

THE MID-CONTINENT

VOL. XXII.—NO. 26

ST. LOUIS, JUNE 24, 1896.

\$2 A YEAR.

DELEGATES TO St. Louis now know a thing or two about the great inland summer resort.

WE READ that Mr. Enoch Arden is a fat, good-matured, untroubled resident of a pretty Kansas town.

WHAT'S THE true way to cheer up a poor newspaper publisher's heart? Guess. It won't take long. After you have guessed, then please act.

A CERTAIN small "boom" city out in the sage brush country has a municipal debt that it boasts of. That debt is almost \$50,000 in excess of the assessed valuation of the town.

DON'T YOU want a set of "Views of the St. Louis Tornado?" They show the sad results of the wind. The best book of views on sale. Only 25 cents. See announcement elsewhere.

IF YOU are fond of fish stories, a new one has just come in. Down in the Chariton river bottoms during a recent overflow "a yellow dog chased and caught a large catfish. The fish got tangled up in the weeds." Next!

WE TRUST the Winona Lake management sent Dr. Field one of those beautiful, new, illustrated books of theirs. That will set his dear, old aristocratic mind and body at rest. Winona can soon compete with Saratoga.

IT IS told of Dr. Holmes that once, when a man of no great note died, his friends tried to get the author to "say a few kind words about the deceased which might be published." But he declined. "Do you see?" he said; "they want to engage me in the embalming business! But I cannot help to preserve this fly in amber."

A JOKER down at Louisville had all kinds of fun the other day. His joke was on one physician and all the undertakers. He telephoned each one to call for the physician's body. They hastened, only to find the supposed corpse very much alive and rather inclined to recent their proffered services.

THE OLD Order of Dunkards, in recent session in Ohio, decided against the use of the bicycle; also against gold filings for teeth—on the ground that they are adornments. Here are some of those "dear old b'gots" Spurgeon yearned so to see as rare specimens. These people immerse three times and have among their ordinances, feet-washing and the "holy kiss."

IT IS exceedingly desirable that the people of a church be well united, stand "shoulder to shoulder" as we say, stick together through thick and thin. But it seems there are different senses in which this unity and this standing together may be illustrated. Sometimes the condition of affairs may be similar to that in the Scotch congregation, where, in reply to the question, "Is your congregation united?" the answer came "Aye, now, we're united, we're a' frozen thegither."

THE FOLLOWING claim for the real peculiarity of the Baptist faith, stated by President Gambrell in the *Texas Baptist Standard*, we are glad to call attention to. We like its good ring: "The tap root of the Baptist faith is not immersion, not congregationalism, not individualism, not close communion, not a converted membership—not one or all of these. One might honestly believe in and advocate all of them and yet be as rotten as dirt. The root of the matter with a real Baptist is his belief in the supreme and sole authority of the Holy Scriptures and his humble and unreserved submission of his heart and mind to the divine authority expressed in the Scriptures."

NO LESS a person than the Marquis of Salisbury; replying to a deputation from the International Arbitration League, said that it was his decree to extend arbitration to those whose interest were committed to the Government charge. He added that there was every hope that England and the United States would give the world the first triumph of the principle, which would do more than anything else to abolish war. It is evident too, that it goes beyond mere words, if dispatches can be relied upon. Hopes for a permanent, friendly settlement of the Venezuelan boundary dispute are not groundless. There are no obstacles, so the British legation, at Washington states, "to the conclusion of a general arrangement with respect to arbitration."

THE HARDEST Catholic heart must feel the sorrows of the A. P. A. * * * national convention is held in a Catholic city, and its proceedings will be opened by prayer by a Catholic archbishop.—*Western Watchman*, (Romanist), June 14.

That must be a sample of papal infallibility. The archbishop did not open the convention by prayer. Nor did any Catholic clergyman in any way, shape or manner have anything to do with the religious part of the proceedings. Yet we are not sponsoring the words of the Christless rabbi who did "open" the gathering. But with the exception of that one error, the prayers were allevangelical. Few ever heard a better, more fervid prayer than that of the colored brother on the morning of the last day. When one stops to consider the sleepless activity on the part of the Romish church for positions of prominence; how such free advertising is meat and drink to it, the disappointment caused by this "turn down" may well be understood. The wild Irishman who owns that brazen sheet, the *Watchman*, probably will not count his ducks a week before they're hatched, at another National convention of any political party.

ARCHBISHOP IRELAND, the eminent Catholic prelate of St. Paul, is said to be in financial trouble, a rather picturesque victim of the recent real estate boom. He had an ambition to found a school and to build a cathedral which should eclipse anything in this country and present them to his church. He undertook to make the millions necessary to carry out his plans by speculating in real-estate during the boom; and so while property was selling at figures far above any real or even prospective value, he bought large amounts paying more than anybody else would give. Ignorant of business in general and booms in particular, he innocently supposed his equities to be worth one or two millions of dollars and he hoped to be able soon to gratify his ambitions and benevolent desires. But, alas, booms have an unfortunate habit of bursting and "the best laid scheme of mice and men going oft a-glee." For ministers to speculate in the interest of benevolence may be very innocent, but experience has more than once proved that it is not very safe, even had speculation proved fortunate it is doubtful whether the ambitious cathedral would have been profitable to the humility, unworldliness and spiritual life of the people. The minister would better stick to his text.

WE NOTICE that the American Church League an Episcopal organization, has just made its first annual report. The object of the league is declared to be (1) to answer attacks upon the church and to correct misrepresentations of the church in the secular papers, (2) to give wide circulation to items favorable to the church, (3) to supply the church papers with matter in the line of church defense. The annual report includes the names of a large number of daily papers in which articles in defense of the church have been published during the year. An army does not consider itself very successful when compelled always to be on the defensive. A politician or political party on the defensive is lost. And what shall we say of the position of a church which finds it necessary to be al-

ways on the defensive? Is it the proper work of the church with the sword of the spirit in its hand to be always on the defensive? Is it a wise thing for a church to organize a special society to hunt up defensive items to spread through a long list of secular papers? Is the character and position of the church so questionable as to demand all this defense? Will it not raise more doubts than it will silence? If the church would faithfully preach the law and expound the doctrines of sin and grace, if it would devote all its energies to seeking the conversion of sinners and the sanctification of believers, it would not need to organize a society to hunt up defensive items to publish in all the secular papers. Righteousness needs no defense. The church makes its most successful defense when it expends all its efforts in converting men to righteousness and building them up in their most holy faith. It is when the churches become wealthy, fashionable and worldly that they are compelled to spend so large a portion of their energies in self defense. The Episcopal church is not the only one which finds it necessary to fight this doubtful defensive battle.

DECORATION is the order of the day with the Presbyterian Book store, at 1516 Locust street, this city. Its walls and ceiling have been treated to a beautiful coat of paper, which renders the already handsome store room very attractive indeed. But the splendid stock of books, and matchless variety of Sunday-school periodicals are attracting more patronage. It is but a short time since the monthly receipts of stock amounted to an average of fifteen or twenty boxes. This month they have received about fifty boxes, or more than twenty thousand pounds of printed matter, most of which is already on its way through the mails to the thousands of customers who are supplied from this point. It is a pleasure to note that the cash receipts of the St. Louis Depository for the past year are more than double of those of any preceding year. No doubt this is accounted for in part by the more liberal treatment received from the Parent House. It is the policy of Mr. Scribner, the business superintendent, to throw the responsibility upon Dr. Allen, the manager, instead of directing every detail of the work from Philadelphia, and he has made good use of his opportunities, as will be seen in the great increase in business. But, this success would not be possible without a stock of books and periodicals which meet the demand. Our advertising columns, page 16, this week show some of the books just issued by the Board. They speak for themselves. We have just received a package of Sabbath-school papers for July and note with pleasure their superior excellence. The Senior, Intermediate and Junior Quarterlies are certainly well fitted to aid the school in getting a thorough knowledge of the lesson. The youngest scholars are provided with a most attractive help in the Westminster Lesson card, on which is the colored lesson picture, lesson title, golden text, question and answers, etc. Then comes the Westminster Lesson Leaf, the Junior Lessons, and the Question leaf, each filling its place. But, the teacher is also well provided for in the Westminster Teacher, which is *par excellence*, so much so that it has a large circulation in other denominations, as well as our own. But, the latest and one of the Board's most useful publications, is the Westminster Sabbath-school Blackboard, and Superintendent's Assistant, a weekly publication, well fitted to help the superintendent impress the points of the lesson in review upon the school. Then comes the illustrated papers. The *Forward*, new this year, is a weekly paper of high character; one of the best of papers for young folks and the family. And the *Visitor*, and *The Star*, each a semi-monthly and the *Sunbeam*, a weekly for the wee little folks, thus providing a complete outfit for the whole school in every grade. Send for a sample package. Our General Assembly has well said: "There is no shadow of justification, or even excuse, for patronizing irresponsible concerns whose supplies would be dear at any price. We therefore earnestly recommend the use in all our schools of our own Presbyterian Lesson Helps and Periodicals."

OUR PHILADELPHIA LETTER.

The General Assembly of Saratoga has passed and the absence of any doctrinal issues proclaims the fact that they have been decided. It was pre-eminently occupied with administrative questions. These call for the differences of opinion—and are important to the welfare of the church—but are much more easily disposed of than those which have agitated our church for some years. The statement of relations to young peoples societies seems to furnish a suitable constitution—and consistent with freedom of action, and affiliation, acceptable to all concerned. The other subjects of interest have been so well set forth in your columns that I pass them over. Dr. Withrow closed the sessions without an appeal from his decisions and this content with him at Saratoga is expressive of the feeling of his many friends in this vicinity, who congratulate him on his elevation to the moderatorship.

The sympathy of the Assembly with St. Louis in her calamity was expressed. The particular suffering of the four presbyterian churches and many of their members is an appeal to the church at large, which ought to call forth such help as shall make them realize the communion of saints. Nothing is more surprising than the rapidity with which these calamities are remedied so far as public interests are concerned. Yet oftentimes they leave lasting effects upon individual or family fortune. Such private sufferers are especially to be commended to God in prayer—that they may realize his protection and care.

PRESBYTERY OF PHILADELPHIA.

The June meeting of this body was in receipt of a letter from Dr. A. Pierson, which is too lengthy for transcription. Its substance is his preference that the sundering of former ties should become necessary "by your act rather than mine"—and in case of such necessity he adds a request that his name be crossed from the roll as one who has withdrawn to another body of Christians, on the return of the letter which has been revoked. Final action was deferred in the hope that Dr. Pierson will be present at the next meeting.

The dissolution of the pastoral relation of Rev. James D. Paxton and the Tenth church after a very successful pastorate causes deep regret beyond the church which he served. The reason for this is that he wishes to employ himself in a work more adapted to his young energy than the service of a church so well established. Some intimations of his future field have reached the ears of your correspondent, but as there has been no public announcement, it will be sufficient to express the hope that the same success may attend his future work, as has been his in his present field.

A new church under Rev. C. W. Nevin has been organized on South Broad Street with 103 members from the Scots church, to which he formerly ministered and it has chosen its location.

The Talor church in the same section of the city presents a remarkable prosperity. Rev. W. B. Skillman has been its pastor for fifteen years. A membership of 700 with a Sabbath-school of equal numbers has contributed \$90,000.00, without the aid of fairs or sales. The pastor has conducted his own extra services mainly—and the money has been raised with only three single contributions of \$250.00. Much of it in sums of twenty-five cents and less. This is a notable record—and well worthy of imitation.

COLLEGE COMMENCEMENTS.

This is the season of roses and commencements. Lincoln, Lafayette and Princeton have graduated young men from their classes—each of great interest to Presbyterians. Wilson Female College at Chambersburg, Pa., Rev. Samuel A. Martin, D. D., President; aims to give an equal academic and religious training to young ladies. It is remarkable that female education in Pennsylvania should be left without adequate endowment, when so many of the largest givers to the endowments of all other educational institutions are women.

THE SCOTCH-IRISH SOCIETY.

The eighth National Congress of this Society convened at Harrisburg Pa., June 4th, 5th and 6th inst. The growing interest in it was well emphasized both in attendance and the papers presented. They found time to visit Derry and Pantang and also Gettysburg. Among the many interesting addresses, Pennsylvania Scotch-Irish settlement was made appropriately prominent. Dr. Egle, State Librarian and Historian on the Landmarks of Early Scotch-Irish Settlement in Pennsylvania, Hon. Jno. F. Meginnis on the Scotch-Irish of the Upper Susquehanna, Mr. Robt. McMeen on the Scotch-Irish in Juniata Valley—and Rev. Geo. Norcross D. D., on the Scotch-Irish and their influence in the Cumberland Valley—and others, have an interest which reaches even to St. Louis, as the Scotch-Irish in this state spread east, west and south as from a seed plat. Men of this nationality planted no separate colony, but influenced many during the last century, beside mingling their blood freely with that of other nationalities.

THE WOMAN'S EDITION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN JOURNAL.

The energy and ability displayed by the women of the Presbyterian church in this vicinity has its monument in the edition of the *Presbyterian Journal* issued in aid of the memorial fund. Its quality needs no commendation. The two thousand dollar addition to the fund is a pleasing result of their success, but most pleasing of all is the list of names on its second page. Two hundred women who exhibit such enterprise, zeal and power of organization are an arm of strength to Presbyterian good works in all directions. This page is by far the most interesting part of the paper, because it shows that mothers, wives and sisters are heartily enlisted in the work of the church.

MURRAY.

THE JEWS.

Our cities are thronging with Jews. They are our merchants, our ward politicians in many instances, and our sweatshop slaves. God wants them to see a purer Christianity than any they ever knew in Europe. But will they? Not unless Protestant Christians bestir themselves. In too many cases the Jews are crowded together with our ignorant and debased Roman Catholic population. Their Bohemian and Polish neighbors in Europe are their neighbors here. In addition to the abuses of monarchy they are becoming familiar with the worse products of our misgoverned democratic cities. Unless the gospel is given to them soon they will become saturated with our abounding infidelity, or be confirmed in a still blinder adherence to their traditional Judaism. Thousands of their young men are losing all faith in anything good, and are rapidly being depraved by the ungodly influences around them. One young Jew to whom the writer spoke lately about his soul said, "I am too much of an American to be saved." Are these young men to get only such impressions from our American life? Now is the critical hour for all American Jews. Now is the time to preach to them the pure gospel of the Nazarene. Ten years of neglect will harden these young Jews against our American Christianity in all its forms. If these Jews are to be saved, the men and women of Christ in America must waken up. Our post-millennial brethren think the Jews will not return to Palestine. Very well, brethren, then do something for them here. God gives you the opportunity. See that you can awake to the importance of it. Some of us believe that the Jews will go back to their own land. But we are not willing to await till then to give them the gospel. If your doctrine incites you to love Israel, let it be seen in deeds and gift add prayers in their behalf.—*Selected.*

DR. CATTELL'S RESIGNATION.

Minute upon the resignation of Dr. Cattell adopted by the Board of Relief, June 18th, 1896:

The Board, having deferred final action on the resignation of its honored Secretary, which was offered in November last, feels constrained, in the discharge of a most painful duty, now to accept the same. Recognizing the fact that the condition of Dr. Cattell's health requires him to relinquish the office he has filled, for nearly twelve years, with so great ability and success, the Board must submit—not however, without the most emphatic testimony to the profound and affectionate regard felt for him by each of his colleagues. To them he has endeared himself in an altogether singular degree, and largely because of his uniform courtesy and loving manner, the meetings of the Board have invariably been delightful occasions. Personally, Dr. Cattell will always be cherished by the members of the Board, in their inmost souls, as a brother and friend most dearly prized and loved.

As an officer, the Board testifies to the great efficiency of Dr. Cattell in every direction in which the work of the Board calls for effort. He has done the church noble service in the fulfillment of the trust that has been committed to him. His whole being has been given to it, and the profiting has appeared on every side. His fine intellectual qualities, his deep and tender sympathies, his superior executive power, his manifold gifts of nature and grace, have all been enlisted up to and beyond measure, and have shown him to be an officer of commanding influence; a secretary of this Board of Relief most of it.

The board gives him up as its executive, with a sorrow and reluctance which words cannot tell. We hope that, relieved from responsibility and active duty, strength and vigor may be restored to our beloved friend and we assure him that so long as he shall live, no presence in the rooms of the board will be more welcome than this, and that always he shall have a place in them that shall be peculiarly his own.

So with these words of love and grateful appreciation the Board accepts Dr. Cattell's resignation, and we invoke upon our dear friend and brother, the richest blessings of the God and Father of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, through the indwelling of the Holy Ghost and comforter.

REV. LEROY J. HALSEY, D. D., LL. D.

This venerable man of God died on Thursday morning, June 18th at his home in Chicago, in the eighty-fifth year of his age, surrounded by his wife and children. For several weeks past it has been apparent that the end was approaching, and when it came it brought no surprise either to him or to his family.

Leroy Jones Halsey was born in Goochland County, Virginia, on Upper Lickinghole Creek, January 28, 1812. His father, John Halsey, moved to Huntsville, Alabama, in 1817 when his son was five years old. The education of Dr. Halsey was at the Green Academy, Huntsville, Ala., and the University of Nashville, Tenn. After teaching several years at the University he went to Princeton Seminary where he graduated in 1839 under the tutelage of Dr. Alexander and Dr. Miller.

His first charge was in Dallas County Alabama, in 1840, whence in 1843 he removed to Jackson, Miss., to take charge of the church there. Under his ministry the church was erected which has been occupied continuously until within a year or two. While at Jackson in 1844 he married Miss Caroline Augusta Anderson of Pendleton District, South Carolina, daughter of Robert Anderson Esq., Clerk of the Lower House of the State legislature. In 1848 he took charge of the new organization known as the Chestnut street church, Louisville, Kentucky, where he remained

until 1859 when, owing to an impairment of his health he was obliged to give up pastoral work. It was during this pastorate that he published his celebrated work on *The Literary Attractions of the Bible*, and carried on the famous newspaper debate with bishop Spaulding of the Catholic church on the Bible in schools.

In 1859 Dr. Halsey was elected Professor of Pastoral Theology and Church Government in the McCormick Seminary then known as the Presbyterian Theological Seminary of the Northwest, which had been removed to Chicago from New Albany, Indiana. In the early years of his Professorship he occupied the pulpit of the old South church of Chicago, the location of which is in the center of the present business district of the city.

The active life of Dr. Halsey was most intimately connected with the history of the McCormick Seminary. His house was at some distance from the Seminary grounds and between him and the Seminary lay a long stretch of open prairie across which swept bleak winds in winter and against which his slender form battled day after day that he might reach his class-room and that he might keep alive the institution; for a clause in the title to the grounds provided that unless theology was continuously taught the property should revert to its donors. When opportunity offered he traveled through the State preaching and presenting the cause of theological education. His literary activity during his Professorship was very great. He published the following works: *The Beauty of Immanuel*, 1860; *Life Pictures from the Bible*, 1862; *Life and Works of Dr. Philip Lindsley*, two volumes, 1866; *Life and Sermons of Rev. Lewis Green*, 1871; and *Living Christianity*, 1881.

In 1881 he became emeritus Professor, but for several years during the re-organization period he taught, in addition to his own work, the departments in Greek and theology. His regular work as a lecturer continued until 1892. He also published *Scotland's Influence on Civilization*, in 1895, and his monumental work the *History of McCormick Seminary*, in 1893.

His last days were spent in the quiet of his own home, interested in all that concerned the church and the Seminary. His bodily feebleness only brought out more clearly the high spiritual tone of his character. He belonged to that type of ministers whose influence may be called distinctly spiritual. There was about his manner as well as his words that indefinable something which marked him as living in contact with the world of the unseen. It was this feature of his character which, more than even his exquisite literary style, has given wide popularity to his writings. This, too, more than his extensive scholarship has left its impress upon the ministry of to-day as represented in the graduates of McCormick Seminary. Even in these later days when his active duties have been ended and he has been waiting quietly in his own home for the last great change, there has been about him this peculiar influence that has brought a benediction to those who have come in contact with him. Before anything else, Dr. Halsey was a devout man. The truths of the Bible, which to many are bare doctrines, were to him living and solemn realities.

His wife and four children survive him. His eldest son, John J. Halsey, is the acting President of the Lake Forest University. Edward A. is a lawyer, and Leroy is in business. His daughter Miss Mattie P. is well known for her literary and political productions, and in connection with the Woman's Board of Missions for the Northwest.

WHAT OTHERS SAY.

Who does not welcome the man of cheerful and hopeful spirit? The happy countenance, the genial smile, the winning way and the timely word have an inspiring and uplifting influence. Men are attracted and won by a kindly manner and generous action. He is a benefactor who carries sunshine into the home, church and community. A bright optimism is always preferable to a gloomy pessimism.—*Presbyterian.*

Rev. Dr. Roberts, stated clerk of General Assembly, in presenting his annual report gave the following statistics: There were added to the Presbyterian church during the past year about 65,000 persons; the total number is 940,000; 124 ministers died, 213 presbyteries out of the 243 were represented in the General Assembly, 599 commissioners were present, five less than last year.—*Banner.*

The Rev. Dr. Lyman Abbott recently said in a sermon: "We are better able to make a system of theology now than when the Westminster Confession was made, and a better creed than when the Nicene creed was formulated." We think it will be a long time before any one or anybody succeeds in formulating nobler or more scriptural creeds than these two great historic symbols. Still Dr. Abbott might try.—*Observer.*

The sale of the "Woman's Edition" of the *Presbyterian Journal* was so large that a second edition was called for. We have a number of copies remaining of these on still better paper than the first, which we will be glad to send singly or in quantities to any address. As the books of the treasurer of the Million Dollar fund do not close until July, there is still opportunity to swell the receipts to it through purchase of the "Woman's Edition." A friend of the home missionaries subscribed for a sufficient number of copies to be sent to each of them. Will not some friend of the foreign missionaries do the same for them?—*Presbyterian Journal.*