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NATION'S CHURCHES TO OBSERVE GREAT EVANGELIST'S BICENTENNIAL

Before Colonies Were a Nation George Whitefield Shook America and Britain; War Promotes Revivalism

(By The Religious Rambler.)

BECAUSE of, and at the same time aiding, the increasing current of evangelism in America, the Federal Council of Churches has suggested December 13 as a day to be observed by all Protestant churches in America in commemoration of the two hundredth anniversary of the birth of George Whitefield, who is counted the greatest evangelist since the days of the apostles. The assumption is that the work of Whitefield will quicken the present interest in the whole subject of revivals throughout the country.

Special to The Telegraph

Newport, Pa., Dec. 11.—John S. Eby, who at the recent election received the count over his two competitors for member of the General Assembly from Perry county, resigned as a member of town council at its last meeting. Mr. Eby was an enthusiastic and energetic member and his services will be much missed.

RESIGNS FROM COUNCIL TO GO TO STATE LEGISLATURE

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WOMAN'S CLUB ENTERTAINED

Special to The Telegraph

Newport, Pa., Dec. 11.—Yesterday afternoon the Woman's Club was entertained by Miss Ella Catherine Fleisher at her home in South Second street. The club is studying France this year and the program consisted of a paper on "Events, 1814 and 1815," by Mrs. Matilda Clark; a sketch, "Daguerre and the Photograph," by Mrs. J. Harry McCulloch; a question, "When Were the First Christmas Cards Printed and Distributed," by the hostess. The program was interspersed with music and refreshments were served.

KALOZATEAN OFFICERS

Special to The Telegraph

Anville, Pa., Dec. 11.—At a meeting of the Kalozeatean Literary Society at Lebanon Valley College the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: President, Harry Bender; vice-president, Ira Ernst; recording secretary, John Long; chaplain, Reuben Williams; critic, M. Long; pianist, Leroy Walters; Editor of Examiner, Abram Long; correspondence secretary, John Long; sergeant-at-arms, C. Shannon; assistant sergeant-at-arms, Paul Shannon; president of Spring term, Phares Gible.

Methodistic, Calvinistic Anglican

The modern note of church union was incorporated in the career of Whitefield. Coming up from the ranks of the plain people, he had a smattering of education at Oxford and in his twenty-second year was given Deacons' orders in the Anglican Church. In 1739 on his return from his first American visit he was ordained a priest in the Anglican Church, and remained in this communion to the end of his life.

Whitefield and Wesley were associates in the famous "Holy Club," and both were leaders in the Methodist Movement of their time. Wesley was the greater mind and the natural leader and organizer. Whitefield was a fiery evangelist. The two men separated on doctrinal grounds, because Whitefield adhered to the Calvinistic teaching concerning the decrees of God, which remained warm personal friends to the end.

Criticizing the Evangelist.

"The Flaming Seraph of the Eighteenth Century" is a title that is applied to Whitefield, because as he went up and down among the American Colonies, he had a powerful effect upon the emotions and lives of men as the fiery cross had upon the Highland clans. The times seemed ripe for a great revival in America, coincident with Whitefield's career. In this many persons see a striking analogy to our own day, where the vast mass of the people, Evangelists were never busier or more successful in America than now. Pennsylvania, for instance, which had a dozen revivalists within her borders, all doing work that is stirring whole communities and even cities of good size.

Whitefield, who had a cast in his eye and was unhappily married and by no means a "conventional" figure, was attacked by preachers and others as vulgar and sensational, and by his fellow churchmen as denouncing holy orders. Throughout his ministry Whitefield was assailed by a steady storm of criticism on account of his theology, his pulpit ministrations and his sensationalism. Yet his passionate preachments, which included the vivid presentation of hell fire, did more to stem the wave of atheism that threatened America at the time than any philosophical arguments.

Learning How He Did It.

In hundreds of pulpits this Sunday the work and character of Whitefield will be analyzed, and "the secret of his success" will be pointed out according to the personal predilections of the preacher. For more than a century men have been dissecting Whitefield's work and sermons, but with no good success. The sermons are a dreary, arid waste, which no modern preacher would think of re-reading. Even the skull of Whitefield has been examined, and on this evidence they declare he was a man of no superior intellectual ability.

The theologian, the Rev. Dr. Henry E. Dosker, of the Louisville Seminary, has summarized Whitefield's characteristics as follows:

"When we search for the secret of his powers, which were inexpressibly great, we find it not in his energy, nor in his eloquence, nor in his dramatic power, but in the truth he believed and which he preached. If we were to characterize his ministry in one word perhaps that word should best be 'Otherworldliness.' He preached as seeing invisible things. Or, if we want a more explicit statement, we can safely say that Whitefield's whole ministry was characterized by these things: (1) A rare and ever present devotional spirit; (2) a jubilant exaltation of Christ; (3) a tender reliance on the co-operation of the Holy Spirit; (4) an unwavering fidelity to the teachings of the Scriptures; (5) a tender compassion with the lost, so that he always felt himself to stand between the living and the dead; and (6) a directness of address which feared no man and favored none, and which caused the arrow of the Word to sink deeply in a wounded soul."

Billy Sunday and Whitefield

Quite as sensational as Whitefield, and paralleling him in results, is a present-day unique figure on the religious horizon, Billy Sunday, the baseball evangelist. Like Whitefield, he is a subject of common discussion among churchmen of all names. Also like Whitefield, he is, according to conventional canons, an utter impossibility. When analyzed, no adequate reason can be found for his success in having led more than a quarter of a million persons to make a professional conversion to Christianity.

Sunday's congregations are paralleled only by those of Whitefield. Like the earlier evangelist, Sunday is fiercely assailed for his unconventional language, for his acting upon the pulpit, and for his sensationalism in general.

Both men had less than the average minister's training; both fearlessly preached literalism, with hell fire for the impenitent. The work of both has been followed by ethical revivals.

With the first of the year Billy Sunday will open a nine or ten-week campaign in Philadelphia, which is already attracting nation-wide attention. The local churches have made elaborate preparations, and upwards of 100,000 Christians are meeting twice a week throughout the city in special Billy Sunday prayer meetings. If Sun-

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BRETHREN MINISTER DIES

The Rev. Henry Beelman Was Well Known in York County

Special to The Telegraph

Dillsburg, Pa., Dec. 11.—The Rev. Henry Beelman, one of the best known ministers of the Brethren Church in this part of York county, died on Thursday at his home in Monaghan

township near Fley's Church after a short illness from an abscess on the liver. Mr. Beelman was 74 years old and is survived by his wife, three daughters, Miss Martha Bellman, at home; Mary, of Elizabethtown, and Ada, of Lancaster, and two sons, David W. Beelman, of Dillsburg, and George Beelman, of Lancaster. The funeral will be held on Sunday at the home at 3 o'clock, with services at Mohler's Brethren Church, in Cumberland county, by the Rev. Charles Baker, of East Berlin. Burial will be made in the cemetery adjoining the church.

EPWORTH LEAGUE SOCK SOCIAL

Special to The Telegraph

Mechanicsburg, Pa., Dec. 11.—Last evening a sock social was given by the social committee of the Epworth League in the lecture room of the Methodist Episcopal Church, which was attractively arranged for the occasion. The program included: Music by the orchestra; vocal solos by Miss Ida Weber, Mrs. H. A. Surfact, Mrs. Clair Harnish; readings by Mrs. Rowe, Miss Ida Kast and B. F. Sours, and violin solo by William Hinton. The chairman of the social committee is Mrs. D. L. Snively. Following a pleasant evening refreshments were served.

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