading with his rich, sympathetic voice, and the choir responding alternately. After the usual lesson and prayers the rector made a brief address, in which he most touchingly referred to the many christian traits of the deceased, and of her great zeal in the work of the church. He spoke of the manner of her death as a most beautiful ending of a well-spent life, in that she was stricken down here in this very House of God for the construction and maintenance of which she had done so much.

After singing the 176th hymn, "For all the saints who from their labors rest," the service closed with prayers by the Bishop. As the casket was borne out, the choir followed, singing "Abide with me," and retired to the Parish House where they continued to sing until the friends had left the church.

It was peculiarly fitting that the choir should attend in their robes, for no one had been more active in providing the vestments than Mrs. Funston. She had assisted not only in raising funds to pay for the material, but had also devoted much time and labor toward making them.

The floral offerings were numerous and beautiful, and were contributed by the Ladies' Guild, and by friends, besides those provided by the family. The attendance was large, and altogether it was one of the most beautiful and impressive funeral services ever held in the church.

The burial took place in the family lot in Rosemont Cemetery.

### GEO. W. IKELER.

Geo. W. Ikeler, whose death occurred in Mordansville on Thursday, April 30th, 1896 was about fifty-six years of age. He was born in Greenwood township, this county. He was a brother of Judge Ikeler, learned the miller's trade in 1864 and took charge of the Millville mills in 1865 when the Judge removed from that place to Bloomsburg. Six years thereafter the mill properties were sold to the present owner and Mr. Ikeler purchased the homestead farm in Greenwood township from his father and removed upon the same where he remained until five years ago, when he quit farming and removed to his house and lot in Mordansville and lived there until his death. He leaves to survive him a widow, three sons and a daughter. He was successful in accumulating considerable real and personal estate. His two sons, Alvin and Elijah, occupy the homestead farm in Greenwood and his other son, G. M. Ikeler, one of the present County Commissioners, the farm in Mt. Pleasant township. He was a quiet, unassuming and peaceable citizen.

### G. M. DRINKER DEAD.

G. M. Drinker, who for some time past has been confined to his home on Third Street, died last Thursday afternoon. He was aged fifty-six years, two months and five days. The deceased was born in Clifton township, Luzerne county, which is now part of Lackawanna, on the 25th day of February 1840, and moved to this place many years ago, since which time he has followed the business of lock-smith. He left to survive him a wife, and one son. The funeral services were held from his late residence on Saturday morning and the remains were taken to Scranton for interment.

The public sale of horses at the Exchange stable last Saturday brought a large crowd of people to the town. As a rule, the horses brought good prices. John S. Williams was the auctioneer and that accounts for the success of the sale. Mr. Taylor, the owner of the horses, was well pleased with his services.

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- Men's Working Pants at - - - 65c.
- Men's & Boy's fine Straw Hats 25c.
- Children's Wash Knee Pants Suits - - - - - 50c.
- Light weight Underwear - - - 25c.
- Men's Cassimere Suits - - - \$3.75
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