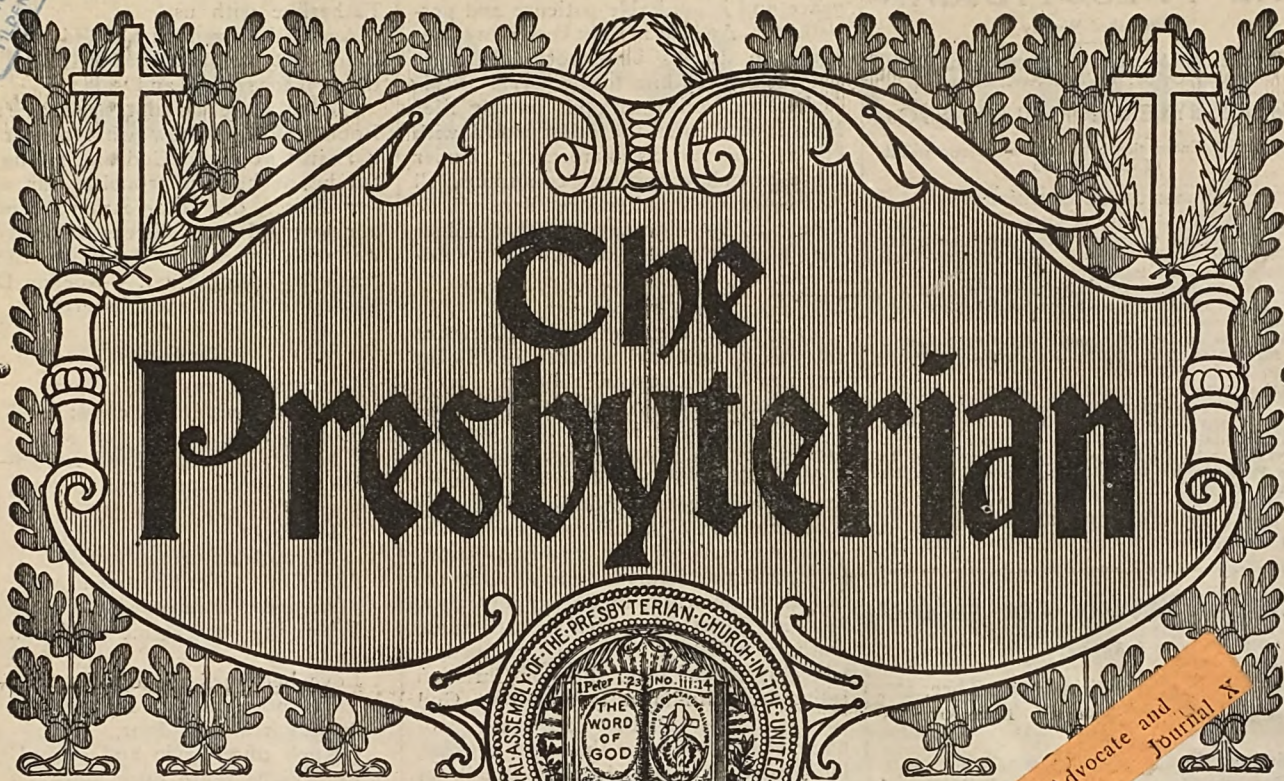


THE NEW YORK
PUBLIC LIBRARY
ASTOR LENOX AND
TILDEN FOUNDATIONS

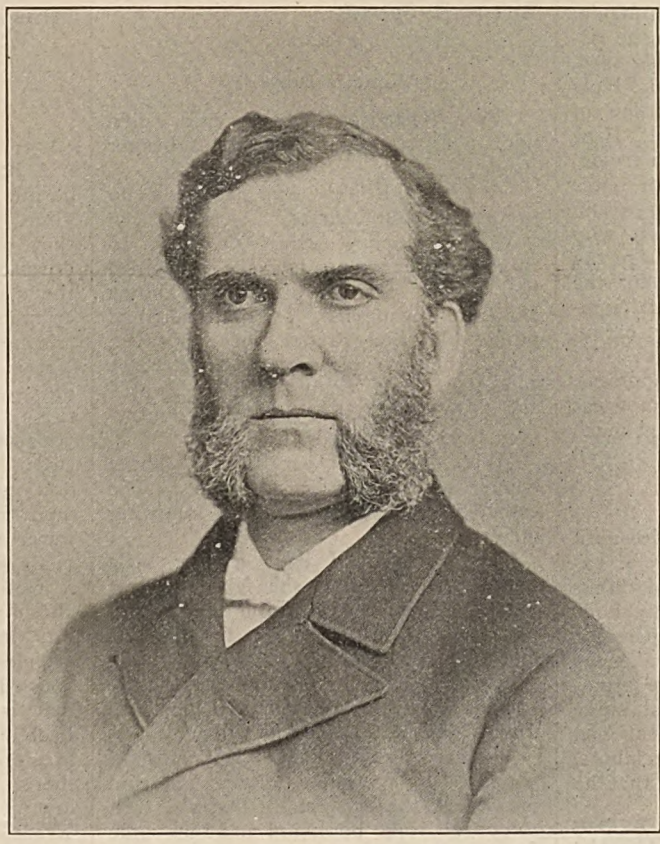


Christian Advocate and
Journal

Philadelphia

Oct. 3, 1906

#40



REV. JAMES ROBERTS, D.D.
DIED SEPTEMBER, 27, 1906



The Presbyterian

VOLUME 76

PHILADELPHIA, OCTOBER 3, 1906

NUMBER 40

"Absent treatment" may do for the Christian Scientist, but when you are ill you want the doctor.

The doctor wants to take your temperature, feel your pulse, see your tongue, diagnose your case.

The doctor prescribes, not in general, but according to personal knowledge of your case.

The world's work is done, not by those who theorize about it, but by those who engage in it.

The healing of men's souls and the work of the Kingdom will be wrought by personal contact of the worker with his work.

The Lord himself came to live with us, as one of us, in order to save us. He was in all things made like unto his brethren.

The disciple who will carry on his Master's work must be as his Master. Face to face and heart to heart we shall help and save our brethren.

The Haystack Centennial

It is time to be thinking about the proper observance of the centennial anniversary of the famous prayer-meeting under the haystack, at Williams College, where American foreign missions were born. The General Assembly, in the adoption of the report of its Committee on Foreign Missions, has directed us to have special missionary sermons on some Sabbath in October, in commemoration of the haystack anniversary, as well as in April, 1907, the anniversary of the founding of missions in China. The actual time of the holding of the prayer-meeting is believed to have been some day in August, 1806, as is suggested by Mr. Elliott, in his article on this interesting subject in the "Century" for September. It was then that the watchword of the Forward Movement in missions, now spoken with faith and zeal in almost every language of the world, "We can if we will," was uttered out of the heart of Samuel J. Mills, in answer to the doubt expressed by one of his companions as to the possibility of accomplishing so great an undertaking as the evangelization of the world. And while it was some time before the determination of those devoted young men came to any visible fruitage, the American Board not being organized until 1810, there can be no doubt that the impulse to American foreign missions was given at that little gathering of five boys under the haystack, in the thunder storm.

The observance of anniversaries is of great value, both in the widening of knowledge of the matters com-

memorated, and in the quickening of impulse and determination for the accomplishing of the thing whose origin is celebrated. The recent observance of the centennial of William Carey's missionary sermon and endeavor has done much to spread a knowledge of modern missions and stir a deeper purpose to bring the work they have undertaken to triumphant accomplishment, in the civilization of the world. The celebration of this American anniversary ought to be a powerful incentive to greater things in American missions. Our own Board, through the Assembly's action, has set before us a high mark, in the matter of missionary offerings, asking for not less than an advance of one-third upon all previous contributions. The mark ought to be reached. It can be, if our Church cares enough for the work of the Lord's Kingdom which is involved in it.

There surely should be something more than sermons for the anniversary. Would it not be a good time for great meetings for prayer? We have recognized the necessity for prayer in all this doing of the Lord's work. But the Church needs to pray much more "without ceasing" and much more unitedly, for the divine blessing on its efforts, than has hitherto been the case. The Church of England, on May 28, observed an entire day for prayer, in Manchester cathedral, to the great profit of those who shared in it and to the benefit of the mission work of that great Church. Our American mission enterprise was born in a prayer-meeting, just as the mission of the Gospel to foreign lands began in the Church at Antioch, when the people prayed and laid their hands on Paul and Barnabas and sent them away. Our modern missions need far more generous supplies of money. But they need prayer still more. Might not a profitable observance of this sacred anniversary include great assemblies of the churches everywhere, for united prayer for the bringing in of the Kingdom?

Pastoral Evangelism

It is the announced policy of the Evangelistic Committee for the present year to endeavor to stimulate the churches themselves to greater evangelistic effort. To this policy, the General Assembly at Des Moines gave its hearty endorsement, and certainly it must receive the cordial approval of the entire Church. Indeed, this is only carrying out the purpose for which the Committee was originally appointed. It has always been the Committee's desire and aim to put honor upon the pastor. True evangelism makes not little but much of the pastoral office. Dr. Chapman himself has had a rich and successful experience as a pastor. His ablest and most efficient associates have had the same needful preparation for their present work. We believe that

Church of England, to an imperfect understanding of the difference between Catholic and Roman Catholic, and to an imperfect judgment of the Church of Rome as it is at the present day." Meanwhile there is a growing feeling that the controversy must lead at last to dis-establishment.

A wretched criminal was brought before a New York court recently to answer to the charge of infamous crimes. He was well educated and connected with people of prominence and standing. As he pleaded guilty, tears ran down his face. The plea was accepted in order to shield his victims from the additional disgrace of appearing in court. In passing sentence on the culprit, the judge scored him, declaring that under his indeterminate sentence he could not reduce the length of confinement by good behavior and that no consideration should be shown to the prisoner during his confinement. One of our contemporaries criticised the court and says that the sentence was "inhuman and un-Christian," no matter "how heinous" the man's crime and that he "evidently had repented and shown contrition for his evil ways." We do not agree with our contemporary. The "weeping" of a prisoner in a court room is not trustworthy evidence of his repentance; besides some crimes are so abhorrent that the less said about them the better. Judges who pass upon them in the criminal courts are more competent to pass judgment than an editor in his sanctum.

According to the "Evangelical Messenger," the State of Illinois has inaugurated a system of helping men, women and boys released from penal and reformatory institutions, by providing employment or giving other wholesome assistance. Governor Deneen and his advisers have formulated and adopted a plan to this end, which is to be put into effect at once. The system provides that the State employment agency shall undertake to secure work for those who have either served out the sentences imposed by the courts or, by good conduct, have had their punishments mitigated. This is from every standpoint well-advised action. A helping hand at the open door to the outside world, which is naturally distrustful of those who have "served time," and usually unfriendly towards them, is greatly needed, and often will mean redemption from the life which led to prison.

In the case of Stensland, Chicago justice has been swift enough. Six hours after the bank wrecker arrived in that city he had pleaded guilty to forgery and embezzlement and had been sentenced to an indeterminate term in the Joliet penitentiary. He is now engaged in sorting brooms in which employment presumably there is no chance for cheating. The prison punishment inflicted upon Stensland is nothing compared with the crimes charged up against him. In the thousands of homes to which he brought distress, and in some cases death, by his perfidy, his name will be remembered for many years only because it is infamous, a shameful heritage for future generations. One thing, however, is reasonably sure—bankers of the Stensland kind will not have the Stensland opportunities for rascality. Bank directors are having their eyes opened as to their real responsibility.

The "Christian Advocate," of New York, has been celebrating its eighty-first birthday. Its anniversary issue contained a miniature copy of its first number (September 9, 1826,) and sketches and portraits of all of its editors except Dr. Buckley. The good Doctor is too modest, for he has most ably filled the "Advocate's" editorial chair for twenty-six years, while there were ten who preceded him. But his friends cannot permit him to be so retiring. They "know his works" and they admire and honor him accordingly. THE PRESBYTERIAN wishes to join with these friends. It congratulates the "Advocate" upon its present able editor, and upon its newsy, interesting columns. "The Advocate" is not eighty-one years old. It is eighty-one years young.

In his article on "the Power of the Press" in the October "American Magazine," Mr. Dooley indulges in some fun at the expense of the editor who is ambitious for political honors. It is not and has not been an unusual spectacle in our politics to see an editor covetous of office or to note the "sops" handed out to those in control of influential newspapers, by political managers, who are desirous of securing support. Nevertheless, Journalism is a jealous mistress. Journalism's demands are peculiar and exacting. When the element of disinterestedness on the part of an editor is supplanted by the necessities and exigencies of office-holding his usefulness with relation to his newspaper and the public it serves, is at an end.

The projectors of a recent prize fight between a negro and white man in Nevada were glad to announce conspicuously that the President's young son, Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., was present at the ring side. The statement was false, probably put out to seek to lend some respectability to a brutal and vulgar exhibition. Nevada seems to be the only State in the Union that continues to encourage the ruffians who promote and participate in these "contests."

A Morning Hymn—Psalm 5: 3

By Prof. Ethelbert D. Warfield

I love to greet each waking morn
With praise to that creative Word,
Who spoke and life and love awoke,
Who spoke and Nature, joyful, heard.

When I awake to cloudless skies
And sunbeams sparkle everywhere,
As sings the thrush, a careless song,
I sing without a thought of care.

But oft the sky is overcast,
The room is dark with loss or pain,
Then I bethink me that His love
Is often shown in gentle rain.

And if I wake perplexed and sad
Worn with the storm and stress of life,
I praise him that he standeth near
To shield and stay me in the strife.

Send sunshine, Lord, send rain or storm,
Whate'er Thou wilt; but send to me
A constant spirit, brave, content,
And happy still in praising thee.