

Dr. Miller completed his eightieth year on the 31st of October, 1849. He was born October 31, 1769, a short distance from the town of Dover, the capital of Delaware, seventy-five miles south of Philadelphia.

He studied theology under his father's direction. But after his father's decease, which occurred in August, 1791, and after being licensed by the Presbytery of Lewes, he went to close his preparatory theological studies under the Rev. Dr. Nietz, Principal of Dickinson College, at Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

For the first time in his life, he visited New York city in 1792. In the autumn of that year, he received a unanimous call from the United Presbyterian churches in that city, to be a colleague of Drs. Rodgers and McKnight.

He was appointed by the General Assembly which met in May, 1813, to the Professorship of Ecclesiastical History and Church Government in the then newly organized Theological Seminary at Princeton, New Jersey.

His declining health under the weight of years, had led him some time ago to desire a release from the responsibilities of his Professorship, but he was not permitted to carry this desire into effect until May 1849, when his resignation was accepted by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, and the following resolutions of respect and gratitude were adopted.

"In relation to the tender resignation of his Professorship, by the Rev. Dr. Miller, the following resolutions were adopted by the General Assembly, viz: Resolved, That the Assembly unite in expressions of thankfulness to God, that he has spared the life and health of the venerable Professor of Ecclesiastical History and Church Government for so many years, and that our beloved Church has enjoyed the benefit of his valued instructions and labours from the infancy of the Seminary to this time.

"Resolved, That the Assembly unite with the Board in recording their grateful sense of the manifold faithful and most important services which the venerable Professor has rendered to our Church, and to the cause of truth and righteousness, and they beg to assure him of their cordial sympathy in the bodily infirmities which have led him to seek a release from the duties of his office.

"Resolved, That the Rev. Samuel Miller, D.D., be and hereby is entirely released from all obligations to give instruction in his office and of the departments of his Professorship.

"Resolved, That Dr. Miller be requested to give such instructions and personal services as on consultation with the faculty may be convenient and useful.

"Resolved, That the Rev. Samuel Miller, D.D., shall continue to be Samuel Miller, D.D., and all the other rights and privileges of his office shall be preserved to him until he shall be called home by his Lord.

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large, and more particularly by the multitude of ministers who have sat at his feet, and enjoyed the instructions of his lips. In a high sense he was a Christian gentleman. His manners were of the best style of the old school of gentlemen: graceful, dignified, courteous to the very extreme of simplicity, and invariably affable and polite.

His instructions on clerical matters, by his book on the subject, and by his hints to the successive classes in the Seminary, have been of vast advantage to many—some who were never willing to admit the importance of the subject.

In his department in the course of study in the Seminary, Dr. Miller was eminently successful as a teacher. A close and profound student for a long series of years, his lectures were enriched by the treasures of all who had preceded him in the field of his researches.

In this brief and hasty sketch we cannot attempt to write the eulogy, or even to give an outline of the character of this great and good man. His praise is, in truth, in all the churches, and he leaves behind him a memory fragrant with all the virtues that adorn the minister of God, and distinguish the excellent of the earth.

We find in the Appendix to the Address of William B. Reed, Esq., before the Alumni of the University of Pennsylvania, November, 1849, the following notice of Dr. Miller, which will be read with interest. The Alumni celebrated the first Centennial Anniversary of the University by a dinner. The fourth regular toast was as follows:

"The oldest living graduate.—Samuel Miller, D.D., of Princeton.—A model for imitation to his younger brethren, proving by his life and conversation that gray hairs are a crown of glory, when found in the paths of rectitude.

When this toast was read, H. G. Jones, Jr. Esq., arose and said, that the Committee had invited Dr. Miller to attend both the occasion and dinner, but his advanced age, and the distance at which he resided, rendered his attendance impossible.

"GENTLEMEN.—I received your letter of October 30th, inviting me to attend the address of Wm. B. Reed, Esq., to the Alumni of the University of Pennsylvania, on the evening of the 13th inst., and the Centenary Dinner of the graduates on the next evening. These occasions are both so attractive, that the thought of declining an attendance on them gives me pain.

"P. S.—You will perceive that I employ the pen of another in this communication. My own right hand is beginning to 'forget her name.'"

"By Rev. Dr. Miller.—Education.—The highest and best possible to every member of the community; but education ever adorned and sanctified by true religion, which alone can make it a safe guide of virtue, order, social strength, and genuine freedom.

"In addition to the above, the Committee received the following letter from Dr. Miller last June, when it was contemplated to have the celebration in July, but which was deferred on account of the epidemic which then prevailed in our city.

"Princeton, June 23d, 1849. GENTLEMEN.—I had the honour of receiving a few days ago, your polite note, announcing to me the approaching 'Second Annual Dinner of the Graduates of the University of Pennsylvania,' and inviting me, as one of your number, to attend and take part in that interesting festival.

growing pressure of the infirmities which usually attend that period of life, I am compelled to avoid ceremonious meetings and public assemblies of every kind. The great advantage of such anniversary celebrations is, that they afford opportunities of cherishing and expressing sentiments favourable to the best interests of society and of mankind, and especially of uniting in plans and counsels subversive to the honour and elevation of the institutions in whose behalf they are held.

"I do not know, my respected friends, on what principles, as to one point, your coming festival is to be conducted. Whether your toast or sentiments are to be accompanied with the use of intoxicating drinks, or with those of any different kind. If, after having been for two and twenty years a pledged abstainer from all that can intoxicate, and convinced as I am, with daily growing confidence, that this system of abstinence from stimulating beverages is desirable and important for all classes of men, but peculiarly so for youth, and above all for the members of our literary institutions, I can take no part in countenancing an opposite system.

"Sincerely hoping and praying that every thing ornamental and gratifying may attend your anniversary, and that our beloved and venerable Alma Mater may ever continue in strength, in honour, and in usefulness. Your fellow graduate, SAMUEL MILLER.

The letter of the 5th of November is among the very last of Dr. Miller's productions.

Is the World Growing Better? So many people sigh so deeply over the degeneracy of the times, and the newspapers are crowded with the record of so many crimes, horrid to read, that we sometimes feel as if the world was going on from bad to worse, and thence to ruin, rapidly and inevitably.

In Massachusetts, the number of persons who were committed to the State Prisoners for 1847, was 80 per annum; and for two years, ending with 1844, they were 54 per annum—presenting a decrease of 25 per cent., while the population increased 25 per cent. during the same time—or a real diminution of crime amounting to fifty per cent. in eight years.

In Vermont, the annual number of State Prisoners for twenty-five years, ending with 1837, was 100; and the number for two years, ending with 1844, was 69—presenting a decrease of 30 per cent., while the population increased 20 per cent.—or a real diminution of crime of 50 per cent. in ten years.

In New Hampshire, the annual number for ten years, ending with 1837, was 73; while for four years, ending with 1844, the number was 83; preserving the same increase as of population.

In Connecticut, the annual number for nine years, ending with 1838, was 191; while for three years, ending with 1844, the number was 206; preserving the same increase as that of the population.

In Maryland, the annual number for five years, ending with 1838, was 381; while for four years, ending with 1844, the number was 291; being a diminution of more than 25 per cent., while the population increased 15 per cent. in ten years.

In Virginia, the annual average for 43 years, of individuals punished (probably in one prison) was 55. The number for ten years, ending with 1825, was 72; and for 1835 to 1844, while the population increased 20 per cent. in ten years.

In New York, the annual average for six years, ending with 1837, was 1455; while for four years, ending with 1844, the number was 1484—presenting an increase of about 2 per cent., while the population increased 25 per cent.

Since 1844, when these tables were prepared, there may have been a more rapid increase of crime, but that may be attributed to the more rapid increase of foreigners. Yet even in spite of this cause, such a fact as the following may be cited. In the city and county of Philadelphia there were eleven more convicts for crimes punished in 1844 than in 1843; and 56 more persons suffering such punishment, for such crimes, at the close of 1844, than at the commencement of the year 1843.

are indebted for these statistics, says that the relation which emigration bears to crime may be seen from the fact, that of the number in the penitentiary of New York city, 610 were foreigners, and 286 only were natives; and of the 902 persons in the Alms-House on Blackwell's Island, 700 were foreigners. Of the 769 committed to the city prison of Rochester, 409 were foreigners.

If the world is not growing better, our country is. The greatest danger to be apprehended is from the deluge of foreign criminals, and those whom poverty has made almost criminals. For our own defence, as well as their salvation, we should multiply the means of their moral improvement. Give them the Bible and the means of grace. Labour for them as for ourselves. This country is not to be given up to Romanism, or infidelity, or Satan. It is to be the Lord's. The Church has much to do to save it, and if she is mindful of her duty, she will rise in her might, and fill the land with the gospel, and make it Emmanuel's.

One Means of Resuscitating a Sinking Church. The little church that I wish to be made the subject of this communication is situated in a small valley in the interior of Pennsylvania. It enjoys the third part of the support of a very devoted minister, member of the Carlisle Presbytery. In the days of its greatest prosperity it numbered about eighty members, most of them of very limited means. It then paid its pastor punctually, and its liberality in subscribing to the different benevolent Boards of the Church was a common subject of remark.

In the purchase made by that first company we cannot fail to remark, with pleasure, the following stipulated reserves, viz. two full townships of land for the benefit of a university. Every sixteenth section of every township was given perpetually for the support of schools within said township. Section twenty-nine in the same manner was devoted to religious purposes.

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TO LADIES OF REFINED AND CULTIVATED MINDS, this portraiture of a female, whose beauty of person was equalled by beauty of intellect, and whose elevation of rank was paralleled by elevation of character, will be a most worthy object for daily and devout contemplation. The perusal of such biographies would do much towards forming Harriet Newells, Isabella Graham, and Mary Lucie Duncans.

LETTER OF DR. BOUDINOT. Messrs. Editors.—The following interesting letter of condolence was written by the late Dr. Elias Boudinot, to Colonel John Bayard, on the occasion of the death of the second Mrs. Bayard. It has been put into my hands, with permission to forward a copy to you, and should you judge fit to insert it in the Presbyterian, it will, I doubt not, be read with pleasure and profit by many of your subscribers. I remain very respectfully and truly yours, SAMUEL B. HOW.

My Very Dear Sir—This truly affective dispensation of Divine Providence towards you did not reach me till very lately. What shall I say, or how condole with my distressed friend? If I address you as a man, I know your sorrows are great—your loss is irremediable, and the worth of our dear deceased friend requires a flood of tears. But, my dear sir, when I consider you as a Christian, who has had such expectations are looking beyond the grave, I may justly comfort you with the language of Scripture, 'For he that lives is Christ, and to die, gain.' 'And the Lord said, If the man refuse to let him go, ye shall say unto him, The Master hath need of him, and he will let him go.' Perhaps some higher note waits in our great Redeemer, to complete the glorious anthem of praise. Some celestial message remained unperformed, till the fair messenger was dismissed from this tenement of clay, to execute the high behest. If so, what reason have we to rejoice when our Father's will is done. Is it not our daily prayer, Father, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven? Perhaps your year of trial is not over. You may stand in need of some more interested guardian spirit to aid you in the conflict; to watch over you; to be a ministering spirit for your salvation. O let us then, in the midst of our sorrow, mourn as those who have hope even in death! Let us rejoice that our heavenly Father has not seen fit to bestow on us. We are all hastening to the house appointed for all living. You have another tie to this earth broken off. You have another claim on the heavenly inheritance. It cannot be long ere we shall join the glorious company, and then we shall see how much we owe to our great Redeemer for what we call afflictive dispensations of his love towards us. Let us not faint when we are chastened.

already rivalled by its daughter, the church of which Dr. Rice is the pastor; and present appearances indicate the growth of another colony into equal strength. Where Dr. Hoge, of Columbus, some forty years ago, found no church—I believe he preached at first in Frankton, on the opposite side of the Scioto—he is now the pastor, and may be called the father, of a strong church of some four hundred members, able and willing to share all the heavy enterprises of the Church at large. In Zanesville, where Father Culbertson, some forty years ago, found a weak church, is now a church of great strength and excellence. Thus, we might go over the State, and single out cases to show the growth, the extraordinary growth, of the Presbyterian Church. Forty years ago, churches and ministers were counted scarcely by scores, now by the hundreds; communicants by the hundreds, now by thousands. And this giant State is destined to be a standard bearer in our Church, and the luxuriant field which shall replenish the treasures of our various benevolent institutions. Let us mark the hand of God in the growth of the Calvinistic family, from the time when the first sermon was preached in a fort at Marietta, thank God, and take courage.

In this imperfect sketch we have necessarily been confined to the growth of the Presbyterian Church, except an allusion to the first religious movement among the Congregationalists at Marietta. The limits of a single column forbid enlargement on the movements of other denominations in this State.

Life of Lady Colquhoun. We venture to predict that the year 1850 will produce no more exquisite piece of biography than this beautiful volume, which the Messrs. Carters have just given to our religious community as a New Year offering. James Hamilton, the friend of McCheyne, and the popular pastor of Regent Square Church, London, has already found time, amid his arduous home duties, to prepare several of the most brilliant and powerful works of our time.

The late Rev. Buckley Carril. The Rev. Buckley Carril, the oldest member of the Presbytery of West Jersey, departed this life at his residence in Cumberland county, New Jersey, on the 22d day of May, 1849, in the eightieth year of his age.

CHARITABLE USES. DEVOTING A FIXED AND REGULAR PORTION OF ONE'S INCOME TO CHARITABLE USES. In reading the biography of the most eminent pious and useful in different ages, we have often been struck with the fact, that almost all of them devoted a regular proportion of their income to pious and charitable uses.

CONVERSIONS TO THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH. Recently, the Right Rev. Bishop Wiseman, administered confirmation to eight gentlemen at the Roman Catholic Chapel of the Oratory, in King William street. The Bishop also previously administered adult baptism to one of the candidates, and also to a young man, who was not engaged in promoting them.

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