

CONGREGATIONALISTS QUARTERLY MEETING

TABERNACLE CHURCH, OF WEST SCRANTON, RE-DEDICATED.

Business Session and Preaching Services Attended by Many Visiting Clergymen—Addresses by Rev. D. P. Jones, Rev. D. D. Hopkins, Rev. Davis, Rev. Thomas, Rev. Bevan and Others—Rev. W. J. Richards Re-elected Moderator and Rev. D. M. George, Secretary.

The quarterly convention of the Congregational churches of Eastern Pennsylvania was held in the Tabernacle Congregational church on South Hyde Park avenue Saturday afternoon and yesterday the church was re-dedicated with appropriate services. The business session pertained to matters relative to the various churches in the district and was attended by the following clergymen: Rev. J. P. Thomas, Nanticoke; Rev. I. Jenkins, Warrior Run; Rev. W. Jones, Plymouth; Rev. T. Davis, Miner's Mills; Rev. W. J. Richards, Wilkes-Barre; Rev. D. M. George, Pittston; Rev. Noah Bevan, Dundaff; Rev. I. Thomas, Taylor; Rev. R. S. Jones, North Scranton; Rev. David Jones, West Scranton.

Among the other clergymen present were: Rev. D. D. Hopkins, Rev. Hugh Davis, Rev. Thomas de Gruchy, Rev. E. A. Hoyl, Rev. D. James, Palmyra, Ohio; Rev. D. Evans, South Wales, and Rev. B. I. Evans. The business meeting was presided over by the moderator, Rev. W. J. Richards, of Wilkes-Barre, and Rev. D. M. George, of Pittston, recorded the minutes. Both of these officers were re-elected for another term. Rev. T. C. Edwards, of Kingston, was expected to attend, but was unable to be present on account of illness.

The services Saturday evening were attended by a large audience, which Rev. D. James, Palmyra, Ohio, led the devotional exercises. Rev. Noah Bevan, of Dundaff, and Rev. R. S. Jones, D. D., of North Scranton, preached the sermons. At 10 o'clock yesterday morning, Rev. D. Evans, of South Wales, led the devotions. The sermons were delivered by Rev. W. Jones, of Plymouth, and Rev. Theophilus Davis, of Miner's Mills.

PUBLIC SERVICES. The public services were held yesterday afternoon and people from many points up and down the valley were present. In addition to hundreds of West Scranton people, the church has been renovated and beautified recently and the services were arranged for the purpose of dedicating the edifice to the work of the Master. The exercises opened with the singing of the Pentecostal hymn:

Hark! 'tis the shepherd's voice I hear, Out in the desert dark and drear, Calling the sheep who've gone astray, Far from the shepherd's fold away.

Rev. David Jones, of the First Welsh Congregational church, read the Scripture lesson from the sixth chapter of the second book of Chronicles, and the congregation united in singing:

Pass me not, O gentle Saviour, Hear my humble cry, While on others thou art smiling, Do not pass me by.

A fervent prayer was offered by Rev. Noah Bevan, of Dundaff, and appropriate to his words was sung the hymn:

Jesus is tenderly calling thee home, Calling today, calling today, Why from the sunshine of love wilt thou roam, Farther and farther away?

The congregation singing is always a feature of these meetings, and the rendition of the tuneful numbers quoted proved an inspiration to the large assemblage. Rev. D. P. Jones, pastor of the church, took occasion to thank his audience for their presence and support during the many years of his ministry among them, and said he was glad to have so many people together who are loving the Lord Jesus Christ to some extent. They were gathered for the purpose of re-dedicating the church, and to further consecrate the edifice to the Lord and His work.

GRATEFUL TO THEM. Rev. Jones added that he was grateful for the many kindnesses received at the hands of the people of this city, and it is the aim of our existence to build up the kingdom of God among our fellowmen.

"We are here," he said, "to overcome the evil that exists in the world, and may the Lord bless all of you in the work."

Rev. D. D. Hopkins, pastor of the First Welsh Baptist church, was the second speaker, and after congratulating the pastor and people, said the object of the people in building the Tabernacle was to show that God was in the work. A Christian must be Christ-like in character, motive, principle and every-day life in order to succeed. We are in need of an outpouring of the Holy Spirit on this continent, but I am afraid that there is too much of that "undefined something" in the people called selfishness. We must help others to love Christ. The weak point in the church today is the lack of sincerity. The Christian life is not real enough. This is a place to worship God, and the people should not worship the building. Thousands believe today that unless they go to certain places they cannot worship God, but Jesus settled that question for all time when he said we cannot worship unless in spirit and in truth.

extending congratulations and endorsed the sentiments of the previous speakers. While the building is only a means to an end, he said, it ought to be constructed of the very best material. This idea suggested three things to him in reference to beautifying the edifice, art science and beauty, as means of attracting people to the church. Decorative work should be displayed in the house of God as well as in theaters and saloons. If there is beauty in nature, why not have that beauty in the church? The house of God ought to be superior to any theater or saloon—the people pay the expense.

More music and singing is also needed in the church to make it attractive, and accommodations and adaptiveness are essential to the purpose of church work. His line of thought suggested the singing of:

We have heard the joyful sound, Jesus saves, Jesus saves, Spread the gladness all around, Jesus saves, Jesus saves; Bear the news to every land, Climb the steep and cross the waves; Onward, 'tis our Lord's command, Jesus saves, Jesus saves.

While the congregation was contributing towards the building fund of the church, they sang again in perfect unison:

What a friend we have in Jesus, All our grief and sin to bear, What a privilege to carry Everything to God in prayer, Oh, what peace we often forfeit, Oh, what needless pain we bear, All because we do not carry Everything to God in prayer.

REV. JONES' REMARKS. Rev. David Jones, of the First Welsh Congregational church, spoke along the line of cleanliness, and congratulated his co-workers upon having such a clean temple. "No matter how clean you are," he said, "dust and rubbish will accumulate. In a moral and spiritual sense, if anything has accumulated in the years gone by, don't bring it back to the remodeled church; let the past bury the past, have clean living in the house of God."

Rev. Noah Bevan, of Dundaff, added that the most important thing in this life was character, especially in the home, school house and house of God. A beautiful church will help the uplifting of God, but if it is gloomy and sombre, the tendency towards gloom will be cast over its members. His advice to the congregation was not to worship the building, but to worship God in the right way.

"It is the men and women who meet here to worship God that succeed," he said, "and may God's blessing rest upon the people of this church. There are many churches in the church today who are no good to anyone."

Rev. Hugh Davis also congratulated the pastor and his people on the renovation of their church and said it speaks volumes for their liberality, generosity and Christian spirit. He tendered them the fraternal greetings of other churches, and expressed the hope that the influence of cleanliness so much in evidence may lead to the homes and to other churches.

"A clean temple calls for a clean heart to worship God," he added, "and we need a clean life to carry on the moral work of God. This tabernacle is the home of God, where you can plead for his salvation. Meeting with God is the essence of true religion, and the place should be sanctified by him who dwelleth therein. Keep your house holy and bring your hearts with you when you come and receive the blessed promise of the Lord—I will meet with you always."

THE HOUSE OF GOD. In conclusion, Rev. Davis said: "As this place is the house of God, make it your home; make this occasion a new epoch in your life, a consecration of your life work to the glory of God, and cultivate the spirit of liberality to the Lord."

The services were closed with the singing of Hymn 269: Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, Pilgrim through this barren land; I am weak, but thou art mighty, Hold me with thy powerful hand. Breathe of heaven, Feed me till I want no more.

Rev. Richards, of Wilkes-Barre, pronounced the benediction.

REMARKS CONCERNING IT MADE BY REV. C. M. GIFFIN, D. D. Rev. C. M. Giffin started in the week of special devotions, recommended by the bishops of the Methodist Episcopal church, in the Elm Park church yesterday, with all the intensity which could be demanded by the most urgent necessity. Yesterday morning he spoke earnestly of the great call made and announced that in view of the really wonderful trumpet call made to the church, that he felt the sermon he had prepared on the subject was far too feeble in comparison with the appeal to be delivered and he therefore proposed to read the great document, as he was certain many of the congregation had not seen it.

Accordingly he read the now famous paper, signed by Bishops Fowler, Joyce and Nind, and which everyone familiar with the superb oratorical diction of Bishop C. H. Fowler recognizes as his own. It was heard with the deepest interest and in its devotional feeling and eloquent intensity could not but appeal to every listener. More especially it referred to the spiritual power of old which worldliness in the church is crowding out.

In connection with the call made for a week of fasting and prayer, beginning with March 25, Dr. Giffin said that the daily service would be held every evening, Saturday excepted, and that the faithful attendance of all members of the congregation. As regards the fasting recommended he remarked that no doubt many people who not only went to excess in eating, but in everything else they did, would be far better for a little abstinence; there were others who, by reason of delicacy of constitution, should be exempt from such a duty.

THE LEADING AND LARGEST MILLINERY STORE.

Gerson's 413-Lackawanna Avenue-413



SPRING OPENING. SPRING OPENING Paris Trimmed Hats, Untrimmed Hats, Millinery Goods and Trimmings. Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, March 28, 29, 30.

The first showing of 1900 styles in Ladies', Misses and Children's Hats. The choicest ideas of Foreign and domestic makes will be shown in the greatest variety and number ever brought together in this city.

Hats from Paris, London, Berlin, made by the creators whose reputations are world-wide—models created by the best New York trimmers from our own New York store, the largest Millinery House in New York City.

Untrimmed Hats and Millinery Goods Our Opening Display will demonstrate our great leadership. Every imaginable idea and style in Untrimmed Hats and Millinery Trimmings of all kinds will be displayed on our counters and will be marked in most cases at half what like qualities are marked elsewhere.

We have sent out no opening invitations, but cordially invite everybody to visit us on our Opening Days.

GERSON'S LEADING MILLINERY, 413 Lackawanna Avenue, Scranton, Pa.

GAVE A CANDLE TALK.

Novel Way Rev. Dr. Pierce Illustrates Truths of His Sermon in Penn Avenue Church.

Rev. Robert F. Y. Pierce, D. D., pastor of the Penn Avenue Baptist church, gave an exceedingly interesting and very ingenious object sermon last night, taking as his topic, "Shining Truth." The sermon was illustrated throughout with candles.

WON THE HIGHEST HONORS.

George Maxey, of Forest City, Carries Off Oratorical Contest.

Word was received in this city yesterday by Mr. R. F. Maxey, of McGarrath Thomas' drug store, that his brother, George Maxey, a student at the University of Michigan, has won the highest honors ever conferred on a student at the Ann Arbor institution.

WATER COMPANY BOUGHT.

Scranton Gas and Water Company Now Controls the Providence Gas and Water Company.

It is announced that the Scranton Gas and Water company has bought out the Providence Gas and Water company, paying \$650,000 in bonds for its \$225,000 worth of stock.

HANDLEY WILL CONTEST.

Appeal of the Cousins Heard in United States Court—What the Heirs Are Trying to Show.

Arguments were heard Friday in the United States circuit court of appeals, at Philadelphia, before Judges Dallas, Grey and Hedford, on the appeal from Judge Acheson's decision dismissing the suit of Henry Handley and others against H. W. Palmer, John T. Richards and Mrs. Ella M. Amerman, executors and trustees of the estate of the late Judge John Handley.

RELIGIOUS NEWS NOTES.

Rev. W. E. Plumley spoke last night at the Providence Presbyterian church. Professor R. C. Puck, the singing evangelist, assisted in last night's services at the Bay Ave. Methodist Episcopal church.

DIED.

Hess—March 25, 1900, Elmer Rudolph Hess, aged 2 years and 12 days. Funeral and services conducted by Rev. Spinks, from house of parents, 242 Penn avenue, on Tuesday afternoon at 2 o'clock. Interment at Forest Hill cemetery.

REMARKS CONCERNING IT MADE BY REV. C. M. GIFFIN, D. D.

Rev. C. M. Giffin started in the week of special devotions, recommended by the bishops of the Methodist Episcopal church, in the Elm Park church yesterday, with all the intensity which could be demanded by the most urgent necessity.

Another lesson he drew from the lighted candle was that it got right down to business as soon as it had been lit and kept burning right along in what he termed "striking contrast to some of our modern Christians who sit sometimes for five years before they think of letting God's spirit work within them."

REMARKS CONCERNING IT MADE BY REV. C. M. GIFFIN, D. D.

Dr. Pierce spoke of selfishness and of how so many Christians live for themselves and themselves only. The result of such living he illustrated by placing a wooden box over one of the lighted candles, representing the house in which such people dwell. When this box had been removed, the flame of the candle was extinguished, just as that person's light will go out.

REMARKS CONCERNING IT MADE BY REV. C. M. GIFFIN, D. D.

Another forcible illustration was that of the way a broken, wrecked life can be saved. This was typified by a broken and dirty candle, which the speaker picked from the floor. When the light of another candle in another life had touched it it flared up brightly and blazed as strongly as the others, showing that it only needs the softening influence of Christian life to bring back many of the stray sheep on the highways of life.



.....Spring Styles..... Men's Walk-Over Shoes \$3.50

The New York Shoe Store

delivered last night at the Jackson Street Baptist church. Miss Charlotte Savage, secretary of the central city Young Women's Christian association, gave a very helpful talk last evening at the Rescue mission. In St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran church last night, Rev. A. L. Ramer, the pastor, preached one of his usual eloquent sermons, taking as his theme "Confessing Christ Before Men."

Roman Catholic churches. At St. Peter's cathedral a solemn high mass was solemnized at 10.30 a. m., the following clergymen officiating: Celebrant, Rev. D. J. MacGoldrick; deacon, Rev. J. J. O'Reilly; sub-deacon, Rev. P. J. Gough. Rev. Bishop Hoban occupied his throne during the celebration of the mass. Rev. John Loughran acting as his attendant. The bishop also preached the sermon, dwelling especially upon the Catholic doctrine of the immaculate conception. The feast of the immaculate conception was celebrated yesterday in all of the