

THE

Reformed Presbyterian and Covenanter.

VOL. XXVIII.

MAY, 1890.

No. 5.

ORIGINAL.

TESTIMONY BEARING AS A MEANS OF UNITING THE CHURCHES.

BY PROF. THOS. SPROULL, LL. D.

Our article on this subject in the February number of the REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN AND COVENANTER, the substance of a lecture to the students on Pastoral Theology, is noticed in *Our Banner* for March, and is claimed by the editor as endorsing his views in regard to Covenanters exercising the right of suffrage under the constitution of this government.

After quoting from the article in garbled extracts, he makes this statement: "The senior professor has read our Declaratory Testimony and writes in the very spirit of the fathers who wrote it. The exercise of the rights of citizens would not disturb him if he were allowed to be true to his own conscience."

The object of the lecture, as clearly stated, was to present Jesus Christ the Head of the Church and King of Nations, as the foundation on which alone the church can be visibly one. The tendency of our testimony for this fundamental truth, is to press it on the attention of the intelligent and pious of the evangelical churches so as to induce them to unite in maintaining it in the hope and belief that its principles carried out would lead to unity on the various points on which they and we now differ. Nothing was further from my mind than to seek organic union by leaving out of the terms any truth either in profession or practice for which the church has testified. This is so plainly presented in the two following extracts that it is difficult to account for the statement above taken from *Our Banner*. On page 40, REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN AND COVENANTER, is the following: "It is on this foundation" (Christ as Head of the Church and King of Nations,) "and on it alone that the church can be made visibly one. All attempts to take away any part of it, or add anything to it, will be not only fruitless but hurtful. The question now presents itself: Can all the various Christian sects be induced to take their stand on this platform, and present a united

First you said there that you had seen the stir but had not seen who struck who. Afterwards the official who took the evidence presented to you a paper which was in your handwriting, and which is a deposition of yours given by you into the hands of the complainant; first you denied it, then you acknowledged in presence of the officials that it was your handwriting. Listen while we read it to you. "Or Wednesday, before noon, while I was sitting in my shop I saw A. M. Fitfoote weeping, and I said to him, 'Why are you weeping?' He replied, 'Nazheeb Surraaf beat me.' And after that Abdul Maseeh Surraaf ran upon and struck him on the head three blows. This is what I saw and heard. I witness it before God and men." We have read the paper in your hearing. What do you say? *Ans.* I have no knowledge of it at all; that is not my handwriting. I write better than that. *Pres.* The Complainant says he can prove against you that this evidence is your handwriting, and that you wrote it in presence of persons whose signatures are appended to it as witnesses. Also, the official in Antioch who takes depositions there, says that you acknowledged this paper as your handwriting after you had denied it. And now we intend to enter this paper in the Record Book of this Court, and bring forward the signatories to this paper as witnesses, in whose presence it was written by you, for the Complainant has so requested, and to that he has a right.

LETTER FROM REV. W. W. CARITHERS.

FT. SILL, I. T. February 5th, 1890.

Dear Fathers and Brethren.*—Since my last letter to you I am very happy to say we have made some progress. I sent a man about 75 miles to where I heard two carpenters lived, he brought them in 5 days, and they worked 10 days, and as they were ready to leave two more drove up; none of these were first class carpenters but do very good strong work.

The evening they, the first ones, came we finished the roof, and they put in doors, windows and stairs. I took unskilled labor and put in all the floors. The carpenters are still working on the stairs. The kiln was fired Monday night and burned for two weeks from the following Thursday noon. There were 22 cords of wood burned. In squaring up the steps and landings, two of the steps broke, the replacing of them cost five dollars (\$5). The stone mason has been most of the time, dressing steps (28), for three outside steps and one area and landings (6), two for each outside step. These steps are all to lay and two window areas to build, which except painting will finish the house. The men are digging the cistern as per contract I spoke of in my last.

I have rigged an elevator and carrier that brings the dirt up and lands it on the bank. This with two boxes to bring up dirt and a horse for motive power moves a pile of dirt in a day. As this dirt was not needed for grading around the house and threatened to blockade us, I have a team hauling it away and dumping it on

* To Central Board of Missions.

the road from the front of the house to the line fence. I have plowed some sod on the north side of the house, which I hope to be able to plant in trees. The view on this side of the house is not so fine as on the other sides and the need for protection greater, so we shall work on filling it as well as we can with trees. I have sixty cedars here now. I can get all the ash, elm, pecan, box, elder and cottonwood I want, by going along the creek and pulling them up. We have quite a quantity of peach stones which we expect to plant. I expect to send for some catalpa seed and we have quite a number of small trees and grape vines, raspberries, &c., which friends have sent which are not yet planted out. All this will cost the mission nothing except the cost of setting out. To protect the trees and yard it is necessary to run a fence from the corner of the pasture to the west line. I have wire enough to do this and about half enough posts. I have most of the holes dug for this fence and will put it up before putting out the trees. I have engaged a man to cut wood for fuel for the house, four foot cord wood, delivered on the premises where I direct, at two dollars (\$2), per cord. This wood is to be all hard wood, enough of it dry for our use this winter and spring and the rest green for next winter's use. It is necessary for us to get out now what we shall need next winter, if we want to have it dry.

The weather was so fine for such work and the ground in such good condition that one man and team has plowed several days, turning over that which was broken last spring. This is for corn this spring.

The Indian (Howard) of whom I wrote as able to interpret was very low with "The Grippe" on last Thursday, with but little hope of his recovery. If he should die, I know of no other one that would be at all reliable as an interpreter; there may be others and I will try and find out what can be done.

A great many of the Indians are dying with "The Grippe" or pneumonia following it.

As for stocking the farm, I do not know just how much could be wisely expended. I do not think it would be wise to put in a large amount at first, but work up; when we saw a good bargain or needed it. We should have six or eight milk cows to keep us in milk and butter, and they would be better than any I have seen in this country if that number would do it.

W. W. CARITHERS.

LETTERS FROM REV. J. W. DILL.

SELMA, ALA., February 12th, 1890.

Prof. J. K. McClurkin, Dear Brother:—I send inclosed my January Report.

Our school as you will see from the report is well filled, and as far as we can judge, the work in all respects is encouraging. A goodly number have been absent recent weeks on account of sick-