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## ORIGINAL.

### FAITHFUL WITNESS-BEARING PROMOTES TRUE REVIVALS.\*

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BY PROF. THOS. SPROULL, LL. D.

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The necessity for a genuine revival of religion in the churches is on all sides seen and admitted. That there is a lack of spiritual vitality is felt and lamented, and how to awake the church to a sense of her condition, and what means to use in order to bring about a true revival of religion is a question that is now claiming a great deal of attention. I propose in this lecture to consider this question as it regards the Covenanter Church in some of its practical aspects.

I take the position, that in order to a revival of religion there must be a clear and faithful testimony maintained for the authority of Christ, against the practical insubordination of this nation to him. I will endeavor to show in what a true religious revival consists, and how a faithful testimony will promote it.

I. There are spurious revivals that are often mistaken for the genuine. There may be a high degree of excitement both mental and bodily, that is purely superficial. Those who are called revivalist preachers, have the art, by appeals to the feelings, uttered in an earnest tone, to excite nervous persons and produce effects that are taken to be proof of real conversion. We hear every year of great numbers converted after a series of meetings, but when the meetings are ended and the excitement cools down, the subjects of these alleged conversions settle down into their former state. Our Lord describes such a condition when he speaks of the unclean spirit going out of man and walking through dry places seeking rest and finding none. He awaits the opportunity of returning with other spirits, and the last state of that man is worse than the first.

\* Pastoral Theology—Lecture III.

ers, rather than be deprived of the privileges of our school, consent to attend our Sabbath School. Some attend the Sabbath School at 9.30 A. M., but the greater number, and chiefly a different class of children, attend the Catechism class at 2 P. M.

The Sabbath School is so crowded it is difficult to find teachers for both morning and afternoon. Now that the cotton is gathered, many are coming in from the surrounding country. Notwithstanding the Sabbath School regulations, Mrs. Sims' room has now eighty-five pupils, and Miss Russell's seventy-five, both of them being overcrowded, specially Miss Russell's room, many of her pupils being larger. I desire to present the matter to the Board, of the urgent need of occupying another room. Miss Howland's room, having two and three grades, almost doubles the number of classes, compared with the list of studies in the report, so that my time is fully occupied in hearing classes from these higher grades, making it impossible for me to have charge of a room besides. We cannot do justice to the pupils we now have, even should we not receive any more. But many more will apply. From now until March is our throng season. We would really need two tutors till then.

We have now 226 pupils enrolled. The A. M. A. school has but a few over 200, and has six regular teachers besides the principal, and he has sent for an assistant, whom he expects this week. If we can't get help any other way, may it not be necessary to raise the tuition of intermediate and higher grades? The A. M. A. school charges per month for the primary pupils, 50 cents each, intermediate, 75, and advanced, \$1.00. This could not well be done before the first of January, and perhaps better not this year, if it can be avoided. Even as it is, the tuition of the number that will be shut out without more help, might bear the extra expense of a tutor.

I supplied one room last year by the advanced pupils taking turns, but it was not satisfactory in any way.

I am sorry to trouble the Board with these difficulties, but I trust you will give the matter earnest attention and do the best for us you can. The teachers all feel, with me, the difficulties of the situation. We will anxiously await your decision and instructions.

Mr. Pickens is teaching at Pleasant Grove, prospects encouraging.

We are all enjoying fair health now. That the blessing of the Head of the church may rest upon your Board and its work is the prayer of your servant in Christ,

J. W. DILL.

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## INDIAN MISSION.

The following letter explains why it is that our work in the Indian Mission has been so much delayed. Neither the Board nor the missionary was at fault. It also explains why the expenditures will exceed so much the estimate. It is these increased expenditures that made necessary the special appeal of the Board. The collection for Indian Mission is on the 3d Sabbath of January. Let the church show by its liberal contributions its hearty appreciation of the self-sacrificing labors of our missionary and his assistants.

The walls of the school-house are still rising, and they are not so very high yet. But we have met so many things that hindered that we have not made the progress we expected. If men would do as they agree, it would be both cheaper and easier to build. It may give your readers some explanation of the delay and extra cost if I give an instance or two. The expectation at first was to make all joists, studding, rafters and sheeting of native lumber, and I had a man engaged early in May who said he would lay the stuff, sawed according to the bill, on the site of the building for nine dollars per thousand feet; he said it might even cost one dollar less than that, and if it did I should have the advantage of it. Depending on him, I wrote for stonemasons to come on July 22, at which time I had reason to expect two or three masons. Ten days before that the agent sent me word that the lumber man had no logs in and was not going to fill the order, and that I was likely to be disappointed. The next morning my brave little pony and I started to hunt up another man. Without entering into detail I arrived home the day after at noon, having travelled, in the saddle, over eighty-five miles, and having the solemn promise of a man that he would deliver all the logs I wanted at the sawmill; but "the weather was hot and hands were scarce," and he would not turn a wheel for less than twelve dollars per thousand, and the sawmill man and he agreed that on the next Friday night they would have sawed joists to load all the teams I would send. This gave them, (*i. e.*, my teams), Saturday to get back, (twenty-five miles), and so the joists would be ready for the masons. But on Friday the three teams found about 500 feet of sheeting sawed and the log man quit and gone. This meant another trip for me, and this time I could find no one that would haul the logs, but one man said he would cut them for three dollars per thousand. This was just double price, but I agreed to give it to him, and he said to send the teams a certain place the next Monday and he would have the logs ready for them. The next Monday bright and early I sent two of the best men I had and two good teams, chains, ropes, etc., and when they came back on Saturday they were to bring a load of lumber, sawed while they were hauling. On Saturday night they came back empty. The man had cut no logs, but they got logs from another man, that had some logs too short for joists; they were to go and see him if the first man failed. Suffice it to say they got in about seven hundred feet of lumber, which would have been rather small work for two days.

Thoroughly out of heart with such work, I went to Ft. Sill at once and sent a man to the railroad for pine lumber. This cost seventeen dollars per thousand, and the freight added; this was seventy-five cents per hundred pounds. And you ask, what were the stonemasons doing all this time? They did not come until long enough after the pine joists had arrived. And such work as this has met us at every turn, and now winter is here and, despite our best efforts, the walls are unfinished, and as one of the workmen said, "They are reeling off these weeks entirely too fast for our business."

The weather has been so broken, either wet or cold, for some time, that we have not made much progress. One estimate, perhaps it is about correct, was that eight days' work in December will allow the roof to go on. All the material except some sheeting is on the ground. The doors, sash (glazed), shingles, &c., have been here for weeks.

Another item that added to the cost of the building was putting in stone caps and sills to doors and windows. Wood could have been put in cheaper, but in case of a fire (which is one great danger here) the stone trimmings would hold all in place better, and so we took lessons in getting out dimension stone. This was more expensive both in getting out and dressing them than we had expected, although we did nothing that we could help, in dressing them. We had three masons part of the time, but for the most part only two. The other one enjoyed prohibition territory as long as he could stand it, and then left us for "the land of the spree and the home of the knave." A man who saw him coming here and also as he left, said; "Coming, he was the drunkest man I ever saw, and going away he was the driest." He was a splendid workman, however.

We hold some form of service every Sabbath, and have a drill in the Sabbath School lesson. We try to get all our workmen to attend these and also worship night and morning, and there may be souls influenced for good by the truth.

Yours for the Master,

W. W. CARITHERS.

*Ft. Sill, Ind. Ter., Nov. 30, 1889.*

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#### MISSIONARY NOTES.

THE presence of Dr. Metheny and Miss Wylie in this country should awaken new interest in our Foreign Mission. The work abroad has been wonderfully successful. Opportunities for enlarging it are constantly afforded our missionaries. Both laborers and money are needed. It is a great pity that the funds are so low. Congregations should arrange to have a visit from our friends when in America. Every member of the church should have an opportunity to learn from those who have been so long in the field the condition of the mission, what has been done, is being done, and, if the proper help is given, what may be reasonably expected in the future. Our people are not as well informed as to mission-work as they should be. An assertion was made in an address to a missionary society a few months ago that but few in any congregation, and none in many, could give the names of the foreign missionaries. Several objected to the statement. It was determined to see whether, or not, it was correct, by a practical test. At a company of over forty persons, members of the church, paper was distributed and each was asked to write the names of the missionaries. But two were correct in their answers. Some were far wrong. This should not be. That our members support our missions as they should, they must become acquainted with the work. When they do, the means for conducting it on a much larger scale will not be wanting.

The collection taken up a few Sabbaths ago for this fund by the 2nd New York congregation was over \$2,500.

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THE executive committee of the Ladies' Missionary Society of Pittsburgh Presbytery, at its late meeting in Allegheny, decided to hold the next convention on the last Thursday of April at Union church. Programmes will be distributed in due time. A suggestion was made,