

Literary Notices.

BOOKS sent to us for notice, will be duly attended to. Those from publishers in Philadelphia, New York, &c., may be left at our Philadelphia Office, 37 South 4th St., below Chestnut, in care of Joseph M. Wilson, Esq.

THE DOCTRINE OF BAPTISM. By Geo. D. Armstrong, D. D., Norfolk, Va. New York: Scribner, Forster & Co., 25 Nassau, 92 Market Street, Pittsburgh.

This is a somewhat novel, but very lucid and satisfactory discussion of the whole subject of baptism. It treats, 1st, of the term baptizo, and its translation; 2d, of the mode of baptism; 3d, of the subjects of baptism.

The author shows, throughout, a fine logical training, and handles his points with scholarly accuracy and dialectic skill. It is plain, Scriptural view of the subject, which common readers can understand, while it commends itself to those of more advanced research. The whole range of topics included—as the Nature of the Abrahamic Covenant; the Unity of the Church, under both Dispensations; the Substitution of Baptism for Circumcision; the New Testament Church as a new Church organization, but a Reformation of the Church, or the Church commissioned in this new phase to go, teach all nations—all these topics are ably handled, and show Dr. Armstrong's acquaintance with the subject, and his ready penmanship his excellence as a Christian. We hope to have more from his pen.

THE DEER OF SINAI: Notes of a Spring-Journey from Cairo to the Holy Land. By Rev. Dr. D. D. Moore, 12mo, pp. 104. New York: Robert Carter & Brothers, 1857.

The author of this very delightful volume has long been favorably known to the American Churches, by his numerous works, which have been received with that acceptance which their great merits have deserved. On turning over the pages of the work before us, we have been continually reminded of the celebrated book by his brother, Andrew Bonar, formerly of Colton, now of Glasgow. We allude to the "Narrative of a Mission of Inquiry to Palestine," of which the authorship has popularly been attributed to the late lamented McChesney, who was one of the deputation which the Church of Scotland sent to the East. The book was really written by Andrew Bonar, and before publication, its statements were assented to by the other members of the deputation. We mention this fact in this connection, because so many of our readers are acquainted with the "Narrative" of the Deputation; and when they are told that a similar spirit pervades the volume before us, we have given them the best description and commendation of it, in our power. Dr. Bonar was accompanied in his journey by the Rev. Mr. Wright, of Swinton, and by Messrs. Poynder and Beddome, two English gentlemen, so that the company consisted of two Free-Church Presbyterians, and two Evangelical Episcopalians. They journeyed in the love of each other, and their intercourse appears to have been fraternal and profitable. One great object of the mission was to visit the Holy Land, and to visit the desert of Sinai, was to transcribe, with as much accuracy as possible, as many of the celebrated inscriptions on the mountains as they could, in order to aid in determining the agitated question respecting their authenticity. Mr. Wright had prepared a photographic apparatus for this part of the tour, and also with a view to other objects of interest. The part of the volume which treats of this subject will be read with much interest. The narrative terminates at the arrival of the party at Beer-sheba, in the Southern part of Palestine, and we may look out for another volume, which shall refer to the journey to the Holy Land.

A Revival—Missions Wanted. FR. HOWARD, BROWN CO., WIS.

Mr. Editor—Dear Sir—We wish to call your attention, and through your paper, the attention of the Old School Presbyterian Church, to the spiritual wants of this place, both with regard to its importance as a field for church extension, and the peculiar circumstances in which, by the blessing of God, we are just now placed, hoping that by your aid, some means may be offered by which our wants may be supplied.

In the first place, permit me to say a word respecting the present and prospective position of this place. The village of Ft. Howard, situated on the West bank of the Fox River, about one mile from its mouth, and directly opposite the city of Green Bay. The two places taken together, number about five thousand inhabitants, fully one-third of whom live on this side of the river. The village is of about six years' growth, and is building up quite rapidly; and from all appearances, will soon be the port through which the greater portion of the trade of Central and Northern Wisconsin will pass, as the route to the East, by way of the Lakes, is shorter, and more direct by this, than by any of the other routes to Lake Michigan; and the opening of the Fox and Wisconsin Rivers, for steamboat navigation, gives us direct intercourse with the Mississippi River; besides which, there have been surveys made for three distinct lines of railroad, all intended to cross at this place.

These circumstances, together with the fact that the country all around is rich in pine timber and fertile land, and is fast settling up by emigrants from the East, promise fair at no distant day, to give this place an eminent position among the cities of the North-West.

The foregoing considerations are certainly of sufficient importance to make it desirable that a branch of our beloved Church should be established here, that might grow in usefulness and influence with the growth of the place. Yet, aside from these general points of interest, this place is, at this time, peculiarly in want of a settled preacher. Some two and a half years ago, an effort was made, on the part of a few persons, to establish a church in the village; and a pastor was secured, supported mostly by the village, and partly by the American Board of Home Missions. As those instrumental in forming the Society were of different denominations, it was thought better to organize an independent church; and it was accordingly called, The First Congregational Church of Ft. Howard, although a majority of those forming it had been members of the Old School Presbyterian body, previous to coming to this place. The church went on under his ministry for about a year and a half, during which time a church edifice was erected, and nearly completed, mainly by the people of the village; and the prospects seemed fair for the establishment of the church. But the heart of the pastor was not wholly in his work; and at the end of the time, he resigned his charge, and gave up his calling for the affairs of the world; and since that time, the Society has languished, and has become scattered, and can now scarcely be said to have an existence, as a body.

Yet a majority of the members, and especially those inclined to the O. S. Presbyterian Church, are anxious to have a settled ministry of the Gospel, and would prefer one of their faith. In addition to these, quite a number have come in during the last year, of the same class, and having the same desires.

Again, another feature of our case, and one which induces the writer at this time to move in the matter, is, that these two places, Green Bay and Ft. Howard, have been enjoying a most precious revival season, under the labors of an Evangelist preacher, the Rev. O. Parker, by name, who has been very successfully laboring in this section of the State during the present Winter; and in Green Bay, for a few weeks past; his meetings have been held in the Presbyterian Church, (N. S.) in that place, and have been attended by persons of all evangelical denominations, where they have heard the Word preached with power and effect, and the hearts of many people. About one hundred and twenty persons, of all ages, have, for the first time, proclaimed their faith in Christ, and their determination to serve him. Also, about an equal number of backslidden professors have been brought to see their errors, and to renew their vows. In all this, there has been no excitement; but a calm, spreading spirit of inquiry after the truth as it is found in the Scriptures, which convinces all that it is really the work of the Holy Spirit. The proportion of the above number, who reside on this side of the river, is about one-fourth. The two places are now as if they were joined in one, by a bridge of ice, and so long as it remains, all have free access to the churches in Green Bay; but when Summer advances, and it is removed, they are separated by a river as wide as the Allegheny, at Pittsburgh, without a bridge, and consequently, in a manner without preaching. And thus, those who have so lately been awakened, will be without those influences which the regular Christian services of Sabbath always give, and which are so essential to the growth and permanency of a Christian spirit, and without which, even the most steadfast are often apt to grow cold and unconcerned.

The Methodist and Baptists are both making efforts to occupy this field; and there are some who would prefer a Presbyterian organization, who will likely unite with one or other of those, rather than be without a church-connection. The church building before spoken of, is now vacant, and can be used for the present, and perhaps permanently if desirable. The necessary support for a pastor could be raised without much, if any, difficulty, and the writer feels confident that a church could be formed here, if we had an acceptable minister, of from twelve to twenty members, and perhaps more.

This Christian brethren of the East, we are situated; these are our wants and our desires; and cannot something be done to supply them? Is there not some one just entering the ministry that would desire to come and identify himself with this growing place, and build up a church here? or is there not some church that has been for years feasting on the preached Word, and would be glad to send a few of its members to this place, for the benefit of Christ's cause in this place? We call not for money, but for a man—for a leader, zealous and faithful, around whom we could gather for our own good, and for the good of souls in this place.

This place has a high character for salubrity in Summer; and the Winters, although cold, are uniformly mild, and agreeable, like that in your changeable climate. The writer is a native of Western Pennsylvania, and naturally looks back there, as the bird to the parent nest, for assistance. That it may not be in vain, and that this field may speedily be occupied, is the sincere desire of A YOUNG PRESBYTERIAN.

P. S.—Any one wishing to learn any further particulars respecting this place, can do so, by writing to the address of W. P. B., at this place.

When Cornelius was about thirty-one years of age, he removed to Erie County, Pa., and united with the church at the Four Corners, under the care of Rev. Mr. Estor. Father Aten was then chosen elder. When he came to Ashland, in Richland County, Ohio, he was elected and installed as an elder there. Rev. Mr. Lee came the same year, and remained two years. When he left, Rev. Wm. Matthews came, and supplied the church about two years. The Rev. Mr. Hare came and supplied them one year. Here is a period, during which, I have not the history of that church, but Father Aten remained there thirteen years. He then removed to Lewistown, or rather to Fulton County, about ten miles from Lewistown, and united with that church, and being inconveniently situated, did not serve as an elder. Rev. James G. McGinnis came to Lewistown the same time, and remained about three years, and returned to Pennsylvania on account of ill health. Then Rev. Robert Steele came, and remained three years or more, and died. A short time before his death, Father Aten removed to Stark County, and settled on the borders of the congregation of Rochester, then under the care of Rev. Robert P. Breece, who was then laboring with the churches of Princetonville and Rochester, the latter of which included the settlement of West Jay. Soon after this, a church was organized in this settlement, and was still supplied by Brother Breece till his death, in 1851. When the church was organized, Father Aten was elected and installed as an elder in the West Jay Church, and he still serves in that capacity.

In the Summer of 1852, while he was in the West Jay Church, he was invited to the portions in the bounds and under the care of Peoria Presbytery, I became acquainted with Father Aten. In the Autumn of that year, I commenced laboring as a Stated Supply in the churches of West Jersey and French Grove, on alternate Sabbaths, and continued eighteen months. Then the congregation called the Rev. John Purbit to be their pastor, who remained six months, and then resigned his charge. Rev. James Ferguson has been supplying that church, almost the same length of time, and the congregation has made out a call for his pastoral labors, and Father Aten, now ninety-one years old, signs the call, as a member of Session, in behalf of the congregation. During the time of my labors there, he was seldom absent from public worship, but since that time, he cannot always attend in bad weather. He has been an elder more than forty years, and is a good elder yet.

JOHN C. HANNA.

That a season of extreme drought—so often occurring, and so injurious to our Summer crops—should still prove beneficial to the soil, seems strange, but chemical science shows us that droughts are one of the most salutary causes to restore the constituents of crops, and to render them more permanent.

Improving the Ohio River. This subject is still being agitated, and its importance is becoming more obvious from year to year. The Pennsylvania Legislature is urging the subject, and Congress is about making an appropriation for further surveys and examinations. It is hence a time for all who feel an interest in the thing done, and done rightly, to contribute their aid. We claim to be of this number. To have six feet of water at the lowest season, and but little interruption from ice—what a consummation! And we believe it practicable—especially the six feet of water. To have five feet, or four, or even three feet at the lowest time, would be an immense benefit; and especially if not interrupted by ice-lagues. This we believe to be entirely practicable, and at a very moderate expense.

The plan of Charles Ellet, is given with favor, in the Scientific American of Feb. 21st. We present an extract: "Our constant readers are acquainted with the plan of Charles Ellet, O. E., for maintaining a constant navigable amount of water in the Ohio at all times, by building great dams or reservoirs on the mountains, tributary streams, to supply, during the dry months, a sufficient amount of water for navigation. Ellwood Morris, C. E., in an article in the January number of the Franklin Journal, conceives this to be the most feasible and best plan. He states that the water draining away by the channel of the Ohio at the mouth of the river, is about 100,000,000 cubic feet per day, and that the quantity of water which is evaporated from the surface of the Ohio, is about 1,000,000,000 cubic feet per day. The difference between these two quantities is about 900,000,000 cubic feet per day, which is the amount of water which is lost from the river. 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